

News

Food Pantry Opens at Fairfax High

'But it takes a community effort to keep it stocked.'

By Bonnie Hobbs The Connection

y 12:30 p.m. on a recent Thursday, 10 students had already received food from the new food pantry at Fairfax High. An hour later, 15 more students did likewise.

The pantry is there courtesy of a partnership between the school, Britepaths, FCPS, Food for Others and a small, local nonprofit called A Place to Stand – which is largely running this pantry, plus another one at Lanier Middle School. And it's definitely welcome.

"It's helping with some of the basic needs of our students," said Fairfax Principal Erin Lenart. "Food insecurity is very real – and having a pantry like this at Fairfax helps us provide for a number of our students. The traffic in our first week proved that."

The pantry opened Jan. 16, with parents, students and the community donating food and toiletries. And on Jan. 23, its partners gathered there to see the Rev. Kären Rasmussen – who runs the nonprofit No Child Goes Hungry – present a check for \$1,000 from her organization to help stock the pantry further.

STAFFED BY VOLUNTEERS, it's open Thursdays, from 2:55-4:30 p.m. But students may go there any time of day with a staff member. "Students can ask a teacher, their counselor or Student Services to make an appointment for them," said school social worker Ashley Curl.



Bonnie Hobbs/The Connection

Pantry check-presentation: (From left) are Laura Rotella, Katy Malesky, Erin Lenart, Kären Rasmussen, Chris Garris, Ashley Curl and Nikki Clifford.

"Just under 25 percent of our students here are on free or reduced-price lunches," added Director of Student Services Laura Rotella. "But they're actually underrepresented, because not all families report their need."

That's why Lenart hopes members of the

community keep donating whatever they can to the pantry. "This is something that's here to stay, but it takes a community effort to keep it stocked," she said. "People can bring any nonperishable and personal-hygiene items to the main office, weekdays, until 4:30 p.m."

However, those planning to, for example, have boxes of food sent directly from Amazon to Fairfax High need to let the school know in advance, so someone will be there to accept them when they arrive. People wishing to donate may go to https://britepaths.org/ or contact the school to see the Amazon wish list of the items especially needed and most popular with the students, such as single-serve, microwavable snacks.

"It's incredible to me that any child in Fairfax County goes to bed hungry," said Rasmussen. "No Child Goes Hungry works to eliminate childhood hunger, one kid and one meal at a time." As for the new pantry, she said, "What a fantastic, community project, and what a way for all of us to pull together to make sure kids have enough to eat. And the staff at Fairfax High is fabulous – what an initiative!"

Also pleased to participate in this group effort was Nikki Clifford, director of Volunteer Services with Food for Others. "We serve all of Northern Virginia, and we know that 28 percent of the students in FCPS schools are on free or reduced-price meals," she said. "And we serve 32 elementary schools with our Power Pack Program, which gives children food for the weekend, when they might otherwise not have any."

Food for Others serves an average of 2,000 FCPS students per weekend. And through a grant from Fairfax County, Britepaths also works with Food for Others

SEE FOOD PANTRY, PAGE 6

Faithful Life Church Is Moving to New Home

It needed a special-use permit to relocate to Fairfax Square.

By Bonnie Hobbs The Connection

aithful Life Church has been in the City of Fairfax since 2008 and on Democracy Lane since 2015. But changes being made to its current location are necessitating a move to another site within the City.

So, toward that end, church representatives came to a recent Fairfax City Council meeting to present details of the plan and, hopefully, obtain the Council's blessing. And ultimately, they were successful.

Speaking on behalf of the church, landuse attorney Bob Brant said, "This building and site are well-suited for this type of use."

At the outset of this item's public hearing, Jason Sutphin, chief of Fairfax's Community Development Division, explained the proposal. He said the church wanted to relocate into another office space here at the intersection of Main Street and Burke Station Road.

"They propose varied hours and days, so [drivers coming to and leaving the church] would not be [doing so] at peak, commer-

cial-usage times," he said. "We'd anticipate 14 weekday trips and 55 on Sunday. They typically have 30 people at their Sunday services."

IN AN EARLIER LETTER to the City, Brant told why Faithful Life Church was requesting permission to move to a new location – specifically, to a space within the Fairfax Square commercial complex at 9870 Main St. He said the church has to leave its current site because that property is slated for redevelopment.

"Originally developed in the 1970s, Fairfax Square is a multi-building, commercial development that, over time, has been occupied by a variety of uses, including hotel, office, retail and restaurant uses," wrote Brant. "[They're] well-served by a total of 547 parking spaces dispersed throughout the property."

He further noted that all but 32 of those spaces are available to all tenants on a non-exclusive basis. The church would only need 22 parking spaces – one space per four seats. And since the other uses on that site require 521 spaces, that leaves a surplus of 26

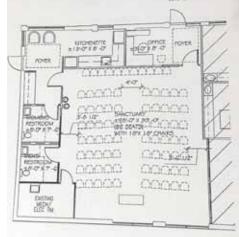
spaces.

Brant also submitted to City staff a site plan and floor plan. It showed that Faithful Life Church proposes to occupy approximately 1,565 square feet of an existing building in the northeast portion of Fairfax Square. The church would renovate the interior to accommodate its own purposes. These would include up to 82 seats for worshippers, space for the pastor's office and a small kitchenette. No exterior modifications to the building are proposed.

THE PROPERTY, itself, is zoned Commercial Retail (CR). Religious institutions are permitted in the CR district – but only after they obtain a special-use permit from the City, so that's why this proposal came before City Council.

Brant said the church offers its congregation a number of early morning worship services throughout the week, plus two services on Sunday mornings. It also offers Bible study classes in the fall and spring, which typically contain less than 30 people.

Only Sutphin and Brant spoke at the public hearing and, after hearing all the details,



Floor plan of Faithful Life Church's new location at 9870 Main St.

Councilman Jon Stehle made a motion to approve the special-use permit for the church. Councilwoman Janice Miller seconded, and then the Council members approved the proposal unanimously.

"This approval will allow the church an opportunity to remain in the City where it was originally established and has operated for over 10 years," said Brant. "It looks forward to continuing its presence [here] and continuing to provide services for the members of its congregation."

News

Tremendous Needs Still Not Funded

FXCO School Board adopts \$3.2 billion budget seeking \$172.2 million increase.

By Mercia Hobson THE CONNECTION

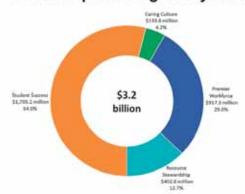
am happy to see the Superintendent's Proposed FY 21 budget focuses on many of the things I feel strongly about, such as increasing our student health and wellness efforts, workforce development, market competitive compensation for our teachers and instructional assistants, and serving our special needs families. Adding money for activity directors, counselors, on-time graduation coordinators, substance abuse prevention specialists and behavior intervention specialist training can make sure we are providing students and families some of the supports they need to be successful. Our Trades for Tomorrow program is just one way to make sure we are providing students with the opportunity to enter our Northern Virginia workforce, and I would like to see that expanded," said Elaine Tholen, Fairfax County School Board Member, Dranesville District.

During the Thursday, Feb. 6, 2020, School Board Meeting, the FY 21 budget for Fairfax County Public Schools reached a key milestone on its pathway to final approval by the Board of Supervisors in May. The Board approved a motion to adopt the Advertised Budget of \$3.2 billion, which represented an increase of \$172.2 million, or 5.8 percent, over the FY 20 Approved Budget. The motion carried unanimously with School Board Representatives Karen Corbett Sanders, Chair (Mount Vernon), Tamara Derenak Kaufax, Vice-Chair (Lee), Elaine Tholen (Dranesville), Megan McLaughlin (Braddock), Melanie K. Meren (Hunter Mill), Karl Frisch (Providence), Stella Pekarsky (Sully), Ricardy Anderson (Mason), Rachna Sizemore Heizer (Member-at-Large), Abrar Omeish (Member-at-Large) and Karen Keys-Gamarra (Member-at-Large) voting yes. School Board Representative, Laura Jane Cohen (Springfield), was

MCLAUGHLIN introduced the motion. "I'm hopeful the Board of Supervisors will consider full funding for this Fiscal Year 21 budget... Later on, we will be discussing the amendments that so many of the board members have brought. It simply reflects the fact that there are tremendous needs that have still not been able to be funded due to the recent recession," she said.

While Sizemore Heizer agreed with the tenor of the budget and its themes in terms of staff support and serving the school system's "neediest kids," she wanted to make sure the Board first focused on supporting all its students and staff. "That should be the primary focus," she said. For Anderson, "all of it" was important. "It's just a matter of how to balance our needs with

FY21 Proposed Aligned By Strategic Plan Goal Area



- · \$3.2 billion School Operating Fund budget; a 5.8% increase
- · Largest investments support Student Success and Premier Workforce
 - \$1.7 billion, or 54% aligned with Student Success
 - · \$917.3 million, or 29% aligned with Premier Workforce

The \$3.2 billion The School Operating Fund Fund budget by Strategic Plan Goal areas.



Karen Keys-Gamarra, **Fairfax County School Board** Member, Member-at-Large



Abrar Omeish, **Fairfax County School Board** Member, Member-at-Large

Megan McLaughlin, **Fairfax County School Board** Member, **Braddock**



Screenshots via Fairfax County video

Dr. Scott S. Brabrand, **Division Super**intendent of **Fairfax County Public Schools**

our finite resources," she said. McLaughlin said that the budget represented the Superintendent and his team's best thinking and would put them "on a good path forward."

"I've highlighted my priorities and will be sending in amendments when we look at this again. I just want to put in another plug for...the importance of identifying areas of savings and reapportioned means of our funds to give us confidence in the budget we are moving forward with. I would have loved to have had that in advance of tonight's vote," said Omeish. Although the Approved Budget for the School Operating Fund represented an increase over the FY 20 Budget, it came as little surprise. According to the 2021 Budget forecast presented by Fairfax County Public Schools representatives on Nov. 26, 2019, to a joint meeting of the Board of Supervisors and School Board, expenses had continued to increase and the School Board budget needed to address Board and community priorities and school enrollment growth.

The FY 21 Approved Budget purposefully aligned with four stated Strategic Plan Goals. The most significant investment, \$1.7 billion or 54 percent of the budget supported Strategic Plan Goal 1: Student Success, to reach, challenge, and prepare every student for success in school and life. The largest changes from FY 20 included funding for enrollment and student demographics at \$28.8 million and centralized instructional resources at \$9.4 million.

The second most significant investment, \$917.3 million or 29 percent of the budget supported Strategic Plan Goal 3: Premier Workforce. The largest changes from FY 2020 included step increases for eligible employees at \$50.1 million and a market competitive compensation scale adjustment of 1 percent at \$25.3 million. The FY 21 budget also included a Classroom Instructional Support (CIS) salary scale enhancement at \$2.7 million for the second year of a three-year plan to bring the salaries of instructional assistants and public health training assistants to 50 percent of teacher salaries in the salary scale for teachers with a bachelor's degree.

The approved budget allocated \$601.6 million for special education, an increase of 7.5 percent over the FY 20 Approved Budget to support nearly 1000 additional special education students by funding teachers, assistants and attendants. It also included multiple special education and preventive investments. A total of \$3.5 million was allocated to elementary special education chair positions at elementary schools with large special education populations and \$0.9 million for substance abuse prevention positions.

"In FY 20, we completed a multi-year plan to bring teacher salary scales to the market

average," said Dr. Scott S. Brabrand, division superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools. "The proposed FY 21 budget continues to prioritize market competitive compensation for our teachers and staff. My goal is to have FCPS leading the way in teacher compensation in our region. We recognize that teachers have the power to change lives and deserve salaries commensurate with the critical work they do each day in our classrooms. Our focus is achieving success for each of our more than 189,000 students, and that can only be accomplished by ensuring that we have the ability to recruit and retain the very best teachers," he said.

"We recognize that teachers have the power to change lives and deserve salaries commensurate with the critical work they do each day in our classrooms."

> - Dr. Scott S. Brabrand, **Division Superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools**

In a separate action, the Board also approved a motion to defer consideration of all budget amendments to the April 30 and May 14, 2020 work sessions as well as additional meetings as they became available before the Board took its final action on the budget for May 21, 2020. McLaughlin introduced the motion and provided the first comment. "Our Fairfax County family knows this Board was recently seated together just a little over 30 days ago. When you are looking at a \$3.2 billion budget and a board of 12 that are so deeply dedicated to ensuring that this budget spends the money in the most effective and efficient manner possible to meet the needs of each and every child and also honor our hard-working employees, it will take more time for this Board to review over the next several months what are the various areas of funding priorities different board members would like to propose," she said.

McLaughlin said passage of the amendment meant that the Board would be able to revise and change

OPINION

Realizing Dreams and Filling Jobs

By Anne M. Kress, PhD and Todd Rowley

his session, General Assembly members are considering a proposal that would help close the Commonwealth's skills gap by providing workforce scholarships to individuals without access to the community college education required to gain these skills. This proposal is a win-win-win: assisting students, growing businesses, and developing our communities.

We are describing Governor Northam's "Get Skilled, Get a Job, Give Back" (G3) budget initiative. G3 is a last-dollar workforce scholarship program designed to create opportunities for low and middle-income families. The support it provides would make-up the difference between what financial aid covers and the actual cost of tuition, fees, and books for targeted programs in high demand fields.

Qualifying students must select a career field in which employers cannot find enough qualified candidates. In Northern Virginia, these include IT, Cybersecurity, and Healthcare. In other words, G3 is an investment in continued and accelerated regional economic growth. Because of Northern Virginia's historically low unemployment rate, it has become clear that we need to "Grow our Own" workforce through educating more people to fill high-demand and high-value positions. In fact, finding and developing talent has emerged as the top concern of members of the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce. For that reason, the G3 plan has already earned the official endorsement of the Chamber.

Our initial estimate is that approximately 12 percent or 8,400 Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) students could be eligible to participate in G3, and our data show that 60 percent of NOVA students work part-time while pursuing college. They want to and need to work but lack the credentials needed to find full-time employment in high demand fields. Many cobble together multiple part-time jobs, which makes them take much more than two years to complete an associate degree. This workforce-based initiative would make it easier for our students to place a priority on quickly completing their education and finding sustaining wage careers. These graduates can stay in our region, building their families and contributing to their communities.

The Commonwealth wants G3 recipients to understand their responsibility to those who are supporting their education, so in return for this financial support, G3 students will be asked to "give back" to our state by completing two hours of community or public service for each credit hour in which they are enrolled.

Through offering more NOVA students a chance at the American Dream, we do much more than help individual students; we assure a competitive business climate, continued regional growth, and graduates connected to the communities they serve. NOVA is committed to assuring that every student succeeds, every program achieves, and every community prospers. G3 supports this mission, and we encourage you to voice your support for this transformational program.

If you would like to let General Assembly members know you support the Governor's G3 initiative, please let them know. If you are unsure who your delegate and senator might be, you can access whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov, then enter your address and find out.

Anne M. Kress, PhD is Northern Virginia Community College's new President. Todd Rowley is Chair of the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

CONECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

@FfxConnection

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses. **Published by**

Local Media Connection LLC 1606 King Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

NEWS DEPARTMENT: south@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic

Editor • 703-778-9414 kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Bonnie Hobbs

Community Reporter • 703-778-9438 south@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Worker

Contributing Writer aworker@connectionnewspapers.com

Jean Card

Production Editor jcard@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:

For advertising information **e-mail:**

sales@connectionnewspapers.com 703-778-9431

/03-//8-9431

Debbie FunkDisplay Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin

Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment

Advertising

703-778-9431

Editor & Publisher

Mary Kimm mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com @MaryKimm

Executive Vice President

Jerry Vernon 703-549-0004 jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Managing Editor

Kemal Kurspahic
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,

Ali Khaligh **Production Manager:**Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION
Circulation Manager:

Ann Oliver rculation@connectionnewspapers.con



Natasha McKenna and the OneFairfax Imperative

One white man's journey to the cause of equity.

By Thomas G. Goodwin

atasha McKenna died five years ago today, [Feb. 8, 2015] naked, cold, frightened, shackled, muzzled, and Black, after a rough afternoon at Fairfax County jail. The social and racial inequities that contributed to her death still loom as the OneFairfax policy is extended throughout county government.

I wasn't thinking about racial inequity when I volunteered to help Sheriff Stacey Kinkaid manage what became a long hot summer of investigation, protests, and relentless adverse publicity. I wasn't even necessarily thinking about my civic duty: Here was a rare (unpaid) opportunity to work on a difficult case.

Natasha was a victim of several mental illnesses including depression. She died unexpectedly following a traumatic extraction from jail intended to enable her to get access to care, but that wound up with her being tased four times by a team of deputies. The entire episode was recorded. The Washington Post excoriated the Sheriff five (!) times editorially. I advocated a "let's-release-the-video-and-keep-our-headsdown" PR strategy that found a credible alternative villain in America's broken mental health system. An investigation found no wrongdoing.

But something very wrong obviously did happen, and my inability to grasp it fully in the moment will cause readers of color to shake their heads wearily at my clueless white privilege. I didn't get it: I believed (still do) the deputies involved meant Natasha no harm. I believed (still do) Sheriff Kincaid's human compassion matches her lifelong passion for public safety: The county's DiversionFirst program

she championed has become a national model. Epiphany for me arrived in the form of the social theory of "intersectionality."

Well-known to people of color, intersectionality explains how categorizations such as race, class, gender, sex and disability create overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage.

Natasha was the personification of Intersectionality: She was Black ... naked, an inmate, indigent, a woman, and her mental condition seriously had deteriorated. Had I been in Natasha's place, would the outcome have been the same?

OneFairfax recognizes that, five years after Natasha's death, we as a community no longer can afford to be unaware about how inequitable life is in Fairfax. Public policy in housing , zoning, transportation, hiring, and in public safety job opportunities has long been infested. Many in our ever-more-diverse community suffer from one or more disadvantages attributable to intersectionality.

There is much to work on:

- ❖ Our unsustainable school boundaries remain unchanged, heavily weighted in favor of under-capacity wealthier, whiter school districts, poorer districts strain at the seams.
- ❖ A person of color likely will not be hired as a school administrator here.
- * Kids of color lag behind their white peers in academics, even as the schools become increasingly diverse.
- ❖ And, incredibly, in parts of our affluent community there is no reliable source of food.
- ❖ Five years after Natasha's death, and ten years after they started work, dedicated leaders, residents and businesses still seek an elu-

sive solution to the intractable shortage of affordable housing. Decades of discriminatory official government policy take time to reverse.

The research underlying OneFairfax reveals that when equity becomes part of the premise of public policymaking, positive results follow. This finding is all the more potent when we recognize that individuals who once were known collectively as "minorities" soon will be the majority in Fairfax: we need all hands on deck if we want to continue to thrive.

Fortunately, "equity" already is a routine component of county decisionmaking. The pursuit of equity does not require that people of color or underserved residents receive special treatment or quotas that reduce someone else's slice of the pie, only that they have an equal opportunity to pursue their own potential. Here in Fairfax we have lots of pies.

The question of how Natasha McKenna died will always be controversial. But we know why she died. Racial and social inequity, whether it is rooted in virulent racism or clueless white privilege, has long outlived its cruelty, or for that matter its usefulness, to Fairfax.

I will never be "woke," but at least I'm awake. Today I offer my volunteer time to citizens' groups including the OneFairfax Community Roundtable, the Human Services Council and the Council to End Domestic Violence. Many opportunities abound for residents – you, for example — to boost Fairfax County's future as a great place to live, work and play, by rallying around equity and fairness in public policy.

Natasha McKenna left behind a seven-yearold daughter. Let's do this for her.

The writer is a member of Human Services Council Fairfax County; Member, Steering Committee Council to End Domestic Violence; Chairman of the Board of Directors Shelter House, Inc. and Member OneFairfax Community Roundtable.

Medicaid Reform Begins at Home

I believe there is a simple reform that will improve care and begin saving Virginia Medicaid dollars this year. It is simple. Make home-based care more available to those in need.

Medicaid has become our primary long-term care program in America, covering two-thirds of all residents in nursing homes.

A small and neglected part of that budget is home health care services.

Most consumers of long-term care services would prefer to receive care in their home or community rather than an institution. This is both humane and

shrewd. Patients do better at home and home care costs much less than institutional care. However, Virginia's home care system has been systematically under funded for several years. The Virginia Department for the Aging estimates that about 22,000 patients are eligible for home care but service providers are simply not available.

So, taxpayers end up paying for expensive institutional care, and patients are forced out of their homes.

It's a difficult job being a nurse's aide. You are in someone's house, basically acting as a servant—cooking, cleaning, bathing the patient.

The patient is usually old and has multiple medical problems. You need to keep a positive attitude. In Virginia, you are paid from a reimbursement rate that is 59 percent below the national

Quality of care depends on reimbursement and quality is suffering. I have patients who have changed home health aides once or twice a month.

One aide had to bring her children to her patient's home because she couldn't afford daycare.

Patients that require medical technology, such as a ventilator, IV therapy, feeding tubes, oxygen therapy, catheter changes, or a bowel and bladder program need a registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse.

However, the reimbursement rates for these services are barely above the average wage, with no margin for benefits, insurance, travel or administrative costs. A registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse can easily make more money in a nursing facility, where institution reimbursements are higher. As a result, access to skilled nursing care in the home is limited.

It would be far cheaper to expand home care than to continue this dysfunctional system. We miss opportunities to place people in home care. Most elderly adults don't need skilled nursing, but they are too old and frail to get by on their own. They go into nursing

homes because they don't have access to good home care that can provide

Patients who can stay home generally do better. They have fewer bedsores, fewer falls, less depression and less infectious disease.

We only have to look at the demographics to see the future. The elderly population is increasing, along with associated health problems.

Virginia legislator must be more cost effective with our limited finds and target hirer rates for homecare. It's a winwin for seniors.

> **Sue Luster** Fairfax



COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP



Worship Gathering – Sunday 8:45 & 11 AM Sunday School 10:10 AM Sun. Evening – Realtime Worship & Youth 6 PM Family Night – Wednesday 7:15 PM Home Life Groups, College/Young Adult Ministries, and Living Free Support Groups Visit our Website: jccag.org

4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax Bill Frasnelli, Pastor 703-383-1170



To Advertise Your Community of Worship, Call 703-778-9418

HOME SELLING simplified FREE SEMINAR



SAT JANUARY 11, 2020 10AM - 1PM SAT FEBRUARY 22, 2020 10AM - 1PM

> **3918 PROSPERITY AVENUE** FAIRFAX VA 22031



Learn the answers to many common questions homeowners face as they prepare to sell their home. Topics will Include:

> Junk Removal **Estate Sale Services** Remodeling Options What Buyers Look For Cosmetic Updates and Fixes Buying a New Home while selling your Current Home The impact of Amazon HQ2 on home prices

Lunch will be provided. Seating is limited - reserve your seats at ddaseminar.com

If your home is currently listed with another Realtor, this is









Home Life Style



PHOTO COURTESY OF PATINA POLISHED LIVING

Textiles in vibrant colors like these throw pillows, can brighten the day of your Valentine.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PICKET FENCE

A set of Swedish towels can be a game changer for those who are environmentally conscious.

Valentine's Day Gifts for the Home

There's still time to give the gift of style.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

oxes of chocolates and bouquets of flowers are ideas that might come to the minds of those who are still on the hunt for the perfect gift to give on Cupid's Day. Though we celebrate St. Valentine in just two days, home décor aficionados come to the rescue with a few chic gift ideas for the home design enthusiasts in your life.

"Whether you love to cook or you just love to eat take-out, a pop of color on the countertop will bring a smile to your face every time you walk into your kitchen," said Anne Walker of Anne Walker Design. "For a gift that will bring joy for years to come, surprise your significant other with a bright red Kitchen Aid Stand Mixer and a set of red silicone spatulas for Valentine's Day. Such a joy to use and a delight for the eye."

A set of Swedish towels can be a game changer for those who are environmentally conscious and obsessively clean, says Courtney Thomas of the Picket Fence a home décor and gift boutique in Burke, Virginia. "You can use Swedish towels to clean anything you'd clean with a paper towel," she said. "But they're reusable and you can throw them in the dishwasher when they get dirty.

Eco-friendly and made entirely of biodegradable cellulose or a combination of wood pulp and renewable cotton, Swedish towels can be used for household cleaning projects that range from spills on a counter tops to water spots on a mirror.

For a gift that does double design duty, a candle in

a reusable vessel is an option that Thomas suggests. "We have some candles that come in a pottery container and once the candle is gone, you can still use the pottery," she said. "It's like a two-for-one. Pottery is food safe and can go in the oven and dishwasher if you want to make a dip or something in them."

For those who decide to give flowers on Valentine's Day, add a vase for displaying those buds, suggests Walker. "Instead of spending more than \$100 on roses for your sweetheart, spend under \$100 on [an] unbelievably gorgeous cocoon Vase by Danish design house, Holmegaard," she said. "Fill it with a beautiful selection of fresh flowers [and] instead of having the roses for a few days, your beloved will have this gorgeous, stylish vase for a lifetime."

Those who want to give a gift that offers a luxurious night's sleep should consider a silk pillow case, says Amanda Mertins of Patina Polished in Alexandria.

"They're a wonderful gift because they're good for your hair," she said. "And silk stays cool which might be good for those who get hot at night."

There's nothing more classic than a silver picture frame adorning one's side table or book case, suggests Mertins. "When we are designing a living room, we often walk into someone's house and see photos of their loved ones displayed in a hodgepodge of frames like wooden frames and ceramic frames. Giving silver frames allows photos of your family or children to be displayed tastefully in classic silver frames"

Bursts of color in the form of textiles can brighten them home of one's valentine, advises Mertins. "Tablecloths, runners and napkins in silk, velvet and cotton by Ardmore Design make a beautiful table setting," she said. "There are some wonderful, washable throws in all different colors that make great gifts. People love because their pretty and washable."

Food Pantry Opens at Fairfax High

From Page 2

to provide weekend food for these students.

"The pantry at Fairfax High helps us reach a population that's more self-conscious and doesn't want to be known as in need and without food," said Clifford. "So it's satisfying to know that so many students have already taken advantage of the pantry here."

Describing Fairfax High's pantry as "nice, clean, organized, bright and cheerful," she was happy about the community's support. And right outside the door, the day she visited, was food that had been donated and moms waiting to stock the shelves with it. "[The partners] saw a need and met it," said Clifford. "And that's awesome."

Britepaths helps provide funds to 20 FCPS schools, thanks to grants and donations given to its Food4Thought program. The money assists the schools' own efforts to help their students in need, and Britepaths Programs Director Chris Garris attended the Jan. 23 ceremony at Fairfax High.

"For the last 10 years, the county and nonprofits have been concentrating on the elementary schools when it came to food packs [for students to take home in their backpacks]," she said. "But now, these students are in middle and high school – and they still need that food – however, it wasn't being provided for their grade levels."

Furthermore, said Garris, "We're hearing that the older students are taking home a breakfast or lunch to provide food for their siblings. They're also working at low-income jobs to help provide for their families." So besides helping fill the food need at Fairfax High, Britepaths is also helping students at Lanier and Frost middle schools obtain food.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

may help Britepaths' efforts by contributing funds and/or food and assembling food packs to donate directly to its partner schools. The schools and their needs are listed at https://britepaths.org/our-services/food4thought/food4thought-partner-schools.

Rotella noted two families who are living together to make ends meet. "Then one parent left, but the kids are still stuck having to pick up that rent," she said. "And having access to free food will keep them from having to choose between keeping a roof over their heads and eating."

A Place to Stand – a Fairfax City-based nonprofit that takes a holistic approach to ending hunger – opened Lanier's pantry last March. "It's been a tremendous asset for the community," said Katy Malesky, program director of the organization's "A Place to Eat" entity. "We assist at least 30 kids there weekly, and the school social worker and counselors can help students choose the items they need."

Her organization also noticed the food gap at middle and high-school levels and wanted to address it. "We're boots-on-the-ground, doing everything from soliciting food donations to building the infrastructure to partnering with schools, staff and administration, and even stocking the shelves," said Malesky. "And knowing the need at Fairfax High, we proposed a pantry here, too."

She said procedures will be established to make sure it's a sustainable model. "With food insecurity a problem throughout Fairfax County, it's important that we partner with other nonprofits to share resources and learn best practices," said Malesky. "We also glean from farmers markets and, in the summer, we'll also provide fresh fruit and vegetables."

She also planned to add mobile pantries – large, Rubbermaid containers on wheels and filled with food – in key locations within Fairfax High. For example, she said, "They'll be at the ESOL and athletic departments and at the library, so students will have easy access to food. Our goal is to destigmatize it, so students don't feel bad about getting food from a pantry."

"We'll also have shopping lists available in the office, and with the counselors, of commonly stocked food items," said Malesky. "Then students can check off what they need and leave their lists at the pantry by Thursday afternoon. And by Friday afternoon, their shopping bag will be packed and ready for pick-up. With these three, different approaches, students should be able to get the food they need."

News



Karen Corbett Sanders, **Fairfax County School Board Chair, Mount Vernon**



Rachna Sizemore Heizer, **School Board Member, Member-at-Large**



Tamara Derenak Kaufax, **Fairfax County School Board** Vice Chair, Lee District.

School Board Adopts \$3.2 Billion Budget

From Page 3

any portion of the Advertised Budget before the final vote on May 21. "It is not restricted simply to the \$6 million line item for staffing initiatives. Instead, board members can continue to propose budget questions and additional amendments beyond those submitted tonight. Currently, we have 23 proposed amendments that have been posted to board docs... "I know you've spent countless hours looking through this incredibly complex budget to try and determine again how do we honor our students and employees in the best manner possible," she said. McLaughlin added she looked forward to continued conversations on school nurses, middle school start times, class size relief, substitute pay, challenges in attracting substitutes and equitable pay raises for Fairfax County Public School employees that mirror county government employees. "We are one Fairfax family. I feel it's going to be extremely important that whatever pay raises the county executive to determine through the revenue can be afforded to county employees. I hope they will recognize and honor that same amount of funding needs to be identified and provided to the school system so we can honor our same hard-working employees," she said.

Anderson said that as they continued to t look at the budget and talk about priorities, she would bring to this work, the lens she brought to her previous work. "How do we advance all of our groups; how do we balance finite resources again to advance every single stakeholder that we have, students, teachers and all of the other groups ... I'm also looking forward to having some conversations regarding equity. For me, that is the lens through which I take a look at this budget. How do we ensure that we are closing the gaps wherever they exist," Anderson said referencing future discussions on the amendments.

Frisch asked for clarification if, during the future work sessions, they would be able to discuss program budgets as well the advertised budget. Sanders said that the Board would be having a retreat on March 9. "Strategic Plan and individual programs a deeper dive on how each of the individual programs contributes towards the strategic objectives and provide you with the opportunity to influence voted yes. Derenak Kaufax and Pekarsky voted no. that going forward," Sanders said.

AMONG ITS FINAL ACTIONS, the Board approved a motion in a vote of 9-2 related to the budget introduced by Meren. It directed the Superinten-

dent to update the security plan to include a plan for installing vestibules in schools providing secured visitor access space where none currently existed by April 30, 2020. During the discussion, Pekarsky said she would not be able to support this at this time unless she had an idea of the monetary. Keys-Gamarra said, "We had extensive conversation with our security review, and as I recall these vestibules were part of that, so I am not understanding why we need this, particularly, when it is not in this year's budget, and we don 't even know how much money we are talking about."

Vice-Chair Derenak Kaufax said she was "still very much struggling; that this was a capital improvement plan putting vestibules in a school for security," and how did that equate putting in this budget. Marty Smith, Chief Operating Officer Fairfax County, said, "When we look to any changes to our buildings we think of those as renovations to our buildings. But the CIP is for overall building renovations, and the CIP is used for new construction. So, when we look at these types of renovations to buildings we have used operating funds in the past to support these types of renovations, while it has an impact on our facilities, it's not necessarily coming from the same funding stream."

"We are not committing funds, we are asking for a plan," said Chair Sanders. According to boarddocs.com, the approved amended motion read, "...move approval of a follow-on motion to direct the Superintendent to bring an update of the security plan to include a plan for installing vestibules in schools to provide secured visitor access space where none currently exists by April 30, 2020. Specifically, compile data about the frequency of schools having entryway vestibules that serve as security checkpoints before visitors gain access to areas with students; compared with schools that, due to design features, allow visitors to cross open space or hallways before checking in to the main office. The plan will include the timeline and cost to outfit all schools with needed vestibules or improvements that will create visitor will be reviewed with the board so that we can take holding spaces before entering spaces where students are." McLaughlin, Anderson, Meren, Sizemore Heizer, Tholen, Sanders, Keys-Gamarra and Omeish, Frisch

> "As a board, we have a lot that we want to accomplish. In the weeks ahead, we hope to gain a better understanding of what we can anticipate in state aid and what the transfer will be from Fairfax County," said Tholen.

NEED A PLACE TO SHOOT?

Arlington-Fairfax IWLA is looking for new members.

The Arlington-Fairfax Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America is looking for a few new members to join our community.



We offer 110 acres of space, safe shooting facilities and a variety of conservation and outdoor activities for our members and guests.

Check out our website at www.arlingtonfairfaxiwla.org

If you are interested in joining, send an email to:

ARLFXRECRUIT@yahoo.com Call 703-631-4495

Please leave your name and phone number and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

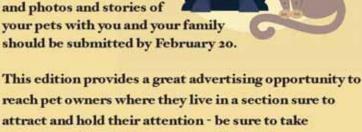
We are located on Mt Olive Road in Centerville, VA



Special Edition: PET Connection

Publishes: Feb 26, 2020 Ads close: Feb 20, 2020

The Pet Connection will publish on February 26 and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family



For Print & Digital Advertising Information: Please Call 703.778.9431

advantage of our different advertising options.



Reaching Suburban Washington's Leading Households

Calendar

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

ONGOING

The Beauty of Wood. Feb. 4 thru March 2. At Artists' Undertaking Gallery, 309 Mill Street, Occoquan. The Artists' Undertaking Gallery presents "The Beauty of Wood". This exhibit features photography and digital paintings by David and Jane Ernst of Springfield, and wooden boxes by Jon Kaufman of Fairfax Station. A Meet the Artists Reception will be held on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The exhibit runs Feb. 4 through March 2. Contact the gallery at 703-494-0584 or at info@artistsundertaking.com. Visit the website www.artistsundertaking.com

Funday Monday. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Mondays now thru March. At Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Play, paint, sing and dance at Funday Monday in the City of Fairfax. This season they are bringing back My Gym to help everyone move and play together, Oh Susannah! with her guitar to sing some old songs and have just as much fun with new ones, and Good Gollie it's Mollie will be coming 'round with more games and playtime fun. They would like to welcome some new friends as well like Drew Blue Shoes, a magician whose magic will leave you mystified and a kids' nature puppet show will come to teach us about the jungle in our backyard. This season they have the local animal shelter and local Spanish emersion group Mi Chu Chu Train coming with specially made programs. Visit the website: https:// www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts

All You Need is Love. Now thru Feb. 16. At Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic, 2905 District Ave., #105, Fairfax. In celebration of Valentine's Day, Torpedo Factory artists are tackling one of society's most complex human emotions Love. In its newest exhibit titled All You Need is &e, the gallery is presenting a selection of original paintings, photographs, jewelry, scarves, ceramics and more, that reflect its artists' interpretations of love. Open Wednesday

thru Sunday 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

St. James Intramural High School

Basketball League. Now thru March 10. At the St. James Sports, Wellness and Entertainment Complex, 6805 Industrial Road, Springfield. The St. James invites you to participate in its Middle School Basketball League for Boys & Girls (8th to 12th grade), Now thru March 10, in the new 33,000 square foot Basketball Courthouse on four high school regulation sized courts. The TSJ Intramural High School Basketball League registration fee is \$250 per player and \$600 per team. All games are officiated and statistics provided. The TSJ Intramural High School Basketball league also includes a Playoff round where top teams in the league will meet. Visit https:// www.thestjames.com/sports/basketball/ sessions/8/courses/tsj-basketball-winter-team or contact Alpha or Pele with any questions at 703-239-6841.

NOW THRU MARCH 30

Monday Exercise Classes. 9:30-10:30 a.m. At Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke offers exercise classes for older adults designed to build strength and improve balance and flexibility. All levels of ability are welcome. Call the SCFB office, 703-426-2824, for class information.

NOW THRU MAY 27

Wednesday Exercise Classes. 9-10 a.m. At The Lutheran Church of the Abiding Presence, 6304 Lee Chapel Road, Burke. Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke offers exercise classes for older adults designed to build strength and improve balance and flexibility. All levels of ability are welcome. Call the SCFB office, 703-426-2824, for class information. (20 weeks @\$2.50/class

NOW THRU FEB. 29

Fairfax City Golden Ticket. 12 p.m. Fairfax City's Economic Development Authority has partnered with the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce to host the 2nd Annual Fairfax City Golden Ticket contest in support of the 2020 Chocolate Lovers Festival. The Fairfax City



18th-Century Game Night at Gunston Hall

Gunston Hall will host 18th-Century Game Night on Friday, Feb. 21 in Lorton.

FRIDAY/FEB. 21

18th-Century Game Night. 6-9 p.m. At George Mason's Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Guests are invited to delve into the past and discover the origin story of games like Life, Craps, and Poker. Finger foods and seasonal adult beverages are part of this 21+ evening event. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased online at www.gunstonhall.org or at the door. Cost: \$35; \$25 for members. Visit the website www.gunstonhall.org.



Lesson Zero

Lesson Zero will perform at The Mixing Bowl on Feb. 15 in Springfield.

Lesson Zero. 8 p.m. At The Mixing Bowl (formerly J W and Friends), 6531 Backlick Road, Springfield. Music and dancing with Oasis recording artist Lesson Zero. Visit www.youtube.com/lessonzero or www.reverbnation.com/lessonzero for more information.

Golden Ticket Contest features three golden tickets hidden within 1,200 chocolate bars made by local chocolatier Cameron's Coffee & Chocolates. The chocolate bars are available for purchase at participating Fairfax City businesses beginning Jan. 31 for \$3 each while supplies last. The contest offers three lucky winners who find the golden tickets a Chocolate Lovers gift basket featuring chocolate and items from participating Fairfax City businesses valued at \$200. To purchase a Golden Ticket chocolate bar, visit any of the businesses listed at fairfaxcityconnected.com/goldenticket2020.

FEB. 13, 14, 15

"Hate Mail." 7-8:30 p.m. At The Auld Shebeen, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. A fast-paced, quick-witted comedic play about outrage, scandals, and falling in and out of love. Tickets on Eventbrite. Cost is \$20. Visit the website https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hate-mail-acomedy-play-tickets-90457752573

FRIDAY/FEB. 14

Winter Beauty in the Garden. 4-5 p.m. At Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. This program is for dazzling winter. Winter offers its own special charm. Let Master Gardeners show you how to create visual interest with berries, seed heads, colorful branches, garden accents - even flowers. Presented by Green Spring Master Gardeners. Free. Visit the website: https:// librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/

FEB. 14-APRIL 3

Friday Exercise Classes. 9:30-10:30 a.m. At Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke offers exercise classes for older adults designed to build strength and improve balance and flexibility. All levels of ability are welcome. Call the SCFB office, 703-426-2824, for class

information. (8 weeks, \$20).

SATURDAY/FEB. 15

Kids Consignment Sale. 9 a.m. to 12 noon. At Fairfax Presbyterian Church, 10723 Main Street, Fairfax. Kids/baby/maternity consignment sale. Seasonal clothes, toys/games, baby equipment and more! Sale hours are 9 to noon. Discount period is 1:30-3 p.m. Cash or credit (small fee).

Coffee & Conversations, 10:30 a.m. to noon. At 3951 Pender Drive, Suite 130, Fairfax. Bob Silber will be presenting "Coffee & Conversations" at the Northern Virginia Resource Center (NVRC) Meeting Room. Please bring a sweet treat for six people and enjoy the coffee, treats, and conversations. Everyone is welcome. Courtesy of NVRCC, the meeting room has CART and is looped. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to sign in at the door and update your email address or request to be included in the list to receive newsletters and notices. RSVP to info@hlcnova.org

Country-Western Dance. At Accotink Universalist Unitarian Church, 10125 Lakehaven Ct, Burke. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association will hold a dance Lessons, 6-7 p.m. Open dancing, 7-9:30 p.m. A DJ provides music. Couples and singles of all ages welcome. Admission for NVCWDA members \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Trial memberships available at door for member level entry fee. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. Visit www.nvcwda.org.

Valentine's Day Banquet. 6:30-11 p.m. At Waterford Receptions at Springfield, 6715 Commerce Street, Springfield. The Family Ministry of the Greater Little Zion Baptist Church in Fairfax is sponsoring their Annual Valentine's Day Banquet. All couples and singles are invited to join with us and enjoy an evening of fine dining, music, dancing and featured entertainment. This is a great opportunity to treat someone special to a wonderful night of Christian fun and fellowship. Cost is \$60 per person (Payment deadline is Feb. 9, 2020). Tickets can be purchased on the church's

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

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/FEB. 15-16

Virginia Opera's "Cinderella." 8 p.m.

Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Gioachino Rossini's Cinderella (La Cenerentola) is one of his funniest and best-known comic operas. Following on his success of The Barber of Seville, Rossini and librettist Jacopo Ferretti worked day and night to create this opera in just three weeks. The story differs somewhat from the classic fairytale: there is no fairy godmother, magic pumpkin, or even a glass slipper! Even so, this enchanting tale delivers with all of the glimmering splendor, the comic characters, and the happy ending, of course. Best of all, it includes Rossini's effervescent score with the epic orchestral storm before the Prince finally finds Cenerentola, and the arias "Miei rampolli femminini," and "Nacqui all' affanno...Non piu mesta." Directed by Kyle Lang. Sung in Italian with English supertitles. Tickets are \$45-\$115. Visit the website: www.cfa.gmu.edu.

SUNDAY/FEB. 16

NTrak Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold a N gauge Model Train Display. Admission: museum members, free; adults 13 and over, \$5; children 5-12, \$3; under 4, free. Seniors (65+ and military (active & retired), \$4. Call 703-425-9225. Visit the website www.fairfax-station.org.

MONDAY/FEB. 17

George Washington Birthday Service and Breakfast. 8:30 a.m. At Historic Pohick

SEE CALENDAR. PAGE 9

CALENDAR

From Page 8

Church, 9301 Richmond Hwy., Lorton. The Brotherhood of Saint Andrew, Pohick Chapter, will sponsor a breakfast following a commemorative service celebrating the birthday of George Washington. The Service will follow the Order for Morning Prayer taken from the 1662 English Book of Common Prayer, which is the service Washington followed in his usual Sunday worship at Pohick Church. Following the service there will be a breakfast hosted by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew with a guest speaker. The Docent Guild will be conducting tours of Historic Pohick Church following the breakfast. Ticket are \$10 per person, \$25 per family group. Call the church office at 703-339-6572. Visit the website www.pohick.org

FEB. 19 TO MARCH 29

The Color Green. At Torpedo Factory Artists at Mosaic, 105 District Ave., Fairfax. In celebration of an early spring and St. Patrick's Day, Torpedo Factory artists are tackling one of nature's most ubiquitous colors, green. In its newest exhibit simply titled, Green, the gallery is presenting a selection of original paintings, photographs, jewelry, scarves, ceramics and more, that reflect its various artists' interpretations of the color. Torpedo Factory artists are chosen through a rigorous jurying process and enjoy a high degree of acclaim, both locally and nationally. Savvy shoppers know Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic as a place not only to enjoy fine art but also as a great place to purchase art at affordable prices.

THURSDAY/FEB. 20

Henna Workshop. 6-7 p.m. At Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Learn the history and art of henna design with local henna artist Anita Kundal. Attendees will learn how to use Henna tubes and create their own design. Materials provided by Pohick Regional Library. Free. Visit the website: https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/6225706



LEGO Model Train Show

Monty's Trains Special LEGO Model Train Show will take place Feb. 29 and March 1 at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum.

FEB. 29 AND MARCH 1

Monty's Trains Special LEGO Model Train Show. 12-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Local modeling enthusiast, Monty Smith, will share his LEGO (R) model train layouts in a special two day event. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5; seniors 65 and older and military, both retired and active, \$4. Visit the website www.fairfax-station.org, or call 703-425-9225.

SATURDAY/FEB. 22

Off the Wall. 2-5 p.m. At the Art and Design Building, GMU Fairfax Campus, Fairfax. Every year GMU opens its Art and Design Building to alumni, parents, prospective students, and the public for a showcase of the visual arts at Mason. Tour 15 open studios and hands-on exhibits with student and faculty artists, enjoy the music, plus create your own works of art - it's a great party. Cost is \$30/regular; \$20/ Mason alumni, faculty and staff; \$10/ages 14-18. Ticket and sponsorship proceeds support arts scholarships and guest artist residencies. Sponsorship opportunities begin at \$500. Contact Emily Rusch at 703-993-3872 or erusch2@gmu.edu. Visit the website: offthewall.gmu.edu.

Peace, Love & Art. 6:30-10:30 p.m. At

Workhouse Art Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Fundraiser for Workhouse; tickets are \$90/door. Psychedelic cocktails and delicious nibbles; dancing Woodstock-style and casino games; hippie and groovy outfits encouraged. Artwork for raffle.

National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine. 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Celebrating their Jubilee 100th concert season, the National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine (NSOU) presents a concert of Eastern European delights, including a showpiece for cello by Tchaikovsky, Sibelius' first symphony which displays his unique Nordic style as well as his admiration for Tchaikovsky, and Ukrainian composer Borys Lyatoshynsky's symphonic ballade composed as a tribute to the Polish poet Adam Mickiewicz on the centenary of his death. Considered one of the finest symphony orchestras in Eastern Europe, NSOU has achieved international recognition with its extensive touring schedule and more than 100 acclaimed recordings, including Lyatoshynsky's Symphonies No. 2 and No. 3 named The Best Recording of the Year by the Australian Broadcasting Company. Under the direction of Volodymyr Sirenko, the orchestra is joined by world-renowned cellist Natalia Khoma as the featured soloist. Tickets are \$60, \$51, \$36. Visit the website: https://cfa.gmu.edu/

SUNDAY/FEB. 23

Hands On Day Activities. 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Hands On Days, suitable for both adults and children, feature a variety of educational activities involving history and train modeling. Mini-workshops or activities focusing on artifact restoration and preservation might also be featured. Cost of crafts or materials for Hands On Day activities are included in the price of admission. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5; seniors 65 and older and military both active and retired, \$4. Visit the website www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225

Same Company, Same Employees, Same Great Value - Now Celebrating 20 Years! TWO POOR TEACHERS

Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



Free Estimates

- Master Plumber
- Master Electrician
- Master HVAC

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed Since 1999





703-999-2928 Visit our website: www.twopoorteachers.com

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS PAPER, CALL BY MONDAY 11:00 AM 703-778-9411



Employment

Employment

Employment

Technogen, Inc has openings for the positions:

SAP FICO Analyst with Bachelor's degree in Business Admin, Engg any, Tech or rld & 5 yrs of exp to implmnt SAP FICO, customize & config of ECC 6.0 & S/4 HANA. Config & test of FI/CO modules -GL, AR, AP, Fixed Assets, Bank Acctng, Cost Cntr Acctng (CO-CCA), Profit Cntr Acctng (CO-PCA), Internal Orders (CO-IO) Prodct costing (CO-PC) & COPA. Expert in S/4 HANA (Simple Finance) & Integration of FI with MM, SD, PS, PP, HR.CO with PP modules. Integtn exp in Material Ledger& costing (CO-ML) & RICEFW activities. Mng offshore & Onsite team with exp in Docmntng Functional Specifictns, & Trng core team members. Thorough understanding of SAP R/3 FI/CO module configtn, Enhance & Support.

Technical Lead Azure Architect with Master's degree in Comp Science/Appl, Engg any, Tech or rld & 2 yrs exp to Dsgn & implimit project solns, maint integrity of high level design. Translate bus regmnts & pduct vision into appl architecture. Create user stories, tsks, & bugs in Azure DevOps Studio & work on a Scrum Team. Confign mng & monitor Microsoft Azure, Hyper-Virtualization, Microsoft Sequential Query Lang, Sys Center Opertns Mngr, Sys Center Configtn Mngr, Azure Monitor, Azure Active Directory, Dynatrace, Microsoft Sys Cntr Mgmt. Suite & Opertns Readiness /Stabilization /Performance.

Programmer Analyst/WebSphere with Bachelor's degree in Comp Sci, Engg (any), Tech / rld & 2 yrs exp to Participate with Mgmt, sys & technical staff in gathering & analyzing the regmnts. Prepare the sftwre dsgn doc & recommend the hrdwr regmnts. Demonstrate the sftwre appl to users, tech team & all the stake holders about the functionality. Implimit the sys in productn & support the productn execution 24/7. Provide appl help-desk support to end users which include prioritizing, troubleshooting & communicating issues to Mgmt & end users. Provide Functional tring & updates to sys docmntn.

Financial Analyst with Associates in Comm, Eco, Buss Admin/Mgmt or ritd plus three years experience to Develop, maintain, and distribute financial and cost models as needed, assist in maintaining and updating company financial data. Conduct quantitative analysis of information affecting managements investment programs on public or private institutions. Provide direct marketing & advertising solutions to survive in the competitive and aggressive categories.

Data Analytics Analyst with Masters in Comp Sc,Eng(any),Tech or related to Develop analytical solutions using machine learning & statistical modeling on R and Python. Architect custom large-scale software systems for telecommunications & data communications applications including Big Data databases, large system infrastructure patterns and standards, and software application development techniques. Generate reports in R studio and perform analysis using Tableau. Develop statistical solutions to solve complex business problems.

Wrk loc is Chantilly, VA with read trvl to client locn throughout USA. Pls mail resumes to Technogen Inc., 4229 Lafayette Center Drive, Suite #1880, Chantilly, VA 20151 or Fax to 703-668-0714.

For Sale: Conference room table w/6 chairs, executive desks, executive chairs, bookcases, file cabinets, white boards, end tables, wood kitchen table w/6 chairs, map cabinet, and more. Contact Bill, 703-836-0100, to view all items.

For Sale

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T proposes to replace an existing 30' wood anchor pole with a new 40' wood anchor pole and install a top-mounted antenna at 43' at 3743 West Ox Rd, Fairfax, VA (20200051). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

Employment

NOW HIRING at American
Security Programs for a Security
Officer in Springfield, VA.
MUST HAVE AN ACTIVE
GOVERNMENT CLEARANCE
(interim secret or above)
SHIFTS are SAT & SUN
2300-0700
Pay rate is \$14,00/HR
Please contact agowda@
securamericallc.com for further
details. We are looking to fill

Be a part of our **Wellbeing** pages, the first

week of every month.

this need immediately!

Delight in our HomeLifeStyle sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our *A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun* pages, the third week of every month.

Questions? E-mail sales@connection newspapers.com or call 703-778-9431



Forget Daily Commuting

Print and digital media sales consultant for area's most popular and trusted local news source

Manage your own hours from home Enjoy flexible schedule plus no daily commute Help local businesses grow Unique opportunity to be a voice in your community Competitive compensation

> Call Jerry Vernon 703-549-0004

Connection Newspapers & Digital Media Trusted Connection to Local Communities

Announcements

Announcements



ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS THROUGH MARCH 20, 2020

The Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program was established by the Virginia General Assembly in 2004 to provide educational opportunities for persons who were denied an education in Virginia due to the closing of the public schools during Massive Resistance between 1954 and 1964. The program is open to new eligible applicants for the 2020–2021 school year. For applications and information on eligibility, visit:

BROWNSCHOLARSHIP.VIRGINIA.GOV

or contact Lily Jones, Division of Legislative Services, at (804) 698-1888.

Announcements

Announcements



OUTER BANKS, NC - VACATION RENTALS Over 500 vacation homes from S. Nags Head to Corolla's 4x4! 877-642-3224 www.brindleybeach.com

Announcements

Announcements



info@ShowmastersGunShows.com | www.TheNationsGunShow.com | www.ShowmastersGunShows.com

1,300 Tables! Trade! - Appraisals!

BULLETIN

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

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 12

TBI Recovery Group. 10:30-12 p.m. At Brain Injury Services, 8136 Old Keene Mill Road, Suite B-102, Springfield. Educational group for survivors, families, and caregivers, to answer questions about mild TBI or concussion. February Speaker: Dr. Alec Lebedun Topic: What happened to my brain? How does brain biology affect me? Free. Visit the website: www.braininjurysvcs.org

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 19

Fairfax County Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary Meets. 10:30 a.m. at The Fairfax Salvation Army Corps Office, 4915 Ox Road, Fairfax. Ladies interested in attending this meeting are welcome. Call Lori Smith, 301-717-3029 or Meg McLane 703-750-3568.

SUNDAY/FEB. 23

Town Hall Meeting. 1 p.m. At 8390 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton. Sen. Scott Surovell and fellow legislators will host town halls throughout the 36th District in February. The legislators will discuss their legislative agendas and take questions from the audience. Some topics will include: Transportation, Education Funding and Reform, The State Budget and Tax Reform, Redistricting, Medicaid Expansion, Marriage Equality and LGBTQ Rights, Firearm Violence Prevention, Civil/Criminal Justice Reforms, Consumer Protection/Predatory Lending, Investing in Green Energy, Reproductive Choice Issues, Protecting Environmental Interests.

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.

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 the 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.

Haven of Northern Virginia is committed to resources to the bereaved and seriously ill. Volunteers provide individual and group support to those suffering from a loss. Volunteers must participate in a 30 hour training. Training will be offered in October 2018. To volunteer, call Haven at 703-941-7000.



CALL 703-549-0004 FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION

LANDSCAPING

A&S CONSTRUCTION SOD, Mulch, Clean-Up Leaf Removal Hauling. 703-863-7465

Good is not good, where better is expected.

-Thomas Fuller

ELECTRICAL

COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE

Family Owned & Operated Recessed Lighting

Licensed/Bonded/Insured Ceiling Fans Phone/CATV Computer Network Cabling Service Upgrades

Hot Tubs, etc.

Office 703-335-0654 Mobile 703-499-0522 lektrkman28@gmail.com

GUTTER

Small Repairs • Gutter Guards

PINNACLE SERVICES

email jamie@lawnsandgutters.com web: lawnsandgutters.com

Friendly Service with a Friendly Price!

lic/ins 703-802-0483 free est. 2

24 Hour Emergency Tree Service GUTTER

Winter Cleanup...

Tree removal, topping & pruning,

shrubbery trimming, mulching, leaf removal, planting, hauling,

gutter cleaning, retaining walls,

drainage problems, etc.

BATHROOM REMODELING

LANDSCAPING LANDSCAPING

Quality Tree Service

& Landscaping

Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured.

25 years of experience - Free estimates

703-868-5358

by Brennan Bath and Tile Partial or Full. Kit. Floors, Backsplashes Specializing in Ceramic, Porcelain, Glass Tiles and Natural Stones. Also repair work. 35 yrs exp.

www.brennan-tile.com 703-250-2872

A&S Landscaping

- **All Concrete work**
- **Retaining Walls Patios** Decks . Porches (incl.
- screened) Erosion & **Grading Solutions**
- French Drains Sump Pumps • Driveway Asphalt Sealing

703-863-7465 LICENSED Serving All of N. Virginia

LANDSCAPING LANDSCAPING

Patios & Drainage

Your neighborhood company since 1987 703-772-0500

J.E.S. Services

Free Estimates - Fully Licensed & Insured

- Planting & Landscaping Design
 Drainage & Water Problems
- Concrete Driveways, Replacement or New
 Patios and Walks Masonry Work or Dry Laid
- Paver, Flagstone, Brick, any style you choose
- Retaining walls of all types

All work Guaranteed





All Gowned Up



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

All Gowned UpAnd somewhere to go, or so I thought. I had checked in at the front desk. I was given a number, and almost immediately, it was called. I said good-bye to Team Lourie and was led back to a staging area (beds, curtains, doctors, nurses) where I was told I would see them both before surgery. There I was given a gown, no-slip socks and a hair net to change into, and instructed to place all my clothes (underwear, too) into two plastic bags and then told to pull back the privacy curtain and lie back on the bed.

Within a few minutes a female nurse, part of a very attentive and conscientious staff, began to attend me. She started an I.V. in my left forearm, wrapped a blood pressure cuff around my right bicep and then stuck half-a-dozen or so EKG contacts over the front me and down my legs to monitor my heart. In addition, the typical other vitals: oxygen, pulse and temperature were taken. At that point, it appeared that I had passed muster. My surgeon stopped by for a brief visit and all was progressing normally. Until that is when the anesthesiologist came by for what I thought was the final step. It was the final step alright. She said that "due to an abundance of caution." she was uncomfortable proceeding with the surgery. She explained that the facility (not a hospital) where I was to undergo the surgery, was not fully equipped to respond to certain potential complications which might occur which involved a breathing tube, a ventilator and the weakness of my lungs, so she sent me packing (unpacking actually). Disappointed, as you might imagine, we all left the facility and waited for further instructions.

By the end of the day, arrangements had been made to reschedule my surgery at a local hospital on Wednesday, a mere two day delay. I could live with that. At home, I resumed my post-shower, pre-surgery, infection-preventing scrub as I had for the previously scheduled surgery. This time surgery was scheduled for 1:30 pm instead of the 10:50 am it had been on Monday. Still, if all went well, I could be released that same day, under someone else's recognizance of course, given the late hour, but likely recuperating at home in my own bed.

On Wednesday, I arrived at the hospital two hours before surgery as direvced and began the now familiar process. Once again I was prepped and ready. This time there were no slip-ups Around 2:15 I was wheeled into the operating room and introduced to the staff on hand. I was asked my name, date of birth and the reason for surgery that day. Answering correctly, the next step involved an oxygen mask coming down over my nose and mouth and being asked to breathe normally, which I did, and the rest, as they say, is

It turned out that the anesthesiologist was right to be cautious. My four-hour outpatient surgery turned into a seven-hour admission-to-the-hospital major surgery with complications. Due to my "Adams' Apple" tumor being embedded into/under my collarbone, a thoracic surgeon was brought into consult about possibly cracking open my chest to get at the remaining cancer. Fortunately, a decision was made not to do so and I was wheeled back to recovery and eventually to my room for the night where at 12:35 am, while lying in my bed, my eyes opened and I saw my wife, Dina and close friend, Rita, who had stayed into the wee hours in an amazing show of support.

The next day, after an uncomfortable night in my hospital bed, I was discharged, four hours after the process began. (As you may or may not know, getting discharged from the hospital is hardly a straight line from your hospital room to your curbside pick up.) I was given instructions, prescriptions and follow-up appointments. My thyroid gland, parathyroid, "Adam's Apple" tumor and a few lymph nodes stayed behind. Can't sa that I miss any of them. Still, my body may miss them so I'll likely have some post-op work to do at home. Nevertheless, progress has been made for which I'm grateful.

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





BUY 3 TIRES AND GET THE 4TH FOR See Service Advisor for details. **GOT TIRES?** INCLUDES ROAD HAZARD PROTECTION, TIRE WARRANTY, AND FREE COURTESY INSPECTION.

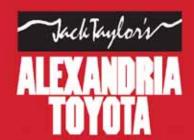
ONUS: ADD A 4 WHEEL

CHECK ENGINE LIGHT DIAGNOSIS

NO CHARGE

INITIAL DIAGNOSIS WE WILL RETRIEVE

VEHICLE CODES & GIVE YOU AN ESTIMATE OF REPAIR COSTS.









PERSONALIZED CAR CARE EXPERIENCE

SAFETY FIRST ALWAYS! **Have Your Vehicle Checked** for Open Campaigns/Recalls Recall Hotline: 703-684-0710

SERVICE & PARTS DEPT HOURS:

Monday - Friday, 6:00am to 7:00pm Saturday, 7:00am to 5:00pm

YOU HAVE SATURDAY OFF. THAT'S EXACTLY WHY WE DON'T!



ToyotaCare Customers

Don't Forget Your FREE Service. 5,000 • 10,000 • 15,000 • 20,000 • 25,000

Mile Services Call your ASM for details

ToyotaCare Plus \$32900

Covers up to 4 years/45,000 miles

ALIGNMENT SPECIAL

3750 Richmond Hwy • Alexandria, VA 22305



Your car's alignment suffers, and can cause uneven tire wear and steering problems. INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts

& shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.

TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL, OFFER EXPIRES 22820.

OIL & FILTER CHANGE





SYNTHETIC

Includes: Genuine Toyota oil filter, up to 5 qts of conventional oil*, inspect windshield wipers, check tire condition, check battery (with print-out), inspect and adjust all fluid levels, inspect air & cabin air filters. I

SIGHT LINE WIPER BLADES

Sight Line only.

BATTERY CHECK-UP Check cold cranking amps and visual inspection of

battery condition. Includes battery condition print out.

NEW HOURS SPECIAL! DROP OFF YOUR VEHICLE BETWEEN 6AM & 7AM

WITH A SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT & RECEIVE 12% OFF ANY ONE REPAIR.

Jack Taylor's

ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

©SMS Productions, Inc. 1-800-289-7671 #201911022

BRAKE SPECIAL



Includes: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads; inspect front & rear rotors & drums, check fire condition and inspect all hardware. Pads only. MACHINE ROTORS ADDITIONAL

TALLO WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OF COLORON TOKICA, WENCLES ONLY COUPON MARTERS PRESENTED AT TIME OF WHITE OF PARTY OF THE OFFER OF THE OFFER OF THE OFFER O

EF BG VITAL FLUID SERVICE 10% OFF YOUR FIRST SERVICE

15% OFF YOUR SECOND SERVICE

Power Steering • Automatic Transmission • Brake System

TRUESTART™ BATTERIES

INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month free replacement,

Does not apply to hybrid batteries.

NOT VALID BETH ANY OTHER OFFERS OF COURON TOYOTA VENICES ONLY COURON RIST BE PRESENTED AT THE OF WHITE MY WILD ONLY AT ALEXANDERA TOYOTA TAX AND SHOP SUPPLES ADDITIONAL OFFER EXPRESS 2/29/20.

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT AT 703-684-0710 OR SCHEDULE ONLINE AT ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM