

The Capstone building along Layton Hall Drive and a new private street is expected to look like this, and to house up to 825 GMU students.

# City Council OKs Capstone Project

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## BULLETIN

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

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED

**Interested in local Civil War or Railroad History?** Consider volunteering at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. The Museum offers a variety of volunteer opportunities in Museum events, programs and administration. The Museum is also seeking an individual to coordinate the scheduling of the volunteer staff. Training will be provided for all positions. Email [volunteers@fairfax-station.org](mailto:volunteers@fairfax-station.org) or call 703-945-7483 for opportunities. The Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. It is open every Sunday, except holidays, from 1-4 p.m. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR), or call 703-425-9225.

**The Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke** needs volunteer drivers for trips to medical appointments (Monday - Friday) and companion shopping (Tuesday, Friday) within the Fairfax-Burke area and in the South County area (west of Route 1, Alexandria). Office volunteers are also needed to work in the SCFB (Olley Glen) office to schedule rides. Bilingual volunteers (English and Spanish) are needed as drivers and office volunteers. Email Shavaun Wall at [recruiter@scfbva.org](mailto:recruiter@scfbva.org) or call 703-323-4788.

### FRIDAY/JAN. 11

**Coping Strategies for Anxious Children.** 10 a.m.-noon at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 100, Dunn Loring. The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) will present this workshop for parents of anxious children ages 8-17. Highlights include how to help children with anxiety, when anxiety becomes a disorder, strategies for treating specific anxiety disorders and stress reduction tools. Call 703-204-3941 or visit [www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center](http://www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center) for more or to register.

### GrandInvolve Community

**Meeting.** 1-3 p.m. at the Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Learn what a typical day in Lee District Title 1 Elementary Schools looks like. GrandInvolve volunteers will be present to talk about their experiences and share heartwarming stories of their time with Fairfax County's youngest students. If FCPS schools are closed or delayed this event will be canceled. Contact [info@grandinvolve.org](mailto:info@grandinvolve.org) or visit [www.grandinvolve.org](http://www.grandinvolve.org).

**Become a Federal Contractor.** 1-4 p.m. at Community Business Partnership, 6564 Loisdale Ct., Ste. 600, Springfield. Learn what you need to do to become a government contractor: Where to register, how to find buyers for your products/services, and determine whether government is the market for you. \$75. Register at [www.cbponline.org](http://www.cbponline.org).

### TUESDAY/JAN. 15

**ESL Class Registration.** 7 p.m. at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, at the Fairfax Campus, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax or at the Clifton/Centreville Campus, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Clifton. English classes for speakers of other languages Tuesdays and Thursdays, Jan. 22-April 11. All are welcome. Registration fee, \$15; text book, \$25. Call 703-323-9500 or visit [www.lordoflifeva.org](http://www.lordoflifeva.org).

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Artist's rendition of the Capstone building planned for University Drive and Democracy Lane.

## City Council OKs Capstone Project

### Will provide housing for students at GMU.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he controversial project divided Council members and residents, alike. But after a five-hour public hearing on Dec. 11, the Fairfax City Council approved the construction of Capstone Collegiate Communities 4-2, with Janice Miller and Sang Yi voting no.

Aimed at providing housing for GMU students, it will replace an existing office park with two, connected, four- and five-story multifamily buildings containing 275 housing units. They'll range from studios to one, two, three and four bedrooms, and some may be double-occupancy, provided the number of building residents does not exceed 825.

Each unit will come fully furnished and will have a common living area, kitchen, washer and dryer, plus one bathroom per bedroom. And no more than four, unrelated people may occupy a single unit. In addition, a swimming pool is proposed for an internal courtyard.

The site is 6 acres bounded by Democracy Lane and University and Layton Hall drives and requires a Comprehensive Plan amendment, a rezoning and a special exception. Entrances will be from Democracy and Layton.

Some 737 parking spaces will be provided – 680 in a parking garage, plus 57 on-street and surface spaces. Parallel parking will be along Democracy and on a future, private street, and all streets will have sidewalks. And Capstone Collegiate Communities LLC will contribute \$30,000 for two bus shelters.

**AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC** would increase in that area because of the new residents. But Brooke Hardin, the City's director of Community Development and Planning, said a higher-density, commercial-and-office project built there, instead, could potentially yield even more traffic.

"A lot of us are concerned about Capstone selling to another company after being approved," said Councilwoman So Lim. But Hardin assured her that any agreements Capstone makes with the City will run with the land.

Councilwoman Jennifer Passey asked how often the Cue bus would come through that new route,

and City planner Supriya Chewle said, every 30 minutes. Passey also asked how the City would deal with complaints resulting from the students living there, and Hardin said it would speak directly to GMU.

Councilman Sang Yi wondered how all those students would affect the bus's trip generation, but Transportation Director Wendy Sanford said she didn't expect all 825 students to use the bus. She said Mason students currently comprise 34 percent of the total ridership.

Councilman Michael DeMarco asked who'd monitor the construction, and Assistant Fire Chief Andrew Wilson said it'll be subject to state building code, which would come under his office for inspection. "The applicant wants the parking garage approved first," said Wilson. "Estimated completion date [of the whole project] is July 30, 2021."

Noting a difference between Capstone's and City staff's financial and benefit analysis, Yi said, "The applicant estimates a \$96,000 household income per unit."

City planner Eric Forman explained that "Each household would contain an average of three adults, and we assumed it would function as student housing. But it's difficult to estimate an annual income for each of them. We estimated \$25,000/adult or \$75,000/unit."

Similarly, he said staff estimates 35 percent of the students' restaurant expenditures would be spent on City restaurants, whereas the applicant estimates 50 percent. And although Capstone estimates \$2.9 million annual expenditures in the City by these residents, Forman said there's "no way to be accurate" when estimating Fairfax's expenditures on them.

Attorney Lynne Strobel, representing Capstone, presented the project details. "The property is one mile from GMU and a quarter mile from Old Town Square," she said. "There are about 90 trees on the property, but 84 of them are in poor to bad shape. And the buildings there now are older and 50-percent vacant."

**IN RESPONSE** to the City's suggestions in November, said Strobel, "We made the building façades not flat, added landscaping and the parking garage is now wrapped completely so it's not visible [from the

SEE CAPSTONE, PAGE 9



The new housing for up to 825 GMU students will be built on a site bounded by University and Layton Hall drives and Democracy Lane.

## 'A Gift from Heaven For Old Town Fairfax'

### Residents weigh in on Capstone housing proposal.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**W**hen City residents are passionate about something, they let their elected officials know. And that's exactly what some three dozen people did during the Dec. 11 public hearing on Capstone's proposal to provide housing for GMU students near Fairfax's downtown.

"We support this application," said Douglas Stewart of Fairfax City Citizens for Smarter Growth. "Old Town needs more residents living nearby, and Mason is a largely untapped resource for the City. This project creates an attractive landscape and a more-walkable community."

Tom Ross said he supports "a vibrant Old Town to go to, not drive through, a strengthened partnership with GMU and welcoming new residents into our community." He also said the project would bring in more revenue to the City.

Betsy Bicknell said she can see the site from her window at home and, as a neighbor, favors this project. "It's a great location for student housing," she said. "It would provide the customers and employees the Old Town businesses need to succeed. And business success leads to more tax revenue and a closer community."

Also in support was Michael Fabio. However, he said a 10-foot sidewalk is needed around the Democracy Lane curve and on the private street. And he urged Capstone to "construct a

park, instead of cutting down trees." He also said the project would encourage students to bike or use mass transit, instead of driving to school. And, added Fabio, "If Capstone sells this project, it'll mean it's a success – and the new owner will want that to continue."

But Phylis Salak said the fire and police costs for the students will decrease the City's financial benefits. She also preferred single-family housing and wondered how many students will register their cars, volunteer or vote.

However, the Economic Development Authority's (EDA) Craig Havenner said he and his colleagues were in unanimous support. "People on the sidewalks, using the businesses and restaurants, leads to a thriving economy," he said. "And these new residents will introduce a younger demographic and increase the downtown customer base."

But Sandra Chase, who lives across from the site, feared the lack of visitor parking would lead to illegal parking elsewhere and said the additional traffic might overwhelm the roads. "It's not affordable, with \$900-\$1,200/month leases," she said. Chase also worried about increased demands on the water and sewer capacity, fire and police departments.

GMU senior Taryn McDonald said she moved off campus as a sophomore, paid taxes and voted. "I became part of the 76 percent of students who live off campus – and they're all com-

SEE RESIDENTS, PAGE 10



# OPINION

## Wish List

Things this session of the General Assembly, beginning Jan. 9., could/should accomplish.

**B**efore this session, every year for the better part of a decade, the most profound wish for the Virginia General Assembly session was the expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, which could provide healthcare to as many as 400,000 poor Virginians who otherwise were living without coverage. Partisan obstruction prevented those people from gaining coverage for many years.

But coverage began this month for 200,000 new enrollees after Medicaid expansion came to Virginia in the last session. It arrived with the November 2017 election and Democrats taking 15 additional seats in Virginia's House of Delegates. The prospect for more awaits in this November's election with all seats in the General Assembly, both the House of Delegates and the Senate, on the ballot.

So we'll begin this year's wish list with gratitude that the entire Commonwealth will be healthier for providing healthcare to the pre-

viously uninsured. And a wish that we not complicate the coverage with work reporting requirements. Please.

So in the new era of new hope for action in the General Assembly, here are some (not so modest) wishes for this session, acknowledging that some may wait another year for serious consideration.

### COMMENTARY

❖ Establish a nonpartisan redistricting commission. This is urgent, as the General Assembly would have to act in this session to get a constitutional amendment on the ballot in time for a commission to be ready for redistricting after the 2020 census.

❖ Greater transparency everywhere. Move to allow fewer, not more, FOIA exemptions. Require that a reason be given for any FOIA denial.

❖ End suspension of driver's licenses for non-payment of court costs and fines.

❖ Pass the Equal Rights Amendment.

❖ Protect equal rights for LGBT Virginians.

❖ Fund Community Services Board budgets. Expand Medicaid waivers; clear the waiting list.

❖ Fund education fairly, Northern Virginia needs more help.

❖ Restrict predatory lending.

❖ Think about reform and civil rights when considering votes on law enforcement.

❖ Involve local officials in fixing proffer regulation.

❖ Implement no-excuse absentee voting.

❖ Limit large campaign contributions.

❖ Prohibit personal use of campaign funds.

❖ Require reporting on solitary confinement.

❖ Push jails and prisons to adopt best practices for prisoners with mental health issues.

❖ Provide a tax credit for family caregivers, with income limits if needed.

Comments? Additions? Email editors@connectionnewspapers.com

There is an infinite amount of information at [virginiageneralassembly.gov](http://virginiageneralassembly.gov) Click on "members and session" for quick links.

— MARY KIMM

## It's Time for Virginia to Ratify ERA

BY JOHN C. COOK  
SUPERVISOR, BRADDOCK DISTRICT



**"E**quality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of sex." Those few and powerful words are from the Equal Rights Amendment, proposed by Congress in 1972, which seeks to make all people, regardless of gender, equal under the law.

Thirty-seven states have ratified the Equal Rights Amendment. Many hope Virginia will be the 38th to join the movement, which could officially ratify the amendment and meet the two-thirds threshold outlined in the Constitution. (Yes, there are issues as to whether ratification now is too late, but that is a legal issue beyond this article.) I urge you to join many community leaders in this bipartisan effort to have Virginia ratify the ERA in 2019.

The road to gender equality in America has been a long and winding route. Women were not even allowed to cast a ballot until 1923, when the 19th Amendment was ratified. Bright, capable women were turned away from fields of study and careers that were deemed masculine by our society. If a woman wanted to be anything other than a nurse or

teacher, she often had to have connections, money, and a lot of luck. The Constitution already protects people in the United States from being discriminated against by the government based on their race, religion, and national origin through the 14th Amendment. The ERA would add gender to those protected categories.

Some opposed to the ERA have raised a parade of horrors, asserting that passage would mean the end of unisex bathrooms, expanding the draft to women, and other things. I see

no reason to assume the ratification of ERA would result in such outcomes. Nor would it affect private employment or interactions, as Constitutional rights only restrict the government, not private citizens. I also do not believe the ERA will, by itself, revolutionize the role of women in society. That is a more complex process that has been ongoing for some time, and will certainly continue. But what the ERA would do is add to our great Constitution a clear, simple, unambiguous statement that men and women are equal under the law. It is that simple, yet that fundamental.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has unanimously endorsed a resolution calling on the General Assembly to ratify the ERA in 2019. Many other jurisdictions have done the same. A bipartisan team of legislators in Richmond has promised to file such a resolution.

Please join me in encouraging the entire General Assembly to ratify the ERA and bring full equality for women into our federal Constitution.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Appalled by the Road Disrepair

To the Editor:

After reading Andrea Worker's article on Richmond Priorities, I wanted to express my frustration of watching our roads decline in spite of being one of the wealthiest counties in Virginia pouring tax dollars into State coffers. Again and again, Worker noted that NoVA is not receiving its rightful share of state funds for transportation and education.

I've lived in Burke for 38 years and I can't remember a time when

the roads were worse. When I turn on Burke Centre Parkway (west of Roberts Road), Prosperity Road, and Braddock (east of Burke Lake Road), I am appalled at the disrepair. Those three heavily trafficked roads are just a few examples of the state of our asphalt-crumbling road system. I don't care where you live in the Commonwealth, the roads with the most cars/trucks should be given the most state dollars. How hard is that to figure out? Traffic counter boxes abound!

Lynn Sheehan  
Burke

## Time to End Gerrymandering

To the Editor:

2019 is a critical year for Virginia. The actions — or inactions — of our legislators during the next few months will likely determine how our voting district lines are updated in 2021 in response to 2020 census data. Unless Virginians demand a better process for updating voting districts, we'll probably be stuck with even more partisan and racial gerrymandering than we've got now. Virginia's constitution allows legislators to

draw their own voting districts. But today's politicians use big data and mapping software to capture just the voters they want in their districts and gerrymander around those they don't want. It's not hard to get re-elected when you've rigged the voting districts this way, so politicians have less reason to represent us or do effective constituency work (Akey et al., 2018).

To improve this bleak situation, the organization OneVirginia2021 has formed a bipartisan committee of distinguished constitutional experts.

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## Public Safety Drones? Public Input Wanted

The Fairfax County Unmanned Aircraft Systems program will provide an enhanced level of operational capability, safety and situational awareness for first responders, other approved participating agencies, and decision-makers with high quality imagery, data, and customized geospatial solutions using unmanned aircraft while continuing to maintain the public trust.

Fairfax County is developing a comprehensive Public Safety Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) program and would like to hear from residents on what they think. We are hosting six public information meetings located throughout Fairfax County.

The draft program is designed to support a variety of government mission types including:

- ❖ Search and rescue
- ❖ Flooding assessments
- ❖ Pre- and post-disaster damage assessments
- ❖ Crash reconstruction
- ❖ Fire incident/scene management and investigations
- ❖ Hazardous materials responses
- ❖ Wildlife estimation

The draft UAS program would not be used:

- ❖ To conduct random surveillance activities
- ❖ To target a person based solely on individual characteristics, such as, but not limited to race, ethnicity, gender, national origin, religion or disability
- ❖ To harass, intimidate or discriminate against any individual or group
- ❖ To conduct personal business or any other unauthorized use

Each public information meeting will include a static display of unmanned aircraft followed by a

presentation outlining the program. After the presentation, there will be an opportunity to ask questions from representatives of the Office of Emergency Management, County Attorney's Office, Police and Fire and Rescue Department. The formal presentation will begin at 7 p.m.

To find out more about the UAS program go to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/uas](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/uas). The draft public safety UAS program manual is located there along with a link to the email account.

Please send your feedback or questions to [uas@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:uas@fairfaxcounty.gov) or through the link located on the UAS webpage. Written comments on the draft program must be received by the close of business Feb. 8, 2019 to be included in the official public record.

❖ Jan. 14, 2019 (6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.), Mason District Governmental Center (Community Room), 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003

❖ Jan. 16, 2019 (6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.), South County Governmental Center (Room 221C), 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309

❖ Jan. 23, 2019 (6:30 PM. – 8:30 p.m.), McLean District Governmental Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean, VA 22101

❖ Jan. 24, 2019 (6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.), Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly, VA 20151

❖ Jan. 28, 2019 (6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.), Reston Community Center – Hunter Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston, VA 20191

❖ Jan. 30, 2019 (6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.), Braddock Hall – Kings Park Library, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke, VA 22015

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# Beyond the Resolution

Keeping a home in order all year long.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

For those who resolved to keep a neater, cleaner home in the new year, the issue of how to keep it that way through December can be challenging. After the excitement of the fresh start that January offers, the reality of one's day-to-day life emerges. How to keep that newly purged closet neat when rushing to get to a meeting on time? By February, that cleaned-out sports bin might look a bomb went off at Modell's. From shredding or recycling unwanted mail each day to loading the dishwasher after each meal, adopting a few daily cleaning tips can help maintain that tidy home all year long.

"In general, I recommend keeping up with household duties on a daily basis so none of them become a bigger project," said professional organizer Susan Unger of Clutter SOS.

One of the most basic tasks is making one's bed first thing in the morning. "I think that kick starts you into cleaning and organizing mode and sets the tone for the day," said Preston Taylor of From Chaos to Order. "I also recommend keeping a dust cloth nearby so that you can give your dresser and nightstand a quick

dust off so dust accumulation would be one less thing you have to worry about."

Piles of clothing, whether clean or dirty can accumulate quickly and send a home in into disarray. Dedicating five to 10 minutes every evening to rehung clothes and separating items that need to be dry cleaned can help prevent a backlog. "Be sure to put all clothes away on a daily basis rather than leaving in a chair or floor," said Unger. "Clean clothes should be hung up or put in drawers and dirty clothes in the laundry basket."

Taylor recommends tackling laundry every evening if necessary. "If you start a load when you first arrive home from work, you will have time to dry and even fold it before you go to bed, so you're not faced with a mountain of dirty clothes at the end of week," said Taylor.

**"If you start a load when you first arrive home from work, you will have time to dry and even fold it before you go to bed, so you're not faced with a mountain of dirty clothes at the end of week."**

— Preston Taylor of From Chaos to Order

then flush the toilet. It takes less than five minutes to do all of this but you'd be amazed at the difference it makes at the end of the week, especially in children's bathrooms."



PHOTO BY STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

**Wiping down bathroom showers, sinks and counters each day can help keep a home tidy all year long.**

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# ENTERTAINMENT

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

## ONGOING

**Glass National 2018.** Through Jan. 13 at The Workhouse Arts Center, Vulcan Gallery, W-16, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. The Workhouse Arts Center presents its 3rd Annual Glass National exhibition. Glass National is a juried exhibition which promotes and displays the breadth of contemporary glass artwork being created throughout the USA and Canada by highlighting both functional and sculptural works. This year's juror is artist and educator Carmen Lozar, director of the Merwin and Wakeley Galleries at Illinois Wesleyan University. Visit [www.workhousearts.org/event/glass-national-2018](http://www.workhousearts.org/event/glass-national-2018).

### Founding Artists Exhibition.

Through Feb. 3 at The Workhouse Arts Center, Vulcan Muse Gallery, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Workhouse Arts Center presents a group exhibition highlighting Studio and Arches artists that have been a part of the organization for its 10-year span. In honor of their dedication and support, the exhibition will survey their works in various mediums including painting, sculpture, fiber, glass, precious metals, and mixed media. Visit [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org).

**Exhibit: Purchased Lives.** Through Feb. 28, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily (except major holidays) at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. Purchased Lives is a traveling exhibition from the Historic New Orleans Collection. The exhibit examines a complex and divisive period of American history and educating about the far-reaching economic and heartbreaking personal impact of the domestic slave trade. Look for The Washington Home of the Philippine Suffrage Movement March 3-31. Call 703-385-8414.

## FRIDAY/JAN. 11

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

### Bonita Lestina Performance

**Series.** 8 p.m. in Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive. Performer to be announced. Doors open 7:30 p.m. Free. Visit [fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts](http://fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts) or call 703-352-ARTS.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 12

**Winter Art Lessons for Youth Classes (8 yrs & up).** 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Woods Community Centre, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Instructor Carol Zeitlin drawing and watercolor. Visit [czartlessons.com](http://czartlessons.com) or call 703-250-6930.

**Winter Art Workshop for Teens/Adults.** 10:30-12:30 p.m. at Woods Community Centre, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Instructor Carol Zeitlin, drawing, watercolor, Chinese brush & portfolio development. Visit [czartlessons.com](http://czartlessons.com) or call 703-250-6930.

## SUNDAY/JAN. 13

**Game Day/Scavenger Hunt.** 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Come to the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum and play a Train Game or History Game as well as working on a Scavenger



PHOTO BY LISA FAN

**Dragon Dance during 2018 Chinese New Year Festival at Luther Jackson Middle School.**

## Chinese New Year Festival

The 12th Annual Chinese New Year Festival hosted by the Asian Community Service Center featuring live performances, including Dragon and Lion dances, Han Costume Fashion show, Asian food, the writing of Chinese names, language, craft and business booths, children world, and also a lunar new year dragon parade. 2019 is the year of the Pig. Because pigs were kept indoors by house owner in ancient China, the Chinese character for "family" has a pig inside a house, leading to the theme for the 2019 festival being Family. Saturday, Feb. 2, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. Free admission. Visit [www.ChineseNewYearFestival.org](http://www.ChineseNewYearFestival.org).

Hunt. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR), or call 703-425-9225.

**Learn from History Lectures.** 2 p.m. at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. Freedom is Not Enough: African Americans in Antebellum Fairfax County. Call 703-385-8414.

## TUESDAY/JAN. 15

**Winter Art Lessons for Youth Classes (8 yrs & up).** 5:15-6:15 p.m. at Woods Community Centre, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Instructor Carol Zeitlin drawing and watercolor. Visit [czartlessons.com](http://czartlessons.com) or call 703-250-6930.

**Winter Drawing Plus Color Class (5-8 yrs.).** 6:15-7:00 p.m. at Woods Community Centre, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Instructor Carol Zeitlin, drawing and watercolor. Visit [czartlessons.com](http://czartlessons.com) or call 703-250-6930.

## FRIDAY/JAN. 18

**Family Movie Night: "Paddington 2."** Lights go down at 7 p.m. at Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Enjoy a free, family friendly (movies are PG) movie night. Participants may bring their own snacks. An adult must accompany anyone under the age of 14. Britepaths will accept donations of non-perishable food until 9 p.m. Call 703-385-7858.

**B-I-N-G-O.** 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue

equipment. Visit [www.fairfaxvfd.com](http://www.fairfaxvfd.com) or call 703-273-3638.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 19

**Pet Adoption Event.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Pet Supplies Plus, 11054 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Find a new forever animal friend with the help of the City of Fairfax Animal Control and Animal Shelter. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/government/police/programs/animal-control/adopt-a-pet](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/police/programs/animal-control/adopt-a-pet).

**Country-Western Dance.** 6-9:30 p.m. at Accotink Universalist Unitarian Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association will hold a dance with lessons, 6-7 p.m. and open dancing, 7-9:30 p.m. A DJ provides music. Couples and singles of all ages welcome. Admission for NVCWDA members \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. Visit [nvcwda.org](http://nvcwda.org).

## SUNDAY/JAN. 20

**Garden Gauge (G Scale) Model Train Show.** 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Washington, Virginia, and Maryland Garden Railway Society will hold their annual Garden Gauge Model Train Show at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR), or call 703-425-9225.

## FRIDAY/JAN. 25

**B-I-N-G-O.** 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a

friendly atmosphere, \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit [www.fairfaxvfd.com](http://www.fairfaxvfd.com) or call 703-273-3638.

### Bonita Lestina Performance

**Series.** 8 p.m. in Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive. With IONA Celtic Fusion. Doors open 7:30 p.m. Free. Visit [fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts](http://fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts) or call 703-352-ARTS.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 26

**Learn from History Lectures.** 2 p.m. at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway. The War Outside My Window: The Civil War Journals of LeRoy Wiley Gresham, 1860-1865. Call 703-591-0560.

**Reminiscences.** 7-8 p.m. at Providence Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. After winning first prize at the Golden Classical Music Awards International Music Competition and making his debut performance at Carnegie Hall, concert pianist Mark Irchai returns to the DC-metro area. He will offer "Reminiscences" – a solo piano recital of music written by composers in reflection on their pasts. Free. Visit [markirchai.com](http://markirchai.com).

## SUNDAY/JAN. 27

**Reading Circle and Craft Day.** 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. "My Little Book of Trains" will be featured in a reading circle. Train locomotives and tenders will be explored during the activities that day. Participants may make their own ongoing journal for the year's reading circles and information learned about trains and railroading. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-

15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR), or call 703-425-9225.

**Burke Historical Society.** 3:30-5 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6540 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. BHS President Jon Vrana will give a presentation called "If These Walls Could Talk," examining the 19th-century history of Woodbury—also known as the Silas Burke House. Free. Email [slawski\\_brian@yahoo.com](mailto:slawski_brian@yahoo.com) or visit [www.burkehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.burkehistoricalsociety.org).

## THURSDAY/JAN. 31

**Adults' BYOG Night.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. BYOG = Bring your Own Game – come to the library with your favorite board game or card game to share. Adults only. Free. Email [suzanne.cross@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:suzanne.cross@fairfaxcounty.gov), call 703-978-5600 or visit [librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/4741919](http://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/4741919).

## FRIDAY/FEB. 1

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

## SATURDAY/FEB. 2

**Dog Park Grand Opening.** 9 a.m. at the Fairfax City Dog Park, 11000 Berry St., Fairfax. City residents, both two-legged and four-legged, are invited to the grand opening ceremony for the Fairfax City dog park on the former Westmore Elementary School site. The new dog park will be open daily from dawn to dusk. All dogs with current licenses are welcome. The park will include a fenced exercise/run area (fence is a gift from Affectionate Pet Care), park benches, and trash and recycling receptacles. Waste bags and a receptacle will be provided at the dog park. Call 703-385-7858.

**Chinese New Year Festival.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. The 12th Annual Chinese New Year Festival hosted by the Asian Community Service Center featuring live performances, including Dragon and Lion dances, Han Costume Fashion show, Asian food, the writing of Chinese names, language, craft and business booths, children world, and also a lunar new year dragon parade. Free admission. Visit [ChineseNewYearFestival.org](http://ChineseNewYearFestival.org).

## SATURDAY/FEB. 3

### Author Event: Tiffany Foo-Garcia.

Noon-3 p.m. at Barnes & Noble-Fair Lakes, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Tiffany Foo-Garcia will be holding a reading and signing for the first book of her new middle grade culinary adventure series, "Ruby Foo and the Travelling Kitchen: Finding the Foo Identity." Visit [rubyfookitchen.com](http://rubyfookitchen.com).

**Make a Valentine Card Craft.** 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum will have a Valentine's Day Make and Take event. Visitors will create their own Valentine's cards to take home with them. The cost of supplies is included with admission.. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org) or call 703-425-9225.



# Capstone Project Approved

Will provide housing for up to 825 students at GMU.

FROM PAGE 3

outside]. And we've added a drop-off area, short-term parking, courtyard with pool and indoor fitness areas and yoga rooms."

Strobel said the students' peak traffic time is around 11 a.m. and traffic will be mitigated by the property's location – a 5-minute walk to downtown and 2 minutes to the CVS. "And we'll encourage the use of bicycles and the bus," she added. "We'll have 75, secured, bike spaces in the garage and will contribute \$20,000 to a bike-share station."

She said students will be motivated to bike or take the bus because of the expense of parking at GMU and how far away some of the lots are from the classrooms. Furthermore, said Strobel, "It costs \$600-\$700 for a reserved parking space on campus."

Using the City's student income projections, she said, "We estimate each student will spend \$3,720 in the City, or \$310/month. Multiply that by 825 students and that equals \$3 million spent in the City." Strobel said Capstone Communities are professionally supervised and managed, with a live-in manager. She also noted that student managers "will be the eyes and ears of the community." Parents or guardians will co-sign the leases, and students' vehicles will have decals "so we'll know if they park elsewhere."

She said the project "will result in increased vibrancy of downtown and enhanced synergy between the City and GMU. Old Town has been struggling, but students within a 5-minute walk will help the merchants there, be a catalyst for future development and make it a healthier city, overall."

"GMU is growing, but has limited opportunities for housing on its campus," continued Strobel. "And Capstone offers quality, affordable and secure student housing, which benefits the university, too. It's been successful in its development of student housing throughout the country, and this project will fit nicely into the fabric of this community."

Still, Councilwoman Janice Miller noted a deficit of 117 parking spaces. And, she said, "If the

number of beds goes up to 825, there'll be an even larger deficit." But Strobel said more parking could be provided, pending the final design.

Councilman Michael DeMarco said federal law prohibits discrimination by offering housing to students only. But since the units are leased by the bedroom, replied Strobel, they won't appeal to families. DeMarco also asked about the typical mix of students expected, and Strobel said they'll mainly be upperclassmen and grad students.

Yi stressed that he has no enmity toward GMU or its students and favors a strong relationship between the City and university. But, he said, "I don't feel there's much effort [by the applicant] to make compromises. The Comprehensive Plan is our guide to future development, and the current plan encourages GMU to add on-campus housing, itself. Capstone is a private company that wants to make a profit. But I'm surprised how little it took for us to accept its arguments about the benefits to the City, at face value."

He then asked if the density could be negotiated and reduced, but Strobel said a certain number of units was needed to make the project profitable. Furthermore, she said, "Because of the changes we've made to improve this project and its architecture, the construction cost since we first started discussing it with the City has gone up about \$12 million."



The Capstone building along Layton Hall Drive and a new, private street is expected to look like this drawing.

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**News**

# Residents Question, Support Capstone Project

FROM PAGE 3

muters," she said. "We're already here, and the university continues to grow. But we're losing housing and need more, and what's being proposed will be beneficial to the students and to the relationship between Mason and the community." But Steve Blickstein said the students will use their cars and make the morning-rush delays on Layton Hall Drive longer than the street, itself. "Several times a year, there'll be gridlock on Layton Hall and University drives when students move in and out or attend major events at GMU at the same time," he said. Also doubting the financial benefit to the city, Blickstein said students would "eat lunch on campus and use Amazon to purchase things."

However, EDA Vice Chairman Michael O'Brien said, "This brings badly needed young people to the City, and it [says] we want to help our small-business community grow. These students are going to bring new development to that area."

**STUDENT** Joe Simms lives on campus, worked at City businesses and is interning in the Economic Development Office. "With housing being torn down at Mason, there aren't many opportunities to live off campus," he said. "They're too expensive and you need lots of roommates. This would give students their own bedrooms and more than enough space."

"I spend \$150 at Giant, every two weeks," continued Simms. "I buy gas on Main Street and eat in the downtown restaurants and at Fair City Mall. And I pay \$630 to park my car on campus, so saying students wouldn't walk or use the bus is ridiculous."

David Obelon also supported the project. "This reminds me of Clarendon - a vibrant and interesting place to live," he said. "But you need a critical mass of people to get there." Similarly, Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce Chairman Doug Church said his board unanimously approves it because it'll help the downtown businesses.

Heather and Jeff Wayne live across the street and were concerned about traffic and density. They also wanted noise and light-pollution issues studied before City Council made its decision. But John C. Wood encouraged approval.

"It's a gift from heaven for Old Town Fairfax," he said. "Otherwise, the commercial traffic we have will be diverted elsewhere, such as Fairfax Corner and the Mosaic District. And I hope it'll stimulate redevelopment of the Safeway shopping center and the vacant businesses on Old Lee Highway. Old Town Fairfax cannot survive on just old people, alone."

Bob Reinsel Sr. said housing and density should be increased near the center of town. He said the project will also keep residential property taxes under control. But Jack Gould said a similar project, One University, is being built closer to GMU and will be "a worthy competitor to Capstone. Traffic in and out of campus is bad; I don't think approving this project will make much difference to the relationship between the City and GMU." And John Avila said more Cue buses would be needed and GMU should build its own dormitories on campus.

Decrying the worsening traffic here, Kevin Moran worried about the cumulative impacts of all the new



**An artist's view of the architecture planned for Layton Hall Drive looking south.**

development projects. "People don't come to Old Town because it's so hard to get there," he said. But Chris Todd said it's time for the Historic District to "grow up" and become more exciting.

Elizabeth Yapanis wanted a tree expert to examine the trees on site before they're cut down. She also noted students will only be here nine months of the year. But Fairfax Downtown Coalition Chairman Eric Snyder called it a "transformational project" and welcomed the "sense of community it'll bring."

Deborah Dillard, of the Old Town Fairfax Business Association presented a document signed by 50 commercial business and property owners saying this project will be "a shot in the arm" to downtown. "It's money coming in to us and helps us pay our employees," she explained. "College students are in the acquisition phase of life, and these folks are our future - the best and the brightest."

**AFTER THE PUBLIC COMMENTS**, Councilman Michael DeMarco made a motion for approval, seconded by Councilman Jon Stehle. "A 2017-18 study said GMU needs more than 2,000 new beds," said DeMarco. "Twenty thousand students live off campus. Yes, the applicant and application have shortcomings, but also strengths. The net benefit to the City will be significant."

Stehle added that GMU students are "already here in Fairfax City and are engaged [in it]." And Councilwoman Jennifer Passey said Capstone is willing to address the traffic problem.

"We have an opportunity to welcome young people to our City," she said. "We can embrace them in this project or see them move here haphazardly. Either way, they are coming, and GMU is an asset. We've said we want to be a community for all, and I'll be voting yes." But the density, lack of adequate parking and transportation bothered Councilwoman Janice Miller. She said there's no guarantee students will take the bus or bicycle to class and "the developer won't provide a shuttle." Councilman Sang Yi said there are "unresolved issues," including about Cue buses and costs, and he didn't like so many students moving to one spot. He also said 44 people emailed him, urging him to vote no.

"This proposal isn't perfect and does have challenges," said Mayor David Meyer. "But the existing structures [on site now] will continue to deteriorate, and development could happen by right. We as a city are at a crossroads, and I urge my colleagues to support this motion." And they did, voting for it, 4-2, with Miller and Yi voting no.



# BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 2

**Scholarship Application Deadline.** The Virginia Latino Higher Education Network (VALHEN) is now accepting applications for the 2018-2019 Scholarship program. This scholarship program is dedicated to assist Latinx/Hispanic students to pursue higher education within the Commonwealth of Virginia. Scholarship awards are for one-year and will be paid directly to the recipient's college or university to cover tuition, books, and/or fees. Email [scholarships@valhen.org](mailto:scholarships@valhen.org) or visit [valhen.org](http://valhen.org) for more.

## WEDNESDAY/JAN. 16

**Normal Aging vs. Dementia.** 1-3 p.m. at Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, #100, Fairfax. Discuss changes that occur with age, warning signs of a memory problem, and what to do if someone you love is experiencing symptoms of dementia. This program is a part of Insight's ongoing Classes for Caregivers series, held the third Wednesday of the month, all sessions are free. Register online at [www.insightmcc.org](http://www.insightmcc.org), or contact Lindsey Vajpeyi 703-204-4664 [lindsey.vajpeyi@insightmcc.org](mailto:lindsey.vajpeyi@insightmcc.org).

**Public Comment Meeting.** 7 p.m. in Room 106 of the Herrity Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The Fairfax County Park Authority has scheduled its annual public comment meeting on the agency's proposed fee adjustments. The public is invited to share their perspectives on the proposals with the Park Authority Board either at the meeting, via correspondence or by email. The public meeting agenda includes a brief presentation on the fee process followed by an opportunity for public comment. Information outlining all proposed fee changes is available online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/feemeeting](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/feemeeting), at the Park Authority's main office in the Herrity Building and at staffed park facilities, including RECenters, golf courses, nature centers and historic sites.

## THURSDAY/JAN. 17

**Lunch N' Life.** Noon-2 p.m. at Fairfax Presbyterian Church, 10723 Main St., Fairfax. Lunch N' Life is sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke for those 50 and older. Members of the Dar Al-Hajrah Islamic Center speaking of the fundamentals of Islam in the USA. For reservations, call Bea Stephenson at 703-273-5730 by Jan. 11. \$10; checks payable to SCFB. If transportation is needed, call the SCFB office 703-323-4788. Visit [www.scfbva.org](http://www.scfbva.org) for more.

## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 4

The committee members have proposed a Virginia constitutional amendment built on the experience of other states where re-districting commissions update voting districts more fairly. The amendment proposed for Virginia would create a bipartisan commission that would be required to work transparently and to prioritize community boundaries.

This is the critical part: the proposed amendment must be passed by the Virginia legislature in 2019 to be in place before the 2021 redistricting process. There are other steps to activating the amendment, but we must start now to clean up our gerrymandering.

Now Virginians need to contact their state representatives and demand a transparent, bipartisan redistricting commission that allows citizens to vote together as communities. Otherwise, Virginians could be in for more big data and less democracy running our state until 2031.

**JoAnn Kennedy Flanagan**  
Fairfax

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## The Road Very Much Traveled



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not that I haven't been down this road before, random though its occurrence may have been, but when schedules collide: 24-hour urine collection, pre-chemotherapy lab work, every-three-week infusion, quarterly CT scan and semi annual brain MRI; and of course the follow-up appointment with my oncologist a week or so later to finish the fortnight-long festivities.

The daze leading up to that final Friday are hardly the stuff with which dreams are made. More like nightmares, actually; certainly sleepless nights.

But as you regular readers know from previous columns, there's no real point fretting about it. I mean, what's done is done (what's scanned is scanned) and though I may not want the chips to fall, for the moment, they've already fallen.

Not to be fatalistic, but sometimes, as a cancer patient, ceding control to the realities (you'll note I didn't say "inevitable realities") is part of the process; "going with the flow," as my wife, Dina would say.

At this point, all I can do is wait and hope. I can't do one thing about any of it. I'll know soon enough and if the news is discouraging, I'll deal with it then. I see no advantage in being miserable a week earlier than necessary.

Still, all of these diagnostic demands occurring simultaneously is a bit much. Unfortunately, there's nothing to be done other than to grin (a wry smile, really) and bear it. The calendar/schedule with which my life has become all too familiar (I'm also not saying "consumed"), can hardly be adjusted simply because I don't feel like it.

My life is at stake here. I can't treat it like a household chore. It needs to be adhered to. Wanting circumstances to be different serves no purpose. Accepting reality and integrating the cancer-patient responsibilities into your routine seems a more reasonable course of action.

A few years into my cancer treatment, I remember meeting some of the staff at an off-site cancer-centric function. After exchanging pleasantries, one staff member commended me as being a "very compliant patient."

Not being completely sure what she meant, I asked her to clarify. She said I made all my appointments inferring that some cancer patients don't. Incredulous, I asked further. She sort of half-smickered and said I'd be surprised, which of course I was.

She offered no statistics or anything empirical, but from her reaction, it was not an unusual occurrence. I remember thinking, how do you not be compliant when doctors are working to save your life? Seemed counter intuitive, almost.

So yes, I've been compliant. Extremely so, I'm proud to say.

After my initial diagnosis, I felt I had been given an assignment, so to speak; to save (at least extend) my own life, and I was going to follow doctor's orders accordingly. And even though over the years, I've integrated many non-Western alternatives into my routine, so far as my primary care team (internal medicine doctor and oncologist) was concerned, I've supplemented rather than replaced.

All of which leads me to where I am today: waiting to hear from my oncologist about last week's scans, while swallowing 60-odd pills a day, drinking alkaline water, standing in front of an infrared bulb, and trying to detoxify whenever possible in the hope that together, conventional and non-conventional pursuits will make my immune system stronger and create an environment less hospitable to the growth and movement of the cancer cells that have already been triggered somehow.

The only persistent problem I have is compartmentalizing the presumptive fact that since I was given a "terminal" diagnosis in late February 2009, how is it that I just keep on keepin' on?

Life goes on, generally, I realize, but that's not what I was told would happen. After nearly 10 years, I suppose I'm just a little road weary.

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





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