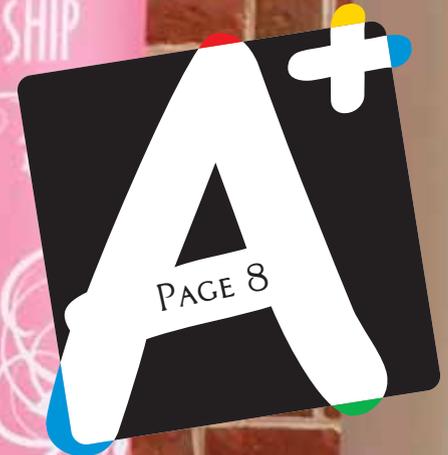


Danielle Blunt Craddock, founder of Girls Inspired and Ready to Lead (GIRL) Incorporated, teams up with Women Giving Back and City of Fairfax Commission for Women to collect donations for women and children in shelter.

Serving Areas of Burke
Fairfax CONNECTION



Helping Women, Children in Shelters

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WWW.GIRLSINSPIREDINC.ORG

Improving a Major City Intersection

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Military Bands at Center for the Arts

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PHOTO BY JUDY CHO/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax Water

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

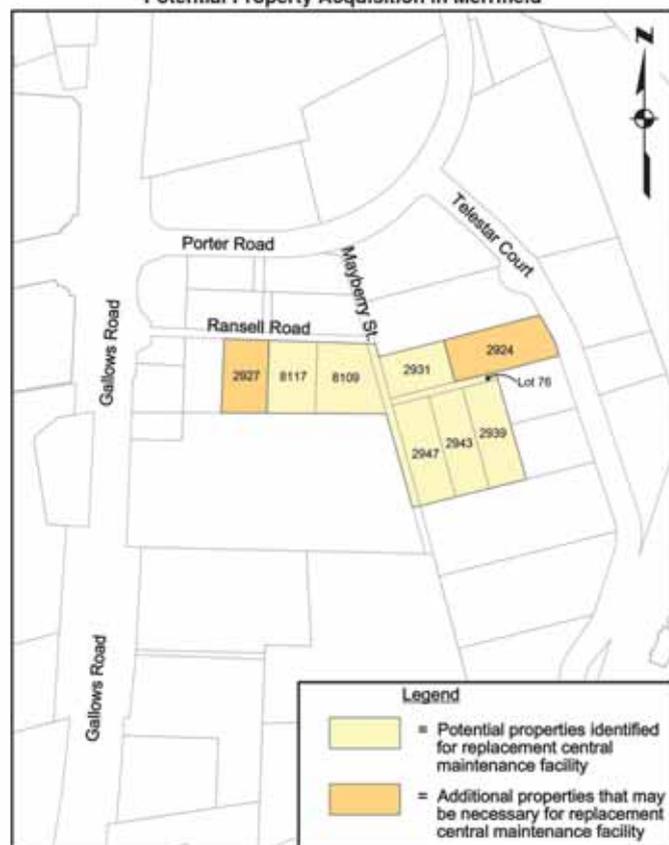
February 4, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

The Fairfax County Water Authority ("Fairfax Water") will hold a public input session at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 4, 2016, to receive and consider public comments on the potential acquisition of properties.

These properties are located at 2931, 2939, 2943, 2947 and Lot 76, Mayberry Street and 8109 and 8117 Ransell Road, Falls Church, Virginia.

Fairfax Water is also considering acquisition of additional properties: 2924 Telestar Court and 2927 Gallows Road.

Potential Property Acquisition in Merrifield



Fairfax Water may seek to acquire some or all of these properties for public use to serve as the site for a replacement central maintenance facility that Fairfax Water must construct and operate to meet the existing and future public water service requirements of its customers.

This location was suggested by the Greater Merrifield Business Association and others as a feasible site for such a facility. Information on this meeting can be found on Fairfax Water's website at this address: http://www.fairfaxwater.org/notices/pis_2016_02_04.pdf

The public input session will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA 22031. Those wishing to speak at this session should call Eva Catlin at (703) 289-6017.

Interested parties also may submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water
Public Input Session Comments
8570 Executive Park Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on **Wednesday, February 3, 2016** to be included in the record of the public input session.

NEWS



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Late Monday afternoon traffic on Route 50 east heads toward the Kamp Washington intersection.

Improving a Major City Intersection

Work begins on the Kamp Washington project.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

The City of Fairfax is making major improvements to the Kamp Washington intersection (Routes 236/Main Street, Route 29/Lee Highway and Route 50/Fairfax Boulevard) and its surroundings. Work began last week, with the ultimate goal of increasing capacity while providing more safety and mobility for both vehicles and pedestrians.

Arden Co. is doing the construction work and Volkert Inc. is the construction manager. The scope of the project includes eliminating the horizontal shifts along Fairfax Boulevard/Main Street through the main intersection, plus providing an additional southbound lane on Lee Highway from the Kamp Washington intersection to the existing third southbound lane near the Shell gas station.

It also includes extending the westbound through lanes on Main Street from Chestnut Street to Hallman Street and lengthening turn lanes to provide additional storage for turning vehicles. In addition, it will improve pedestrian mobility with new crosswalks, curb ramps, sidewalks and pedestrian signalization.

The span-wire traffic signals will be replaced with mast arm signals; and improving the signal phasing and operation should relieve congestion and optimize traffic flow at the Kamp Washington intersection. The work will also increase the capacity of the dual left-turn lane from eastbound Fairfax Boulevard to northbound Fairfax Boulevard/Lee Highway. And traffic should move more smoothly along westbound Main Street.

PROJECT COST is \$11.6 million: Preliminary engineering, \$1 million; right-of-way acquisition and utility work, \$4.1 million; and construction, \$6.5 million. The vast majority of the work is funded by federal and state money.

Kamp Washington was one of the transportation projects discussed last Tuesday night, Jan. 12, during the Fairfax City Council's mini-

retreat at the Blenheim Interpretive Center. Public Works director David Summers said preliminary work began Jan. 11, and Transportation director Wendy Block Sanford gave an update to Mayor Scott Silverthorne and the Council members.

"This project will probably get into full gear in the spring," said Sanford. "And a lot of the work will be done at night to minimize disruption. It'll take about one-and-a-half to two years [to complete], weather permitting."

Access to businesses will be maintained throughout the construction and only one entrance will be closed at a time. Nonetheless, said Silverthorne, "There's going to be some short-term pain for the long-term gain."

The work is slated to be done in phases, with installation of an 8-inch water main set for this week (Jan. 18-22). Phase one – from this January to January 2017 – will consist of improvements to Route 50 and the service road, Lee Highway and Main Street. It includes sanitary sewer and drainage pipe installation, plus construction of new sidewalks and concrete entrances. Then will come road and traffic-signal work.

Phase two, from December 2016 to April 2017 (estimated) will entail finishing pedestrian crosswalks, building medians, completing the traffic signals and laying down the final asphalt for the entire project. For more information, call 703-385-7810 or go to www.kampwashingtonimprovements.com.

Northfax

Summers also updated the Council on the status of the City's Northfax project, which will:

- ❖ Provide road improvements on Chain Bridge Road (Route 123) from Route 29/50 (Fairfax Boulevard) to Eaton Place;
- ❖ Widen Chain Bridge Road (Route 123) to six lanes from Route 29/50 (Fairfax Boulevard) to Eaton Place;
- ❖ Improve the lane alignments of the roadway approaches for the intersection of Route 29/50 (Fairfax Boulevard) at Chain Bridge Road (Route 123);
- ❖ Improve pedestrian accommodations at all legs of the intersection; and
- ❖ Make extensive culvert improvements to

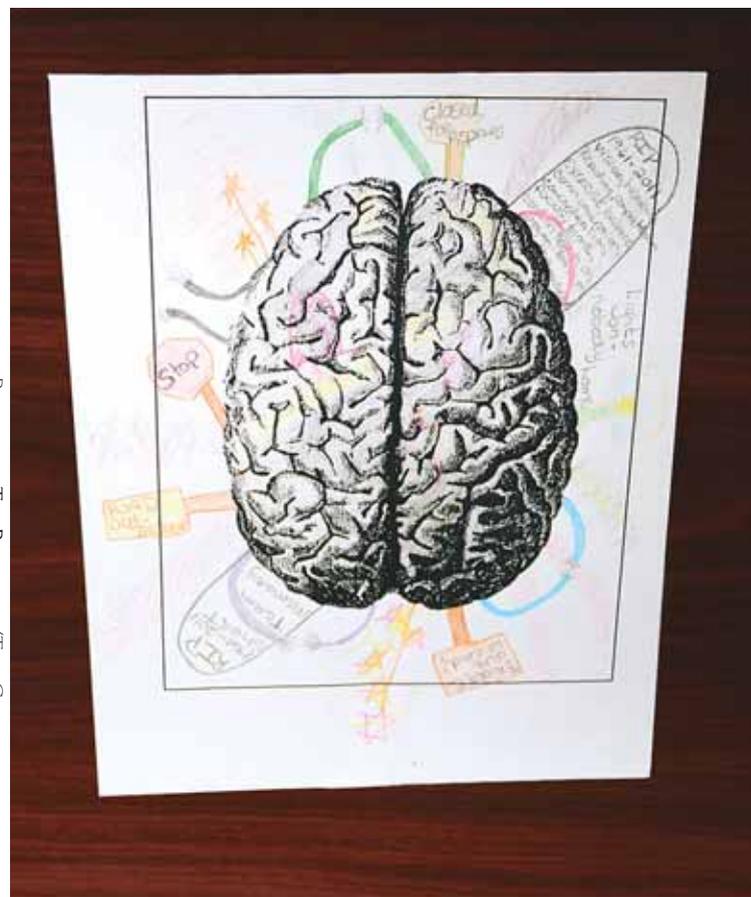
SEE ROAD, PAGE 5

NEWS



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

(From left) Brain Injury Services Communications coordinator Austin McNair, executive director Karen Brown and survivor Kim Daily stand outside the BIS main office in Springfield.



As part of her therapy, Kim Daily made illustrations to reflect her thoughts on the state of her brain after it sustained a traumatic injury.

Road to Recovery

Brain Injury Services gets survivors back into the community.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

In one moment, Kim Daily's life changed forever. It was September 2011 and the Centreville resident was in a car accident where she hit her head. Afterwards she experienced some numbness and pain in her neck.

"I knew something was very wrong," Daily said.

Daily consulted a neurologist since she was also hearing things and having difficulty standing up. The doctor said her brain had been injured in the accident, and that it "would either heal or not."

Depression set in as Daily tried to deal with headaches, completely losing her short-term memory, problems balancing and other cognitive difficulties.

"Nothing works the way you used to," said Daily.

She got on the Internet looking for support, information, recovery groups, anything to help her get turned around. Daily found Brain Injury Services, a nonprofit organization based in Springfield that works with children and adults who have suffered brain injuries to rebuild skills and confidence that will help them get back into the community.

Daily was put on a waiting list for a case manager, at that point six months after her accident, and in the meantime started attending monthly group meetings with other people recovering from brain injuries.

"Just to be in the same room with people who understood," was huge for Daily, she said. "Just to have someone to listen, who will say 'It's not always going to be this bad.'"

Daily eventually got paired with a case manager, who recommended a therapist and different neurologists, and helped her



Barbara Armistead of Fairfax sustained a traumatic brain injury while playing co-ed softball. She started attending group sessions at Brain Injury Services and eventually became paired with a direct case manager.

get organized. With detailed notes and a calendar she takes with her everywhere, as well as a regimen of medicines, Daily is working again in a Springfield florist shop and making her recovery.

WITH A STAFF OF 32, Brain Injury Services serves people throughout Fairfax County and has satellite locations in Woodbridge and Loudoun. Eighty percent of its \$3 million budget comes from the Commonwealth of Virginia and about five percent is funded by Fairfax County. The remainder comes from private and corporate partnerships.

By keeping overhead low, executive di-

"Sleep was critical to be able to recover."

—Barbara Armistead of Fairfax

rector Karen Brown said, the 26-year-old community-based organization is able to devote about 96 percent of that budget to services for clients.

Brown has been active in the field of disabilities for 44 years, after her uncle, a New York State trooper, was hit head-on and there weren't sufficient services for his recovery available. "That always resonated with me," she said.

Case manager Claire Callison of Burke meets with between eight and ten adults on a monthly basis, helping them make and then pursue a goal plan. Some are in crisis, in danger of losing their income or house.

Callison connects them with resources, other counselors, and eventually redeveloping skills like gardening and home maintenance. As the individual progresses, they also work on peer-to-peer relationships, volunteering and apartment coaching, depending on the living situation.

"It's open-ended," she said, "closure is based on completion of those goals, when there isn't a need for services anymore."

With the December 2015 release of the movie "Concussion" starring Will Smith as Dr. Bennet Omalu, who discovers brain deterioration in a dead NFL player, Brown is hopeful more people will educate them-

selves on all brain injuries.

"I really wish we were out of business," Brown said. "This is preventable."

Particularly for athletics Brown points to the understanding of Second Impact Syndrome, a potentially fatal case of sustaining a second concussion before the first one heals, as necessary education.

One impact was all it took to remove Barbara Armistead of Fairfax from a game of co-ed softball. The centerfielder was sprinting to second base when she was hit in the head by a ball thrown to get her out.

Armistead didn't immediately go to the hospital, opting to call a nurse's line and rest at home. But when symptoms of headaches, nausea, distorted, foggy senses and sensitivity to light kept her home from work at Northrop Grumman for a week, she met with a family doctor and neurologist, and looked to Brain Injury Services.

LIKE DAILY, Armistead started with group sessions among other brain injury survivors, and then linked with a caseworker in August 2015. She also takes an active role as her own advocate. "I jump on my symptoms and figure out what I have to do."

Armistead uses physical therapy, acupuncture, notetaking and other coping mechanisms to manage her symptoms.

"Sleep was critical to be able to recover," she said, of getting between nine and 12 hours of sleep a night.

While both Armistead and Daily are still recovering, they acknowledge irreversible change. "You just need to accept your life is never going to look the way it did before," Daily said.

The Brain Injury Services main office is located at 8136 Old Keene Mill Road Suite B-102. For more information, visit www.braininjurysvcs.org.

Helping Women, Children in Shelters

Girls Inspired and Ready to Lead (GIRL) in empowering women in society.

By JUDY CHO
THE CONNECTION

Cheyenne Morrison, a 15-year-old resident of Fairfax was among a group of 30 girls gathered in a conference room at Fairfax City Hall on Monday morning, Jan. 18. As part of a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Event organized by the City of Fairfax Commission for Women, Girls Inspired and Ready to Lead—a Washington D.C. based nonprofit organization serving teenage girls—and Women Giving Back—a Northern Virginia based program that provides clothing for women and children in crisis—volunteers, mostly young girls and parents, gathered to collect donations for women and children in shelters.

Before they could sort the donated clothes, the girls were asked to sit in a large room to hear guest speakers from various local organizations and programs discuss their mission to positively impact the role of women and girls in society.

One speaker was Mergie Blassey, a 52-year-old Leesburg resident, who serves as a volunteer coordinator for Women Giving Back. “We send out vouchers once a month, and they go to shelters in the area,” Blassey said. “They [mothers and children] come to our store in Sterling on a Saturday, and in those four hours we see 350-400 mothers and their children.”

THE CLIENTS are eligible to take 50 items of clothing, which Blassey mentioned “seems like a lot until you realize that many of these women have a lot of kids.” Afterwards, she described ways that volunteers in the audience could get involved.

Reminding them that girls in the shelter “also have to go to high school, they have to go to eighth grade, and they don’t have clothes to wear,” Blassey encouraged audience members to help sort out clothes or work with clients in personal shopping.

When asked by a student in the audience if there was a nail spa at the store, Blassey, who looked pleasantly surprised responded,



Middle and high school students from Northern Virginia and Maryland sort clothes by appropriate category.

“That’s a fantastic idea!” Encouraged by the feedback, Blassey added, “In fact, we’re doubling space at the store, so we’re going to have room to do that. After they get their clothes, you guys can have a nail party!”

Girls Inspired and Ready to Lead (GIRL) Incorporated was founded in 2010 by Danielle Blunt Craddock, a graduate of Old Dominion University. After completing her master’s degree in higher education-student services, Craddock devoted her time to working with and mentoring youth at the David R. Pinn Community Center in Fairfax, where she recognized the need for great organized program for girls.

“I wanted to empower girls in the community, give them the opportunity to be exposed to future possibilities and mentor them through leadership and community service.”

She has also worked at other nonprofit organizations, particularly those tailored towards education, including the United Negro College Fund.

“My full-time career has been in educational nonprofits, so I understand what colleges are looking for in a competitive ap-

plicant,” Craddock said. “I’m really catering to the college application.”

GIRL’S MISSION is “to mentor and empower teen girls for future success through promoting academic excellence, leadership skills, community service, a healthy lifestyle, and self-esteem.”

Within the past five years, the relatively young organization has worked with local schools such as George Mason University College of Science and corporate partners, such as Hewlett-Packard and US Coastal Guard, to launch summer camps, present career conferences, host workshops, publish a book and perform community service projects.

“In 2014, we had 18 girls in our summer camp for middle school girls,” Craddock said. “We wanted to expose, especially girls of color to career paths in STEM by enabling them to go to chemistry labs, engineering labs.” The fee for each participant was \$350 in 2014; the next year however, the organization received a \$20,000 grant from Business Women’s Giving Circle, allowing GIRL to reduce the cost of the summer program



Danielle Blunt Craddock, founder of Girls Inspired and Ready to Lead (GIRL) Incorporated.

to \$150. Craddock stated that the tuition goes back to program to cover cost of facilities and food.

When asked if she plans on making this role a full time career, Craddock responded “It’s my goal. I’m working on developing structure and corporate partners for funding.” Cheyenne Morrison, who has been involved in the organization since its beginning first became involved in GIRL when her mother encouraged her to attend its events.

“We started out kind of small,” Morrison said. Having attended the event last year, she decided to return this year with her younger sister to receive community service hours while making valuable use of her free time.

When asked how GIRL has impacted her, she said, “It reminds us girls that we shouldn’t feel inferior to men or back down from something because we’re female.” An aspiring biochemist, Morrison attributes her passion for science to GIRL. “Through GIRL, I was able to get in contact with someone from the research lab, who came to an event to come talk with us.”

Silverthorne is New NVTA Vice Chairman

City of Fairfax Mayor Scott Silverthorne was just named vice chairman of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority. It is an important position because the NVTA is the regional body responsible for long-range transportation planning for regional transportation projects in Northern Virginia. Last year, for example, the City received \$15 million in new funding from the NVTA for new



Scott Silverthorne

CUE buses and transportation improvements at Routes 123/50.

“I am deeply honored to be selected by Northern Virginia’s mayors and chairs or designees, as vice chairman of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority,” said Silverthorne. “I am excited by this new responsibility and look forward to continuing to represent the best small city in America on the Authority.”

Lanier Student Sings at King Festival

Lanier Middle School student Charles Wolfer participated Jan. 10 in the Chantilly Pyramid Minority Student Achievement Committee’s annual Martin Luther King Festival at Westfield High. A violinist and a member of the District Honors Chorus, Charles showed he is also a talented vocalist, singing “On Eagles’ Wings.”

BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION



NEWS

Road Projects Discussed

FROM PAGE 2

eliminate roadway flooding caused by the inadequate culvert under Route 123.

"We'll be putting out an RFP [request for proposals] for a construction-management firm to oversee the construction," said Summers. "Then this will go to bid in February and to the Council in March."

Construction is expected to go from this summer to summer 2018. It is a nearly \$20 million project, and Sanford said the City has applied for an additional \$1.5 million in revenue-sharing funds for it.

Currently, she said, \$9.5 million is coming from the federal government, about \$9 million from the state and around \$87,000 from the City's General Fund. However, said Sanford, "When the bids come in, that [last] number may change."

Road and Street Problems

"I've had more complaints about our road paving, in the past six months, than in my 20 years in office," said Silverthorne. "Layton Hall Drive is a mess. I was shocked at how bad it was when I saw it today; it really needs repaving."

"We average over 120 water breaks a year and have a lot of pipes 50-60 years old under the streets that cause the roads to deteriorate," explained Summers. "So all these things affect the paving."

The Council members then discussed the problems of having brick streets. "We've converted some sidewalks around the perimeter of downtown from cement to brick pavers," said City Manager Bob Sisson. "But they're higher maintenance and are a recurring expense. So should the City Council have some policy about limiting them, going forward?"

"We should look at the maintenance costs and policies to minimize or reduce them," said Councilwoman Janice Miller. "If we're spending \$100,000/year on brick sidewalks and some are in poor repair, we need to look at this. I think it's time to reexamine our policy [requiring them in certain areas]."

"A portion of that \$100,000 is just spent on re-mortarizing the pavers," said Summers. "We feel that the [brick sidewalks] we're replacing now – with better techniques – will last longer than the ones we did a long time ago."

For that reason, said Councilman David Meyer, "I'm willing to support the funds [needed] to maintain these sidewalks."

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City of Fairfax

Urgent Election Notice

The registration deadline to vote in the **March 1, 2016 Dual Presidential Primary Election** is **Feb 8, 2016**.

Applications must be postmarked by this date or received in-person by 5 p.m. You may also apply online by 11:59 p.m. at www.vote.virginia.gov

Office hours: M-F 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sisson House, 10455 Armstrong Street
Fairfax, VA 703/385-7890.

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OPINION

Pay Attention

General Assembly action matters more in Virginia.

The Virginia General Assembly began its 60-day 2016 session on Wednesday, Jan. 13. Here in Northern Virginia, residents are often far more cognizant of national politics and government than state and local government. But there are several reasons why, especially in Virginia, especially if you live in Northern Virginia, you should pay attention.

In Virginia, localities have only the power expressly given by the General Assembly. So living in Fairfax or Arlington or Alexandria, your local governments and regulations are often not able to reflect the values and preferences of residents.

For example, for Fairfax County to have any say about whether a gun store can operate adjacent to a school, where students can see customers coming and going with weapons, the General Assembly would have to vote to give the county that authority. While this has been a hot topic here, and several legislators have introduced "authorizing legislation," it would be remarkable if the currently constituted assembly would allow this to go forward.

Living in the wealthiest areas of the Commonwealth also raises concerns. Localities have very limited options for raising revenue. The revenue that is actually based on someone's ability to pay, income taxes, is only collected by the state; localities cannot claim any portion of income tax. Of course Northern Virginia is the economic engine of the state, and so it makes sense that a significant portion of the

state budget would be funded with Northern Virginia dollars. But it is unfair that the General Assembly limits localities ability to access other revenue choices to fund local necessities like schools.

There are dozens of other examples, and most are complicated. But local officials are elected, and if local government takes action not supported by local voters, they will be voted out.

Because of gerrymandering of districts in both the House of Delegates and the Virginia Senate, the makeup of the General Assembly is far more conservative than the Commonwealth overall, as evidenced by Democrats elected to all statewide offices. This makes the control from Richmond all the more egregious.

Every resident is represented by one delegate and one senator in the Virginia General Assembly. You can visit the General Assembly website to find out who represents you, for contact information, for session livestreaming and more.

<http://viriniagenralassembly.gov>

Vote Now for Presidential Primary

Who will be the next President of the United States also matters.

In order to vote in either of Virginia's presidential primaries on March 1, voters must be registered by Feb. 8. Voting "absentee in per-

son" (early voting available for myriad reasons, including anyone who will commute to work on Election Day) is already underway.

In Virginia, voters do not register by party. In the primaries for President, you can vote either the Democrat or Republican ballot, but not both. If you choose to vote the Republican ballot, you will be required to sign the following statement first:

Section 24.2-545 of the Code of Virginia allows the political party holding a primary to determine requirements for voting in the primary. The Republican Party of Virginia has determined that the following statement shall be a requirement of your participation. STATEMENT: My signature below indicates that I am a Republican.

For More Election Information:

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

804-864-8901 Toll Free: 800-552-9745 FAX: 804-371-0194
email: info@sbe.virginia.gov
<http://www.sbe.virginia.gov>

FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

703-222-0776, <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm>
12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Suite 232, Fairfax, 22035; FAX 703-324-2205; email voting@fairfaxcounty.gov
For details on absentee voting in Fairfax County, see www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee.htm.

Transportation Improvements Will Bolster Economy

Northern Virginia Business Transportation Coalition 2016 policy statement.

We, the undersigned Northern Virginia organizations representing the vast majority of businesses and employees of Northern Virginia's private sector and non-profit workforce, believe that a strong, efficient regional transportation network is essential to our region's future economic competitiveness, security, and quality of life. We believe that unlocking Northern Virginia's transportation grid requires a strategic regional approach.

We believe that achieving the best solutions to our transportation challenges requires a big picture perspective — regionally as well as statewide. Efforts to constrain, either by law or regulation, the Commonwealth Transportation Board's ability to determine the best investments for the state, are counter to the goals set forth in House Bill 2, 2014 legislation

designed to address the commonwealth's congestion reduction and economic development needs.

The focus of the Commonwealth Transportation Board and the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, our region's designated transportation planning body, should be on the investment of regional, state, federal, and private sector transportation dollars for highway, transit improvements, and intelligent transportation systems that will:

- ❖ Move the greatest number of people throughout the region;
- ❖ Reduce congestion and travel time between major regional employment centers and communities;
- ❖ Increase reliability of the network region-wide while producing the best long-term return on investment;
- ❖ Promote regional economic

development and growth; and

- ❖ Enhance regional security.

We are concerned that the law requiring the long-term benefits of Northern Virginia's regional funds be distributed proportionally among jurisdictions impedes the ability of the regional body to address the region's most critical transportation needs.

We believe that regional transportation funds should be primarily focused and leveraged, where appropriate, with federal, state, and private funds on projects of large-scale regional significance. These include:

- ❖ I-66 — construct new lanes and enhance transit from US Route 15/Haymarket to Theodore Roosevelt Bridge.
- ❖ New Potomac River Crossing — constructed west of American Legion Bridge.
- ❖ American Legion Bridge — add new express/managed lanes in each direction.
- ❖ Metro — improve maintenance, operations, safety and rail fleet.
- ❖ Bi-County Parkway — construct between I-66/Route 234 Bypass in Prince William County

and Route 50 in Loudoun County.

- ❖ Route 28 — upgrade to eight lanes.
- ❖ Fairfax County Parkway — convert to limited access facility.
- ❖ I-395 — convert HOV lanes to express/managed lanes between the Capital Beltway and the 14th Street Bridge.
- ❖ Regional Express Bus network — implement in the I-66, I-95, I-395, I-495, Dulles and other major regional corridors.

We support performance-based statewide and regional transportation plans that focus on new and existing corridors of regional and statewide significance, the evaluation of highway and public transit projects utilizing the same criteria, and the prioritization of investments first and foremost on the ability to reduce congestion and improve travel time.

- Brian M. Gordon**, MPA, Apartment and Office Building Association
- Leo J. Titus**, Jr. PE, Committee for Dulles
- Patricia Nicoson**, Dulles Corridor Rail Association
- Mark S. Ingrao**, Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce Greater

SEE TRANSPORTATION, PAGE 7

Fairfax CONNECTION

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Coyotes, A Welcome Part of County's Natural Ecosystem

To the Editor:

Thank you for the article "Coyotes on the Rise in Fairfax County" (Connection, January 14-20, 2016).

The article performs a very useful public service by making the public aware of the presence of coyotes in our county. And, many of the police department's suggestions, such as keeping pets/trash inside and keeping watch over pets when they are outside, are quite valid and useful.

However, I am concerned that some of the police department's advice seems to imply that coyotes should be treated as unwelcome intruders when in fact they are simply animals who formerly inhabited our area and have now returned, in large part due to loss of their preferred habitat in surrounding areas. The coyotes should be recognized as a welcome part of the county's natural ecosystem. The police department's statement initially refers to the coyotes as "scavenging animals," then correctly notes that they are foragers who eat a wide variety of food. Not that there is anything wrong with scavengers in the first place - it's just a matter of "tone" that may cause some people to incorrectly think that coyotes are somehow intrinsically "bad."

The police department's advice in certain cases indicates that the county's citizens should somehow go on the defensive, cutting down all their shrubbery and installing elaborate fencing. Citizens need not be alarmed at the presence of coyotes - they have actually been around the county for quite a while. All that is really necessary is to follow the police department's provided suggestions regarding

pets and trash, and we should have no problem living peacefully with coyotes.

It is unlikely that most people will ever see a coyote, at least in the daytime.

If they do, the coyote will most likely make itself scarce as quickly as possible, just like our numerous local foxes. If someone is close enough to "spray the coyote with a water hose, water guns or spray bottles with vinegar water, pepper spray or bear repellent," then they are too close to the animal in the first place. They should just move quietly away from the animal, or admire it and respect it from inside their residence until it moves on. One important note: neither pepper spray nor bear repellent should ever be directed at any animal unless that animal is posing an immediate threat to a person; that is, if it is truly charging someone and is less than twenty yards away.

These sprays are extremely painful for the animal, and also can injure the "sprayer" if the wind is coming towards them. It is clearly inhumane to use them just to discourage an animal from hanging around someone's yard.

Finally, we should recognize that coyotes can be valuable predators in helping to keep the deer population in check.

This would be far more preferable and natural than the current practice of culling deer in our county parks through the archery program. One of the reasons certain wildlife populations may be out of balance is that we lack the natural predators that used to live here. Coyotes can help fill this void.

James Lingeback
Fairfax Station

Transportation

FROM PAGE 6

James C. Dinegar, Greater Washington Board of Trade
Anthony Howard, Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce
Virgil Frizzell, Northern Virginia Association of Realtors
Jim Corcoran, Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce
Mark Looney, Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance
Lori Y. Lopez, Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce
Pat Dean, Associated Builders and Contractors, VA
James N. Larsen, Dulles Area Transportation Association
Eileen D. Curtis, Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce
Nancy-jo Manney, Springfield Chamber of Commerce,

Ken Garrison, Heavy Construction Contractors Association
Martha D. Marks, NAIOP, Northern Virginia Commercial Real Estate Development Association
Jon Lindgren, Northern Virginia Building Industry Association
Bobbie Kilberg, Northern Virginia Technology Council
Deborah Jones, Prince William Chamber of Commerce
Keith Merlin, Washington Airports Task Force

The Northern Virginia Transportation Coalition is a group of chambers of commerce and industry organizations throughout Northern Virginia that share a common belief that greater investment in regional transportation infrastructure is essential to sustained regional prosperity.

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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
FCPS Spring Break 3/21-3/25

APRIL

4/6/2016.....Wellbeing – Senior Living Pullout
Easter Sunday is March 27
4/13/2016.....Real Estate Pullout – New Homes

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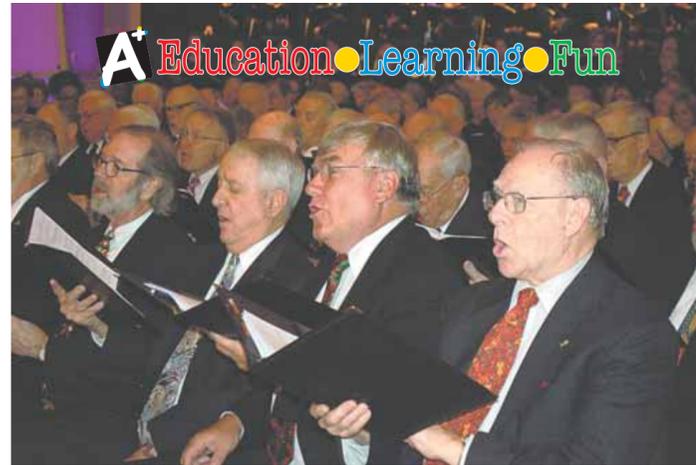
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Ted Thayer is a member of the George Mason University Potomac Arts Academy Encore Chorale in Fairfax.



Lee Lipsey is a member of and chorale master for the Encore Chorale of Reston.

Seniors Who Sing

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When musician Jeanne Kelly was asked to be a part of a study on creativity in the aging, she readily accepted. She was a natural to be tapped for the job, since she was running a program for older adults at the Levine School of Music's Arlington campus. She was tasked with helping to measure the impact of professionally conducted cultural programs on older adults.

"The study found that artistic excellence has huge benefits, physically, mentally and socially. Out of that study, I decided to start Encore," said Kelly, referring to a group of singers, all seniors, who are part of one of the 18 Encore Chorales that make up Encore Creativity for Older Adults.

Encore is a nonprofit organization that offers arts education and performance opportunities for seniors. The chorales are currently accepting new members through the end of January. There are no auditions and all levels of musical experience and ability are accepted.

CHORALE MEMBERS pay a fee which covers sheet music and the cost of the performances. In exchange, members receive music education and training from professional musicians, a chance to make social connections and an opportunity to perform challenging choral music. Participants learn proper breathing techniques and ways in which they can improve their voice, all under the guidance of a conductor.

"We don't dumb things down for our older adults," said Kelly. "Our members really appreciate the respect they get."

Adjustments are made, says Kelly, to accommodate the needs of some seniors. For example, re-



Members of the Encore Chorales receive training from professional musicians, a chance to make social connections and perform challenging choral music.

"Singing is challenging for me, but I always come away happy and relaxed after an hour and a half rehearsal."

— Joan Thayer

hearsals are held during the day out of consideration for those who don't drive at night, and members with mobility issues are not required to stand during rehearsals or performances. Encore focuses on offering a classical music repertoire. Choral works such as Giuseppe Verdi's "Messa da Requiem" are chosen to pair well with seniors' voices.

"Our voices do change as we age," said Kelly. "Soprano voices aren't as high as we age, for example, so we choose wonderful music that really shows them off and will challenge them to the max."

"What they're doing is beautiful because they're not only making healthy social connections, they're also challenging their brains which helps maintain their cognitive flexibility," said Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D, assistant professor of psychology at Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria. "To be able to

Improving and preserving the quality of life through music education.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ENCORE CREATIVITY FOR OLDER ADULTS.

Fairfax. Ted Thayer has been a musician for most of his adult life, majoring in music at the University of Illinois and spending more than 30 years in the National Symphony Orchestra. Joan Thayer, however, had no musical experience. Both participate fully in their chorale.

Joan Thayer says she has enjoyed learning and sharing one of her husband's passions. "Singing is challenging for me, but I always come away happy and relaxed after an hour and a half rehearsal," she said. "It's a great group of people, and it's nice to be able to talk with someone about something that happened in the 1940s or about things that seniors are going through now, and actually be understood."

Being challenged through musical performance is one of the things that Lee Lipsey, a member of and chorale master for the Encore Chorale of Reston, appreciates. "It's energizing and stimulating on a lot of different levels," she said. "It requires focus, hard work and practice to do it well, but there is a satisfaction in doing it well. You're part of a team, so your pursuit of excellence isn't an individual effort, it's for the team."

ENCORE has more than 1,200 members in 17 Chorale locations in the Washington, D.C. area and six Chorales in other cities. Opportunities for performance and travel for 2016 include a French Riviera cruise and intensive summer training at college campuses around the country. The season concludes with combined performances with other Chorales as well as local concerts at most Chorale locations.

For more information or to register for an Encore Chorale, visit <http://encorecreativity.org>, call 301-261-5747 or email info@encorecreativity.org.

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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. 21

Lunch N' Life. Noon-2 p.m. The Lutheran Church of the Abiding Presence, 6304 Lee Chapel Road, Burke. The entertainment will be the Capital Swing Quartet, a women's A capella group. Reserve to Faye Quesenbery at 703-620-0161 by Jan. 15. \$10. Call SCFB office 703-323-4788 for transportation. www.scfbva.org.

Fairfax Antique Arts Association. 10 a.m. Green Acres Senior Center, 4401 Sideburn Fairfax. historian Mary Lipsey with her latest talk "Escaping Detection During the Civil War." Non-members welcome. Free. 703-273-6090.

Bite Me Cancer Ribbon Cutting. 5 p.m. 4400 Fair Lakes Court, Fairfax. Reception being held to celebrate the ribbon cutting of BMC's new office. Call 703-380-2738 for registration information. www.bitemecancer.org.

THURSDAY-FRIDAY/JAN. 21-22

Life is Very Good Prayer and Rally. Thursday, 7:30-10 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m.-noon. Eagle Bank Arena, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Keynote speaker is Mark Hart, vice president of LifeTeen. Join the Diocese of Arlington in celebrating life at the eighth annual "Life is VERY Good" Evening of Prayer and Morning Rally. www.arlingtondiocese.org/.

FRIDAY/JAN. 22

Old Town Hall Performance Series-Beau Soir Ensemble. 8 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Flute, viola, and harp trio.

Aquila Theatre: "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes." 8 p.m. GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Literature's legendary sleuth, from the brilliant mind of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, takes our stage in this riveting tale of mystery, suspense, and intrigue that will leave you on the edge of your seat. \$26-\$44. cfa.gmu.edu.

Mason Improv Show. 8 p.m. TheatreSpace, GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. cfa.gmu.edu.

SATURDAY/JAN. 23

Winter Bash! 7-9 p.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Electra Entertainment is bringing you the second annual Winter Bash. Featuring live DJs, stunning light shows, green screens, prizes and more. \$10, \$15. Barri.DeFrancisci@jccnv.org. 703-537-3037.

"When Did the Civil War End?" 2-4 p.m. Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Interpretive Center, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Local author William Connery will speak on the Confederate Navy and the last Confederate raider, the CSS Shenandoah followed by book sale and signing of Civil War books. 703-591-0560.

The Band of the Royal Marines: Featuring the Pipes, Drums and Highland Dancers of the Scots Guards. 2, 8 p.m. GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Two of Great Britain's most respected military musical institutions take the stage in full regalia, bringing to life the magnificent pageantry of British tradition and history. \$31-\$52. cfa.gmu.edu.

Art Reception. 7-9 p.m. The Village Greenery, 3950 University Drive, Fairfax. This exhibit will include paintings by the artists of the Fairfax Art League and will feature a solo show of work by artist Kathleen Stark entitled "My Life and Art." Free. 703-587-9481.

Art Exhibition Opening. 7-10 p.m. Olly
SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

In performance: The Royal Band of the Marines, the Pipes, Drums and the Highland Dancers of the Scots Guard.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE ARTISTS



Military Bands at Center for the Arts

Band of the Royal Marines and Band of Scots Guards performing Jan. 23.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Pomp, pageantry and stirring music from Great Britain's esteemed military musical institutions will command attention with their extraordinary sights and sounds as they perform at the George Mason University Center for the Arts.

The performance will be bursting with bagpipes, brass and drums in a spectacle of precision marches. There will also be spirited Scottish Highland dancing and surprises.

The Band of the Royal Marines and the Band of the Scots Guards have both been in existence for several centuries. The Royal Marines band was originally established to provide the beat for columns of marching soldiers. The Scots Guards band was founded to boost morale for elite troops while engaged in conflicts. Today, in these contemporary times, the bands perform throughout Great Britain, including London's Buckingham Palace, and tour around the world.

With over 40 musicians performing, audiences can expect a "mixture of traditional music coupled with some more up to date entertaining works. It is important for me to get a good balance," said Captain Daryl Powell, director of music, Her Majesty's Royal Marines. "We pride ourselves on versatility so there will be plenty of different aspects to keep the audience engaged. Music will range through traditional marches, standard wind band repertoire, film music and music from the stage."

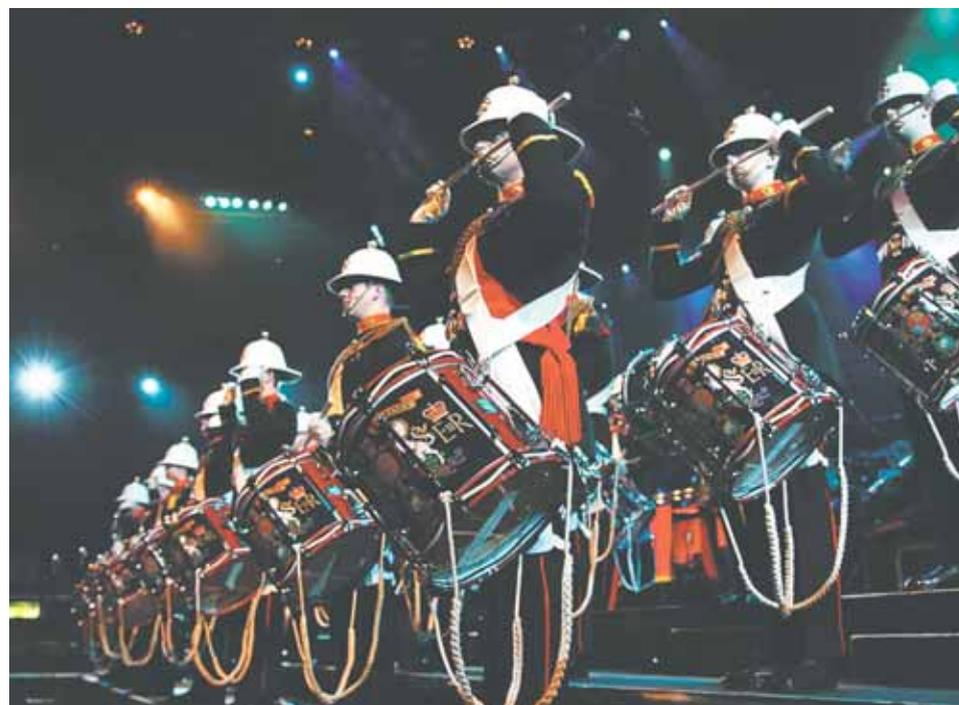


Photo by Nicola Harper/Courtesy of The Royal Band of the Marines
In performance: The Royal Band of the Marines, the Pipes, Drums and the Highland Dancers of the Scots Guard.

Where and When

"The Band of the Royal Marines: Featuring the Pipes, Drums, and Highland Dancers of the Scots Guards" performing at the George Mason University, Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performances on Jan. 23 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets: \$31-\$44. Call 888-945-2468 or visit www.cfa.gmu.edu. Note: The Band of the Royal Marines performances have been designated "Family Friendly." All children, regardless of age, must have a ticket.

Asked about particular musical tunes, Powell mentioned different sets of music representing English, Irish and Scots music, along with additional ensembles including strings, singers and, of course, a Drum Major. He also mentioned an Irish set of "Lord of the Dance" and the Gael from "Last of the Mohicans" with its distinctive pipers sounds.

"I would hope that the audience feels the

enjoyment and pride that we get from performing to them. All of our musicians are passionate about what they do and this is reflected within their performance," said Powell.

I hope that they get a good sense of what the musical traditions offer through our representation of the countries within the British Isles, but most importantly I want them to be entertained by what I believe is a really good show."

The performers, in their full military regalia, marching in unity along with magical lighting effects, will fill the Mason Center for the Arts with power and entertainment providing audiences with "the very best of British military music. A combination of good drill and high quality music, in an inventive and imaginative show," added Powell.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

Olly, 10417 Main St., Fairfax. Embracing the Power of Artistic Practice features work in a variety of mediums by six D.C. area artists. Free. 703-789-6144.

SUNDAY/JAN. 24

Tu B'Shevat Seder. 6 p.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Light dinner, Israeli wine, and delicious seder foods. Na'ama Gold, our Community Shlichah, and Cantor Allen Leider of Temple Rodef Shalom, will lead the seder and explain the beauty of the holiday. \$15-\$22. www.jccnvarts.org. 703-537-3000.

SATURDAY/JAN. 30

Polish Baltic Philharmonic Orchestra. 8 p.m. GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. This distinguished ensemble from the historic port city of Gdansk on the coast of the Baltic Sea brings a splendid evening of classical music favorites. \$30-\$50. cfa.gmu.edu.

Art and Lunch. Noon-3 p.m. The Village Gallery, 3950 University Drive, Fairfax. Bring lunch and enjoy the company of other artists and learn something new. New members welcome. Free. www.fairfaxartleague.net, or call at 703 587-9481.

SUNDAY/JAN. 31

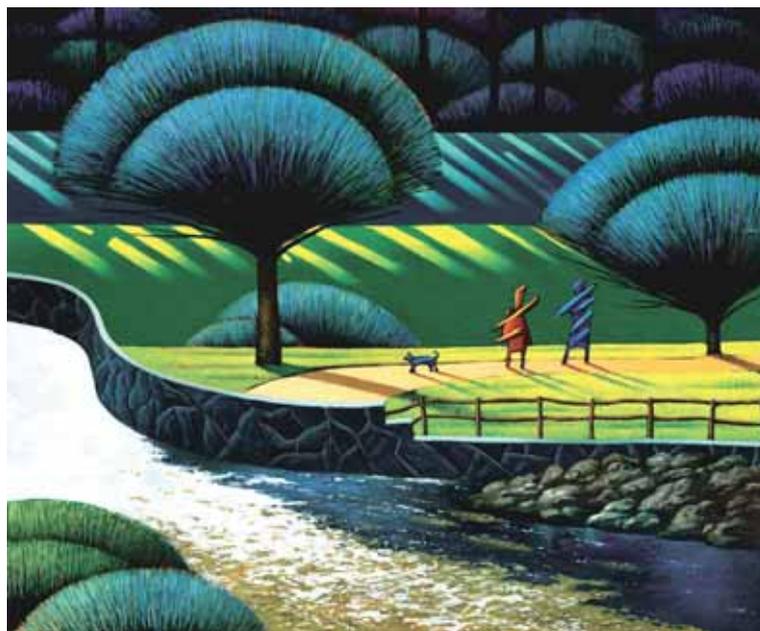
American Youth Philharmonic. 3 p.m. GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Repertoire includes Rossini's William Tell Overture, Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante, and Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony. Free-\$20. cfa.gmu.edu.

Fun with Roses. 2-4 p.m. Merrifield Garden Center-Fair Oaks, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Enjoy an interactive demonstration of design secrets for romantic and friendship inspired rose creations. Refreshments. 703-371-9351.

Jessica Fechter. 4:15 p.m. GMU, Nutrition Kitchen, 3950 University Drive, Fairfax. Author of "Stir: My Broken Brain and the Meals That Brought Me Home." \$8-\$12. 703-537-3000. jccnvarts.org.

FRIDAY/FEB. 5

Mummenschanz. 8 p.m. GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. These unique artists perform in complete silence on a blackened stage with common household objects and simple forms to create ingenious illusions and amusing narratives that provide light-hearted insights on life. \$29-\$48. cfa.gmu.edu.



"Pierce Mill" by Richard McMurray, who demonstrate his techniques at the Fairfax Art League meeting on Saturday, Feb. 13.

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.

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.

3-2-1 Act for Ages 9-11. 7-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Feb. 10, 17, 24. Truro Anglican Church, Upper Room, 10520 Main Street, Fairfax. Learn to perform with little or no preparation. This class is an introduction to improvisational acting in a fun, relaxed environment with popular improv teacher Mr. Andrukonis. \$30 per student. http://www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org/workshops—classes.html.

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Woodson Falls to TC in OT Despite 14 3-Pointers

Titans overcome double-digit second-half deficit.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

DeJuan Robinson would later admit he's not the greatest free-throw shooter. Pressure situations, however, are where the T.C. Williams senior said he thrives.

The Titans trailed Woodson by a point when Robinson drove to the basket and was fouled with 2.6 seconds remaining in overtime. Robinson knocked down both of his ensuing free-throw attempts, lifting the T.C. Williams boys' basketball team to a 79-76 victory on Tuesday at Woodson High School.

Following a Cavaliers turnover, Titans guard Tavaris James made a pair of free throws with six-tenths of a second remaining to extend the TC lead to three. Woodson missed its final shot attempt at the buzzer.

T.C. Williams trailed 76-75 when junior forward Tyrese Randall forced a turnover, giving the Titans possession with 20.1 seconds remaining in overtime. Robinson attacked the basket in the closing seconds and earned a trip to the foul line, where he would hit the game-winning free throws.

"DeJuan Robinson did a fantastic job stepping up and knocking down those free throws," TC head coach Bryan Hill said. "He had a bunch of big plays around the basket that I thought were key, so that demonstrates his senior leadership and I'm really glad to see DeJuan Robinson really stepping up and being more of a leader on our team both on and off the court. I'm really excited about seeing him win a game for us like that today.

"... He's hitting big shots for us around the bucket, he's slashing, getting rebounds, knocking down free throws to win games. That's the kind of stuff as a 17-year-old kid you want to be able to talk about that to [your] kids when [you're] 30 — 'I won this game, I knocked these shots down.' It's the kind of stuff you remember forever, so I'm really glad that he was able to have that experience tonight."

Robinson said he doesn't consider himself a solid free-throw shooter, but did say, "I was confident I was going to make those two shots."

"I'm actually not [a solid free-throw shooter]," Robinson said. "That's the funny thing. It's just clutch situations. As a senior on the team, I just had to step up and lead. ... When the pressure is up, I like to step up."

Robinson finished with five points, including a three-point play in the second quarter.

"He's a good kid and I think he would like to score more," Hill said, "but we need him to be scrappy and rebound and defend and he's accepted that role and done a great job with it and I'm really proud of him."

Robinson's free throws put the finishing



Woodson guard Seamus Maloney scored 14 points against T.C. Williams on Tuesday.

PHOTOS BY
JEFF MCQUILKIN

Woodson guard Jason Aigner scored 26 points and made six 3-pointers against T.C. Williams on Tuesday.

touch on the Titans' come-from-behind victory. Woodson led by as many as 11 points in the second half, when a 3-pointer by senior guard Seamus Maloney gave the Cavaliers a 46-35 advantage with 2 minutes remaining in the third quarter.

A THREE-POINT PLAY by Matt Ayoub gave Woodson a 63-53 lead with 3:32 remaining in the fourth quarter. The Cavaliers managed just three free throws for the remainder of regulation, however, and did not score a point during the final 2 minutes, 3 seconds.

Fahmmi Mamo took over in the fourth quarter for the Titans. The junior guard scored 14 of TC's 23 points in the quarter, and his second 3-pointer of the period cut the Woodson lead to 64-62 with 2:31 remaining.

"Once the first one went in, I knew the second one was going to go in," Mamo said. "I'm more of a consistent shooter, rather than taking random shots. It felt great."

Mamo led the Titans with 23 points, including 19 in the second half.

"He does have the green light to shoot the ball within reason," Hill said. "He's not a selfish player — he lets it come to him. He hit some big ones tonight; he hit some big ones a couple of games back, so I'm not surprised by that."

Mamo's free throw with 1:44 remaining cut the Woodson lead to 66-63. Senior

guard Jordan Jones knocked down two free throws with 1:27 on the clock and James made 1 of 2 from the line to tie the score at 66 with 1:07 remaining. Woodson had a chance to win at the end of regulation, but Maloney's shot from near halfcourt rattled out at the buzzer.

In overtime, James scored seven of TC's 13 points.

"We took the right shots and we kept our poise," James said about the Titans' comeback.

"Instead of rushing to get back in the game, we ran through our sets and got the right shots within the offense."

James finished with 18 points despite sitting out for more than 5 minutes after crashing into the wall and hitting his head with 5:06 left in the first quarter. James said he was initially worried he might have a concussion, but after going through some tests, including up-downs and push-ups, he returned to the game with 7:27 left in the second quarter.

"When I got back on the floor," James said, "I just felt like it was back to normal."

Jones finished with 14 points for TC, and freshman JaQuan Johnson-Terry scored 10, including a pair of 3-pointers in the fourth quarter.

TC finished the first half of the Conference 7 schedule with a 4-3 record.

Woodson fell to 7-8 overall and 3-4 in the conference.



"All the little plays at the end, every time we made a mental error, they burned us," Woodson head coach Doug Craig said. "The margin for error in this district is very small. We can't continue to make as many mental errors as we make and win games. We're not good enough to overcome that. We have to find a way to tighten up some of our execution stuff. We took a lot of bad shots down the stretch, missed some free throws, had a couple turnovers [and some] tough foul calls that really hurt our team."

WOODSON lost despite making 14 3-pointers.

Junior guard Jason Aigner finished with 26 points and six 3-pointers, including a trio from behind the arc in the second quarter as the Cavaliers built a 33-25 halftime lead.

Senior guard Matt Ayoub scored 23 points for Woodson, including five 3-pointers, and reached 1,000 career points with a transition bucket in the third quarter.

Maloney added 14 points and a trio of 3s.

Ayoub also attributed the loss to "mental errors."

"They had to come foul us," Ayoub said, "and we just decided to shoot the ball instead of hold it."

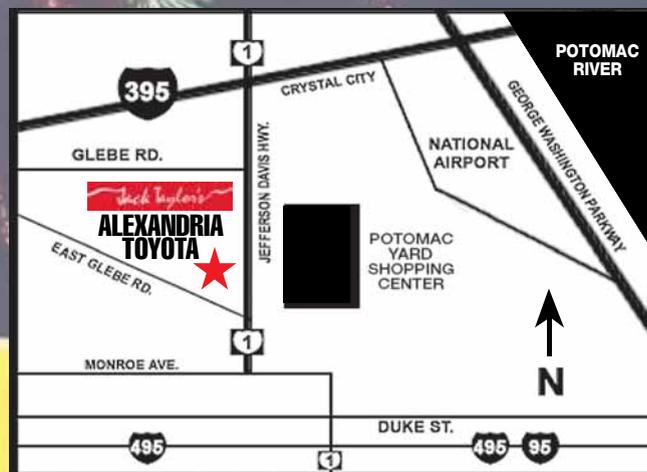
T.C. Williams will host Lake Braddock at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 21. Woodson is scheduled to travel to face Mount Vernon at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 22.

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PUBLIC HEARING FOR TOWN OF CLIFTON
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SPECIAL USE PERMIT
PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF CLIFTON PLANNING COMMISSION
January 26, 2016

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at 7:30 P.M. at the Acacia Lodge Hall, 7135 Main Street, Clifton, VA 20124 to consider a requested special use permit for the Peterson's Ice Cream Depot, located at 7150 Main Street, which would include an expansion of the existing use, including, but not limited to, the increase in number of seats; an increase in parking; an expansion of the hours of operation; an increase in employees, from the previous special use permit. The application for the changed special use permit is available for review and downloading on the Town's website at www.clifton-va.com and a hard copy may be examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton VA, 20124. All interested parties are invited to attend the Planning Commission's public hearing and express their views with respect to the requested special use permit of Peterson's Ice Cream Depot.

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NEWS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

JCC of Northern Virginia's The Rockdaniot wins first place in the mini category at JUMP Dance Convention in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 9-10.

JCC of Northern Virginia Dance Troupe Wins First Place

On Jan. 9-10, the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia's j.dance performance troupe, The Rockdaniot, received first place in the Mini category for their ballet and contemporary routines at JUMP Dance Convention in Washington, D.C.

Their ballet piece, "Neapolitan Dance" was choreographed by Barri DeFrancisci, j.dance director, and their contemporary piece, "Waves," was choreographed by j.dance faculty member Rebecca Weiss.

In addition to the first place recognition, three of the Rockdaniot dancers, Felicity Fei, 8, Faith Hemmerdinger, 11, and Tayler Hutson, 12, received scholarship awards to Dancerpalooza, the country's largest dance festival, taking place this summer in Long Beach, Calif.

JUMP is the largest dance convention in the world, touring to 26 US cities and 5 international cities.

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.

TUESDAY/JAN. 26

Fairfax 50+ Community Ambassador Program. 9:30 a.m.-noon. Pennino Building, 12011 Government Center Parkways, Suite 206, Fairfax. This volunteer program trains members of Fairfax County community organizations to help link their fellow members to the county's services for older adults and caregivers. Contact Mena Nakhla at 703-324-5859 or by email at Mena.Nakhla@fairfaxcounty.gov by Wednesday, Jan. 20.

SUNDAY/JAN. 31

Human Trafficking: Get the Facts and Take Action. Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/host/women/events.html>.

ONGOING

Burke Rotary Club Meeting. Tuesdays from 7:15-8:30 a.m. Anita's Restaurant, 9278 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke. Meetings with breakfast and program. www.burkerotary.org.

Burke Lake Seniors Golf League seeks members. Interested golfers are invited to join the Burke Lake Seniors Golf League. Must be 55 and older, enjoy playing golf, meeting new people and having an all-around good time. Reserved tee times on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the Par 3 Burke Lake Golf Course on Ox Road. Annual dues for the season - April 1 through October 31 - are \$20 plus green fees. For more information, call Charlie Ryan 703-690-4227.

THURSDAYS/DEC. 3-FEB. 3

Grief Support Group. 10:30 a.m.-noon. Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton. The Clifton Presbyterian Church is offering to the church and community a Grief Support Group for those who have experienced a recent death and loss in their lives. This group will offer a safe and supportive place for participants to explore ways to walk the journey of grief and to "wrestle" with difficult, and sometimes unanswerable, questions. Dec. 3, 10, 17; Jan. 7, 12, 21, 28; Feb. 3. office@cliftonpc.org. 703-830-3175.

FRIDAY/JAN. 22

Keeping up with the Kids. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn the basics with our one-on-one technology volunteer about the social networking tools that can help you stay in touch with your kids and grandkids. Adults. 703-978-5600.

MONDAY/JAN. 25

Fairfax County School Board Public Hearing. 7 p.m. Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. The Board will hold a public hearing on the FY 2017 budget. To sign up to speak go to <http://www.fcps.edu/schlbld/meetings/requestspeak-online-ph.shtml> or call 571-423-1075.



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suite reno has to-die-for bath w/dual vanities, laundry area, amazing W/I shower, dual W/I closets*Dreamy KT w/SS appls, wine chiller, big eat-in area*Custom gas frpl*Gleaming hwdws*Walkout rec rm plus den/4th & full bath*Green space*Cul-de-sac



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Fairfax Station \$939,900
New England charm and Southern hospitality seamlessly blend in Glenvar-dant. A home made for enjoying and entertaining complete with updated kitchen and spacious breakfast area nicely located by a wood burning fireplace. Roam through over 5500 square feet including a sunroom and finished basement that offers a full kitchen. The upper level has four large bedrooms and three full baths plus a family den and attic playroom. The exterior features five acres, an inground pool as well as a four stall barn for horse lovers.

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