

# Fairfax Station ♦ Clifton ♦ Lorton **CONNECTION**

## Recycling Helps Feed Others

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### Chocolate for Everyone

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### Bulova Talks Budget In Annual Address

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### Girl Scouts Help Clean up at Mason Neck

NEWS, PAGE 4



Valerie Finney, the media specialist at Silverbrook Elementary, started a recycling program that donates leftover food to the Lorton Community Action Center.

## BRIEFS

### Chocolate Challenge

The City of Fairfax Chocolate Lovers Festival Committee is looking for professional and amateur chefs of all ages to participate in the Chocolate Challenge, Feb. 1-2, as part of the Chocolate Lovers Festival.

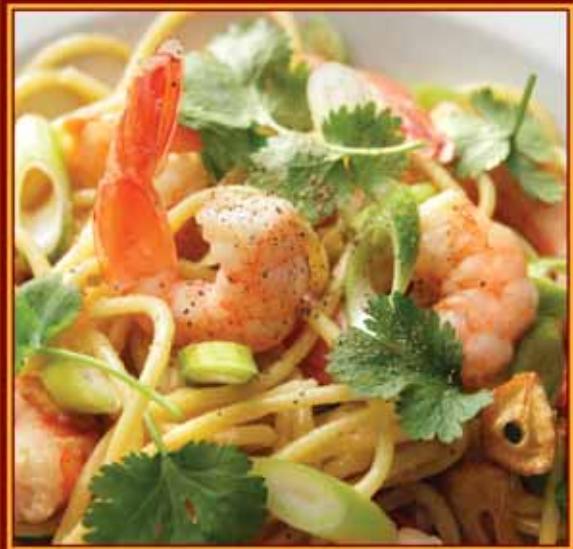
Works and tastes of art will be submitted for the area's most talented chefs and chocolatiers to judge in several categories. Visit [www.chocolatefestival.net](http://www.chocolatefestival.net) or call 703-385-7858. Applications are due by Jan. 27.

### Volunteers Needed

The Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in assisted living and nursing facilities throughout the area. Training in March 2014. Call 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email [Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov). Find more online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltcmbudsman/vol\\_ombud\\_program.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltcmbudsman/vol_ombud_program.htm).

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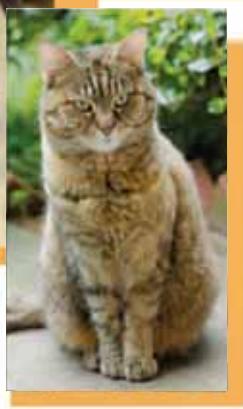


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# Into the Budget Fray

**Bulova highlights accomplishments, challenges in annual address.**

By VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

**D**espite the lingering impact of an anemic economy, and the regional ripple effects of federal sequestration, Fairfax County residents will see some concrete signs of progress this year.

That message was delivered by Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, who cast a mostly positive light on the county's future during a media screening of her televised annual State of the County address on Wednesday, Jan. 15.

In addition to the completion of Phase 1 of the Silver Line in Tysons, motorists can expect to see congestion eased through a number of state-funded transportation projects, including the new I-95 Express Lanes that will tie into the Beltway Express lanes at Edsall Road.

Residents can also look forward to the revitalization and redevelopment of older commercial and industrial areas throughout the county, including the \$250 million transformation of Springfield Mall into the Springfield Town Center in the fall of 2014.

The newly-renovated mall will include the addition of roughly 700,000 square feet of retail, restaurants, a food court and a state-of-the-art movie theater. The 20-foot-tall brown numbers that indicated the mall's six main entrances — a hallmark of the 1970s-era mall — will be replaced with one central grand entranceway.

Bulova also praised the Economic Development Authority and Visit Fairfax for boosting tourism and facilitating the selection of Fairfax County as the host of the 2015 World Police and Fire Games, the world's second largest athletic competition after the summer Olympics. The event is expected to generate more than \$100 million in tourism revenue for the county.

The 30-minute State of the County video, 10 minutes longer than last year's production, highlights many county achievements in the past year — such as the county's low crime rate and a 26 percent reduction since 2007 in the number of



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

**Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova hosted a media screening of her annual State of the County address on Wednesday, Jan. 15. Residents can view the address on Channel 16 from 7:30 to 8 p.m., or on YouTube at <http://youtube/YzeaC3K-wiY>**

**"Our first area of response focus is on preventing the 911 call. ... We've visited over 40,000 homes since June 8 and installed over 6,000 smoke alarms ...."**

— Fire and Rescue Chief Richard Bowers

first female sheriff; Police Chief Edwin Roessler and Karen Garza, the new superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools.

In the video, Garza said one of her top priorities is "to listen and learn what our community expects of its schools."

"One of our big projects this year is that we enlisted the help of a broad-based community committee to develop the Portrait of a Graduate — which will detail what our community expects an FCPS student to know and be to do upon graduating from our system," Garza said.

Garza also addressed the ongoing challenge of funding a school system with a current enrollment of 184,600 students, making FCPS larger than the school systems of eight states and the District of Columbia.

"As you know, FCPS is facing some challenges as well," Garza said in the video. "We have grown by more than 15,000 students in the last five years and our required expenditures for items like employee benefits have continued to increase. At the same time, revenues have not increased enough to cover expenditures."

In fiscal year 2014, 53 percent of the county's general fund budget was transferred to Fairfax County Public Schools, a sum of roughly \$1.9 billion.

School officials recently unveiled a \$2.5 billion budget, asking for a 5.7 percent increase, or nearly \$98 million more in county funding. Under the proposed budget, class sizes will increase at all grade levels and about 730 staff positions will be cut.

After the screening, Bulova emphasized that while education continues to be the board's "highest priority" and the community's "greatest investment," there will likely be a significant gap between what school officials are asking for in their budget, and how much the board is prepared to give.

"The schools won't get everything they asked for," Bulova said. "The school board will have to roll up their sleeves and so will supervisors."

When asked how close the board is prepared to get to the 5.7 percent request, Bulova said that a 2 percent increase — or \$33 million — is a more realistic number.

In an effort to bridge that gap, supervisors have made state education funding the county's top legislative priority for

SEE BUDGET FRAY, PAGE 12

FAIRFAX STATION/CLIFTON/LORTON CONNECTION ♦ JANUARY 23-29, 2014 ♦ 3

# Retail Worries

**October numbers artificially inflated; holiday numbers could spell trouble.**

By MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he partial government shutdown was more than an October surprise during the race for governor. Newly available statistics from the Virginia Department of Taxation show the month was also an unexpected boost to sales tax revenues across the commonwealth. Fairfax County, for example, recorded a 15.5 percent spike in sales tax revenue in October 2013 compared to October 2012. But state and local officials say that's because several major department stores neglected to increase their sales tax rate to reflect the new regional tax for transportation when the new fiscal year began in July. So the October numbers represent the backlog of uncollected revenues.

Which retailers flubbed their taxes?

"That's proprietary information, so we can't say," said Marcia Wilds, revenue and economic analysis coordinator with the Fairfax County Department of Management and Budget. "They're big."

The revenue corrections came at a key time for local governments, a month that many expected to be particularly bleak. Many government workers and contractors were out of work in October, when local governments became concerned that spending habits might reflect a sense of uncertainty about the future. Now budget officials across Northern Virginia are worried about what kind of sales tax revenue they'll collect from the holiday season.

"The sales tax will be back with holiday sales," said Stephen Fuller, director of the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University. "Over the year there will only a minor weakening."

**BUDGET OFFICIALS** are not so sure. As local governments across the region prepare for the first round of budgeting next month, a sense of uncertainty looms over the revenue projections and spending priorities. Part of that is the unemployment rate, which remains at about 6 percent across Virginia. That means consumers may hold back on consumption based spending, which would mean lower revenues for local governments on retail sales and restaurant meals.

"If revenues continue to decline, it may be necessary to make up any additional

# Saving the Environment, One Cafeteria at a Time

## Silverbrook Elementary runs recycling program.

By JANELLE GERMANOS  
THE CONNECTION

**S**tudents at Silverbrook Elementary School in Fairfax Station are learning the value of recycling and helping the environment, thanks to school media specialist Valerie Finney, other teachers, and volunteers who are assisting in the effort to reduce waste.

Three years ago, Finney attended a Get2Green meeting, a Fairfax County Public Schools environmental education initiative. She was interested in ways to help the environment and reduce waste, and came up with the idea of starting a recycling program in the school's cafeteria.

According to federal law, Finney said, schools were unable to collect unopened food, but the law changed three years ago, which allowed her to begin the program.

"We thought we would test it the first year after spring break until the last day of school," Finney said. "After we started, there was no going back."

Now, thanks to Finney's careful planning and help from volunteers, the program is in full-swing. After eating lunch, students line up in the cafeteria and place recyclable items from their meal in the proper containers with the help of volunteers. Unopened utensil packets are also collected



**Joanne Stanley, a teacher at Silverbrook Elementary in Fairfax Station, volunteers at the school's lunch recycling program.**

and redistributed the next day.

**VOLUNTEERS** also collect unopened food from students. The program strictly follows health code laws, and the unopened, unused food is placed in the program's own refrigerator and picked up by the Lorton Community Action Center, who then gives the products to their clients.

"It's terrific. It really helps them because dairy products are expensive," Finney said. "We can donate items like string cheese, milk cartons, yogurt, and juice."

Linda Patterson, the executive director of

the Lorton Community Action Center, said the program is great because it teaches children not to waste and helps families served by LCAC. Many families served by LCAC also have children that attend school at Silverbrook.

"The most obvious benefit is that LCAC receives things from that program that we don't always get, such as the milk. That milk is a huge help to families,

because we don't receive that much as far as fresh milk," Patterson said. "I would like to see all of the schools do this type of program, whether it goes to LCAC or another non-profit in their area."



**Aaron Srance, whose mother is a teacher at Silverbrook Elementary, sorts through a student's lunch box to look for recyclable materials as part of the school's program.**

Finney started the program because she wanted to reduce the amount of waste that was incinerated in Lorton, where all Fairfax County waste eventually ends up.

The program relies on volunteers because all of the sorting would be too complicated for the children, Finney said.

Aaron Srance, a college student from Lorton whose mother teaches at Silverbrook, is volunteering for the program during his winter break.

"It's a great way to help the environment," Srance said.

"I wish my elementary school would have done this when I was there."

Joanne Stanley, a teacher at Silverbrook,

SEE RECYCLE, PAGE 5

# Volunteers Spend Day Off Cleaning Up Park

## Girl Scouts and their friends volunteer at Mason Neck State Park on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

By JANELLE GERMANOS  
THE CONNECTION

**A**fter volunteering at Mason Neck State Park during the 2013 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, Laura Douglas, who leads Cadet Girl Scout Troop 340 in Lorton, had such a great time that she decided it needed to happen again in 2014.

This year, more than 80 students from South County Middle and High Schools, many of whom are Girl Scouts, used their day off from school on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to volunteer at the park by picking up trash along trails and the shoreline.

The event was part of the National Day of Service, a day dedicated to sharing Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy by volunteering.



**Volunteers from South County Middle School pose in front of the trash they collected at Mason Neck State Park on Monday, Jan. 20.**

"It is a great way to give back," said Douglas. "It shows the girls the importance of volunteering."

The Girl Scouts accounted for most of the volunteers, but they brought along their friends as well.

In addition to picking up trash, volunteers cleaned kayaks and displays in the park's visitor center.

"An estimate of more than 60 bags of trash wouldn't be a longshot," said David Gunnels, the chief ranger at Mason Neck State Park.

Volunteers like Morgan Greer, an eighth-grader at South County Middle School, enjoyed comparing bizarre trash finds they picked up during the day, as well as spending time with friends.

"I like Girl Scouts because I get to hang out with friends, and I like planning events," Greer said.

Events like the Day of Service allow Girl Scout Members to bond and interact with others in the community.

"It's a great way for them to do a group activity while also helping the park," Douglas said.

Roma Mehta, also an eighth-grader at South County Middle School, helped clean up trash along the shoreline. "I liked making the beach cleaner," she said.

The park covers 1,814 acres, which Douglas said makes it difficult to clean up all of the trash. "It never ends, but we can't just let it sit here," she said.

Activities like these, Douglas said, make Girl Scouts an important activity for young girls.

The girls were encouraged to invite at least five friends to volunteer with them.

Vanessa Mitchell, a 17-year-old student at South County High School, and her cousin, 9-year-old Girl Scout Ellie Dunham, joined Douglas along the shoreline in the afternoon, stepping over fallen branches and treading through mud to find trash.

"We've found a lot of trash out here," Dunham said, "It's been fun."

# NEWS

## Recycle

FROM PAGE 4

volunteers every Monday for the program.

"I believe in the cause," Stanley said. "The food that could be wasted is pitiful." It was that similar concern of wasting food and waste that led Finney to establish the program, which just last week donated 70 cartons of milk to the LCAC.

**THE PROGRAM** also ties in with the Virginia Standards of Learning.

"There is a huge recycling and renewable energy component in the SOLS," Finney said.

Finney said that the students are excited about the recycling program, and some students participate in the school's G-Force team, which collects recycling bins every day from each classroom.

"It is really a collaborative effort. We work with the cafeteria, custodians, parents and volunteers to run the program," Finney said.

According to Finney, the school has seen a reduction in its overall waste since starting the program.

Finney has also started a garden at Silverbrook Elementary, where students grew pumpkins and radishes in October.



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# OPINION

## Extend Health Coverage in Virginia

**General Assembly should not block coverage for as many as 400,000 uninsured.**

**S**tanding on what is essentially scorched earth, Republicans in the Virginia General Assembly have condemned hundreds of thousands of poor Virginians to living without health coverage even though it would be fully funded by Federal money for the next three years, and with Virginia paying 10 percent after five years.

Gov. Terry McAuliffe has pledged to do everything he can to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, and we encourage him to use every creative option available to make that happen. In Ohio, the governor found a legal way to accept the Medicaid funds despite objections from the General Assembly, for example.

Earlier this week, McAuliffe included an amendment to the FY2014 caboose budget bill authorizing the Governor to act in the event that the Medicaid Reform Innovation and Reform Commission (MIRC) fails to decide

### EDITORIAL

whether or not to accept federal funding to cover up to 400,000 uninsured Virginians through Medicaid by the end of the current legislative session.

Business groups and chambers of commerce around Virginia, including the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, support accepting the expansion of Medicaid in Virginia under the Affordable Care Act. One persuasive factor for the business community: The expansion would create an estimated 30,000 jobs. Hospitals support expanding Medicaid which would offset many of the costs of caring for uninsured populations.

It isn't as if there is no health care cost for the uninsured now. Right now, they access health care when they are very sick by going to an emergency room or other clinics, where providers spread the cost of care around. This is inefficient, expensive and unhealthy, including for those of us who do have health insur-

ance. It means unvaccinated and/or sick people are going to work and going about their daily lives putting themselves and others at risk.

As of January 2014, in Virginia, Medicaid eligibility for adults without disability is limited to parents with incomes below 51 percent of poverty, or about \$11,900 a year for a family of four, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. Adults without dependent children remain ineligible regardless of their income.

The General Assembly should not be able to block coverage for as many as 400,000 Virginians basically out of spite. The established excuse, that the Feds can't afford it and can't be counted on to pay the money, doesn't hold water in Virginia, which receives more Federal dollars per capita than any other state but Alaska. If legislators are so concerned about Federal ability to pay, you might expect to see them refusing transportation money, for example, or to turn the possible FBI headquarters away, or thousands of other ways that Federal dollars make their way into Virginia.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

### NEWS BRIEF

## Animal Shelter Shines in 2013

**F**airfax County Animal Shelter adoption initiatives resulted in the shelter having its most successful year yet, saving a record number of animals' lives.

Thanks to implementation of new programs and policies, the shelter had an overall animal placement rate of 92 percent, making Fairfax County the largest municipality in the entire nation to have a placement rate above 90 percent. The placement rate measures the number of animals adopted, transferred to a rescue group and reclaimed by their owners.

More than 4,200 animals came through the shelter's doors in 2013. There are many reasons animals end up at the shelter. Some are picked up as stray pets by Animal Control. Others are surrendered by their owners, who, for a variety of reasons, including moving, allergies, or economic hardship, must give up their pets. Finally, the shelter receives animals involved in cruelty, neglect and hoarding cases.

To find loving homes for thousands of homeless pets, the shelter worked with more than 61 rescue partners and countless volunteers and foster families. In addi-

tion, the shelter ran creative adoption promotions throughout the year which increased all adoptions and doubled dog adoptions. Other successful shelter initiatives included animal enrichment, daily play groups for dogs, weekend fostering, and off-site dog walking.

Partnerships with other organizations added community strength, as well. The "Twelve Days of Adoptables," a partnership between the Washington Humane Society and the Fairfax County Animal Shelter resulted in adoption of nearly 300 animals between Nov. 15 and Dec. 31. Joining forces with other groups and

agencies helped to spread the word about some long-term shelter residents.

Help make the Animal Shelter a better place for homeless animals in the community. Consider becoming a foster family by temporarily housing animals that may need the safe, quiet home to recover from medical treatments, illness, or simply need extra love and socialization that a private home provides.

Schedule a shelter tour for scout, school, church or community groups by emailing FCPDPetResources@fairfaxcounty.gov or by calling 703-324-0208.

### BULLETIN BOARD

*Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.*

#### SUNDAY/JAN. 19, 26 - FEB. 9, 16, 23

**"Religions & Cultures of the Middle East."** Six-class series taught by Johnnie Hicks of George Mason University, formerly of the Tehran American School in Iran. 3-4:30 p.m. Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. 703-451-2900.

#### THURSDAY/JAN. 23

**English Conversation Group.** 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice English with others and improve your skills. Adults.

#### SATURDAY/JAN. 25

**Dog Adoption Event.** 12-3 p.m. PETCO, Greenbriar Towncenter, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. 703-817-9444.

#### SUNDAY/JAN. 26

**Annual Meeting of the Burke Historical Society.** 4:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall at Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, 6304 Lee Chapel Road, Burke. BHS members Mary Lipsey and Christine Zinser will tell the fascinating story of Burke's initial selection as the site of Washington's new airport in the 1950s, and the events that followed.

#### MONDAY/JAN. 27

**Pohick Prose Society.** 7 p.m. Pohick Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Help with using eReaders, tablets, computers and mobile devices to access library eBooks.

Adults.

#### WEDNESDAY/JAN. 29

**Pohick English Conversation Group.** 7 p.m. Pohick Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Practice English with others and improve your skills. Adults.

#### SATURDAY/FEB. 1

**Dog Adoption Event.** 12-3 p.m. PETCO, Greenbriar Towncenter, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. 703-817-9444.

#### MONDAY/FEB. 3

**Area Wide Prayer Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. 10000 Coffer Woods, Burke. All local Burke churches are welcome and invited to join us as we pray for our community, schools and leaders. Hosted by Knollwood Community Church. For more information go to www.knoll.org or call 703 425 2068.

#### ONGOING

**Singers Wanted for the Celebration Singers.** The women's show choir is interested in new talent to perform at various Northern Virginia community sites. Practices are Wednesdays 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in Burke. Contact Gayle Parsons, 703-644-4485 or email gparsons3@cox.net.

#### Senior Fall Prevention Classes.

1:30-2:30 p.m., at the Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax. Tuesday and/or Thursday classes in a heated pool designed to work on balance and core muscles for injury prevention. \$10. 703-667-9800.

**American Red Cross CPR, First Aid and AED.** Various times, at 2720 State Route 699, Suite 200, Fairfax. One-year certification, digital or print materials and continued education on Mondays-Thursday and Saturday. \$70-110. www.redcrossnca.org.

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**Kemal Kurşahic**  
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414  
[kemal@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kemal@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Chelsea Bryan**  
Editorial Assistant  
703-778-9410 ext.427  
[cbryan@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:cbryan@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Victoria Ross**  
Community Reporter  
301-502-6027  
[rosspinning@yahoo.com](mailto:rosspinning@yahoo.com)

**Bonnie Hobbs**  
Community Reporter  
703-778-9438  
[south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Jon Roetman**  
Sports Editor  
703-778-9410  
[@jroetman](mailto:jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com)

**ADVERTISING:**  
For advertising information  
e-mail:  
[sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Steve Hogan**  
Display Advertising, 703-778-9418  
[shogan@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:shogan@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Andrea Smith**  
Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411  
[classified@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:classified@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Debbie Funk**  
National Sales  
703-778-9444  
[debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Editor & Publisher**  
Mary Kimm  
703-778-9433  
[@MaryKimm](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Executive Vice President**  
Jerry Vernon  
[jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Editor in Chief**  
Steven Mauren  
**Managing Editor**  
Kemal Kurşahic  
**Photography:**  
Deb Cobb, Louise Kraft, Craig Sterbutzel  
**Art/Design:**  
Laurence Foong, John Heinly  
**Production Manager:**  
Geovani Flores

**Special Assistant to the Publisher**  
Jeanne Theismann  
703-778-9436  
[@TheismannMedia](mailto:jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com)

**CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426**  
**Circulation Manager:**  
Ann Oliver  
[circulation@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:circulation@connectionnewspapers.com)



## PEOPLE

### Wagner, Witham Engaged

Mr. and Mrs. Craig S. Wagner of Fairfax Station are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Lindsey Ann to Matthew Edward David Witham, son of Mr. and Mrs. Christopher J. Witham of Newark, Del.

Wagner is senior manager, events with the Tiger Woods Foundation in Bethesda. Witham is a logistics consultant with BDP International in Philadelphia, Pa. The couple are both graduates of the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va.

An April 2014 wedding is planned in Charlottesville, Va.



Lindsey Ann Wagner and  
Matthew Edward David  
Witham

### Officers Introduced

The Republican Women of Clifton introduced its 2014 officers and committee chairs at its first meeting of the year on Jan. 15.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Pictured to the left of President Alice Butler-Short is Louisiana state Sen. Elbert Guillory, one of the evening's guest speakers. Guillory presented the "Presidential Report Card," a review of the President's performance. Attendees also welcomed Peggy Nienaber, chief of program for faith and action who spoke on "Changing the Hearts and Minds of Elected Officials on Capitol Hill."

## Introducing Sentara Neurology Specialists in Northern Virginia

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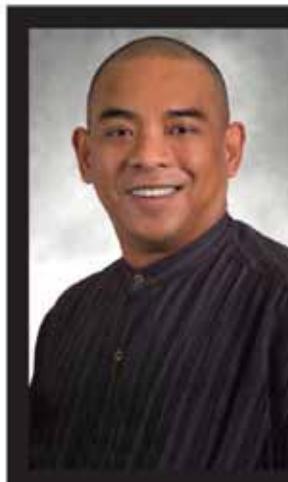
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**Maher Loutfi, MD**  
Neurology

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- Residency in Neurology - University of South Alabama Medical Center
- Fellowship in Clinical Neurophysiology - Vanderbilt University



**Tha "Thomas" T. U, MD**  
Neurology

- MD - University of Medicine in Yangon, Myanmar
- Residency in Neurology - University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
- Mini-Fellowship in Stroke and Headache - University of South Alabama Medical Center

**Request an appointment today!**

# ENTERTAINMENT

## A Chocolate Lover's Dream

Fairfax's annual festival is Feb. 1-2.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**C**hocolate — candy, cake, sauce, pancakes, fudge, ice cream and even a chocolate fountain or three — they're all part of the City of Fairfax Chocolate Lovers Festival. And this year's event, the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual, is Saturday, Feb. 1 through Sunday, Feb. 2.

A dream-come-true for chocolate aficionados, as well as for those seeking tasty treats to give as Valentine's Day presents, the festival offers a full slate of activities for all ages.

The fun-filled weekend contains everything from a competition to see who can make the most beautiful and creative cakes, cupcakes and sculptures in chocolate to an irresistible sampling of chocolate goodies that attracts thousands of people from throughout the Washington Metropolitan area.

"Chocolate and Valentine's Day belong together," said Mayor Scott Silverthorne. "The City of Fairfax's annual Chocolate Lovers Festival has become a delicious destination for people throughout the region and beyond. Join us!"

The festivities begin Friday, Jan. 31, at 2 p.m., when Kaydee Puppets offers "Chocolate Dipped Tales" for children at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St. Then on Saturday, Feb. 1, the day starts with the annual, Kiwanis Club Pancake Breakfast, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Fire Station 3, at 4081 University Drive. Dine on regular or chocolate-chip pancakes, plus sausage, coffee, juice and milk. Cost is \$6, adults; \$4, children ages 4-10. Children 3 and under eat free with a paying adult. There are also music performances, fairytales, a fire-safety puppet show, a Chocolate Caper mock trial, a magician and open houses in historic buildings.

New this year is the "Chocolate and a Movie" night, Feb. 1, featuring the original "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" starring Gene Wilder. Admission is \$3/person and comes with a golden ticket that could prove lucky, and there will be children's stories and activities before the movie.

There's even a Chocolate Express provid-



From left: Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, event Chairman Beverly Meyer and City Councilman Steve Stombres judge cupcakes during last year's festival.

ing free, shuttle service between event locations. It will run Feb. 1, from 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Feb. 2 from 11:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

"We are excited to again be hosting the Chocolate Lovers Festival in the City of Fairfax," said Festival Chairman Beverly Meyer. "It brings folks from all up and down the East Coast, young and old alike, and weather is never a deterrent for the festival."

The event initially began as a joint effort of the City of Fairfax, Central Fairfax Cham-

ber of Commerce, Downtown Fairfax Coalition, Downtown Fairfax Merchants Association and George Mason University. The goal was to attract visitors to Old Town Fairfax, encourage participation in the community and foster cooperation among the city government, businesses and local residents.

The first festival was in February 1993 and, since then, it's become one of the city's most popular events. And two of the main highlights are the Chocolate Challenge and the Taste of Chocolate.

Running Saturday, Feb. 1, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 2, from noon-4 p.m., on both floors of the Old Town Hall,

Photo courtesy of J. O. Ormsher



This pirate ship from Cake Walk won an award in 2013's Chocolate Challenge.

### Bring Food Donations

**T**he Chocolate Lovers Festival Committee will again support the Fairfax Kiwanis Meals for Young Minds Program with multiple locations where people may drop off food during the festival for children in need. This project provides food for local, elementary-school students who don't have food to eat on the weekends.

Each child receives a gallon-size bag with kid-friendly, nonperishable, nutritious food items to last the weekend. Since its inception in 2010, the program has expanded to support students at three elementary schools here.

Needed are oatmeal packets; single-serving size boxes of cereal, chili cups, macaroni and cheese, tuna salad kits, pasta/meat cups; fruit

cups, pudding, applesauce, cheese and crackers, granola bars, 100-percent fruit juice boxes, Capri Sun juice packets; and shelf-stable milk. Children are given bags containing:

- ♦ Two breakfasts: oatmeal, small cereal box, granola bars and other breakfast foods;
- ♦ Two lunches: cheese and crackers, cup of soup and similar items;

- ♦ Two dinners: easy-cook macaroni and cheese, beef ravioli, tuna and similar foods;

- ♦ Two or three snacks: applesauce, pudding, fruit cup, fruit roll-ups and other snacks.

These and similar nourishing food items will be collected Saturday, Feb. 1 at the following locations:

- ♦ 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Fire Station 3, at 4081 Uni-

versity Drive (during the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast)

- ♦ 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St.

- ♦ 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Nutrition Kitchen, 3950 University Drive

- ♦ 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.: City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St.

Food donations will also be collected Sunday, Feb. 2, at:

- ♦ 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St.

- ♦ Noon to 4 p.m.: Nutrition Kitchen, 3950 University Drive

- ♦ Noon to 4 p.m.: City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St.

These and similar nourishing food items will be collected Saturday, Feb. 1 at the following locations:

- ♦ 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Fire Station 3, at 4081 University Drive (during the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast)

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

3999 University Drive, the Taste of Chocolate is not to be missed. Strollers may be left on the building's front porch. A fully accessible entrance is at the door on Main Street.

Admission is free; visitors buy pogs for \$1 each and then browse around the vendors' tables to check out the wide array of chocolate treats being offered. When something catches their fancy, they pay for it in pogs.

For example, a slice of cake could cost three pogs, or a customer could buy three small pieces of candy for two pogs. The vendors set their own prices and roaming volunteers in red aprons will have plenty of pogs on hand for people wanting to purchase more.

And the variety of goodies is mind-boggling. There are chocolate cakes, all kinds of chocolate candies and bars, chocolate-covered strawberries, fudge, ice cream and even chocolate fountains into which customers may dip fruit, cake or marshmallows.

This year's Taste of Chocolate vendors include: BaTer Chocolates, C & D Sweets, Cakes by Shelby, Cameron's Coffee & Chocolate, Capitol Chocolate Fountains; Chocotanago, Cocoa Vienna, Confection Connection, Dave's Candy Kitchen, El Ceibo/Bolivia, Extreme Ice Cream, Fair Trade Winds, Fluffy Thoughts Cakes, Mike's Fudge, Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, Sugar Mama's, Virginia Chocolate Co. and Watergate Pastry.

The Chocolate Challenge, a display of imaginative creations in chocolate — art, cakes and cupcakes — takes place at the Nutrition Kitchen, 3950 University Drive. It runs Feb. 1, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Feb. 2, noon-4 p.m. Both professionals and amateurs participate, and judges and visitors judge them in various categories. Visitors may also vote for the People's Choice Award winner.

This year's judges include Sabrina Campbell, owner and executive pastry chef of Occasionally Cake; Dean Thomas Prohaska of GMU's College of Health and Human Services; and Fairfax Mayor R. Scott Silverthorne. The event also features a silent auction enabling visitors to bid on the challenge entries, as well as items from local businesses.

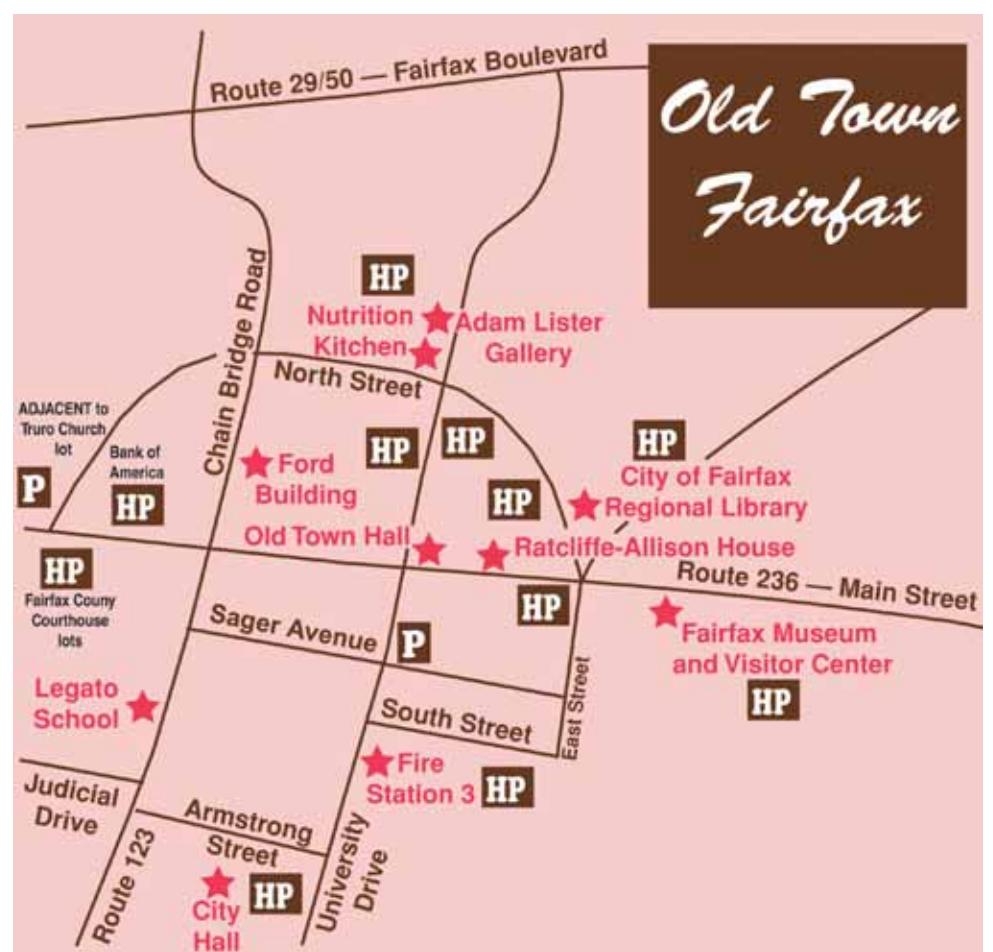


Truffles are among the many items offered at the Taste of Chocolate during the City of Fairfax Chocolate Lovers Festival.

In addition, the Chocolate Lovers Festival Committee donates part of each year's event proceeds to a charity. This year's recipient is Best Buddies Virginia, a nonprofit providing opportunities for one-on-one friendships between people with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities. The funds will support the Best Buddies chapter at GMU.

"And don't forget to visit our downtown merchants, as they'll be running specials throughout the weekend," said Meyer.

For more information about the festival, go to [www.chocolatefestival.net](http://www.chocolatefestival.net) or call 703-385-1661.



Chocolate treats for the eyes and tummies are found at the City of Fairfax Chocolate Lovers Festival.

### Chocolate Lovers Festival Schedule of Events

#### FRIDAY/JAN. 31

Kaydee Puppets: Chocolate Dipped Tales. 2 p.m.. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street.

#### SATURDAY/FEB. 1

Kiwanis Club Chocolate Chip Pancake Breakfast. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax.

Child Fingerprinting. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Fairfax Courthouse, 4000 Chain Bridge Road.

Taste of Chocolate. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive.

Chocolate Challenge and Silent Auction. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Nutrition Kitchen, 3950 University Drive.

The Chocolate Caper Mock Trial. 10:15 a.m., 1:15 p.m. Fairfax Courthouse, 4000 Chain Bridge Road.

Musical Duo of Cody & BJ. 11 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street.

Harley Eye Candy Photos. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library.

Fire Safety Puppet Show. 12:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library.

So You Think You Are Smarter Than a Lawyer? 11:45 a.m. Fairfax Courthouse, 4000 Chain Bridge Road.

Chocolate-Covered Fairy Tales with Gary Lloyd. 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library.

See Jane Sing Quartet. 3:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library.

Open House and Exhibits. Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Legato School, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Ford Building, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Ratcliffe-Allison House, 12 - 4 p.m.

Chocolate Movie Night: featuring "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" (rated PG). 7- 9 p.m. Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway.

#### SUNDAY/FEB. 2

Chocolate Challenge and Silent Auction. 12-4 p.m. Nutrition Kitchen, 3950 University Drive.

Taste of Chocolate. 12 - 4 p.m. Old Town Hall.

Fire Safety Puppet Show. 12:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library.

Wildlife Ambassadors. 2-3 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library. Journey to the Jungle, see exotic animals and learn how they live in the rain forest among the cocoa-bean trees.

Turley the Magician . 3:30-4:15 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library.

Open House and Exhibits. Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Legato School, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Ratcliffe-Allison House, 12 - 4 p.m.

Schedule is subject to change. Visit [www.chocolatefestival.net](http://www.chocolatefestival.net) for an event map and information on parking, shuttle schedules, costs and more.

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**Be Part of The February Pet Connection**

Send Your Photos & Stories Now to [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com) or complete our online form at [fairfaxstationconnection.com](http://fairfaxstationconnection.com). Be sure to include your name, address and phone number, and identify all people and pets in photos. Submission deadline is February 20.

## ENTERTAINMENT

# 'I Never Saw Another Butterfly'

A theatrical tribute to the Holocaust through the eyes of children.

BY KATLYN BABYAK

**S**overeign Grace Church Co-op Drama Club will present "I Never Saw Another Butterfly," a play based on real-life stories of Jewish children and their families living in the Terezin ghetto in Czechoslovakia during the Holocaust.

The junior and senior high school student cast portrays everyday heroes like Irena Synkova, a schoolteacher played by Ruth Briggs.

"Her goal in life is to care for these ... children, she wants ... to make them happy ... She made such a big imprint, even though she's a fictional character, she's based off of real people," Briggs said.

The play inspires people to find good in painful situations. Jared Okada, who plays a rabbi, said, "The rabbis tried to keep everyone together and keep everyone's hopes up, even though most likely most of them would be going to their deaths."

Terezin operated from 1942 to 1945 as a transit and labor camp for prisoners en route to the Auschwitz death camp, and was also used in Nazi propaganda. Fifteen thousand people passed through, with only 100 survivors remaining by the end of the war.

Director John A. Newman said, "I knew 'I Never Saw Another Butterfly' was a good play ... a powerful play, and very serious ... It certainly skews to an older audience ...."

The drama is recommended for adults and children 8-10 years old and up. "It's more about the people, not exactly the atrocities of the Holocaust, but just what people emotionally had to go through in the ghettos," said Briggs. "It's about family and love and relationships ... a beautiful tale of how love lasts even with adversities and

## CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9416. The deadline is the Friday prior to the next paper's publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

### THURSDAY/JAN. 23

**Mrs. Green's Natural Market.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. 12995 Fair Lakes Shopping Center, Fairfax. Brand New, natural & organic, One-stop fresh food market. [www.mrsgreens.com](http://www.mrsgreens.com)

### THURSDAY/JAN. 23-SATURDAY/JAN. 25

**I Never Saw Another Butterfly.** 7 p.m. The Sovereign Grace Home School Co op Main Auditorium, 5200 Ox Rd, Fairfax. The play tells the unforgettable story of a young Jewish



**Emily Black and Irena Ruth Briggs in the play, "I Never Saw Another Butterfly," which opens this weekend.**

danger everywhere."

Playwright Celeste Raspanti based the drama on her previous work, a collection of children's drawings and poems made during their internment. Houston's Holocaust Museum wrote that "we see the daily misery of these uprooted children, as well as their courage and optimism, their hopes and fears." Okada said, "I think that that adds a little more emotional depth ... because it's coming from the voice of children who are rather innocent and they don't really know what's going on in the camp."

Proceeds from ticket sales and donations will benefit Tabitha Orphans Fund, a shared initiative of Tabitha Evangel Ministries and Jubilee Campaign that supports orphans whose families suffer religious persecution in northern Nigeria. Newman said, "Those children have experienced a lot of the same kinds of things as these children have ... We thought this was still a relevant message ... Certainly we can do our part to help never forget." The goal of the cast is to move the audience to greater awareness and action. "If we do that, that will be part of the success," Newman said.

Performances will be held at the main auditorium of Sovereign Grace Church, 5200 Ox Road, on Jan. 23-24 at 7 p.m. and Jan. 25 at 1 p.m. Tickets will be on sale each night: \$7 for adults, \$5 for students. Visit [www.facebook.com/sawabutterfly](http://www.facebook.com/sawabutterfly); to reserve tickets, contact Dawn Okada at 571-213-1384 or [dawn@okada.net](mailto:dawn@okada.net).

survivor of the Holocaust during World War II. \$7 for adults; \$5, students 3-17. [www.facebook.com/Sawabutterfly](http://www.facebook.com/Sawabutterfly) and [jubileecampaign.org/funds/tabitha-orphans-fund](http://jubileecampaign.org/funds/tabitha-orphans-fund)

### THURSDAY/JAN. 23- FRIDAY/JAN. 24

**Annie Get Your Gun.** 7:30 p.m. Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. This musical tells the fictionalized story of the life of Annie Oakley (1860-1926), a sharpshooter who starred in Buffalo Bill's Wild West, and her romance with sharpshooter Frank Butler. Tickets \$10. <http://lakebraddockchorus.squarespace.com> for information and online ticket sales

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

[www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

## ENTERTAINMENT

# Jazz To Brighten Winter Night at the Workhouse

**Pianist Bobby Jasinski and vocalist Lena Seikaly perform this weekend.**

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

**L**ive cabaret is now a regular mainstay at the Workhouse. "The intimate and very population cabaret-style performances regularly sell-out," according to Joey Wallen, Workhouse Performing Arts Director. "The popularity of the series has drawn interest from D.C. talent, as a result the caliber of entertainment you may experience at the Workhouse rivals established metro area venues in the same genre."

Next up is a jazz and songbook standards performance with local talents, pianist Bobby Jasinski and vocalist Lena Seikaly. They have a large repertoire from cabaret standards to well-beyond, including works from Jasinski's CD "A Speck in Time" and Seikaly's CD "Looking Back." Both performers have received kudos from local jazz critics.

Jasinsky's "A Speck in Time" has 11 original works reflecting "different moods I had at the time of composing them." On her "Looking Back" Seikaly sings songs first made famous by female jazz vocalists of

the 1920-30s. She admires the likes of Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, Anita O'Day.

"I try to always go for a fresh approach in regards to arrangements of jazz standards," said Jasinski. "Going outside the box is sometimes frowned upon in today's music, but is highly encouraged in the jazz community." Some of his influences are John Coltrane and Wynton Marsalis, both of whom spread jazz further into the world.

"We as humans generally tend to adhere to norms and are comfortable with routine. Jazz is far from this," said Jasinski. "When jazz is performed, the music out pours all our emotions via improvisation and rhythm — the essentials. This unique art form cannot be manufactured in any other way."

"I want the listeners leaving the Workhouse show in an elated mood. Music is the universal language ... I want listeners leaving with a smile on their face and hopefully wanting to hear more of the same in the future," said Jasinski.

"I hope that listeners will fall in love with a tune they've never heard before, whether it be an original composition of Bobby's or mine, or an obscure tune from the '20s or '30s! There is nothing I love more than sharing this wonderful music with others," said Seikaly.

As cabaret performances are now a successful "signature piece" at the Workhouse, Wallen indicated that the future is bright. The Workhouse may expand beyond the regular monthly series.

## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

### FRIDAY/JAN. 24-

### SATURDAY/JAN. 25

**"Cats."** 7:30 p.m. Fairfax High School 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and based on TS Eliot's "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats" Ticket sales for \$14.13 & \$6.25 on line at: fxdance.ticketleap.com

### FRIDAY/JAN. 24

**Messages of Hope.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. A Chris Lavelle Film, will be shown. A film event that will touch your soul, this documentary is based on Suzanne's true story of transformation that has captivated audiences. Participants can ask questions about the afterlife, hear the rest of the story, and get books signed following the discussion. Cost: \$10.

**One-Act Festival.** 8 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Unquiet Theatre Company Presents: A Pair of One-Act Plays. \$5-\$10.

### SATURDAY/JAN. 25

**Springfield Burke Relay for Life Scrapbooking/Crafting Event.** 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. West Springfield High School cafeteria, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. Complete your craft projects in the New Year—photo albums, jewelry, Valentines. Cost includes lunch, door prizes, silent auction and shopping showcase. Suggested donation \$40 for full day, \$25 for half day. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. To

register contact Leslie Carlin at 703-866-4862 or Anne Wardinski at 703-764-9687.

**Making the Connection.** 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Participants will learn how to open themselves to higher levels of guidance, creativity, inspiration and love. Cost \$35 each Saturday presentation – morning or afternoon.

**Heart Gifts" New Evidence of Our Interconnectedness.** 1:30-4:30 p.m. Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Suzanne Giesemann, former Aide to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and now acclaimed spiritual author, will tell the gripping story of a very special soul called "Wolf," who in his short time on earth, walked two worlds at once – the physical and non-physical. His story reveals the interconnectedness of the two worlds and the messages he left behind are amazing gifts to us on how to bring peace, balance and greater love into life. Cost: \$35.00 for this afternoon session.

**Annie Get Your Gun.** 2 and 8 p.m. Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. This entertaining musical tells the fictionalized story of the life of Annie Oakley (1860-1926), a sharpshooter who starred in Buffalo Bill's Wild West, and her romance with sharpshooter Frank Butler. Tickets \$10. http://lakebraddockchorus.squarespace.com for information and online ticket sales.

**Anna Balakerskaia & Friends.** 8 p.m. George Mason University, Harris Theatre, Fairfax. An evening of

chamber music featuring the music of Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev, Shostokovich and Rachmaninov. Anna Balakerskaia, piano, with guest artists Zino Bogachev, violin, Philippe Chao, viola, Brendan Conway, violin, Claire Eichhorn, clarinet, Dasha Gabay, piano, Igor Zubkovsky, cello. 703-819-6669

**Live in Concert: Bobby Jasinski.** 8 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Join the Workhouse "jazz club" as native New Yorker Bobby Jasinski leads musicians in two evenings of exquisite jazz music. \$15 General Admission, \$12 Senior/Military, \$8 Youth/Student.

**One-Act Festival.** 2 & 8 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Unquiet Theatre Company Presents: A Pair of One-Act Plays. \$5-\$10.

### SUNDAY/JAN. 26

**Annie Get Your Gun.** 3 p.m. Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. This musical tells the fictionalized story of the life of Annie Oakley (1860-1926), a sharpshooter who starred in Buffalo Bill's Wild West, and her romance with sharpshooter Frank Butler. Tickets \$10. http://lakebraddockchorus.squarespace.com for information and online ticket sales.

**"Cats."** 2:30 p.m. Fairfax High School 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and based on TS Eliot's "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats" Ticket sales for \$14.13 & \$6.25 on line at: fxdance.ticketleap.com.

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## Bulova Talks Budget in Address

FROM PAGE 3

this year's General Assembly session.

"This is our education year, our number one ask and priority from legislators is to get the full funding of \$33 million," Bulova said.

Although Fairfax County is not facing the "doomsday budgets" of the mid-1990s, a projected budget shortfall of \$25 million this fiscal year, coupled with the accelerating growth and financial needs of Fairfax County Public Schools will present the Board of Supervisors with choices and challenges.

"Once again, it will not be an easy budget year," Bulova said. "Actions or lack of action at the federal level has impacted commercial and sales tax revenue, making it more difficult for the county to recover from the downturn."

Bulova said the county's advertised budget for fiscal year 2015 will be released for public comment

next month. The county will host a number of public hearings, community forums and town meetings to give residents the opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions. In late April, the board officially adopts the budget.

**"Recently, the department has established the chief's Council on Diversity Recruiting. This council provides the agency engagement with leaders from culturally diverse communities to assist us in developing innovative recruitment opportunities."**

— Police Chief Edwin Roessler

balance that has kept taxes affordable while delivering high quality services to residents.

"We remain committed to work with the community to maintain excellence in the face of our challenges," she said.

## Sales Tax Error Inflates Revenue

FROM PAGE 3

shortfalls with expenditure reductions," wrote Alexandria City Manager Rashad Young in a memorandum to City Council members this month.

The concerns are larger than retail sales. One of the potential problems on the horizon is transient occupancy tax revenues. In Alexandria, for example, the hotel occupancy rate fell from 76.1 percent in October 2012 to 72.4 percent in October 2013. In Arlington, hotel occupancy tax revenues fell 15 percent in November compared to the previous year and 18 percent in December compared to the previous year.

"Am I worried? Yes," acknowledged Arlington Budget Director Richard Stevenson. "But that's what budget directors do. We worry."

— Arlington Budget Director  
Richard Stevenson

tween Congress and the president is good through September, leaving open the possibility of yet another battle about bankruptcy and insolvency. That leaves open a sense of doubt for long-term contracts involving everything from bridges and fighter planes to satellite and veterans hospitals.

"With the Federal Highway Trust Fund expected to be insolvent by next year," said Shafroth, "a key partner in the regional Washington economy is becoming an uncertain one."

**THE NEXT FEW** months will detail the extent of the economic damage created by sequester and shutdown. Will the numbers track with expectations? Or will they fall well below the budgets local leaders voted for last spring? That has local governments worried and prepared to make reductions if necessary. Then again, they also don't want to make spending reduction that are unnecessary and potentially damaging.

"What you don't know what to do is make cuts that if we recover enough we didn't need to make," said Laura Triggs, finance director with the city of Alexandria. "But by law, if it continues to be low then yes I have to cut back on expenditures."

Part of the problem is revenue growth not meeting expectations. Even if local governments see an increase in revenue from sales tax revenue, failure to meet expectations could spell trouble for balancing the books in the current fiscal year. And that means even more headaches for trying to predict the future in fiscal year 2015.

"Normally our sales tax is increasing at a larger extent than it is right now," said Wilds.

**EXPERTS WHO FOLLOW** local government revenues say jurisdictions are worried for two reasons. The first is the lack of continuity on the part of the federal government. When the shutdown was happening, nobody knew how long it would last or when it would end. That led families to cut back their spending habits and cast a wary eye toward the future.

"That, obviously, is scary," said Frank Shafroth, director of the Center for State and Local Government at George Mason University. "It means for a family that you always have to leave something aside instead of using it at a local restaurant, store or other facility."

A second reason for worry is that the uncertainty is far from over. The budget agreement reached be-

## Piercing the Marble

**Virginia Supreme Court opens audio recordings to public.**

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

**M**embers of the Virginia Supreme Court have a New Year's Resolution — become more transparent. Starting this year, members of the public will finally have access to audio recordings of oral arguments. The recordings were once public, but installation of new recording equipment in January 2008 changed that. Because the new microphones were so powerful, justices were concerned that sidebar conversations between justices might be audible.

"That was a lame excuse," said Del. Dave Albo (R-42). "I'm glad they decided to change this without the General Assembly passing legislation to make it happen."

As it turns out, legislation was already in the works when the justices changed the policy. Wise County Clerk of Court Jack Kennedy approached Del. Terry Kilgore (R-1) about introducing legislation requiring the court to release audio recording of oral arguments. Draft language for House Bill 1018 said audio records of Supreme Court oral arguments "shall be made publicly available in electronic format without fee within a reasonable time after oral arguments take place."

"I'm a Democrat and he's a Republican," said Kennedy, who lives in Kilgore's district. "But transparency should not be a partisan issue."

**THE LACK OF TRANSPARENCY** in Virginia has been a problem for many years, and the commonwealth has recently gained a reputation as a place that is hostile to open government. In 2012, the State Integrity Investigation ranked

and graded each of the 50 states on government accountability, transparency and corruption. Virginia got an F, largely because police agencies deny access to basic documents. This week, Richmond-based Open Law Virginia issued its own state-by-state guide comparing public availability of online documents. Virginia got a C minus, largely because many documents and files are difficult for members of the public to access.

"Access to live and recorded oral arguments creates opportunities for civic education and public engagement," the report concludes. "And even many judges have recognized, in part based on experience, that it is time to bring video coverage to appellate courtrooms routinely."

When the court's policy of denying public access became public last year, leaders at the Supreme Court initially decided to defend the policy. In a written statement explaining the lack of transparency, director of legislative and public relations for the Office of Executive Secretary Katya Herndon said new technology was to blame.

"The new digital recording equipment is more sensitive so that the recordings now include any confidential comments any justice makes to another justice during the oral argument," said Herndon last June. "Accordingly, the recordings, which are for the internal use of the justices, are no longer made available to the public."

Since that time, a number of media outlets have reported on the lack of transparency. And legislators began drafting bills to force the court to open up. Now, the court has decided to change course — at least for oral arguments moving forward. Advocates for open government say it's a victory for the public.

"We can't have secret courts," said Ginger Stanley, executive director of the Virginia Press Association. "The public has a right to hear these audio records. That's how democracy works."

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Town Council and Planning Commission will hold a joint Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the Clifton Community Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton, Virginia. The purpose is to consider amendment and revision of the Signs regulations within the Zoning Ordinance, found in Chapter 9, Article 2 General Regulations, Section 9-14 of the Code of Town of Clifton, Virginia.

The proposed revision is available for review on the Town website at <http://clifton-va.com/TownCode.pdf> under the Town Council/Legislation drop-down menu. A hard copy may be examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton, Virginia. All interested parties are encouraged to attend the Public Hearing to express their views with respect to the proposed amendment and revision of the Signs section of the Zoning Ordinance.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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### ABC LICENSE

Exclusive wine Imports, LLC trading as Exclusive Wine Imports, 7361 D Lockport Place, Lorton, VA 22079. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL(ABC) for a Wine Importer and Wholesale wine license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. James Ungerleider, sole member.

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

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# SPORTS

## Lake Braddock Boys' Basketball to Face Woodson

The Lake Braddock boys' basketball team dropped to 10-3 with a 99-86 loss to Herndon on Jan. 18, but the Bruins will soon get another crack at one of the top teams in the region.

Lake Braddock hosts Woodson at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 23 in a game that was originally scheduled for Tuesday, but postponed due to inclement weather. Woodson is 11-3, has won seven in a row and 10 of its last 11.

"It's definitely a huge game for us," Lake Braddock senior Will Gregorits said. "Woodson has had some great teams in the past and they have one this year ... We'll be surprised if we don't see them [in the conference tournament]."

Gregorits, a 6-foot-7 forward, is averaging 15 points per game for the defending Patriot District champions.

The Bruins had won five of six before falling to Herndon — a team Gregorits said he could see Lake Braddock facing in the postseason.

"They are the best team we've played so far this year," he said. "To be honest, they are one of the best teams I've played my whole high school career."

Herndon is 11-2.

— JON ROETMAN

## Lake Braddock Girls' Basketball Wins 5 of 7

After a 2-4 start, during which several players missed time due to injury, the Lake Braddock girls' basketball team has won five of its last seven games and regained a winning record.

The Bruins defeated Herndon 85-39 on Jan 18 and improved to 7-6, putting them above .500 for the first time since the team was 2-1 after beating Lee on Dec. 13.

During the season, Aryn Burrage (12 stitches in lip), Hermela Arcudi (concussion), Caitlyn Mandela (ankle), Marsha (hip) and point guard Betsy Gallier are among the Bruins who suffered injuries.

"I think early in the season we had a lot of girls that were injured," head coach John Giannelli said. "Right after the tryouts, we picked a team and I had to take two or three of the JV girls just so I could run a practice."

Lake Braddock defeated Annandale 41-33 on Jan. 10. After losing to T.C. Williams, the Bruins beat South County 45-42 on Jan. 17.

Giannelli said the loss of 6-foot-4 Natalie Butler, who averaged 26.2 points, 17.8 rebounds and 10.1 blocks per game as a senior last year and now plays for Georgetown, has made for a challenging year. The Bruins have responded with a balanced scoring attack, including several games where each player on the team scored.

Christine McGrath is Lake Braddock's leading scorer at 10 points per game. Marcia Altman is averaging eight points per contest, Caroline Jones is averaging seven and Mandela six.

"Anybody on the team," Giannelli said, "can be the leading scorer on any given night."

Lake Braddock will host Woodson at 5:45 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 24.

— JON ROETMAN



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

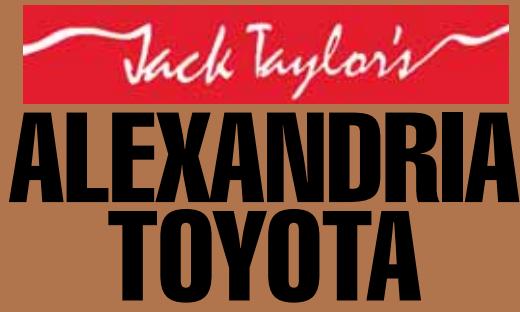
## Robinson Names New Head Football Coach

Robinson Secondary School recently announced Scott Vossler as the Rams' new head football coach.

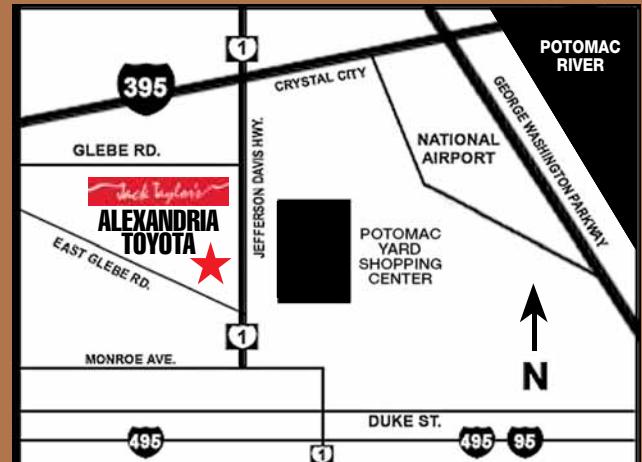
Vossler spent last season as associate head coach at Robinson under Dan Meier, who agreed to coach the Rams on an interim basis for one season. Vossler is a social studies teacher at the middle school and has been part of the football program for three years.

Vossler was a four-year letterman at the University of Dayton, earning all-league honors as a defensive lineman in 2007 and 2008. He was team captain and defensive player of the year in 2008.

Robinson finished 8-4 under Meier last season, including a victory over Patriot in the opening round of the 6A North regional playoffs. In two seasons prior, Robinson finished a combined 9-13 under head coach Trey Taylor.



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