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November 14-20, 2019

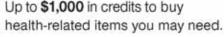
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✤ Fairfax Connection ✤ November 14-20, 2019

News

'Band of Brothers, Close and Tight'

Paul VI High presents the drama, "The Outsiders."

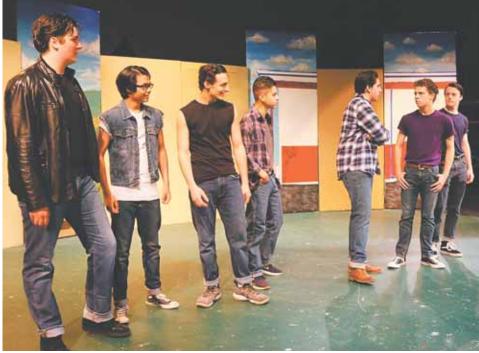
> By Bonnie Hobbs The Connection

eaturing a cast and crew of 50, Paul VI High presents the play, "The Outsiders." It takes place in mid-1950s Oklahoma and is about the conflict between a group of lower-class young people called the Greasers and their conflict with the upper-class Socs.

The curtain rises Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 21, 22, 23, at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 24, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$5, students and senior citizens; and \$10, adults; at the door or via stpvihs.booktix.com.

"I chose this play because we have a lot of strong, male actors, and a lot of kids have read this novel in middle school and are familiar with it," said Director Kathy d'Alelio. "This bunch of guys is particularly close as friends, so I knew they'd be good at portraying the cohesiveness of the Greasers because they're so supportive of each other in real life."

And since they portray characters similar to the good parts of themselves, she said



From left, Davis Trax (Dallas Winston), Martin Umali (Johnny Cade), Adam Hill (Two Bit), Nick Burgos (Steve Randle), Ryan Jahn (Darry Curtis), Jak Ketron (Ponyboy Curtis) and Rixon Webb (Sodapop Curtis) rehearse a scene.

that made it easier for them to become those people onstage. "This play is a drama, but also has some humor," said d'Alelio. "And the audience will just want to root for the Greasers to do well and be happy. Normally, they'd look down on them because of the way they look; but they'll learn that these guys are actually honest, supportive and

care deeply about each other."

IN THE STORY, Greasers Johnny and Ponyboy are best friends, but the Socs like to jump and attack them for fun. One night, they try to kill Ponyboy because he was with one of the Socs' girlfriends. And to save his life, Johnny kills the assailant, and then he and Ponyboy go on the run.

Portraying Johnny, 16, is senior Martin Umali. "Johnny used to be a regular kid, but he gets beaten up badly and becomes timid and terrified," said Umali. "His homelife is really bad, so his friends become like his family, especially Ponyboy. He's a good kid and, despite being scared of everything, he finds the courage within himself to help and stand up for others when he has to."

Umali loves his part because he's a big
fan of the book and movie, in which Ralph
Macchio plays Johnny. "I grew up watching
movies about superheroes and reading com ics about them, and I always wanted to be
a superhero, too," he explained. "So this role lets me do that."

He said the audience will appreciate the relationships and dynamic between everyone, especially among the Greasers. "They all come from the same social class and become like a band of brothers who are close and tight," said Umali. "And all these

See Paul VI, Page 5

'The Audience Won't Know What to Believe'

Fairfax High presents "The Children's Hour."

> By Bonnie Hobbs The Connection

Airfax High's upcoming play, "The Children's Hour," is about two teachers in a private school in 1930s New England. But when one student accuses them of having an affair with each other, chaos ensues.

"This piece is incredibly important in society nowadays because it tells a story of what a lie can do and how much it can consume a person's life," said junior Mikhail Goldenberg, the assistant director. "We want to make the audience ponder the power of words – plus peer and societal pressure – and, ultimately, how these things can affect someone's mental wellbeing and lead to their downfall."

With a cast of 55, show times are Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 21, 22, 23, at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 24, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 via www.fxplayers.org or \$15 at the door. Because of the serious nature of the play and its mature content, it's not recommended for children under age 13, with parents' discretion.

"The show focuses on the accusation about the teachers, which leads to both

the audience and the teachers questioning what's reality and what can be mistakenly perceived as reality," said Goldenberg. "We're bringing this vision of the play to life in the way we portray the characters' contrast in tone and words in each scene, so that – as the show progresses – the audience won't know what to believe."

ONE OF HIS FAVORITE PARTS is when Mary – the schoolgirl who made the accusation – is telling her grandmother about what she saw and heard. "But the audience never finds out what she's saying, so it's left up to them to interpret," explained Goldenberg. "It's a critically pivotal moment of the show."

It's his first time directing, and he loves learning from Theater Director Erich DiCenzo. "I've found out how much purpose every, single decision has behind it to help the production go full-circle, and how much preparation goes into a show," said Goldenberg. "It's been an eye-opening experience."

Portraying teacher Martha Dobie is senior Melissa Trivett. "She's high-strung and nervous, and as a child, she was shielded from the world, so she's pretty naïve," said Trivett. "But she's a good person and wants the best for her students."

Enjoying her role, she said, "Martha's a dynamic character with a lot in her past to explore. And every, single thing said to her, or that she says, builds up to the play's final scenes, and it's interesting to live through that."

Trivett described Dobie as more innocent and naïve than she is and said they also process anger and sadness differently, so she must really put herself in her character's shoes to play her. And she said the audience will be "enraptured" with the show, from the start.

"They won't know where the story is going to go, and the actors' talents will capture their attention and be a deeper cut than the audience will expect from highschoolers," said Trivett. "And some of the themes explored – lies, betrayal, secrets and identity – can be mirrored in modern-day life."

Senior Kamila Adamczyk plays the other teacher, Karen Wright. The two educators were college classmates before opening a school together. "Karen is very poised, is engaged to a doctor and embodies the oldtime ideals of a wife," said Adamczyk. "She's kind to her students and cares about them – even Mary who, at times, can be difficult. She only wants the best for them."

Adamczyk "fell in love" with her character when reading this play and especially likes Wright's caring nature. "Even those who don't want the best for her, she wants the best for them," said Adamczyk. "I found it tragic to watch her perfect life and plans crumble right before her eyes. And I enjoyed exploring the challenges of playing someone so sure of themselves and their destiny

 and then having it all quickly taken away."

She said the audience will like how the play makes them "feel so many different emotions, and the way it tugs at their heartstrings and makes them connect with the characters."

PORTRAYING Wright's fiancé, Joseph Cardin – who's also Mary's uncle – is sophomore Trevor Sloan. "He's a happy man, makes sarcastic but funny remarks and jokes, and always tries to see the best in situations – even if he's just ignoring the facts of the matter," said Sloan. "He tries to be a good guy, although it doesn't always work out, and stresses can change him."

Sloan's having fun playing Cardin because he's previously played side characters and comic relief. "It's a welcome challenge to play a more serious role," he said. "The most interesting characters are the ones who aren't outright villains but are flawed and react to situations the way real humans would. He gets angry and frustrated and says things he probably shouldn't."

Regarding the audience, Sloan said, "They'll enjoy the language used by the playwright and how it's almost poetry – and that's a powerful, emotional statement. And this show will make them think about their own biases and ac-SEE FAIRFAX HIGH. PAGE 5

OPINION Historic Election Results in Virginia

of

By Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum State Delegate (D-36)

he Nov. 5 elections in Virginia produced results of historic proportions. The House of Del-

egates that has had a Republican majority since 2000 was flipped to a blue Democratic majority of 55 Democrats to 45 Republicans. As recently as the election for 2014-2016, Democrats in the House had dropped to 32 members. The turnaround came decisively in amazing political time; there will be a recount in only one seat the Democrats won. The Senate that had a Republican majority before the election flipped to blue with 21 of the 40 Senate seats now being held by Democrats.

The General Assembly when it convenes in January will have a Democratic majority in both houses. In addition, as a result of elections held in 2017 Democrats occupy all statewide offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General. The historic level of Democratic wins is not only about party, it is about representation. There will be more women in the General Assembly than ever before in Virginia's history. In the House of Delegates there will be 30 women in the 100member legislative body. In the Senate there will be 11 women in the 40-member body bringing the



women to 41 in the General Assembly. While the number is small relative to the proportion women in the total population, the number of women

total number of

in the legislature is a huge increase when compared to past years when it could be counted on the fingers of one's hands. The number of women running this year in both parties was at a historic level of 85.

There were other historic changes in the oldest continuous legislative body in the western world celebrating its 400th anniversary this year. A Muslim woman will join the Senate as the first ever elected to that body. The number of African Americans in the General Assembly will increase to the highest number since Reconstruction. The first ever Indian American man was elected to the House of Delegates.

The new members of the legislature have already indicated their willingness to make history. The Democratic caucus of the House met this past weekend and chose as its Speaker-designee, Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn, the first woman to ever serve as Speaker of the House of Delegates in the 400 years of its history. She will be elected formally by the entire House when the General Assembly convenes in January. Adding



Speaker-designee, Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) is the first woman to ever serve as Speaker of the House of Delegates in the 400 years of its history.

to this historic moment, she will assume the leadership position, considered the most powerful in Virginia government next to the governor, with the least seniority of anyone ever taking the position in the modern day. She will be the first Jewish Speaker serving along with the Senate majority leader who is also Jewish. While I had hoped to become Speaker myself, I fully support Eileen who is amazingly smart and talented and I will

do everything I can to ensure her success.

The electorate broke through many hurdles in its votes this election year. Some results called historic today will become commonplace in the future as the General Assembly reflects more the demographics of the state as a whole. I have always felt honored to serve, and with the historic results of this election year I feel even more honored. Thank you, voters!

LETTERS

Do We Need Outof-State Campaign **Contributions?** To the Editor:

I just re-read the commentary authored by Ken Plum in the Opinion section of the Connection, Nov. 7-13, 2019. I can appreciate the article from his perspective on the election cycle, but there was one sentence there that gave me pause: "Political contributions from out-of-state individuals and organizations poured into the state in

record amounts." Is this really the political system we want, here in Virginia or anywhere? Where those who do not live here can influence? Aren't we enough?

Why should we accept this? Thanks for your consideration.

David A Baciocco

Burke



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News

Paul VI High Presents "The Outsiders"

From Page 3

people in the show and behind the scenes put in so much work and are so dedicated that it'll really come through onstage."

Junior Jak Ketron plays Ponyboy, 14. "He's trying to find his place in the world," said Ketron. "He's a Greaser, but not quite like the others in his gang. He likes movies and creativity and doesn't like stealing things and fighting - unless it's against the Socs. He loves watching sunsets, does well in English class and is a good kid. He's also forgetful because he's busy thinking. He's the white sheep among the black sheep because he's pure and innocent."

Also enjoying his role, Ketron speaks an octave higher to portray Ponyboy's youth. "I relate to him because he's a deep thinker and very creative, as am I," he said. "The entire show is him telling his story, and he does a great job of it."

Ketron said the audience will like the cast and how the members all get along. "And the gang fight is so cool," he said. "It was choreographed by Nick Moore, a licensed, stage-combat artist, has a lot of action and looks great from any angle. Overall, it's a beautiful story about a group of guys just trying to stay in the fight. It's the epitome of a hero's journey, and anybody can relate to it - especially those between ages 10-18." Senior Vanessa Van Horn is the show's sound designer. "We're emphasizing the themes of class division, mortality, change and growth, and hope," she said. "For mortality, we're doing our sound effects and music in minor keys to stress the dreariness of the situation."

For hope, said Van Horn, "We're using the instrumental version of Stevie Wonder's 'Stay Gold' song that was in the movie because it has more of a different tempo and a triumphant feel than the other music in the show. And to emphasize that switch, it won't be done in minor keys."

She enjoys doing sound because of the challenge it gives her. "We have an analog system - unlike digital, which most schools use - and I like being able to understand it, take it apart and put it back together again," she said. "And it gives me more control over the sound, especially when I mess with the frequencies, volume and power of someone's voice."

AS FOR THE PLAY, Van Horn said it's "a classic story many people know through the book or movie. But theater is a different experience and, seeing it come alive in front of them will let them easily put themselves in the characters' places."

The lighting designer is senior Jon Greene. "I light the stage in such a way that it portrays emotion and elevates and intensifies each scene," he explained. "We have about 350 lights that I operate, and each light contains colored sheets of clear paper - called gels - which we use to change the color of the lights."

He said differences in color temperatures illustrate moods and time of day. For example, cool temperatures - blue and purple symbolize isolation, and warm temperatures - orange and red - portray anger. "Subconsciously we associate emotions with certain colors, and it adds another layer of depth to the scenes by letting the audience understand how the character is feeling,' said Greene. "Lights are behind the scenes, and you might not notice them right away. But once you do, it enhances the show and adds more depth and complexity to it."

"When the audience sees all the elements - the sound, lighting, costumes, set, props and acting - come together, it really creates an amazing story," he continued. "A lot of hard work went into this play and, at the end of the day, it makes it all worthwhile."

Fairfax High Presents "The Children's Hour

From Page 3

tions." When DiCenzo became Fairfax's theater director, seven years ago, the first FCPS theater production he saw was Langley High's production of this same play. "I was taken aback by, not only the talent onstage, but the maturity in the execution of such dramatic content," he said. "I've wanted to do this show since then, and it's only now that the right cast has come along."

Bulletin Board

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

Fairfax County **Board of Supervisors** Meetings in 2019

12000 Government Center Parkway Fairfax, VA 22035 Nov. 19, 2019 9:30 a.m. - Full Board of

Supervisors Meeting www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

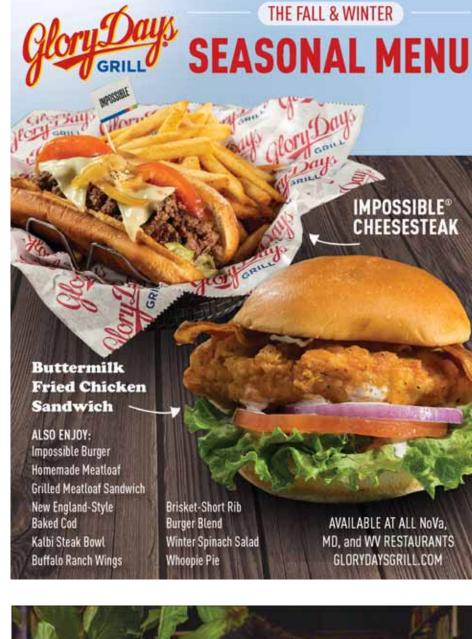
"Each member has dived into the script with curiosity and intelligent interpretation of their individual characters," continued DiCenzo. "This is our first, non-contemporary drama, so audiences may be surprised by our veer from lighthearted comedies and big, song-and-dance musicals. But it's been an important, educational experience for the students, as well as for me, as a director."

- Nov. 26 Committee Meetings
- ✤ 9:30 a.m. Economic Advisory Commission
- 1:30 p.m. Legislative Committee
- ♦ 3 p.m. Budget Committee

Dec. 3, 2019 9:30 a.m. - Full Board of Suervisors Meeting

- Dec. 10 Committee Meetings
- vices Committee
 - 11 a.m. Development Process Committee 1:30 p.m. - Transportation Committee
- ✤ 3 p.m. General Assembly Annual Reception and Work Session

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✤ 11 a.m. - Personnel Committee

- ♦ 5 p.m. Audit Committee

* 9:30 a.m. - Health, Housing and Human Ser-



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neutral linens which provided a rich, but subtle backdrop to Copenhagen china.

Home Life Style

In this table design, Anne



Рното ву Anne Walker

Setting a Thanksgiving Table

Local designers share ideas for creating a festive tablescape.



Photo by by Stacy Zarin Goldberg Designer Pamela Harvey used china, colorful napkins and placemats to add color to this table setting.

Pamela Harvey in Oak Hill, Va. "Adding a simple stem of pine needles to a napkin ring at each setting," she said. "I always survey my own yard for clippings of magnolia or a great branch to add to the table."

"A runner of eucalyptus branches mixed with tangerines or pears and casual ribbon makes for a great fall look," continued Harvey. "Simple flower arrangements using all the same flower or color make an impact."

Forgo a centerpiece created by a florist, says Walker. "Why not cut a few branches from your own garden and create your own floral display?" asks Walker. "Many plants, including Nandina, produce beautiful red berries in the fall, which makes for a lovely, simple table decoration."

The holidays are a perfect time to uncover treasured china and other pieces stored away, said Harvey. "I love the nostalgia of using pieces that were handed down," she said. "Varying the dish patterns is also a fun way to display china, such as using your grandmother's china mixed with more casual or everyday place settings."

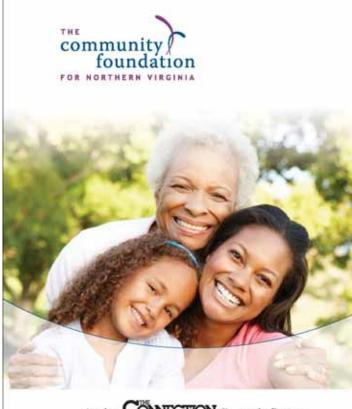
"Use your real silver and your best crystal - these things are meant to be enjoyed," added Walker. "Food and drink taste better when delivered from a glass that's been hand-blown and a silver fork."

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ONNECTION Community Partner

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By MARILYN CAMPBELL The Connection

hether celebrating with large gathering of family or hosting an intimate dinner with friends, Thanksgiving offers an opportunity to express gratitude, merriment and creativity. Though the day is noted for football games and parades, it's the turkey dinner that takes center stage. Setting an aesthetically appealing table on which to place the perfectly prepped bird adds to a special touch to the quintessentially American meal.

From monogrammed linen napkins to centerpieces crafted with backyard foliage, area designers offer ideas for creating a backdrop for one of the most anticipated meals of the year.

"The key to setting a beautiful Thanksgiving table is to keep it simple, said Amanda Mertins of Patina Polished Living in Alexandria. "The big focus for Thanksgiving is, of course, the food."

Designer Anne M. Walker, Anne Walker Design in Potomac says that she's created tablescapes that range from ultra-formal to super-casual. "By far my favorite is the unassuming, simple style of Scandinavian table décor," she said. "I like to use linen placements, rather a than tablecloth, so you can see the beautiful wood of the table."

"I prefer table linens made by Ekelund, a familyowned Swedish company that has been producing fine linens since the 1600s," said Walker. "Their placemats and napkins have body and heft to them, and the natural flax color complements any style and color of table. '

Patterned, colorful napkins can add just the right amount of interest to a table set with neutral china, suggests Mertins. "Bold napkin rings always add a nice punch," she said. "Place cards make it very easy for guests to find their seat and they add a note of importance to the meal."

Adding fresh greenery to a table setting is one of the easiest and most cost effective ways to elevate your dining table decor, said Pamela Harvey of

BULLETIN BOARD

From Page 5 FRIDAY/NOV. 15

Celebrate Recycling. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy., Fairfax. Join employees from Fairfax County's Solid Waste Management Program at a special recycling celebration. Staff will hold an event marking Fairfax Recycles Day, a local event held in conjunction with Keep America Beautiful America Recycles Day. Attendees are invited to nibble on free popcorn, chat with recycling experts, play games, and enter to win prizes. Children are invited to climb behind the wheel of a recycling collection truck. A roll-off truck with a purple, glass-only recycling container will be on display.

Business Tax Workshop. 5:30-7 p.m. At Professional Tax Accountants 7009 Backlick Court, Springfield. Small Business Owners Tax Strategies Workshop covering business-entity tax structure, payroll structures, contractor questions, deductibles and more, Professional Tax Accountants offering a free workshop with live Q&A. Visit the website: https://pro-tax-usa.com/

NOV. 15 DEADLINE

Seeking Area Talent. "From the Top," the hit NPR radio program showcasing America's best young classical musicians, is seeking local talent for its live show recording on Saturday, Feb. 29 at 8 p.m. at the GMU Center for the Arts. Guest hosts Greg Anderson and Elizabeth Joy Roe will emcee the program and perform alongside the young artists for the Center for the Arts performance. The weekly hour-long radio program is heard Sundays on WETA 90.9 FM at 6 p.m. as well as more than 200

other stations nationwide. To be considered for "From the Top" at the Center for the Arts in Fairfax, eligible young classical musicians must submit recordings and complete an application by Nov. 15, 2019. Application and scholarship information is available online at www.fromthetop.org/apply.

TUESDAY/NOV. 19

Car Seat Safety Check. 5-9 p.m. at the West Springfield district police station, 6140 Rolling Road. Fairfax County Police Department offers free safety check and install events throughout the year to ensure children travel safely. By appointment only; call 703-644-7377 and press 0 at the recording to schedule

Fairfax Lions Club Dinner

Meeting. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 177, upper level. 939 Oak St., Fairfax. Visit a Lions Club dinner meeting. Enjoy a buffet dinner, speaker, and club announcements. Guests are cordially invited - meet members and learn about Lions community service. Free. Visit www.fairfaxlions.org or call 703-879-5795

THURSDAY/NOV. 21

Lunch N' Life. Noon to 2 p.m. At Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 8922 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Are vou 50 or better? Sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke, author Rebecca Boggs Roberts will speak on the experiences of the Suffragists of Washington, D.C. For reservations, call Bea Stephenson at 703-273-5730, by Nov. 15. The cost is \$10; checks payable to SCFB. If transportation is needed, call the SCFB office 703-323-4788. See www.scfbva.org

SATURDAY/NOV. 23

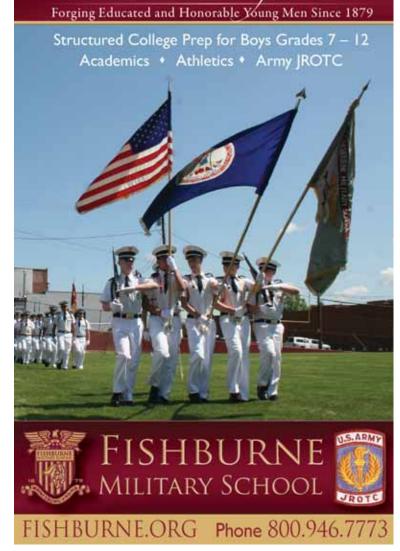
- Coffee with Del. David Bulova. 9-11 a.m. At Jireh Cafe, 13848 Lee Highway, Centreville. Del. Bulova (D-Fairfax) will continue a tradition started in 2006 by holding the first in a series of informal office hours. Constituents are invited to talk about issues of interest and to ask questions about legislation affecting our community. The format is casual and no appointment is needed. Visit the
- website: www.davidbulova.com. **Messy Church.** 5-6:30 p.m. at St. Peter's in the Woods, 5911 Fairview Woods Drive, Fairfax Station. Join St. Peter's in the Woods for their monthly Messy Church. It's a worshiping community especially geared towards families and young children, but welcoming to all. Biblethemed crafts and activities, casual worship and a free, family-style dinner. Call 703-503-9210 Registration is appreciated, visit www.stpetersinthewoods.org/events.

TUESDAY/NOV. 26

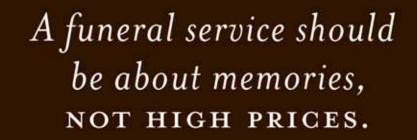
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TUESDAY/DEC. 4

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Calendar

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

ONGOING

- Shir HaLev, the Community Jewish Chorale of Northern Virginia. Rehearsals are held select Tuesdays, 7:30-9 p.m. at Congregation Olam Tikvah, 3800 Glenbrook Road, Fairfax. The Chorale is a friendly, welcoming, adult volunteer choir. Membership in the group is open to all, members of Congregation Olam Tikvah and other Northern Virginians. Their repertoire consists mainly of Jewish liturgical music and also some contemporary Jewish music and some secular showtunes, too. Visit carolboydleon.com/shir_halev for more.
- Lorton Farmers Market. Sundays, 9 a.m.-noon, through Nov. 17, in the VRE Parking Lot, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton. Eleven local farmers and producers sell fresh produce and fruits; meats; breads and pastries; jams; dairy products and eggs; herbs; flowers, and more. 703-642-0128 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ parks/farmersmarkets/lorton.
- Springfield Farmers Market. Saturdays, through Nov. 23, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Springfield Town Center, 6699 Spring Mall Drive, Springfield. Vendors include Cascade Beverage, Celestial/Fossil Farms, Chilanga Tortilla, Conecopia, Greenwich Farms, Iganacio's Produce, Kingdom Gourmet, Lola's Kusina, Lund's Produce, Smiths Mecklenburg, Taste Old Country, Three Puppies,Tyson Farm, and Windmill Meadows. Visit www.communityfoodworks.org or call 202-697-7768.
 Sweet but Psycho. Through Nov. 30, at Olly
- Sweet but Psycho. Through Nov. 30, at Olly Olly, 10417 Main St., 2nd Floor, Fairfax. Olly Olly presents Sweet but Psycho: an avant-garde fairytale. Strangeland is a performance duo, made up of Bunni (Andiland) and Goatface (Strange Lens), that explores the superficial construct of reality. Call 703-789-6144 or visit ollyollyart com for more
- ollyollyart.com for more. **Braddock Wrestling Club.** Online registration through Dec. 1. The Braddock Wrestling Club is holding registration for the 2019-2020 season. The club supports wrestling for age groups 5 through 14 years old, boys and girls. All practices are held at Lake Braddock Secondary School. Cost is \$155 per wrestler. Link to registration can be found at braddockwrestlingclub.shutterfly.com/. Or contact William Flynn at bflynniv@verizon.net
- or call 571-230-0713. **Burke Farmers Market.** Through Dec. 21, 8 a.m.-noon at the VRE parking lot, 5671 Roberts Parkway, Burke. A great selection of fresh produce, baked goods, seafood, and dairy. All vendors make their own food or grow it locally. Call 703-642-0128 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ parks/farmersmarkets/burke for more.
- **Registration Open: Fall Art Classes.** Burke Centre Conservancy is sponsoring Fall Art Classes starting Tuesday, Nov. 12 – Jan. 7 and Saturday classes starting Jan. 11 - March in Drawing and Watercolor Painting for 5-8-year old, 8 years and up and Adults/Teens held at the Woods Community Centre, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. New Class – Art Workshop for Adults Tuesday Afternoons - Nov. 12 - Dec. 17.
- **Give the Gift of Original Art.** Now thru Jan. 5. At Torpedo Factory Artists at Mosaic, 2905 District Ave., #105, Fairfax. Open Wednesday thru Sunday 11 – 7 p.m. Reception celebrating small businesses, Nov. 30, 5 to 8 p.m. You can find extraordinary fine art that makes great gifts this holiday season — the work of highlyacclaimed Torpedo Factory Artists — at their satellite space in Merrifield. Beautiful paintings, fine-art photographs, one-of-a- kind jewelry, scarves, ceramics and much more will be offered. Plus you can get an early start on your holiday shopping. Artists Sonne Hernandez and Greg Knott are in residence during this show.
- **PJ Party + Santa's Arrival.** At Springfield Town Center, Springfield. Welcome Santa with a Pajama Party. Get in the holiday spirit with caroling, hot cocoa and watch as Santa arrives in style with Fairfax police and fire. Santa's visiting hours will be as follows: Now through Dec. 13; Monday – Saturday: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Dec. 14 thru Dec. 23: Monday – Saturday: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Christmas Eve: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

THURSDAY/NOV. 14

Holiday Open House. 2-6 p.m. At Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck, Lorton.

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Nicole Shortle, a sophomore at Oakton High School, dances the role of Clara; and Carlos Martinez, George Mason University Dance, dances the role of the Nutcracker Prince.

"The Nutcracker" at Woodson Hgh

"The Nutcracker." Nov. 30, 4 p.m., and Dec. 1, 2:30 p.m. at W.T. Woodson High School, Fairfax. The Fairfax Ballet Company members, along with students from the Russell School of Ballet and professional guest artists, take the audience on a magical journey through a festive party, an epic battle scene, a winter wonderland of sparkling snowflakes, and a Land of Sweets that includes a delicate Sugar Plum Fairy, a dashing Cavalier, graceful Mirlitons, and waltzing flowers. Fairfax Ballet Senior company member Nicole Shortle, a sophomore at Oakton High School, dances the role of Clara. Carlos Martinez, a sophomore in George Mason University's dance program, portrays the Nutcracker Prince. Professional guest artists, Cody Beaton and Mate Szentes from the Richmond Ballet, dance the roles of the Sugar Plum Fairy and Cavalier. Philip Smith-Cobbs dances the roles of the Mouse King, Mechanical Doll, and Arabian Coffee. Tickets are available for purchase at http://fairfaxnutcracker2019.bpt.me Tickets will also be available at the door beginning one hour before each show. Group discounts are available for qualifying organizations with 10 or more guests. Email events@fairfaxballet.com or call 703-665-9427.



"Il Postino" (The Postman) will be staged Nov. 16-17 at George Mason University's Center for the Arts.

"Il Postino" at GMU's Center for the Arts

"Il Postino" (The Postman). Saturday, Nov. 16 at 8 p.m.; Sunday, Nov. 17 at 2 p.m. at George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Virginia Opera, The Official Opera Company of the Commonwealth of Virginia, will stage composer/librettist Daniel Catán's three-act opera Il Postino (The Postman), the second opera in the company's 2019-2020, 45th anniversary season. The production marks the Virginia Opera debut of stage director Crystal Manich. Tickets are \$45-\$115. Visit <u>www.cfa.gmu.edu</u>.

Celebrate the season at Gunston Hall during this merchandise unveiling and receive special discounts and offers, complimentary gift wrapping, and snack on light refreshments as you shop locally. This event is free and open to the public. Visit www.gunstonhall.org.

FRIDAY/NOV. 15

SymposiYUM!. 2:30-6:30 p.m. At Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck, Lorton. Join the inaugural SymposiYUM! program which features lectures, discussions, and a special food-based experience. The launch of this innovative program combines the traditional concept of a symposium with the dynamic, foodfocused programming offered at Gunston Hall, such as Cocktails by Candlelight and its Hearth Cooking Workshops. Speakers will include Dr. Kelley Deetz and Ms. Michelle Moon. Visit www.gunstonhall.org. Lakeside Campfire Fridays.6-7:30 p.m. At Lake

Lakeside Campfire Fridays.6-7:30 p.m. At Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Come to Lake Accotink to enjoy a campfire, s'mores and more. A different topic and a different area of the park will be explored at each event. Cost is \$8 per person. Call 703-569-3464 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ lake-accotink.

SATURDAY/NOV. 16

- Snowflake Social. 11 a.m. At Springfield Town Center, Springfield. Enjoy holiday treats, crafts, and festive music...Plus a meet and greet with Elsa, Anna and Kristoff from Frozen. Children can participate in holiday games, have their face painted, and more.
- Discover Hidden Treasures with GPS. 2-4 p.m. At Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Discover hidden treasures at Burke Lake Park with your GPS. There are thousands of geocaches tucked away in hidden spots throughout Fairfax County. At this program for treasure-hunters age 8 to adult, you will discover how to use GPS to locate hidden treasure caches within Burke Lake Park. Bring your own GPS; a limited number are available to borrow at class. Cost is \$22 per person. Call 703-323-6600 or visit
- www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake. 2019 Gala Phantom of the Workhouse. 6-11 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Featuring a reception, raffle, silent auction, dining, dancing, dinner, and live auction. The band Fringe Benefits is performing. A mysterious and impressive evening awaits. Black tie optional. Masquerade encouraged. Visit the website: https:// workhousearts.networkforgood.com/events/ 14148-2019-workhouse-arts-center-ga
- 14148-2019-workhouse-arts-center-ga **ilyAIMY & Ayreheart. 7 p.m.** At Epicure, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Two awardwinning singer/songwriters, a unique percussive acoustic guitarist, Grammy-nominated lute player Ronn McFarlane, the world-traveled Irish bones player of the Carolina Chocolate Drops, violin, percussion, electric cello... all on one stage playing original tunes, Renaissance-era compositions and some Led Zeppelin to boot. Cost is \$10 supported Wirit wurw ilvaimy com
- Cost is \$10 suggested. Visit www.ilyaimy.com. Nostalgic Nights. 8 p.m. At GMU Harris Theatre, 4471 Aquia Creek Lane, Fairfax. Be swept away by the romantic charm of the classical guitar as the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra takes you on a journey to Spain with Joaquin Rodrigo's masterpiece. Featuring Berta Rojas on guitar; and Christopher Zimmerman, conductor. The composer, blind since the age of 3, drew his inspiration from "the fragrance of magnolias, the singing of birds, and the gushing of fountains" in the palace gardens of Aranjuez. Hear the stories behind the music with music director Zimmerman and special guests before the concert at 7 p.m. Call the box office at 703-993-2787. Visit www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

NOV. 16-17

- Holiday Express Boutique Sale. Saturday 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. At St. Mary of Sorrows Church, 5222 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Handcrafted, one-of-a-kind, seasonal decorator and gift items. Sweet Shop, Silent Auction, Raffle, Chili lunch and cafe on Saturday only (10-4 p.m.). No vendors. Cash or check only. Call Lou: 703-426-8092.
- **"11 Postino" (The Postman).** Saturday at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m. At George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Virginia Opera, The Official Opera Company of the Commonwealth of Virginia, will stage composer/librettist Daniel Catán's three-act opera Il Postino (The Postman), the second opera in the company's 2019-2020, 45th anniversary season. The production marks the Virginia Opera debut of stage director Crystal Manich. Tickets are \$45-\$115. Visit www.cfa.gmu.edu.

SUNDAY, NOV. 17

- Meatless Holidays Cooking Class. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. At 9302 Hallston Ct. Fairfax Station. Start a new tradition with all the trimmings. Cost is \$55/person; \$100/two people. Call 703-643-2713. Pre-registration required. Visit www.veggourmet.wordpress.com
- N Gauge Train Display. 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 Train Display. Museum members, free; adults 16 and over, \$4; children 5-15, \$2; under 4, free. For more information on the museum and show events is at www.fairfax-station.org or visit
- www.facebook.com/FFXSRR. Call 703-425-9225. **CROP Hunger Walk.** 1:15-4:30 p.m. At Fairfax Presbyterian Church, 10723 Main Street, Fairfax. Area residents from different faiths, cultures, and ages, walking together (5K or shorter Golden Mile) to support local/global efforts to fight world hunger and help disaster victims. Registration required. Free. Visit the website: www.burkecropwalk.org

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www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



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MONDAY/NOV. 18

Funday Monday. 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Crafts, music, movement, and fun with Mr. Skip, My Gym, Paint Your Own Pottery and a new VIP series featuring community helpers and leaders. Free. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/ government/parks-recreation/ cultural-arts or call 703-385-2712.

THURSDAY/NOV. 21

- Christmas Mart. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Pohick Episcopal Church 9301 Richmond Hwy., Lorton. The Parish House and the Vestry House will be transformed into a festive Christmas atmosphere with rooms filled with Attic Treasures, a Consignment Shop, fresh baked goods, homemade candy and apple butter, and frozen casseroles made by the women of Pohick Church. Booths will feature the work of artisans showcasing handmade jewelry, stained glass, Christmas decorations and many other crafts. Colonial-attired ladies will serve luncheon at three sittings - 11 a.m., 12 noon and 1 p.m. the cost is \$13. The Docent Guild will be leading tours of the historic colonial church and the Golden Dove Gift Shop will be open. Admission to the Christmas Mart is free. Visit the website at www.pohick.org or call 703-339-6572.
- Lunch 'N' Life. 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. At Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 8922 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Luncheon Speaker, Author Rebecca Boggs Roberts will discuss "Suffragists in Washington, D.C." Sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke, Call Bea Stephenson for reservations by Nov. 15 at 703-273-5730. Cost is \$10. Visit the website: www.scfbva.org
- Thanksgiving Dinner. 6:30-8 p.m. At Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy., Fairfax. Sponsored by the American Turkish Friendship Association, join in an early Thanksgiving Dinner to celebrate our diversity and offer our thanks together for all the blessings we have — with friends from different faiths and cultures. Register online at bit.ly/thanks-2019.

NOV. 21-23

Citrus Fruit Sale. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. At 3251 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax at the intersection of Old Lee Highway and Old Pickett Road. Fresh Florida fruit; Navel Oranges, Ruby Red Grapefruit, Sol Zest Mandarins, Maple Syrup, VA peanuts. Sign-up for discount coupons: https:// www.fairfaxlions.org/citrus-salenotification/ Fruit is excellent this year. Sponsored by the Fairfax Lions Club. Visit the website: https:// www.fairfaxlions.org/

FRIDAY/NOV. 22

RIBBERBANDance Group. 8 p.m. At George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. RUBBERBANDance creates a bridge between the grace and structure of classical ballet and the raw, improvisational moves of hiphop. Montreal's innovative company is stretching the limits of contemporary dance to create a fresh, new aesthetic. Their latest work, Vic's Mix, showcases highlights of company founder Victor Quijada's creations and the evolution of his signature dance technique, dubbed the RUBBERBAND Method, that he developed over a 15-year period of time. Tickets are \$48, \$41 and \$29. Visit www.cfa.gmu.edu.



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> **ICE! Featuring Dr Seuss' How** The Grinch Stole Christmas! **NEW Reindeer Rush Tubing NEW Feast with THE GRINCH*** Cirque Dreams * Ice Skating * Photos with Santa * Mrs. Claus **Christmas Traditions and** much more!



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Fairfax County Parkway Widening and Popes Head Road Interchange Fairfax County

Design Public Hearing Thursday, December 12, 2019 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Presentation begins at 7 p.m. Inclement weather date: Monday, December 16, 2019

James W. Robinson, Jr. Secondary School, Cafeteria 5035 Sideburn Road Fairfax, VA 22032

Find out about plans to widen Fairfax County Parkway (Route 286) from four to six lanes between Route 29 (Lee Highway) and Route 123 (Ox Road). The proposed project design also includes an interchange at Popes Head Road and the future Shirley Gate Road extension, improvements to the existing trail in the Fairfax County Parkway right of way and construction of a new shared-use path to make the trail continuous within the project limits. This project will also involve the modification of limited access control along the Fairfax County Parkway and the establishment of limited access control for the proposed Popes Head Road interchange and its ramps, which will replace the existing at-grade signalized intersection.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 23 CFR Parts 771 and 772, an environmental document in the form of an Environmental Assessment (EA) (which includes a Preliminary Noise Analysis) was prepared and approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for public availability. Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed improvements on historic properties is also included in the EA. In accordance with 23 CFR 774, notice is given of the FHWA's intent to issue Section 4(f) de minimis impact findings with respect to the project's use of Patriot and Popes Head Parks.

Stop by between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to view displays and learn more about the project and its preliminary design. VDOT will hold a presentation beginning at 7 p.m. Project staff will be available to answer your questions.

Review project information at the VDOT project website (www.virginiadot.org/projects), at the information meeting, or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax. Please call ahead at 703-691-6710 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

Give your written comments at the meeting, or submit them by December 23, 2019 to Mr. Sitaram Kodali, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, or email meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference "Fairfax County Parkway Widening" in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT Civil Rights at 703-259-1775.

> State Project: 0286-029-259, P101; 0286-029-365, B619, B620 UPC: 107937, 111725, Federal: STP-5A01 (775)

Fairfax Connection & November 14-20, 2019 & 9

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CALENDAR

Legals

City of Fairfax, Virginia Public Notice Disposal of Private Property Taken Into Possession of City of Fairfax Police Department

Legals

Pursuant to Section 50-33, 50-35 and 50-36 of the Code of the City of Fairfax, the City of Fairfax Police Department will be disposing of the below listed unclaimed property, by public auction conducted by an independent auction service, converted to department use or generally disposed of. Any person who feels they have a legal claim, with reasonable proof of ownership, should contact MPO Gardner of the City of Fairfax Police Department at 703-385-7829 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. weekdays until close of business FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2019. Auction Service: Colonial Auction Services, 13200 Old Mariboro Pike, Upper Mariboro, MD 20772 Business Phone #301-627-7575

PROP#	ITEM	SERIAL #
14746	HUFFY NIGHTHAWK BICYCLE	AHT7H04****
	VA Birth Certificate ROSARIO VASQUEZ	N/A
Construction of the second	APPLE IPOD PINK	DJQT03M****
14821	WHITE FIT BIT	2015DJ****
14840	RED/BLK GENESIS V2100 BICYCLE	N/A
14850	US PASSPORT- MATTHEW HERNANDEZ	NONE
14854	US PASSPORT- RACHEL UGUALA	NONE
11865	SIL/BLUE BLACK HUFFY BICYCLE	36****
10122320	MENS BCA5C29 BICYCLE	BCA7295****
14890 14899	IPHONE 6 BLK/SIL KENT FS20 AMBUSH BICYCLE	DNTPVD7V**** N/A
14899		35930706500****
14905	SILVER IPHONE WITH PINK COVER	N/A
14907	RED SONY LAPTOP WITH CHARGER	N/A
14912	21 SPD AVALON MOUNTAIN BIKE BLU/WHT	GS11100****
14928	21 SPD MAGHA EXCITOR MOUNTAIN BIKE BLK/YLW	
14935	HARD ROCK SPECIALIZED MOUNTAIN BIKE GRN	P8CH3****
14940	BLK COOL PAD PHONE	N/A
14957	ROADMASTER MOUNTAIN BICYCLE GRAY	SNFSD16HK****
14960	3 LARGE BLK SUITCASES	N/A
14976	BLACK CELLPHONE ZTE	N/A
14978	BOYS KENT FREESTYLE BICYCLE YELLOW	46531
15004 15010	IPHONE WHITE/GOLD	N/A N/A
15010	LG FLIP PHONE CASETTE ADAPTER	N/A
15010	BLACK BACK PACK	N/A
15013	SLEEPING BAG	N/A
15014	BROWN OLD NAVY PURSE	N/A
15039	ROADMASTER MOUNTAIN BICYCLE PURPLE	SNFSD14F7****
15056	CELL PHONE	Unknown
15074	WHITE CELL PHONE	Unknown
15101		R52002
15107	BLACK CELL PHONE WITH OTTER BOX CASE	N/A
15112	ROADMASTER BICYCLE	SNFSD15C3****
15116	NEXT MOUNTAIN BICYCLE WHITE	LWMF00****
15142	PACIFIC EXPERT BICYCLE GREEN	N/A
15147 15175	NEXT MOUNTAIN BICYCLE RED IPHONE WITH OTTER BOX	005D74**** N/A
15177	DIAMONDBACK BICYCLE GRAY	N/A
15188	GENESIS V2900 BICYCLE BLUE/WHITE	GS3290****
15191	VERA BRADLEY PURSE AND CONTENTS	Unknown
15196		N/A
15211	SKIP SCOOTER	4WYEQ18JAE****
	ROADMASTER BICYCLE BLACK	SNFSD08****
	BLUE SAMSUNG GALAXY PHONE S9	N/A
15208	WIRELESS SPEAKERS LIVE PLATINUM	021025****
15230	UNKNOWN MODEL IPHONE BLACK	N/A
12541	AMBUSH BICYCLE WHITE/BLK	H55040****
15266 15266	WHITE ECLIPSE WRIST WATCH SILVER RING WITH PURPLE JEWEL	N/A N/A
15280	NOVARA BICYCLE	ACA11H00****
15272	BLACK HANDBAG	Unknown
15305	ORANGE AVIEO BICYCLE	0328****
15305	GREEN DIAMOND BACK BICYCLE	DHA11M00****
15312	IPHONE IN BLACK OTTERBOX	N/A
15323	GREY PURSE	N/A
15326	US PASSPORT- DOUGLAS DAVIS	NONE
15331	MODEL AIRPLANE	NONE
15335	GENESIS BICYCLE	GS7287****
15340	HYPER SYSTEM 20 BLUE BICYCLE	XZDM15A0****
15343	VA O/L PIERCE NACLAREO	NONE
15346	PINK FITBIT BRACLET	N/A N/A
15355 15365	ADIDAS BAG AND CONTENTS APPLE IPAD AND CASE	DMRJPB62****
15366	US PASSPORT-CRISTIAN DIAZ	N/A
15300	SILVER/GOLD RING	N/A
15396	KENT TERRA 2.4 BLUE BICYCLE	G170720****
15397	WHITE IPHONE IN FLOWER CASE	N/A
15407	GREY ADIDAS SNEAKERS/EYEGLASS CASE/AUX CARD	N/A
15407		
15407 15411 15413	KATE SPADE SUNGLASSES GIANT MOUNTAIN BICYCLE	N/A N/A

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SATURDAY/NOV. 23

Aquila Theatre George Orwell's 1984. 8 p.m. At George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Aquila Theatre brings one of the great novels of the 20th Century to the stage—George Orwell's dystopian 1984—in a chilling and timely production. The cautionary tale is set in the super-state Oceania a totalitarian regime ruled by the "Party" and its leader, "Big Brother," who employ the "Thought Police" to quell individualism and independent thinking. Obedient rank-and-file Party member Winston Smith secretly hates the repressive regime and dreams of a rebellion against Big Brother. He begins a forbidden relationship with Julia, a fellow employee, and his life sets off in a dangerous direction. Tickets are \$44, \$37, \$26. Visit www.cfa.gmu.edu.

NOV. 23-24

Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show.

Hours: Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. At Dewberry Hall, Johnson Center, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Northern Virginia Mineral Club's 28th Annual Show. Over 20 dealers with gems, minerals and fossils for sale. Demonstrations, exhibits, door prizes and kid's activities. Cost is adults \$6, seniors \$4, teens (13-17) \$3, children 12 and under free, Scouts in uniform free, GMU students and faculty free. Event is co-sponsored by the Dept. of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences at GMU. Visit the website www.novamineralclub.org.



Photo by Ed Parker

Members of Temple B'nai Shalom congregation begin the 26th annual Burke/Fairfax CROP Hunger Walk last November 2018 at Fairfax Presbyterian Church. Hundreds of local area residents participated and raised over \$28,000 in support of hunger and disaster relief.

CROP Hunger Walk, Sunday, Nov. 17

CROP Hunger Walk. Sunday, Nov. 17, 1:15-4:30 p.m. at Fairfax Presbyterian Church, 10723 Main Street, Fairfax. Area residents from different faiths, cultures, and ages, walking together (5K or shorter Golden Mile) to support local/global efforts to fight world hunger and help disaster victims. Registration required. Free. Visit the website: www.burkecropwalk.org

SUNDAY/NOV. 24

Holiday Make n' Take Event. 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Come join in the fun of creating a holiday-themed craft to take home with you. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; ages 16 and older, \$4. Cost of supplies is included with your admission. Visit www.fairfaxstation.org, or www.facebook.com/ FFXSRR, or call 703-425-9225.

TAX NOTICE CITY OF FAIRFAX

REAL ESTATE TAX PAYMENTS ARE DUE

Real Estate tax bills have been mailed and are due Thursday, December 5, 2019

LATE PAYMENT PENALTY

To avoid incurring a 10%, \$10 minimum, late payment penalty and interest of 10% per annum, payment in full must be <u>received or</u> <u>postmarked by close-of-business on Thursday, Dec. 5, 2019</u>

Taxes may be paid online, by mail, or in-person to the City Treasurer's Office (City Hall, Suite 234) 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (excluding holidays)

IMPORTANT

Even if you do not receive a physical bill, to avoid late payment penalties you are still responsible for requesting a copy and remitting payment by Thursday, December 5, 2019

For Additional Information, please check the City website at www.FairfaxVA.gov or call (703) 385-7900

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www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Jonate/Voluntee

www.lostdogandcatrescue.org

BULLETIN

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invited - meet members and learn about Lions community service. Free. Visit www.fairfaxlions.org or call 703-879-5795.

SUNDAY/DEC. 8

Low Cost Rabies Vaccine Clinic. Noon-2 p.m. at West Springfield Governmental Center, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield.Cost is \$15 per pet, cash and check only. Dogs, cats, and ferrets may be vaccinated at the clinic. Dogs must be on leashes; cats and ferrets must be in carriers. All pets will receive a 1-year rabies vaccination. To obtain a 3-year vaccine, bring pet's rabies certificate (not tag) showing the current rabies vaccination expiration date. 2019 county dog licenses will be sold for an additional \$10 per license. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ animalshelter/communityassistance/ rabiesclinics for more.

SATURDAY/DEC. 14

Coffee with Del. David Bulova. 9-11 a.m. At Main Street Bagel, 10268 Main Street, City of Fairfax. Del. Bulova (D-Fairfax) will continue a tradition started in 2006 by holding the first in a series of informal office hours. Constituents are invited to talk about issues of interest and to ask questions about legislation affecting our community. The format is casual and no appointment is needed. Visit the website: www.davidbulova.com.

TUESDAY/DEC. 18

Fairfax Lions Club Dinner Meeting. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 177, upper level. 939 Oak St., Fairfax. Visit a Lions Club dinner meeting. Enjoy a buffet dinner, speaker, and club announcements. Guests are cordially invited – meet members and learn about Lions community service. Free. Visit www.fairfaxlions.org or call 703-879-5795.

SATURDAY/DEC. 28

Messy Church. 5-6:30 p.m. at St. Peter's in the Woods, 5911 Fairview Woods Drive, Fairfax Station. Join St. Peter's in the Woods for their monthly Messy Church. It's a worshiping community especially geared towards families and young children, but welcoming to all. Bible themed crafts and activities, casual worship and a free, family-style dinner. Call 703-503-9210 for more. Registration is appreciated, visit www.stpetersinthewoods.org/events.

SUPPORT GROUPS

- Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualitied to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ healthymindsfairfax or www.nami-
- northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html. Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke sponsors a monthly meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, noon-1:30 p.m., for caregivers to learn and to share with others experiencing similar challenges. Before attending, contact the facilitator, Eileen Thompson at 703-451-8626 or eileen.thompson1@gmail.com.
- Haven of Northern Virginia provides support, compassion, information and resources to the bereaved and seriously ill. To become a Haven volunteer, please call 703-941-7000 to request an orientation. Volunteers must complete a 30hour training and commit to one year of service answering Haven phones (2.5 hours weekly). Next training is scheduled for fall 2017.

ONGOING

- STEM Professionals Needed. Volunteers are needed to assist K-12 STEM teachers in northern Virginia as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2019-20 school year, beginning in September. Please contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488 or donaldrea@aol.com.
- Assistance League of Northern Virginia, a volunteer nonprofit, invites community member to join the organization to participate in its Reading Express program. Volunteers provide one-on-one tutoring to first grade students during the school year. To learn more contact VP Membership Mary Gronlund at gronbiz@aol.com or Program Coordinator Lynn Barron at lynnieb517@verizon.net.



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BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Chino Lourie, **Rest in Peace**

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As much as I try not to self-indulge in my weekly column. I am aware that I don't always succeed. It seems I can only write about what I feel, what I see and what I hear, be it personal, professional or public. To that end — which justifies my means, I have often involved you regular readers in my cancer life, as well as a few other "privacies" I've been comfortable sharing: family (including pets), friends, finances and the occasional faux pas (if I am anything, I am open, perhaps too open, if certain other familial opinions are to be considered).

indirectly, how when something is preoccupying my mind, it is difficult/near impossible for me to write about something that's not. At present my preoccupation is with one of my cats: Chino. He is not doing well, at all. After multiple emergency room visits and follow-up appointments with veterinarians over the past few weeks, it appears his diabetes has finally gotten the best of him leading to the worst possible outcome: death, with some dignity, hopefully.

In two of our most recent visits to the veterinarian, we have had preliminary discussions about euthanizing Chino. We have resisted so far and have continued, especially my wife, Dina, to give him as much t.l.c. as we can. However, his quality of life, as described by our primary veterinarian on Friday, is "not good." To invoke/ rework a phrase commonly associated with some human beings in early childhood: Chino is failing to thrive, though he turned 13 in late September. Other than engaging with us when we call his name or pet him, Chino is not able to do nearly enough (eating, drinking, grooming, using the litter box) to give us much hope. Nevertheless, he is home and curled up in his favorite spot in the kitchen, though barely able to get around.

I wouldn't characterize our activity as a vigil. but neither Dina nor myself are planning to leave the house (or one of us will be at home if the other needs to go out) anytime soon. With this weekend of inactivity, our focus is exclusively on Chino. Yet here I sit, a literary task at hand, attempting to navigate emotionally the prospect of his passing and the significance of such a loss.

It's been 10 years or so since we've had to consider euthanizing a pet. It was either Bailey, our second golden retriever or Chester, our second dwarf rabbit. I can't remember exactly as it was around this time that I was diagnosed with lung cancer and began heavy-duty chemotherapy. But we've all survived since then and even added a few critters: Chino's brother, Biscuit, Twinkle, our white cat with an attitude and two more rescues "The Blackies," as we call them: Andrew and Sloane, black, domestic short hair siblings. As longtime animal owners, we knew this day would come, but given my cancer diagnosis: "13 months to two years," I think we figured I'd be the first to go. So it's both upsetting and distracting in a way, our normal pursuits, because what's happening - both good (me still being alive) and bad (Chino succumbing to his illness) is not what we anticipated happening. As a result, I am self-indulging you in my preoccupation because I'm unable to think/write outside the box. A figurative box on which Chino sits front and center, mostly down but not quite out.

Still, we're not exactly sitting and staring blankly into space, but neither are we entertaining too many other thoughts. We are here for Chino so with a column to write, it is being written with Chino as the subject, and excuse for what is written in this space. For 13-plus years Chino has been my companion. We have rubbed noses too many times to remember. He has my scent and as such. I have belonged to him. Soon I fear he'll belong to no one and I'll have lost his loving feeling. He was a sweet and affectionate cat. We will miss him terribly.

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

