

# Springfield CONNECTION

Franconia ♦ Kingstowne ♦ Newington

HomeLifeStyle

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## Getting From Metro To NVCC Campus, Business Center is Challenging

NEWS, PAGE 3

A locked gate shows the status of this transportation link between the Franconia-Springfield Metro station and the NVCC campus, the industrial park, apartments and hotels in this part of Springfield.

### More Big Box Stores Closing Doors

NEWS, PAGE 3

### Historic Election Results in Virginia

OPINION, PAGE 4



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PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

Looking from the Franconia-Springfield Metro station, the road is not open to vehicles.

## Getting From Metro to NOVA Campus And Business Center is Challenging

### Connector road needed to improve access.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Franconia-Springfield Metro Station and the burgeoning community on Springfield Center Drive and Metropolitan Center Drive are like that 1970s Frankie Vallie song lyrics, “so close and yet so far away.”

As a crow flies from the Metro Station to the apartments, offices and hotels on Metropolitan Center Drive to the station is not far, but there is only one road connecting the two and it is off limits to drivers. Throw in the large Transportation Security Administration building that is nearly done, and the Northern Virginia Community Medical College campus on nearby Springfield Center Drive in the same area, and there is a transportation glitch in this growing area.

Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) is working to open this road and knows the value of this needed link. “This important project will create another option for commuters to reach their desired destination in a more efficient manner,” he said. But for now, Metropolitan and Springfield Center Drives can only be accessed by Loisdale Road, which is parallel to I-95 on the other side of Springfield Town Center, not really walkable from the Metro Station.

On Metropolitan, there are several apartment complexes and a hotel, as well as a few offices in an industrial park setting. Springfield Center Drive runs parallel to Metropolitan, and it has an industrial park look, but it is also home to a Northern Virginia Community Medical College campus, which has a large parking deck too. For students going to class via Metro, it’s a challenge to get from the sta-



At the TSA construction site, a bike ride there is easier than going around to Loisdale Road some of the crew found.

tion to the campus.

On the Northern Virginia Community College website, there are shuttles listed for some of the other campus locations in the area, but not the Medical College Campus. The Newington Fairfax Connector bus #334 is listed as a way to the campus, but only offers weekday service.

NVCC spokesperson Hoang Nguyen said the students use the Newington Circulator bus, but NVCC has plans to discuss further transportation improvements with “TSA on how to create more roads surrounding the campus,” she said.

According to Nguyen, the NVCC Director of College Government Relations, Dana Kauffman and other NVCC staff officials, will meet with TSA officials so they can get a jump on these transportation and access issues before the TSA headquarters opens. In previous years, Kauffman held the position of Lee District Supervisor, so he knows the area well.

## VDOT Plans

The Virginia Department of Transportation has plans to extend Frontier Drive past the station, and over to Loisdale Road, but right now, there is no funding or construction date in sight.

According to the project information on the VDOT website, the \$140 million project will relieve congestion, improve safety for drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians and enhance access to the Franconia-Springfield Metro station, Springfield Mall and Town Center area, and the General Services Administration (GSA) warehouse and other properties on Springfield Center Drive. There was a public information meeting in December 2017 on the project, but the rest of it is “to be determined as additional funding becomes available,” it states on the website. The timing of the actual completion of these improvements is a concern of Kauffman and NVCC.



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

Shoppers will have to find sporting items elsewhere when Modell’s finally closes their doors on Frontier Drive.

## More Big Box Stores Closing Doors

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he yellow “store closing,” signs draped over the front of Modell’s Sporting Goods marks another big box retail that’s closed on the roads surrounding Springfield Town Center and a sign of the times on a nationwide scale.

With property values creeping up and the internet attracting shoppers to buy things online, the activity on Frontier Drive and Loisdale Road on the other side of the town center comes as no surprise.

Modell’s started in the town center a few years ago when Herman’s Sporting Goods closed but took over the spot on Frontier after Borders Books closed a few years ago. A few doors down, Performance Bikes closed, and Party City moved over to a spot on Loisdale Road after HH Gregg closed. There is a rumor floating around that the property owner wants to sell the whole plot of land to a developer to put condominiums in there.

It’s not that simple, says Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee). Although the proximity to the Franconia-Springfield Metro station and the parkway make it a good place for residential, the process takes time.

“Before the owners of the center can make any substantial changes to Springfield Commons Shopping Center, they would need to go through the County’s Plan Amendment process,” McKay said. “Back in 2013, the Springfield Commons site came through as a potential Plan Amendment, but it did

not go anywhere,” he added. “It is unfortunate that Modell’s Sporting Goods is closing, but there are no current plans at this time to redevelop this site.”

JBG Smith does have for rent signs in the empty store windows, and the folks in Modell’s say they are getting ready for Black Friday, possibly a last hurrah for this branch, but other Modell’s in Northern Virginia will still be open.

### Big Box Stores Singing the Blues

In nearby Kingstowne, the Toys R Us closed and the space is now being refitted for another occupant, and the Dress Barn across Kingstowne Boulevard is closing. Dress Barn is calling it a “Wind Down,” and released information about the whole chain of stores on Nov. 1. “The Dress Barn, Inc. ... today announced that it will begin the final stage of its planned wind down by commencing store closing sales at all of its brick and mortar retail stores,” it said, and thanked customers but did not give a concrete reason for closing. They are working with Retail Ecommerce Ventures, and intend to have online shopping. “We believe the future of Dressbarn is bright and we are excited to grow and expand the online presence for the brand,” said Tai Lopez, co-owner of Retail Ecommerce Ventures. “With our deep understanding and expertise in marketing and online brands, we are looking forward to taking this iconic brand to the next level,” said Alex Mehr, co-owner of Retail Ecommerce Ventures.



# OPINION

## Historic Election Results in Virginia

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



The Nov. 5 elections in Virginia produced results of historic proportions. The House of Delegates 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 100-member legislative body. In the Senate there will be 11 women in the 40-member body bringing the

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

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 400<sup>th</sup> 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 Out-of-State Campaign Contributions?

To the Editor:

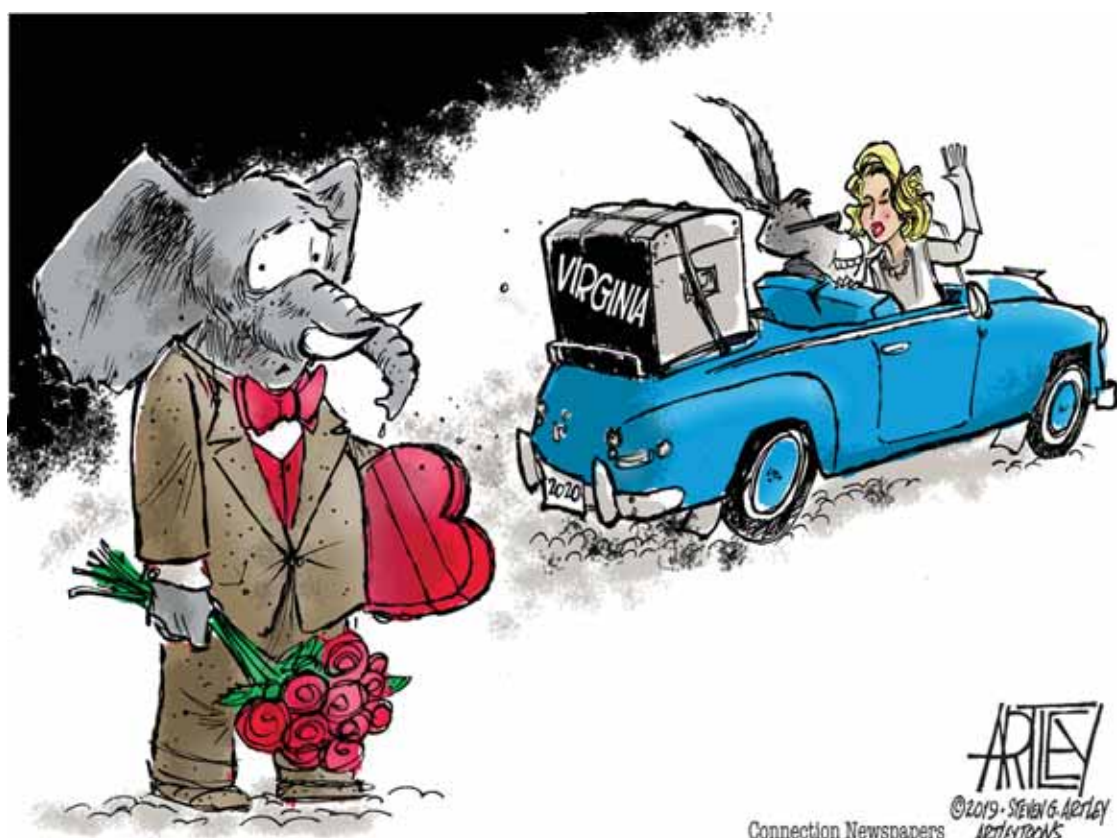
I just re-read the commentary authored by Ken Plum in the Opinion section of the Connection, Nov. 7-13, 2019. I can appreciate the article from his perspective on the election cycle, but there was one sentence there that gave me pause: "Political contributions from out-of-state individuals and organizations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



## Springfield CONNECTION

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# COMMUNITY

PHOTOS BY G.C. 'GARY' BLACK, III

## Burke Scouts Pass Board of Review

**Daniel Charles Healey** passed his Board of Review to become the 216<sup>th</sup> Eagle Scout in Troop 1131, St. Stephen's UMC, Burke. Dan's parents are Edward and Julia Healey. He is in 11<sup>th</sup> grade in high school in the area. He speaks Russian.



**Harrison Tun** passed his Board of Review to become the 217<sup>th</sup> Eagle Scout in Troop 1131, St. Stephen's UMC, Burke. With Harrison in the photo is his mother, Carol Harrity Tun. His father is Richard Tun. Harrison is a senior at W.T. Woodson High School and is Soccer Team Captain. He attends Holy Spirit Catholic Church. He is interested in computer science.

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

## 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

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

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

Dec. 10 Committee Meetings

### 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.

### 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](http://www.fromthetop.org/apply).

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## HOME LIFE STYLE

In this table design, Anne Walker used neutral linens which provided a rich, but subtle backdrop to Royal Copenhagen china.



PHOTO BY  
ANNE WALKER

## Setting a Thanksgiving Table

Local designers share ideas for creating a festive tablescape.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Whether 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 family-owned 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



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."



## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

### 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](http://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 you 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](http://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](http://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 worshipping 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](http://www.stpetersinthewoods.org/events).

### TUESDAY/NOV. 26

**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.

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### 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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11



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## CALENDAR

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

### ONGOING

**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](http://carolboydleon.com/shir_halev)

**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. Call 703-642-0128 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/lorton](http://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.community-foodworks.org](http://www.community-foodworks.org) or call 202-697-7768.

**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](http://ollyollyart.com)

**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/](http://braddockwrestlingclub.shutterfly.com/) Or contact William Flynn at [bflynniv@verizon.net](mailto: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. Call 703-642-0128 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/burke](http://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 highly-acclaimed Torpedo Factory Artists — at their satellite



**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](mailto:events@fairfaxballet.com) or call 703-665-9427.

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 coco 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. 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](http://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, food-focused 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](http://www.gunstonhall.org).

**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](http://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](http://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>

**ilyAIMY & Ayreheart.** 7 p.m. At Epicure, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Two award-winning singer/songwriters, a unique percussive

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

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 suggested. Visit [www.ilyaimy.com](http://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. This guitar concerto by Rodrigo was written in 1939 and is his best-known work, with its success establishing his reputation as one of the most significant Spanish composers of the 20th century. 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](http://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 SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10

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 Suquamish/Duwamish chief

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**



THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY INVITES  
PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE DECISION FOR  
FTBL-001-R-002 - INFILTRATION COURSE  
MUNITIONS RESPONSE SITE  
UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON FORT BELVOIR, VIRGINIA

A Proposed Plan for the Infiltration Course (INFC) Munitions Response Site (MRS) at the United States (U.S.) Army Garrison Fort Belvoir (Fort Belvoir), Virginia, will be available for public review and comment from 14 November 2019 through 16 December 2019. The Proposed Plan describes results from environmental investigations completed at the INFC and the rationale for proposed soil, sediment, and surface water remedies. The Proposed Plan recommending targeted soil removal, stream bank stabilization/restoration, and land use controls will be available for review at the Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria, Virginia, (703) 339-4610, and at the Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton, Virginia, (703) 339-7385. Documents in the Administrative Record that support the basis for the remedy selection at the INFC MRS are also available at these locations.

The 30-day public comment period will allow public review of the available documentation and promote public awareness of the environmental conditions attributed to historical military site use at the INFC MRS. The public may provide comments to the Fort Belvoir Point of Contact using the contact information below during the 30-day comment period. The U.S. Army may host a public meeting if there is sufficient public interest, as determined by comments received, but otherwise will address comments in the responsiveness summary of the Decision Document. The final remedy determination for the site will be made after the 30-day public comment period. For further information contact:

Mr. Felix M. Mariani  
Chief, Environmental Division  
Directorate of Public Works  
9430 Jackson Loop, Building 1442  
Fort Belvoir, Virginia  
Phone: (703) 806-3193  
usarmy.belvoir.imcom-atlantic.mbx.enrd@mail.mil



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**CALENDAR**

FROM PAGE 9

Saturday only (10-4 p.m.). No vendors. Cash or check only. Call Lou: 703-426-8092.

**"Il 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, 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary season. The production marks the Virginia Opera debut of stage director Crystal Manich. Tickets are \$45-\$115. Visit [www.cfa.gmu.edu](http://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](http://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](http://www.fairfax-station.org) or visit [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR). Call 703-425-9225.

**MONDAY/NOV. 18**

**Funday Monday.** 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Crafts, music,



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](http://www.burkecropwalk.org)

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](http://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. Colonial-attired ladies will serve luncheon at three sittings — 11 a.m., 12 noon and 1 p.m. The Docent [www.pohick.org](http://www.pohick.org) or call 703-339-6572.

**Legals**

**Legals**

**Notice of Availability**

**Environmental Assessment and Draft  
Finding of No Significant Impact for Caisson  
Platoon Facility Area Development Plan  
U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Belvoir, Virginia**

**All Interested Parties:** U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Belvoir (Fort Belvoir) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the implementation of an Area Development Plan (ADP) for the Caisson Platoon Facility.

The proposed action involves the implementation of the ADP on Fort Belvoir. Projects within the ADP include: the enhancement of the facility's security; relocation/expansion of the facility's classroom; expansion of the pasture area to accommodate 27 horses; provision of pasture fencing; provision of a separate hay storage facility; consolidation of equipment storage facilities; provision of an indoor riding training facility for year-round training; expansion of the training trail network; provision of permanent vehicular parking facilities to accommodate training and maintenance needs; paving of existing roadways; provision of a paved and covered roll-off manure dumpster area; provision of effective stormwater management Best Management Practices and enhancement of facility signing.

The EA evaluates the potential environmental effects that may occur as a result of the Proposed Action, and was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and regulations implementing the procedural provisions of the NEPA, 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1500-1508, and Environmental Analysis of Army Actions, 32 CFR 651.

The EA and Draft FONSI are available to view/download electronically at <http://www.belvoir.army.mil/environdocsection2.asp>, or view in printed form at the Lorton Branch, Kingstowne Branch, and Sherwood Regional Branch of the Fairfax County Public Library, and Van Noy Library. Interested parties are invited to submit written comments for consideration within 30 days of receipt of this letter to Mr. Felix Mariani, 9430 Jackson Loop, Building 1442, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060 or send via e-mail to: [usarmy.belvoir.imcom-atlantic.mbx.enrd@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.belvoir.imcom-atlantic.mbx.enrd@mail.mil). If you need further information, please contact Mr. Mariani at 703-806-3193.

This Public Notice is being distributed to organizations and individuals that are known to have a stake in this project. Please bring this notice to the attention of any other organizations or individuals with an interest in this matter.

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# BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 7

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](http://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](http://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](http://www.fairfaxlions.org) or call 703-879-5795.

## SUPPORT GROUPS

**Parent Support Partners**, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax) or [www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html](http://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](mailto: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 30-hour 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](http://stemvolunteers.org), during the 2019-20 school year, beginning in September. Please contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488 or [donaldrea@aol.com](mailto:donaldrea@aol.com).

**Assistance League of Northern Virginia**, a volunteer nonprofit, invites community members 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](mailto:gronbiz@aol.com) or Program Coordinator Lynn Barron at [lynnieb517@verizon.net](mailto:lynnieb517@verizon.net).

**Docents Needed.** Sundays 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Greet museum visitors and tell them about the exhibits, the museum and its railroad and Civil War history. Ideal for those interested in railroads, the Civil War and Northern Virginia history. Training and orientation provided. Other volunteer opportunities are gardening, publicity and exhibit planning. Call 703-945-7483.

**Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed.** Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriendA-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact Ibrahim Khalil at [Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov) or 703-324-4547.

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## 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).

This meandering start is meant to explain — 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.



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