



Burke Women Walk with Purpose

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2016: The Year Ahead in Burke

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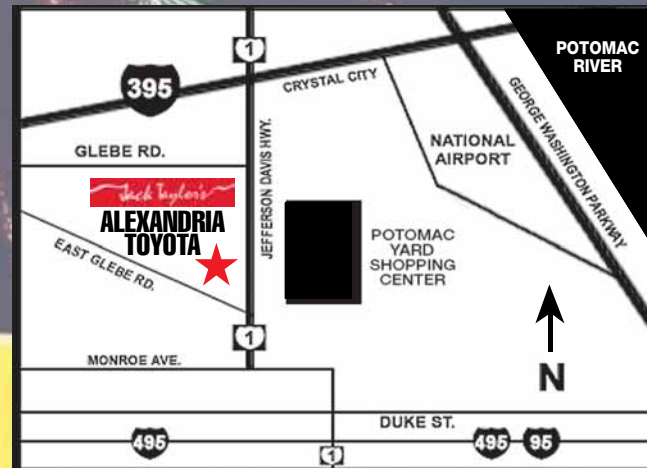
Area Residents Discuss New Year's Resolutions

NEWS, PAGE 3

From left, Fran Corradino, of Annandale, and Chris Cohen, of Burke, pick up trash during their daily walk in the paths of the Burke Centre Conservancy.

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Let's Go Places

2016: The Year Ahead in Burke

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

With winter vacation, unseasonably warm weather and 2015 in their rearview mirrors, community leaders and elected officials from the Fairfax County School Board, Board of Supervisors, General Assembly turn their attention to some of the most significant issues, developments or decisions in 2016:

FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOLS face a well-advertised projected budget shortfall of \$70 million for Fiscal Year 2017. Superintendent Dr. Karen Garza's Jan. 7 presentation of her proposed 2017 budget at West Potomac High School and again to the School Board that evening should be a culmination community input, a dedicated task force and her individual vision for moving the school system forward.

One of the challenges facing the schools is a rapidly growing student population of over 187,000, 52,000 of which are financially eligible for free and reduced meals. Supporting that growth falls primarily to the Board of Supervisors and the Commonwealth of Virginia, which uses a funding formula that determines wealth based on income and property values to determine how state money is allocated around the Commonwealth.

"Eighty percent of people in the General Assembly benefit from existing funding formula," said Del. Dave Albo (R-42). "It's hard to get it changed, and because of these formulas, it's not very smart to ask the state to pay more money without changing the formula."

Instead, Albo suggests looking for more local financing and grants aimed at assisting some of the school's services for students with mental health disorders or financial challenges.

Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D) recently announced a proposed \$1 billion for education alone as part of his overall proposed budget.

"The Governor has been thinking outside the box as to ways to assist," said Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41). "We as legislators have to continue to do the same: What can we do with the money we have, the formula we have? Is there a chance for changing any of the formulas? How do we find more money?"

With the upcoming presidential election, Springfield District School Board member Elizabeth Schultz isn't optimistic for as much collaboration at the General Assembly. "I see political entrenchment gumming up the work within the state," she said. As the biggest burden for funding falls to the Supervisors, Schultz said she is "very worried for the taxpayers: this is going to somehow justify some major increase in property taxes."

But solving the shortfall at the county level may be bigger than a tax increase.



Governor Unveils Budget Proposal

Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D, left) unveiled his budget proposal for \$1 billion in public and higher education investment at Mark Twain Middle School in Alexandria on Dec. 16, as part of the total state budget he rolled out on Thursday, Dec. 17. The education plan includes measures to bring back 2,500 teaching positions throughout the state, pay raises for teachers, closing the achievement gap and funding an expansion of his wife Dorothy's Breakfast After the Bell program, Standards of Learning innovation grants to continue improving testing styles. "If we truly want a world-class economy," McAuliffe said, "we truly need a world-class education system. Laying the foundation for a new Virginia economy all starts, for me, with education."

Braddock District School Board member Megan McLaughlin said it's important to remember the \$70 million shortfall is the difference in simply maintaining the current operating and compensation costs for the school system.

"We will continue to have a student population that increases in size and need," McLaughlin said. "We've got to find a long-term workable solution with the Board of Supervisors to help really find the common ground, what it takes to fund the school system that has the reputation FCPS has so appropriately earned."

McLaughlin believes taking a "more shared approach with the Supervisors on how we handle annual employee raises, increased costs to health care benefits and pension benefits" is a good place to start.

"Those are the three biggest cost drivers that FCPS faces every year," she said. "All the rest we end up cutting around the margins, on the other ten percent, things make us a remarkable school system like robust fine arts, foreign languages, having healthier start times. Those costs are very real."

With Supervisors Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) and Kathy Smith (D-Sully) having just left their respective positions on the School Board, Schultz foresees a "real dynamic shift" on the Fairfax County Board.

THE FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT said they have already begun implementing some of the 142 recommen-

dations for improvement made by the 37-member Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, which met between March and October in 2015.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova formed the commission following public demonstrations and media pressure over the release of information surrounding the 2013 fatal shooting of Springfield resident John Geer by then-Fairfax County Police officer Adam Torres.

"I think most of us believe that while we have an excellent police department, we want it to be better," said Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock). "Times are changing, there are needs that are pointed out in the report of the commission that need to be implemented."

Two of the more controversial recommendations from the commission include creating a civilian review panel that would discuss complaints against the police and report to the Supervisors, as well as implementing body cameras to record officer interactions with citizens.

On establishing the review panel, Cook said, "I hope we do, I think we will. But we have to decide what it looks like. The board ultimately has to make that decision after talking to officers and community members."

For Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), "the devil is in the details" with the panel, which he said would not have had a

SEE BURKE IN 2016. PAGE 7

VIEWPOINTS

What is Your New Year's Resolution?

— ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO

"To find a good internship to build my career."

— ALLEN PEWIS, BURKE.



"To drink more water everyday and read more books."

— KAYLEEN LYNCH, BURKE



"I hope I stay with this guy, [Shaf Samadi]."

— CLAIR NINO, LORTON

"I'm going to be a father in May. I'm hoping to be a responsible, mature adult that can raise a human being that can ultimately grow up to one day become an inspirational, motivational person."

— THEODORE CHOI, LORTON



"My New Year's resolution is to finish my licensure for my teaching degree."

— MARTA RIVERA, SPRINGFIELD



"My New Year's resolution is to get more money by going to school everyday and keep going to work everyday, too. Managing both."

— ALEX CASTELLAN, KINGSTOWNE



New Year's Goals

A few wishes for the Virginia General Assembly, more coming ..

Expand Medicaid: Expanding Medicaid to cover as many as 400,000 uninsured people in Virginia under the Affordable Care Act would come at virtually no cost to Virginia and would be a massive boost to Virginia's economy. The local and state economy is suffering from the loss of federal spending in other areas, and it's just plain crazy and mean-spirited to deny medical care for people who can't afford it otherwise, and at the same time, turn away an economic stimulus equal to 20,000 or more jobs and a direct infusion of nearly \$2 billion a year.

❖ Fund Education: Localities need more help from the Commonwealth to pay for schools.

❖ Fostering Futures: Help teens in foster care by extending services and support, including foster care maintenance payments, to qualifying individuals age 18 to 21 years. The money spent will be matched by Federal dollars, and every dollar spent helping former foster children become independent, self-supporting adults saves a bundle in other costs down the line.

❖ Stop Predatory Lending: The local impacts of predatory lending, including some car title loans, can be devastating to struggling fami-

EDITORIAL

lies and individuals who get into the cycle of high interest debt. This is not an issue of just allowing more choice as some have claimed. And when someone loses the vehicle he or she needs to get to work, the costs can extend.

Early Voting for Presidential Primary Starts Next Week

Every year is an election year in Virginia. Just two months ago, Virginia voters faced ballots for almost every state and local elected officials. While candidates spent millions of dollars and not very much changed, some critical races in Virginia have been decided by a fraction of one percent of votes cast.

Elections have had significant consequences here, and the coming election is likely to be in that category.

Early voting (absentee voting in person) for U.S. Presidential Primaries starts Jan. 15, really, starting in just a little more than a week. The official primary date is March 1, but there

is no reason to wait until then to vote.

Voters in Virginia don't register by party, but can only vote in either the Democratic or Republican primary. To vote in the Republican primary, each voter will need to sign a form asserting that he or she is in fact a Republican.

Democrats will choose between Hillary Clinton, Martin O'Malley and Bernie Sanders (in that order).

Republicans will choose among 13 candidates who will be listed in the following order: Marco Rubio, Lindsey Graham, Ben Carson, Rand Paul, Mike Huckabee, Ted Cruz, Donald Trump, Jim Gilmore, Chris Christie, Jeb Bush, Rick Santorum, John Kasich and Carly Fiorina.

For details on absentee voting in Fairfax County, see www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee.htm.

For details on absentee voting in the City of Alexandria, see www.alexandriava.gov/Elections.

For details on absentee voting in Arlington, see vote.arlingtonva.us/absentee/.

— MARY KIMM
MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Reducing Gun Violence

To the Editor:

U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine released the following statement on Jan. 5 on the executive actions President Obama announced to reduce gun violence.

Virginia knows all too well the tragedy and pain of gun violence. When I was Governor, Virginia suffered the deadliest mass shooting to date on the campus of Virginia Tech. More recently, the nation witnessed the terrifying shooting of two young journalists from our Commonwealth on live television. And there are too many incidents of domestic violence, suicides and urban violence involving guns that remain outside the coverage of the mainstream press. In the wake of Charleston, Sandy Hook, and countless other tragedies across the country, there's simply no denying that gun violence is one of the most pressing crises that our nation faces. That is why I strongly support the executive actions the President has announced.

The proposals seek a robust and holistic approach focused on strengthening background checks and providing the resources to enforce gun laws, increase mental health treatment and improve reporting to the background check system. They also encourage the use of smart technology to develop safer guns. It's my hope that Congress will not stand in the way of these important actions to protect Americans and their families and that we can work together to find more ways to reduce gun violence.

Tim Kaine U.S. Senator (VA-D)

A Workable Solution for I-66

BY DAVE MARSDEN STATE SENATOR (D-37)



There was a great deal of concern about "\$17 tolls" inside the beltway on I-66 during the recent election. I shared those concerns as I did not want to set a precedent of tolling a road that we were not adding infrastructure to. As you know solo drivers cannot use I-66 during rush hour and must wait until 9 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. to access the road depending on the direction of travel. While I still have concerns over the tolls, the agreement between the Commonwealth and the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission provides new insight on how this project will work.

I feel better about the tolling as the average toll will cost \$6 and part of the revenue collected will be spent on multimodal (transit) options to improve thru-put on this extraordinary congested highway and will in the future be used to widen the road eastbound. At its December meeting the Commonwealth Transportation Board received a presentation on the congestion benefits of this proposal using the Northern Virginia congestion rating process I helped put in place with Del. Jim LeMunyon (HB 599 and SB 531). The rating process shows that the Governor's proposal will eliminate 26,000 person hours of delay a day in the future. Of all the proposals considered, including a plan that only adds lanes to I-66 inside the beltway, the Governor's plan to improve multimodal options by far reduces the most congestion. If we can reduce the need for

up to a lane of traffic through transit enhancements that will include carpooling, buses, improved van pools, and areas for riders to negotiate shared vehicles (slugging) then the Governor's idea appears to have merit. The same congestion analysis showed that simply widening I-66 eastbound without the transit improvements

and conversion to dynamic tolling would only reduce 6,000 person hour of delay a day — about 20 percent of the benefits compared to the current plan.

Due to growth in the Rosslyn-Ballston corridor and the Coleman decision, a 1977 Federal Department of Transportation decision that gave Arlington County more control over options on I-66, I-66 will never be an easy journey. Arlington has now made concessions for the I-66 project and for the expansion of express lanes from Edsall Road in Springfield/Alexandria to Washington D.C. on I-395. This is welcome progress though not a panacea or these congested roadways. While perfect solutions may not exist, progress is essential and making progress on multi-modal/transit options as well as Express lane extensions and additional lanes are welcome news that will keep us moving forward.

In an ideal world we would have a different solution to I-66. However, the decisions in the past like HOV requirements and taxing gasoline on a wholesale basis limit the choices we have today. Given the current constraints faced in this corridor the Administration's plan offers the best opportunity to improve travel for commuters.

Burke Women Walk with Purpose

Morning walk becomes crusade against littering.

BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO
THE CONNECTION

On any clear, crisp morning Chris Cohen, of Burke, and Fran Corradino, of Annandale, walk to the Starbucks on Burke Centre Parkway. They start off at Cohen's house, cross the street towards Wooden Hawk Path and take any of the many trails that intersect it.

They get a drink and stop to chat with other retired regulars. They, along with another friend Martine Stubener, of Fairfax, do this everyday, except when the weather is bad (i.e. It is pouring).

On the walk back, they take out the garbage bags they brought with them and they don gloves. Then they get to work picking up trash they see on the way back to Cohen's house.

"I think if [the Conservancy] just puts 'Don't litter' signs it might help," said Cohen. The areas where they pick up trash vary and they might be on Conservancy, county or a business' property.

"It's everybody's job. The borders get blurred, whose responsibility it is. And, instead of worrying about whose responsibility it is, we just want to do something about it," she said.

EACH YEAR, boy scouts volunteer to walk the trails and clean litter, said James McCormick of the Burke Centre Conservancy in an email. Maintenance crews also clean trails that lead to commercial stores. In addition, he said that there is a volunteer team that collects litter in target areas and trash cans are placed at key locations.

"There's always stuff to pick up," said Cohen. The Conservancy placed trash cans but people just don't use them, she said. "They don't even throw their dog doo-doo. They put them in the plastic bag and then toss them up in the tree. Why would you do that?"

She said that it might be helpful to add a few more trash bins to remind people to throw their litter properly.

On their walk on Thursday, Dec. 10, Cohen and Corradino decided to check out the area behind the Burke Racquet and Swim Club, a place they have not explored since they started walking and picking up trash in August.

Cohen and Corradino immediately saw trash on the hillside. There is a fence that separates the club from the shopping cen-



Chris Cohen (foreground) and Fran Corradino decide that it is too wet and slippery to clean out the runoff area so they will wait when it is dryer to get down into the creek.

ter. Cohen climbed the hill while Corradino stayed at the bottom. They filled up their bags pretty quickly.

Cohen spotted several areas on the hillside that had piles of trash—glass and plastic bottles, cans, food wrappers and containers, boxes, clothes hangers, a broken fluorescent bulb and plastic crates.

Corradino's loot was almost the same. Soon, both had two large bags filled with heavy trash. They wondered how they were going to be able to carry them home. For-

tunately, there was a trash bin nearby.

"There's all these stores and they have backyards that have dumpsters. Those dumpsters are just worthless because people just leave boxes in there, they don't break them down. So the boxes and the tissue paper and styrofoam, they're all over the place," said Corradino.

Dixon Jordan, of Springfield, is one of the people they meet at Starbucks. He calls

SEE MORNING WALK, PAGE 11

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Mason, Inova to Collaborate on Personalized Medicine Research

Partnership expected to develop treatments, grow economy.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Researchers and doctors from George Mason University and Inova Health System will collaborate on a series of personalized medicine research projects under a new partnership between the two institutions. The effort will include joint research on heart disease, cancer and metabolic diseases.

In announcing the agreement late last month, Gov. Terry McAuliffe said that the joint research effort, “will spur opportunities for entrepreneurship, create new companies and generate jobs that will grow our economy and help us prosper.”

Under the agreement, the institutions will share facilities at both the Inova Center for Personalized Health in Merrifield and at Mason’s Science and Technology Campus in Manassas. The partnership calls for the establishment of Inova-Mason Proteomics Center at the Inova Center for Personalized Health campus and Mason-Inova Institute for Personalized Medicine Public Policy and Eth-



PHOTO BY LEVI MAGYAR

Inova CEO J. Knox Singleton (from left), Gov. Terry McAuliffe, and George Mason University president Ángel Cabrera at a news conference announcing a strategic partnership between Inova and George Mason University.

ics, which will address public policy and ethical issues related to personalized medicine.

The partnership gives Inova researchers access to Mason’s animal facility where they will be able to test new drugs. Inova CEO J. Knox Singleton, calls the partnership an investment in “research and development to

help keep healthy people healthy and provide precise, effective and personalized treatment to patients we are privileged to serve.”

Inova will contribute \$2.5 million in funding and will work with Mason to raise additional money for the project over the next five years.

A joint steering board made up of key administrators from both Mason and Inova will run the venture. The partnership will establish a joint fellowship board to recruit researchers from around the world.

Mason will also begin offering a graduate certificate program in personalized medicine, which Mason president Ángel Cabrera, says underscores the university’s commitment to “delivering research of consequence that improves lives, drives economic growth and helps solve the most complex problems of our time.”

Gerald L. Gordon, Ph.D., president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, said, “It is important that two of Fairfax County’s major institutions and economic development assets are formalizing a collaborative relationship today around personalized medicine. Separately Inova and George Mason have strong research capabilities for personalized health but, working together, they will multiply the research and discovery capacities at both which will, in turn, only improve the economic development potential for this burgeoning industry and increase the possibility of spinning out companies and creating high-paying jobs that will improve the general health and well-being. The job creation aspect is important as well because it will further diversify Fairfax County’s economic base.”

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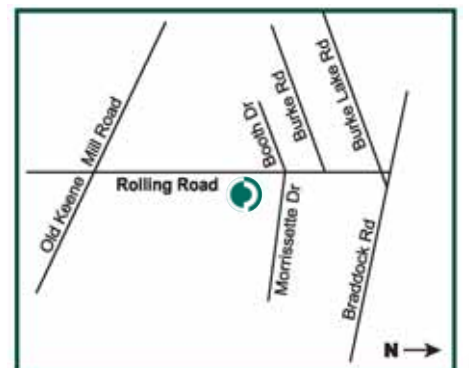
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NEWS

The Northern Virginia Training Center spreads over 80 acres along Braddock Road, including facilities for administration, food service, programs, residences, a warehouse, transportation and therapy.



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Burke in 2016

FROM PAGE 3

say in the Geer case, if implemented as the Commission recommended. "There is clear need for the county to be more transparent," Herrity added, "in police incidents of all types, it's a public trust issue."

On body cameras, Herrity is hesitantly supportive, voicing concerns about protecting the privacy of officers and the citizens with whom they interact. Supervisor Jeff McKay is similarly reserved, calling for a more detailed discussion of how they would be implemented.

"I think the majority of our police officers do a good job and want the public to see the job they're doing," McKay said. "The challenge becomes how you handle Freedom of Information Act request, ruin ongoing investigations and train officers on what they need to be recording and not recording."

Newly sworn-in Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) is generally in favor of the recommendations of the Commission, but expects to spend time during 2016 and beyond with other Board members more substantially reviewing them. "Transparency to me is the core of that," Storck said. "I've led those

charges on the School Board in terms of how we do discipline and meetings — they're all open and recorded, essential things we need to do here as well."

AROUND THE BURKE AND FAIRFAX AREA, Cook additionally highlighted the multimodal report on Braddock Road that he expects should come in over the summer in 2016 and help in decision-making as to widening or otherwise altering the major congested roadway.

Several developers and potential buyers of the 80-acre property currently occupied by the Northern Virginia Training Center have also approached Cook with concepts for building residential space, community space and park facilities. The Commonwealth of Virginia is in the process of selling the land and plans to close the center by February 2016.

A third highlight for Cook will be the beginning of an 18-month to two-year master plan review of Lake Accotink Park. "We'll be taking a look at what is the jewel of the county park system," Cook said. "It's been underutilized for its potential." Cook expects an extensive community input process into what the park should look like for the next 50 years.

Coastal Riverine Squadron Welcomes New Commanding Officer

In a traditional change of command ceremony, Cmdr. Mark Harris of Burke relieved Cmdr. Nathan York as commanding officer of Coastal Riverine Squadron Four (CRS) 4 at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, Dec. 11.

Capt. Michael Sparks, commander, Coastal Riverine Group Two (CRG) 2 served as guest speaker during the ceremony and discussed the importance of the missions in which the Coastal Riverine Force is employed and the dedication of its Sailors.

"Remember, you set the standard, together we led the Coastal Riverine Force through many milestones, including the first coastal command boat transit through the Strait of Hormuz and the first deployment with detachments in every geographic combatant command," said York, who hails from Standish, Maine.

Under York's leadership, CRS-4 became the first Coastal Riverine Squadron to simultaneously deploy to every geographic combatant command.

"These accomplishments can only be attributed to your professionalism. Continue to support your

shipmates as you lead this force to new heights," said York, who will depart CRS-4 for Navy Expeditionary Combat Command.

Harris, who hails from Burke, thanked York as he assumed command and praised him for his sound leadership.

"Thank you Cmdr. York for the outstanding leadership you have provided this squadron. You have been a superb mentor, counselor, friend, boss and most importantly, a superb commanding officer," said Harris. "To the women and men of Coastal Riverine Squadron 4, serving our great nation alongside you for the past 18 months has been the highlight of my career. The opportunity to serve with you again as commanding officer is the highest honor our Navy could bestow on me."

The Coastal Riverine Force (CRF) operates in harbors, rivers, bays across the littorals and ashore. The primary mission of CRF is to conduct maritime security operations across all phases of military operations by defending high value assets, critical maritime infrastructure, ports and harbors both inland and on coastal waterways against enemies and when commanded conduct offensive combat operations.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Cmdr. Mark Harris of Burke

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SPORTS

Robinson's Taylor Caskey, seen last season, and the Robinson girls' lacrosse team won the 6A state championship in 2015.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/
THE CONNECTION

Robinson's Caskey Shares New Year's Resolution

Q&A: Taylor Caskey wants to give back, volunteer and win the states again.

As a junior, Taylor Caskey helped the Robinson girls' lacrosse team win the first state championship in program history. Now a senior, Caskey and the other returning Rams are looking for a repeat.

Caskey was one of Robinson's top offensive threats in 2015. She finished with four goals against Centreville in the Conference 5 championship game, and totaled three goals and one assist against the Wildcats in the state semifinals.

In the fall, Caskey de-committed from George Mason University and is currently weighing her college options. She recently participated in a Q&A via email with The Connection.

Q: Did you make any new year's resolutions? If so, what are they?

A: I have one primary New Year's resolution for 2016 and it is to do something that involves giving back or volunteering for a cause benefiting somebody else rather than just something for myself. I want to do something that will give me personal gratitude because I helped someone else out; whether that be volunteering to be a Special Olympics coach as I have done in the past or something similar. I also have another resolution and that is to win states again—that would be great.

Q: As an athlete, what is one thing you would like to do better in 2016 than in 2015?

A: As a senior and a second-year captain on the team, I want to make an even stronger effort to be a leader on the field and set an example for the younger girls. I know as a freshman I was so strongly influenced by the upperclassmen on the team and they had such an impact on how I played. I want to encourage the younger girls to put themselves out there and to take risks because that is how I learned to play.

Q: For the Robinson girls' lacrosse team, 2015 went about as well as a season could. How do you approach 2016 when you've already been to the top?

A: Last year our team's motto was "One Step at a Time" and that is the same mindset we will follow going into this year. We knew never to look too far into the future because it was the little things that led to major success. Obviously after winning states in 2015, we know that we are going to be taken even more seriously as a team and although we have lost a lot of talent, we still have very strong players and even stronger chemistry on and off the field. As long as we play like a team and focus on tweaking some things, we are confident that it is going to be another exciting season.

Q: What would be your ideal way to finish your senior year at Robinson?

A: My ideal way to finish my senior year would be with both Robinson lacrosse teams winning states again. It was such an exciting day last year when both the boys and girls won and I know that it was an unforgettable experience for both teams. That was hands down one of the best days of my life because everyone was just beaming and so happy for everybody. I never want my high school lacrosse experience to end but when it has to, I hope it does with another ring.

— JON ROETMAN

West Springfield's Haynes Signs with West Point

Q&A: Shelby Haynes on 'going to states and winning everything' and her choice of Army as the next step.

Shelby Haynes is in her fourth season as a member of the West Springfield girls' varsity basketball team. During her career, she's helped the Spartans win a pair of Conference 7 championships and make an appearance at the state tournament.

The 5-foot-10 guard helped West Springfield finish the 2015 portion of its schedule with an 8-2 record, including a seven-game win streak to open the season. The Spartans will travel to face Mount Vernon at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 8.

Haynes signed a letter of intent to play basketball for Army. She recently participated in a Q&A via email with The Connection.

Q: Did you make any New Year's resolutions? If so, what are they?

A: I normally don't make New Year's resolutions, but this year when one of my friends asked me if I did, the first thing that popped into my head and out of my mouth was, "Ya, win."

Q: As an athlete, what is one thing you would like to do better in 2016 than in 2015?

A: Get the team involved. When we play together we win games. With the players we have, if I can help get them more involved during the games it'll be easier for everyone.

Q: How do you feel the team is playing entering the 2016 part of the schedule?

A: Since we've had many new varsity players, the best thing for our team is to get experience and play as much as we can. Since we have gotten a good 10 games under our belts, the start of the season jitters should be out of the way so we can really focus on the game and not the nerves that come with it.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/
THE CONNECTION

West Springfield guard Shelby Haynes, seen last season, is signed to play basketball at West Point.

Q: What made Army the right choice for you?

A: As I was making my decision on which college to attend there were a few schools that caught my attention. West Point actually contacted me a bit later than most of the other schools, but as soon as they did, I was sold. Everything the academy offers for both athletics and education really just blew me away. My father has served in the army for a little over 20 years and just recently retired, but I had never seriously considered joining or looking at the academies because my focus was on basketball. When I visited West Point I knew there wasn't a better fit for me.

Q: As a student, what would be the ideal end to your senior year at WSHS?

A: Obviously ideal would be going to states and winning everything. But like every year I just want to get as far as we can as team and just enjoy the ride.

— JON ROETMAN

Robinson Announces 2016 HOF Class

The Robinson Athletic Hall of Fame Committee announced the 2016 Class of the Robinson Secondary School Athletic Hall of Fame, which will be inducted on Jan. 23.

The fourth class of the hall of fame features state champions, a national champion, All Americans, a former professional athlete, and a coach for the USA Olympic team.

The class will include Durmia Marshall (1990), Mark Alan Krynitskey (1978), Todd Kirtley (1978), Eugene Mitchell

(1998), Dan Gill (2000), Joey Hildbold (1999), Sherry Worsham (1991), Jeri Daniels Elder (1978), Kathy Cotton Beaty (1985), Frank Schaede (1976), coach Jeremy Workman, the 1999 men's cross country team, and the 1981 wrestling team.

The ceremony will take place on the evening of Jan. 23 at the Westfields Golf Club. Tickets can be purchased at <http://robinsonathleticboosters.com/node/272>. Questions can be sent to robinsonathletichof@gmail.com.

CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at 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. 7

Legos in the Library. 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. LEGOS await you and your imagination! Bring a friend or make new ones while you build. Age 6-12. 703-249-1520.

SATURDAY/JAN. 9

"I'll Never Let You Go" Storytime. 11 a.m. Barnes and Noble Springfield, 6646 Loisdale Road, Springfield. When you love someone, you stand by them no matter what happens. In this month's Picture Book of the Month, I'll Never Let you Go, we celebrate the beauty of unconditional love. 703-971-5383.

Kristen Ford. 9-11 p.m. Dogfish Head Alehouse, 13041 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Kristen Ford's indie music fuses folk, reggae, country, and blues with a healthy dose of rock and roll. www.kristenfordmusic.com.

Second Saturday at the Workhouse. 6-9 p.m. 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. See the happenings at the Workhouse. www.workhousearts.org. 703-585-2900.

"Memories and Myth" Reception. 6-9 p.m. W-9, The Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. An all-media art exhibit by its Associate Artists in Gallery 902. The artists will be on hand to talk about their work and the processes they use.

SUNDAY/JAN. 10

Historic Cemeteries of Northern Virginia. 2 p.m. Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. Book talk and signing with local historian and author Charles A. Mills, who will explore the stories of the famous and not-so-famous people buried in local cemeteries. Free. 703-385-8414.

Sousa Season Opener. 2-4 p.m. GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. The program is full of musical gems and lively encores, and includes marches "Semper Fidelis" and "The Stars and Stripes Forever." 202-433-4011.

TUESDAY/JAN. 12

Genealogy 101-Getting Started. 1-2 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Get help starting your search for your ancestors. Small group sessions on topics to assist you in a successful search. Session One focuses on organizing your charts and



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Marine Band Performs at Sousa Season Opener, conducted by Lt.Col. Jason K. Fettig on Sunday, Jan. 10 at GMU's Center for the Arts.

research logs. Get advice using library online resources like Ancestry and Heritage Quest. Adults. 703-978-5600.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 13

SCWC Birthday Party Featuring the Sojourners. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Find out how the Springfield Christian Women's Connection started. Presentation by Sheryl Buckner entitled "Abandoned But Not Forgotten." Luncheon, door prizes, new friendships. Complementary childcare. \$20. RSVP by Friday, Jan. 8. SpringWmConn@yahoo.com. 703-922-6438.

Mass Murderers and Criminal Minds. 7:30-9 p.m. W-3 Theatre, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Dr. Roger Depue, retired FBI Special Agent and one of the pioneers of the FBI's Behavior Science, talks about identifying violent fantasies, "leakage" and warning signs before violent behavior takes place. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-2900.

THURSDAY/JAN. 14

Art and Lunch. 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Presented by the Fairfax Art League. If attending email knstark72@gmail.com.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JAN. 15-16

Women of Faith Loved The Farewell Tour. Two-day event. Friday, 7-10 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. EagleBank Arena, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Celebration, stories, humor and hope. Popular speakers, powerful dramas and award-winning music combine for an experience that will resonate with women who need the assurance they are loved. www.WomenofFaith.com. www.ticketmaster.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 16

Comedy and Music. 8 p.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Our featured performer is Adam Ruben, a writer, comedian, storyteller, and, yes, a molecular biologist! He is the author of *Surviving Your Stupid, Stupid Decision to Go to Grad School*, a satirical guide to the low points and, well, lower points of post-baccalaureate education. His new one-man show, *I Feel Funny: True Stories of Misadventure in Stand-Up Comedy*, premiered at the 2015 Capital Fringe Festival. \$20-\$29. Dan.Kirsch@jccnv.org. 703-537-3075.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/JAN. 16-17

Welcome to the Speakeasy. Saturday, 8 p.m. Sunday, 1 p.m. W-16, Vulcan Muse, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Take one part Broadway, add a dash of hot jazz, shake well and you've got the perfect musical martini, served up by a sizzling cast of singers. Featuring both classic and contemporary songs that echo the spirit of the speakeasy. \$20-\$25. www.workhousearts.org.

SUNDAY/JAN. 17

Garden Gauge Model Trains. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Washington, Virginia and Maryland Garden Railroad Society will hold their annual G Scale (Garden) Train Show. Free-\$4. www.fairfax-station.org. 703-425-9225.

Washington Wedding Experience. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Eagle Bank Arena, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Find dresses, discover trends, chat with local wedding professionals, etc. <http://weddingexperience.com/show.html?show.id=4236>.

Ongoing

Art Guild of Clifton Fine Art Exhibit. Friday, Jan. 15 to Sunday, Jan. 31. Clifton Wine Shop, 7145 Main St., Clifton. Includes landscape and still life watercolors and acrylics from professional artist, Michele Frantz. An eclectic blend of subject, and style. Free. <http://www.artguildofclifton.org>.

"Vietnam Combat Art." Through Jan. 25. Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. The reproductions of studio art include sketches, paintings, and illustrations done by teams of artists employed by the U.S. Army to record the soldier experience in Vietnam. Free. 703-385-8414.

Inaugural Workhouse Glass National 2015. Through Jan. 17. W-16, Vulcan Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Join for the family-friendly exhibitions of glass art and the opening reception on Tuesday, Nov. 10, 6-8 p.m. workhousearts.org, 703-585-2900.

Iconic Images from the American Civil War. Through Jan. 14. Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. The exhibition, *Between the States: Photographs of the American Civil War*, features a selection of 110 historical photographs of the Civil War by photographers (including renown photographers George Barnard, Mathew Brady, and Alexander Gardner from the George Eastman House Collection in Rochester, N.Y. 703-691-0560).

Cafe Ivrit (Hebrew Cafe). Wednesdays. 8:15-9:15 a.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Shalom (Hello)! Did you always want to converse in Hebrew? Join Na'ama each week for conversational Hebrew. You will learn and practice Hebrew in a fun and interactive way while learning more about Israel! Free (we ask that you try to attend regularly). RSVP.Naama.Gold@jccnv.org.

Smoke Free Bingo (with breaks for smoking friends). 7 p.m. Every Friday. Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Free coffee, entertaining callers, \$1,000 jackpot. www.fairfaxvd.com. 703-273-3638.

"Memories and Myth." Through Feb. 29. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. An all-media art exhibit by its Associate Artists in Gallery 902. www.workhousearts.org.

SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

JANUARY

1/20/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools
1/27/2016.....Community Guide
1/27/2016.....Winter Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment; Valentine's Preview

FEBRUARY

2/3/2016.....Valentine's Dining & Gifts I
2/3/2016.....Wellbeing - National Children's Dental Health Month
2/10/2016.....HomeLifeStyle
2/10/2016.....Valentine's Dining & Gifts II
2/17/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools
2/24/2016.....Pet Connection

MARCH

3/2/2016.....Wellbeing
3/9/2016.....HomeLifeStyle Real Estate Pullout
3/16/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools
3/23/2016....Spring Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment

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21 Announcements **21 Announcements**

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LEGAL NOTICE

According to the Lease by and between Daniel Beach (of unit 3046) and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: furniture, stereo, computer, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Friday January 22, 2016 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

According to the Lease by and between Jennifer Johnson (of unit 3112) and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: painting, nightstand, boxes, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Friday January 22, 2016 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

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Burke Rotary Club President Receives Recognition at UN

Each year, Rotary Day at the United Nations invites more than 1,300 Rotarians including many Rotary International Directors, Foundation Trustees, past Senior Leaders, and guests to come together at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The program is designed to inspire and educate all participants as well as provide insight into the relationship between Rotary International and the United Nations.

Rotary Day at the United Nations also includes a special program for youth interested in humanitarian service. Youth have the opportunity to hear about some projects that Interact Clubs are working on, an overview of the UN and much more.

District 7610 hosted all the exchange students from the District as well as the Districts 7570-Shenandoah Valley and 7600 - Tidewater. There were also three students from the District who are candidates to go overseas next year.

The Burke Rotary Club President, Rosemary McDowell, was recognized at the



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Rotary Day at the United Nations includes a special program for youth interested in humanitarian service. Youth have the opportunity to hear about some projects that Interact Clubs are working on, an overview of the UN and much more.

United Nations with the "Peace through Service Award" by the Rotary UN Representative Team.

The Club meets on Tuesdays at 7:15 a.m. at Anita's Restaurant, 9278 Old Keene Mill Rd, Rolling Valley Mall, Burke.

Morning Walk with Purpose

FROM PAGE 5

Cohen and Corradino civic servants. "They come out here and take out all that trash. I always admire people that do service above self," he said.

COHEN AND CORRADINO started walking together when Cohen's husband, Dennis, asked Corradino if she would walk with Chris, whose mother had just died. "He thought it would be good for her to do that," said Corradino.

They started collecting trash almost immediately after they started their daily walks.

"We were enjoying walking and we realized we'd see these things and we

thought, 'We should bring a bag because this doesn't look good.' It just kind of evolved. We brought gloves right away because you hear stories," said Cohen.

They have seen needles and medicine containers. They have theories on how they get to the woods. "We figure that's kids, taking it from their house, coming into the park," said Corradino.

One thing they do not pick up is cigarette butts. "It's just gross," said Corradino.

But they have picked up a grocery cart and a tire. The grocery cart they lugged back to the grocery store, the tire they left on the side of the trail, hoping maintenance crews would pick it up. They saw the tire back in the creek a few days later.

The intrepid women have no hesitation

going into the runoff areas along the creek. But they take precautions and wisely decide if an area is too wet or slippery to reach.

"We try to be careful," said Cohen, especially in the summertime when "the poison ivy is so bad." She said she and Corradino have gotten poison ivy three times each.

Cohen believes that education is important in combatting the problem of littering. Parents and teachers should start teaching that one should not litter, she said. "Don't wait for someone else to pick it up. It helps kids learn. It helps people think about it more."

"If you see stuff...pick it up," said Corradino.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Moriah Dreisbach, of Fairfax, has been named to the Fall 2015 Dean's List of Union University in Tennessee.

Fishburne Military School in Waynesboro, Va. announced that Cadet Sg. **Timothy Arndt**, of Fairfax Station, was officially named Fishburne Military School's Cadet Non-Commissioned Officer of the Month for October. Arndt is a junior and the son of Mr. and Mrs. David Arndt. Cadet Arndt is a squad leader for Band Company, is on the Distinguished Honor Roll, and plays football and baseball.

Amanda J. Matteo, of Fairfax, received a Doctor of Occupational Therapy in Occupational Therapy from Boston University in September 2015.

Joshua Blaz, a graduate of J.W. Robinson Secondary School, received the Tyree/Parajon, First Year Merit Scholarship at Denison University. The

Tyree/Parajon Scholarship is based on academic achievement, leadership and personal merit.

Six students in Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) have been named **regional finalists in the 2015 Siemens Competition in Math, Science, and Technology**. The students, who attend South County High School and Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST), are part of a group of 97 regional finalists who will compete in one of six regional events in November.

Finalists include five TJHSST students — Daniel Chae, Kelly Cho, Harriet Khang, Christina Oh and Michael You — as well as Edward Oh, South County High School.

Katie Bershadsky, born and raised in Burke, has been selected to the Delta Epsilon Iota Academic Honor Society in the local chapter at Kennesaw State University. Delta Epsilon Iota was established to recognize and encourage academic excellence in all fields of study. Bershadsky is expected to graduate in 2018 with a major in public relations. Her parents are Scott and Kim

Bershadsky. Her grandparents Malcolm and Marcia have lived in Burke for more than 30 years.

Jacob M. Sage, of Burke, Junior, Pre-Construction Engr Mgt. has made the Scholastic Honor Roll Fall term at the Oregon State University. A total of 861 students earned straight-A (4.0). Another 3,598 earned a B-plus (3.5) or better to make the listing. To be on the Honor Roll, students must carry at least 12 graded hours of coursework.

The Fairfax County Band Directors Association has recognized 16 Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students for excellence in solo instrumental music performance as part of the 2015 Fairfax County Band Directors Association Solo Competition. A total of 33 schools were represented; 66 students competed in the event.

The following students were named winners in the elementary school division: **Third place: Maia Trafton (trumpet), Keene Mill Elementary School.**

The following students were named winners in the high school division: **First place: Hunter Lorelli (bassoon), West Springfield High School.**



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