



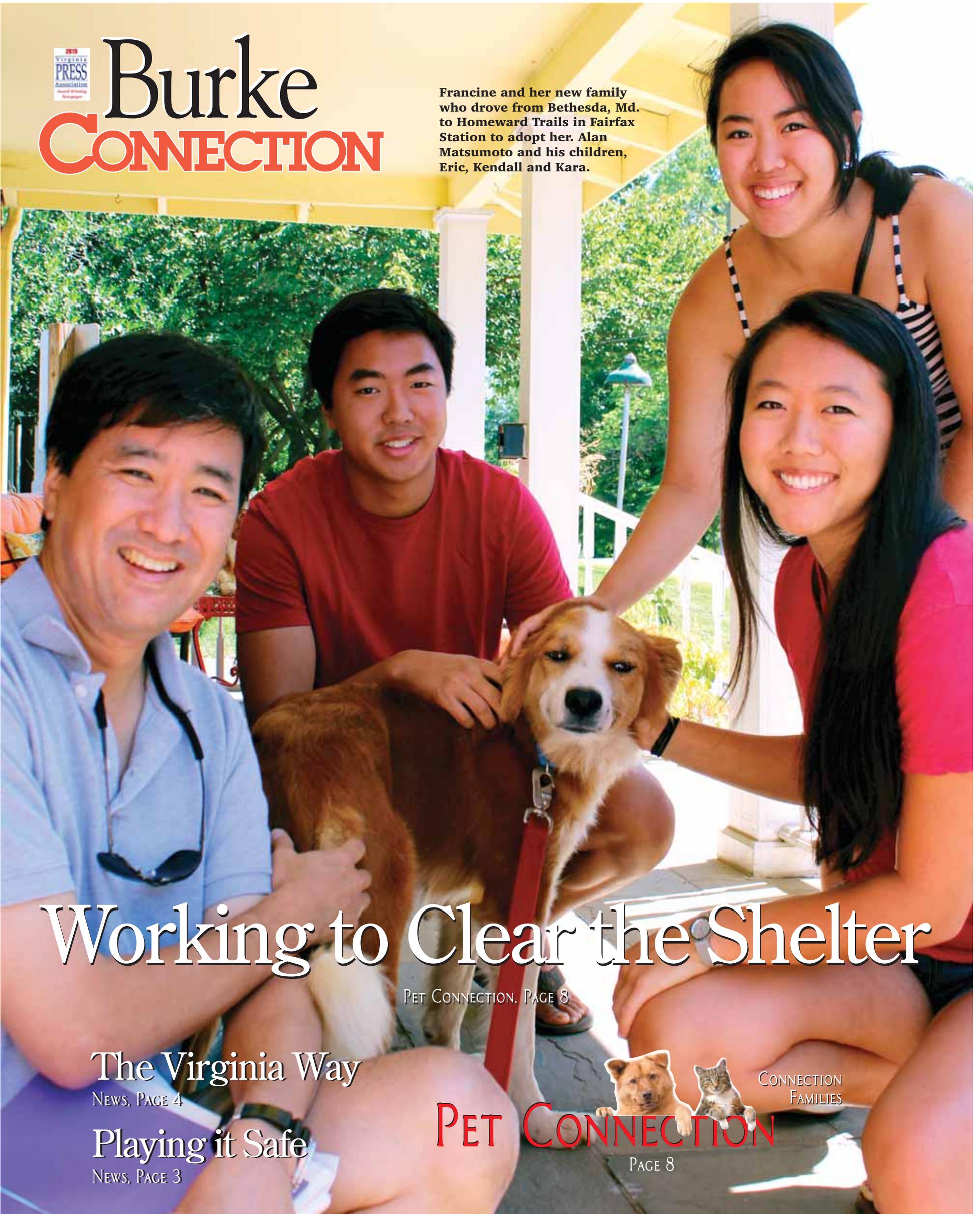
Burke CONNECTION

Francine and her new family who drove from Bethesda, Md. to Homeward Trails in Fairfax Station to adopt her. Alan Matsumoto and his children, Eric, Kendall and Kara.

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OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 14

PHOTO BY ALEXANDRA TECCO/THE CONNECTION



Working to Clear the Shelter

PET CONNECTION, PAGE 8

The Virginia Way

NEWS, PAGE 4

Playing it Safe

NEWS, PAGE 3

PET CONNECTION

PAGE 8

CONNECTION FAMILIES



BULLETIN BOARD

Send notes to the Connection at connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/ 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.

THURSDAY/JULY 28

Blood Drive. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. NVAR Blood Drive, 8407 Pennell St., Fairfax. Sign up by emailing gkruchko@nvar.com today. Go to www.nvar.com for more information. Questions call 703-207-3207.

ONGOING

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.

The **Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program** needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/lcombusman/.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to **drive older adults** to medical appointments and wellness

programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Shepherd's Center of Western Fairfax needs volunteer drivers for medical/foodbank appointments. Shepherd's Center serves 50+ residents in Clifton and western Fairfax/Fairfax Station, helping them remain independent and age in place at home. Office help also is needed for coordinating drive requests. More info is at www.scwfc.org or 703-266-3548 or scwfc.office@gmail.com.

The **Wakefield Senior Center in Annandale** needs **Front Desk Volunteers** on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 9:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m. and **Fitness Instructors**. Volunteer instructor positions **could** lead to part-time employment. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults

and click on Volunteer Solutions. **Volunteer Fairfax** seeks individuals, families, youth and corporate groups for service opportunities at a variety of nonprofit agencies. One-time special events or ongoing activities are available at www.volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3460.

Singers Wanted for the Celebration Singers. The women's show choir is interested in new talent to perform at various Northern Virginia community sites. Practices are Wednesdays 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in Burke. Contact Terry Stackley, at TheCelebrationSingers@gmail.com.

Online Scavenger Hunt. Visit Fairfax tasks those interested in becoming "citizen ambassadors" to the county (those informed on fun, creative weekend outings in the area) to find two Fairfax County Ambassador icons hidden throughout the fxva.com website in order to join the ambassador team; those who find all five hidden pins will receive a complimentary gift. www.fxva.com/online-ambassador.

American Red Cross CPR, First Aid and AED. Various times, at 2720 State Route 699, Suite 200, Fairfax. One-year certification, digital or print materials and continued education on Mondays through Thursday and Saturday. \$90-110. www.redcrossna.org.

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.

FAITH NOTES

Jubilee Christian Center of Fairfax is restarting its "Living Free" support groups for the Spring on Wednesdays, starting on Mar. 30, 7:15 p.m. The support groups are free, and will cover "Stepping into Freedom," "Concerned Persons Group" (for family and friends of

addicts), "Understanding and Overcoming Depression," "The Image of God in You," and "Handling Loss and Grief." There will also be Christian Education classes for all ages and Membership Class

#2 meeting on Sundays, 10:10 a.m. 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. For information or to register, call 703-383-1170, email livingfree@jccag.org or see www.jccag.org.






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NEWS



Supervisors Kathy Smith (D-Sully) and Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) lead excursions around the station so visitors could practice good safety habits while playing the game.



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

(Left) Michelle Vo, a rising sophomore at Paul VI High School, walks with U.S. Army recruiters she met when they realized they played for the same Pokémon Go team in augmented reality.

Playing it Safe Pokémon Go event hosted at Sully government center.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

With Fairfax County Police officers blocking traffic, dozens of community members crossed Stonecroft Boulevard in front of the Sully District government center in Chantilly.

Once they reached the other side of the street, the majority of women, children and teenagers whipped out their phones and continued to play Pokémon Go, the smartphone version of the popular video game.

In the game, players are tasked with searching for, capturing, battling with and caring for imaginary animal-esque creatures called Pokémon.

In this latest viral iteration, players engage with “augmented reality,” where elements from the game are overlaid on the physical map, allowing someone to see something on their phone in the same place where nothing exists to the naked eye.

For Pokémon Go, the Pokémon creatures can be found roaming, seemingly randomly, through the individual worlds of players as they move through their day-to-day routines.

But as the game itself became wildly popular in just a short time, the number of crimes and accidents as a result of people walking around outdoors with their heads buried in a handset has also gone up.

IN JUST THE SULLY DISTRICT, Crime Prevention Officers say there have been several “near-misses” between drivers and pedestrians, where they were walking unaware into the road.

Also, they said, there have been regular calls coming in overnight reporting suspicious persons walking around, that have turned out to be people playing the app.

In Springfield, in just the past two weeks, five individuals were arrested for trespassing on school property. They were pursuing Pokémon.

To address the safety and legal issues associated with the game — which everyone admits does a great service by getting play-

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Though the Pokémon Go app’s server was down for a short period in the afternoon, Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kincaid (center) and Public Schools At-Large School Board Member Ryan McElveen (right) joined Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) at the event as well.

ers out of the house and interacting more with both the world and each other — several elected officials organized a day-long event to engage with community members face-to-face-to-phone.

Lt. Matt Owens, acting commander for Sully Station, encouraged those in the audience to be safe drivers, and to be respectful of memorials or locations where Pokémon may be hiding.

Supervisors Kathy Smith (D-Sully) and Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) then lead excursions around the station so visitors could practice good safety habits while playing the game.

“This is another example of a police department really getting out there and being proactive in the community,” Herrity said.

Smith received a tutorial in playing the game from William Phan, of Fairfax, who

founded the Facebook Group Pokémon Go. He says he started the page out of a paternal instinct to protect people he saw as putting themselves or others around them in danger by not hydrating, going out by themselves, going out at night, etc.

“It needs good policy,” Phan said. “I’m here to make everyone happy, get them at their optimal level.” Phan’s Facebook page acts as a forum for players to communicate, as well as a message board for posting helpful tips.

OTHERS ALL AGREED one of the successes and attractions of the game is how it requires movement through a very real world, providing very real exercise.

“It’s nice to be out in the community,” said Staff Sgt. Miesha Collins, of Mount Vernon, a U.S. Army recruiter based in Falls Church.

“You find people with the same interests



Left, Mike Man of Centreville and his fiancée Haley Huyah (right) run Poké-Man, a food truck that he claims is unaffiliated with Pokémon or the new app. Man is of Hawaiian descent: Out of the truck they serve a traditional Hawaiian bowl called “poké” that includes raw salmon or tuna over rice, with cucumbers, carrots and either spicy mayo or soy ginger sauce. The food truck was on hand on July 20 for the Sully District Pokémon Go community event.

as you,” Collins said. “This game is bringing a lot of people together. Also, there’s a Jigglypuff in my neighborhood and I’ve been walking around for days trying to find it.” Though the app’s server was down for a short period in the afternoon, Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kincaid and Public Schools At-Large School Board Member Ryan McElveen spent time at the event as well.

Kincaid arrived with custom-made Pokémon cards for her office, encouraging people to be safe when they play the game in public.

McElveen had promoted the event — which was scheduled to run from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. — through his Twitter account that’s popular among FCPS students.

A similar event is being scheduled for the West Springfield area at the end of next week.



Sen. Timothy M. Kaine (D-VA) listens to student Hidayah Martinez Jaka, who talked about her personal experiences with intolerance and prejudice towards Muslims, during a roundtable discussion Kaine hosted with leaders of the Northern Virginia interfaith and civil rights communities on Thursday, July 21 at the All Dulles Area Muslims Society (ADAMS) Center.



PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS

During an interfaith and civil rights roundtable discussion hosted by Sen. Timothy M. Kaine (D-VA) at the All Dulles Area Muslims Society (ADAMS) Phillip Thompson of Fairfax, chair of the Northern Virginia NAACP, talks about Black Lives Matters and says he is deeply troubled by the recent spate of police-related violence. Johnson is seated next to Faateha Syed (left), a 13-year-old ADAMS member and Joan Bell-Haynes (right), pastor of United Christian Parish in Reston.

The Virginia Way

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

No one knew it at the time, but Sen. Timothy M. Kaine's (D-Va.) public appearances moderating roundtables in Northern Virginia last Thursday, July 21 would be his last day of relative political anonymity before being catapulted to political prominence 24 hours later as Hillary Clinton's pick for her vicepresidential running mate.

Trailed throughout the day by a phalanx of political reporters, Kaine remained relaxed, composed and engaged (but never boring) during his two events.

While the first event – a roundtable discussion on immigration in Arlington – was closed to the media, the second event on religious freedom and civil rights held at the All Dulles Area Muslim Society in Sterling was open to the press, and dozens of reporters, representing nearly every prominent media outlet, planted themselves in one of the conference rooms at the center, setting up cameras, adjusting boom microphones, juggling tripods and waiting.

“Why don't they talk to us?” asked 13-year-old Faateha Syed, a young Muslim woman from Reston, who seemed baffled as the media throng descended on Kaine as he entered the room.

“They're not here for us. They're here for him,” an older Muslim woman replied. “They want to know if Senator Kaine is going to be our next vice president.”

Despite the intense media scrutiny and political speculation swirling around Kaine, roundtable participants said they were impressed by Kaine's focus and genuine interest in them and their concerns.

Syed Moktadir, president of the ADAMS center, said he appreciated Kaine's willingness to spend time discussing issues and challenges moderate Muslims face every



Sen. Timothy M. Kaine (D-Va.) receives a warm welcome from Sanober Yacoob (left), an executive staff member of the All Dulles Area Muslims Society Center, and Syed G. Moktadir (center), president of the society, as he enters the center to host a roundtable forum with leaders of the Northern Virginia interfaith and civil rights communities on Thursday, July 21.

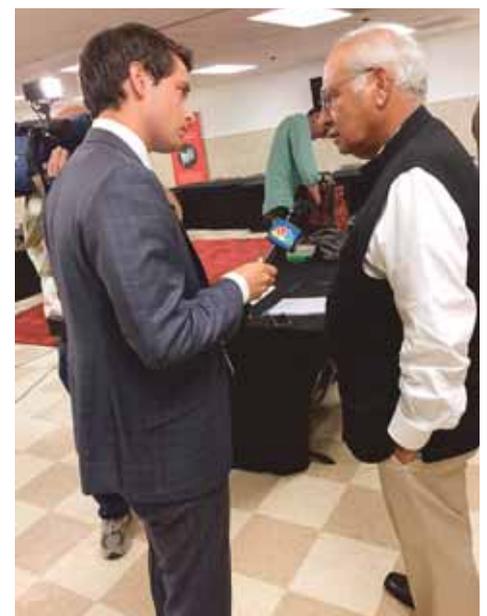
day.

“He gave each of the panelists here a voice to talk about the issues confronting Muslims,” Moktadir said. “The ADAMS Center has a history of openness, moderation and civic engagement. Senator Kaine did a great service highlighting the importance of tolerance and religious freedom.”

DURING THE FORUM at ADAMS, Kaine took the opportunity to extol Clinton's virtues and assail Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump's policies and prejudices – without once saying Trump's name.

When discussing bans on Muslims entering the United States and mass deportations

Senator Tim Kaine spends last day before VP pick showing why Virginia matters.



Mohsin Alikhan, president of the McLean Islamic Center, talks to a reporter after an interfaith roundtable forum hosted by Sen. Timothy M. Kaine (D-Va.) at the All Dulles Area Muslim Society center on Thursday, July 21. During the forum, Alikhan asked Kaine whether he would still visit the center when he's vice president. Kaine, who had not yet been tapped as Hillary Clinton's running mate, smiled and said that he would visit “regardless of title.”

– two of Trump's policy promises – Kaine asked the group: “Do you want a trash-talking president or a bridge-building president?” He noted that he and his Democratic colleagues in the U.S. Senate “beat” a bill that would have greatly tightened screening procedures on refugees from Syria and Iraq, essentially banning them from entering the U.S.

“So the refugees are our enemy now? We shouldn't tolerate intolerable prejudice,” Kaine told the group. “The bottom line is that it's not easy to come into our country as a refugee, at all. But the notion of ‘no Syrian can ever come here’ is antithetical to our values – especially when the inno-

cent civilians and families seeking refuge in our country are fleeing the very violence and terror we saw in France and Lebanon that they experience every day in Syria.”

In addition to discussing the plight of refugees, Kaine delved deep into the hot-button issues of police profiling and Black Lives Matter. He noted the success Richmond had

SEE SENATOR, PAGE 5

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Senator Kaine Hosts Interfaith Forum

FROM PAGE 4

with strategies like community policing rather than zero-tolerance policies that surfaced after 9-11.

"I'll tell you one little insight...One of the best things we did when I was Mayor of Richmond was hire a police chief who had the idea of community policing, who said "Let's put officers on bicycles...let's make them part of the community..." We don't have to recreate the wheel, we have the model."

But unlike the famous real estate mogul on the other side of the political aisle, Kaine said, he believes our nation becomes greater by unity, not more division.

"Do we pull together as a nation or try to divide the nation? Virginia has some history with divisiveness, but when we started a change in Virginia and put [divisions] behind us and started to let everybody be around the table, we started doing really, really well. And that's what's at stake here in this election."

When Joan Bell-Haynes, pastor of the Reston United Christian Parish, asked Kaine what people in the room should do to help the country get past its racial and religious divisions, Kaine said he was supporting Hillary Clinton, and called her the kind "bridge-builder" that we need.

AT TIMES, Kaine gave mini history lessons on the First Amendment and Freedom of Religion. He also showed his philosophical, thoughtful side, relating a story about one question he often asked as a Jesuit missionary in Honduras.

"As human beings, we have an instinctive appreciation of diversity in nature. I would ask people 'Do you have a favorite flower? And most people do have a favorite flower. Then I would ask 'Do you want every flower to be that flower?' Of course not," Kaine said, smiling. "That would be boring."

Although Kaine did not invite discussion of the VP buzz surrounding him, several participants noticed a sign behind where he was seated that read: "What if someone from your community became a national figure? In America anything is possible."

Mohsin Alikhan, president of the McLean Islamic Center, asked Kaine whether he would still visit when he's vice president.

Kaine shook his head, and humbly answered "Of course I'll come...regardless of title."

After the event, Kaine took media questions, but deflected any speculation about his chances as Hillary Clinton's pick. He did tell the press pack, however, that "I'm being considered because of Virginia. Virginia matters."

"Senator Kaine did a great service highlighting the importance of tolerance and religious freedom."

—Syed Moktadir, president of the ADAMS center

Collecting Food for Others

The Cleaning Authority of Fairfax collected 224 bags of canned food totaling 994 pounds for the Food for Others food bank over the summer as part of a national initiative, The Cleaning Authority CARES.

The Fairfax location, led by franchisee Terry Wallace, ranked third nationally out of hundreds of participating locations for number of bags collected.

The Cleaning Authority CARES campaign was launched by the brand earlier in 2016 and was developed to help millions of food insecure households throughout the United States. It is designed to engage each of the brand's franchisees nationwide.

Through the program, a brown paper bag was left in the home of each client with information about the campaign and a request to be filled between cleaning visits. The cleaners then collected donations from homes and returned them to the office. After several weeks, the location owners donated the food to partnering organizations.

Founded in 1989, The Cleaning Authority has been franchising for almost 20 years and has more than 200 locations in the United States and Canada. Completing more than 1.7 million cleans last year, the company is responsible for the proprietary "Detail-Clean Rotation System" designed to guarantee a thorough clean. The Cleaning Authority is an environmentally responsible residential cleaning franchise committed to using Green-Seal Certified® cleaning products. For more information, visit www.thecleaningauthority.com or follow them on Twitter @LiveLifeWeClean.



The Cleaning Authority of Fairfax collected 224 bags of canned food totaling 994 lbs for the Food for Others food bank.

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OPINION

Help Children Arrive at School Prepared

Many opportunities to contribute; tax-free back-to-school shopping is Aug. 5-7 across Virginia.

The first day of school each year is fraught with anticipation and anxiety. Many local students will be concerned about what they wear, who they will see, what it will be like. They've already had multiple shopping trips, online and otherwise, to be sure they have the supplies and extras they need.

We live in an area where many, if not most, families have the means and desire to do almost whatever it takes to give their children the best chances for success.

But for thousands of students, families lack the financial resources to equip them for success on the first day of school and beyond.

In our affluent area, there are many poor families, families who are barely making it, families who are not able to indulge their children in a shopping spree before school begins, families who are already having trouble making up for the meals their children would be getting at school.

In Fairfax County Public Schools, more than 27 percent of more than 184,000 students are poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals. That's more than 50,000 children in Fairfax County who are going through the summer without their usual access to breakfast and lunch. For many of those children, having a fully equipped backpack on the first day of school is out of reach.

In the City of Alexandria, about 60 percent of the Alexandria Public Schools students are poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals. That's more than 8,000 of the city's 13,000-plus students.

In Arlington, more than 32 percent of the county's 23,000-plus students are poor enough to receive subsidized meals; more than 7,000 students.

Help these students get started on the right foot by contributing to one of the many local backpack drives.

Virginia sales tax holiday for school supplies and clothing is Aug. 5-7, 2016. Purchases of most school supplies, clothing and footwear are exempt from the Virginia sales tax. Each

eligible individual school supply item must be priced at \$20 or less, and each eligible article of clothing and footwear must be priced at \$100 or less. See www.tax.virginia.gov/content/sales-tax-holiday.

Where to give in Fairfax County

❖ **Fairfax County Collect for Kids** is a public private partnership that provides local children from economically challenged families with the school supplies they need to begin the school year, and has provided more than 100,000 supply kits and backpacks since 2010. Collect for Kids is made possible through a partnership with Kids R First, Fairfax County Public Schools, the Fairfax County Office of Public and Private Partnerships, Apple Federal Credit Union and numerous community-based organizations (some listed here) and businesses in the Fairfax County area who are working together to provide supplies in a more cost-effective and efficient way. See collectforkids.org/resources.

❖ **Cornerstones** is working to provide backpacks and other necessities to 3,500 Reston and Herndon area students. You can buy backpacks and other items online and have them delivered to Cornerstones. Or deliver the backpacks to Cornerstones Administrative Office Aug. 8-12, 2016, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston. In addition to backpacks, Cornerstones also requests donations of new underwear for elementary school age children, and Payless gift card donations (\$25) so young clients can get a new pair of shoes. Contact Cornerstones at 571-323-9568 or volunteer@cornerstonesva.org. Visit www.cornerstonesva.org/donations/drives/back-to-school/

❖ **United Community Ministries'** annual Back to School campaign is underway. Donations are needed by Friday, Aug. 5. A gift of \$40 completely outfits one student. Please drop checks and backpacks off at UCM's main office (7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, 22306) weekdays from 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. If your group needs to make special arrangements for a large

donation, please contact Emily Griffin. For more information, contact Emily at emily.griffin@ucmagency.org or by 571-255-8973 or visit www.ucmagency.org/back-to-school-2016.html.

❖ **Britepaths**, formerly OUR DAILY BREAD, participates in the Collect for Kids Back to School Program each summer and is working to help more than 2,500 students in central Fairfax have everything they need to succeed this fall. Cash donations help purchase supplies at a steep discount. Please donate by Aug. 5. Donate backpacks or calculators by Aug. 5. Larger size backpacks especially needed. Donate cash through Aug. 31. Checks are welcome. Make checks payable to "Britepaths." Please include "Back to School" in the memo line of the check. Mail to: Britepaths 4080 Chain Bridge Road, 2nd Floor, Fairfax, VA 22030. If delivering in person, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., except for holidays. Call ahead at 703-273-8829. Visit www.britepaths.org for more.

❖ **FACETS** is seeking to equip more than 300 students in need with backpacks filled with supplies. Use the checklist at the link below as a guide for purchasing backpacks and supplies. Place purchased supplies in backpacks or other bags and deliver to FACETS. For financial donations, please cut and mail form by Aug. 12. Drop off supplies through Aug. 12, 2016, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday, 10640 Page Ave., Suite 300, Fairfax VA 22030. Contact FACETS at 703-272-3710 or JDantonio@FacetsCares.org or visit facetscares.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/SchoolSupplyFlyerFY17.pdf

❖ **Northern Virginia Family Service**. Mail checks (payable to NVFS, with BTS in the memo line) to: Northern Virginia Family Service, Attn: Back to School, 10455 White Granite Drive, Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124. Donations of new backpacks and new school supplies (we unfortunately cannot accept these items after use) will be accepted on July 29, 3-6 p.m.; and Aug. 1, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at 13926 Metrotech Drive, Chantilly, VA 20151 (between Buon Appetito and Cafein; please note storefront windows are whitewashed). Contact Pam Boyle at 571-748-2537 or visit www.nvfs.org/backtoschool.

PETS

Making a Case for Pet Adoption

Lucky kittens Flame and Pixie found a home in Reston with Jesse and Margo. These little ones were born in Abingdon, Va. and dropped off at an overcrowded shelter that euthanizes all unadopted cats every Thursday. Fortunately, the Feline Foundation of Greater Washington swooped in and a series of volunteers shuttled the babies to Reston. They stayed with a foster family until Feline Foundation of Greater Washington (FFGW) June Adoption Fair at Just Cats Clinic, where they met Jesse and Margo.



Burke
CONNECTION

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Honoring Brave Companions

Paws of Honor provides veterinary care for retired K-9s.

BY DANIELLE GRAE
THE CONNECTION

Some of our nation's security forces receive no benefits upon retirement—K-9s. Twenty-eight retired K-9s are patients of McLean based 501c not for profit Paws of Honor, which pays 100 percent of its retired K-9s' veterinary expenses. Paws of Honor opened six months ago, and according to the organization's founder and president, Bod Youngblood, Paws of Honor expects to serve 60 to 80 dogs by the end of the year.

"We believe these pets should be taken care of and not just discarded at the end of their service life. I mean, they've been jumping out of planes, they've gone to Afghanistan. They're tired, they're

sore, and they're worn out," Youngblood said.

Youngblood had the idea for Paws of Honor when he saw K-9s injured in the aftermath of the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon.

"They mostly came in with burnt paws. They had respiratory issues from the smoke and the jet fuel. They hadn't been sleeping in two or three days," Youngblood said.

Human officers receive benefits for their entire lives, whereas K-9s receive no benefits when their service is over. Without Paws of Honor, owners must choose to take on the financial burden, give away their partner or euthanize it.

Youngblood estimated each retired K-9 costs on average \$1000 per year in veterinary expenses. The K-9s live on average two to three years after retirement.



Retired Explosives Detection K-9 Buddy and his partner Detective David Orr of Loudoun County.



PHOTOS BY DANIELLE GRAE/THE CONNECTION
Retired Explosives Detection K-9 Buddy proudly displays his collar.

K-9s participating in Paws of Honor have worked for the CIA, FBI, Pentagon, Secret Service, Homeland Security and state police forces.

"They keep our soldiers safe," Vice President of Paws of Honor and COO of Old Dominion Health Center Cassie Browne said. Youngblood said retired K-9s at Paws of Honor have done multiple war tours, jumped out of planes and automobiles, parachuted and searched for explosives.

One retired K-9 in the program is Buddy, owned by his former partner, Detective for the Loudoun

County Sheriff Department, David Orr. Orr worked as an Explosives Detection Canine Handler for Loudoun County from May 2012 until Buddy retired in 2016 at six-and-a-half years old due to seizures.

"What [Paws of Honor does] is invaluable. I don't know of any departments that actually cover any medical expenses for K-9s when they retire. And that's where Paws of Honor comes in to fill that void," Orr said.

Youngblood hopes Congress will extend health care benefits to retired K-9s, but until then Paws of Honor needs to raise enough funds

to care for its patients.

Paws of Honor is based in McLean in Old Dominion Animal Health Center, which has donated space and veterinarians. Paws of Honor is seeking donations. Without further donations, the organization may be forced to turn away retired K-9s. Paws of Honor plans to hold fundraisers where the public will be able to meet some of the retired K-9s and see them perform tricks. Tickets will be on sale in August. Paws of Honor also receives donations at www.pawsofhoron.org and features photos and background stories on some of its K-9s.

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PET CONNECTION

Homeward Trails Working to Clear The Shelter

Homeward Trails has 12-14 dogs adopted every weekend and 2,000 pets every year.

By ALEXANDRA TECCO
THE CONNECTION

Last year Homeward Trails Adoption Center in Fairfax Station had 23 dogs adopted during the national "Clear The Shelters initiative." The nonprofit houses 50 dogs in their facility as well as a number of dogs and cats in their foster homes.

Sunday, July 18, Homeward Trails had an open house at their Fairfax Station Adoption Center. These regular events are a chance to visit the facility, the dogs and the staff.

Sitting on the porch, the Matsumoto family waited to be united with their new pet. Francine, adoption complete, was greeted with compliments, pets, ear scratches and hugs before being taken to see her new home. The Matsumoto family drove from Bethesda, Md. to adopt from Homeward Trails. Compared with their previous experience of pet adoption, Homeward Trails was "less institutionalized" according to Matsumoto.

Homeward Trails won't euthanize animals and works to save them from 16 high-kill-rate shelters around the area, says Rebecca Goodhart, Homeward Trails's deputy director. The area shelters and Homeward Trails coordinate with each other sharing information about the animals, their personality and any medical concerns to ensure a good fit.

Cats are housed primarily in foster homes and have adoption events at pet stores around the area, according to Goodhart. Even the majority of dogs live in foster homes. They get more individual attention and the affection of living with a family, which some react to better. The Homeward Trails Adoption Center is capable of housing 50 dogs.

"We're different than a traditional shelter," Goodhart explains. "Dogs are assigned to play groups which are supervised by staff so they get to spend more time outside and playing with other dogs." Ten hours a day the dogs are outside in large play yards with access to water and shade. Currently, they visit the play yards in rotation due to the excessive heat.

"The yards help a lot," says Marcus McCloud, Homeward Trails staff, supervising a group of four dogs as they wander from shade to shade

Homeward Trails dogs enjoying the shaded pavilion on a hot day while waiting for their forever homes.



Trinity, 11, Trina, 4, and Triton, 17-months-old, pet one of the two dogs the family is visiting. Their parents, John and Shonda Kiser are interested in adopting two dogs and came to see the dogs at Homeward Trails.

with stops at the plastic kid pool filled with water. "Rather than walk past a small cage, small kennel, here they're free. They can be themselves, not afraid of the small space. But they do need to be supervised to make sure they get along," McCloud says.

Even after the adoption process is complete and the pet goes to a new home, Homeward Trails remains a resource. Follow up emails, a phone call check-in a few days later, a free 30 minute conversation with a trainer and 30 days of free pet insurance. In addition, part of their contract states that they will take the pet they adopted out, back if anything doesn't work out with the family" explains Goodhart. Homeward Trails has 12-14 dogs adopted every weekend and 2,000 pets every year. "We're projected to beat that this year," says Goodhart.



PHOTOS BY
ALEXANDRA TECCO/
THE CONNECTION



Homeward Trails in Fairfax Station, dog Sonny, with owners Atonino and Kaitlin Zambito enjoying the Shirlington Dog Park. Adopted 3 years ago, Sonny is well trained and responds to commands in English, Italian and hand signals.



Michael Bates, volunteer adoption counselor at Homeward Trails Adoption Center in Fairfax Station, updates the board of completed adoptions. On average 12-14 dogs are adopted each weekend.



Linda Keeling and Mike Keeling, not pictured, of Stafford adopted Mopsy three months ago. Today they visit Homeward Trails to purchase a new collar.



Francine and her new family who drove from Bethesda, Md. to Homeward Trails to adopt her. Alan Matsumoto and his children, Eric, Kendall and Kara.



Jane Wong and Eric Wong, not pictured, see how their current dog, Locke, interacts with Homeward Trails dog Bear.



Homeward Trails staff member Marcus McCloud supervising the dogs in one of the large play yards, a mix of gravel and grass. Most remain in the shade, but two seek his affection.



Solo - a Good Neighbor

Margaret Jones, of Fairfax Station, shares her pictures with Solo: Solo was the only pup in the litter, which for a German shepherd is somewhat rare. "He's a gentle dog, and likes to greet the kids in the neighborhood as they get off the bus from school. He is two years old, and has recently received his AKC canine good citizen certificate. He plans to become a therapy dog," writes Jones.



Laila and Captain desi Dog

Melissa Mackey, Operation Paws for Homes volunteer, of Fairfax Station shares this photo: Operation Paws for Homes, Captain Desi Dog, gets some love from Laila Coblentz, 2. For more info on how to adopt Captain, go to <https://ophrescue.org/dogs/5086>

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Community Works Together To Alleviate Hunger

Food for Others assemble backpacks of non-perishable food.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

Food for Others started its Power Pack Program -P3- in Fairfax County four years ago “after we noticed the need and heard from school counselors. We started with eight schools and are now up to 28,” according to Jessica Cogen, director of development and outreach of Food for Others. Cogen also emphasized that “we are seeking to expand the number of schools served this year to help meet the need.”

The P3 program provides non-perishable food to the most needy school students to supplement weekend meals. Most of the students receiving the P3 are eligible for free or reduced price school lunches. Some of the food is donated and some is purchased.

Food for Others receives much of its food from food rescue operations at grocery stores and other retail establishments with food drives providing most of the non-perishable food. The backpacks given to students containing the food are assembled at the warehouse on 2938

Prosperity Ave. by volunteers. “We do what it takes to get it done,” Cogen said; “sometimes corporate and service groups team up and put together the backpacks off-site. We have many devoted volunteers from all across the community.”

Each backpack contains two items for breakfast, lunch and dinner, two snacks and two drinks. The most needed items for P3 are Chef Boyardee and mac and cheese cups, 100 percent juice boxes, and cereal boxes. Orders usually go out on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, but some schools have no storage space so they have to do it all on Friday morning.

Cogen says when it comes to determining which schools are serviced it is not necessarily a first-come, first serve basis. It also depends on finding volunteers who are able to pick up packs on a weekly basis and deliver them to the schools.

FOOD FOR OTHERS is a nonprofit organization that began feeding the poor in 1995. They describe their challenge: “The number of hungry families and individuals is often overlooked because of the affluent reputation of the area. However, 90,000 people in Northern Virginia are in need of help.”

The distribution area is 82 percent Fairfax County and 16 neighborhood sites. The most needed items for these programs are canned chicken, spaghetti sauce, canned fruit packed in juice, canned chili and family-sized bottles of 100 percent juice.

The program has four main activities. Direct assistance available at the Merrifield warehouse, where families can pick up 3-5 days worth of nonperishables as well as milk, eggs and other fresh food. The free emergency food provided at the warehouse is through referral by social service provid-



Vincenza Gitchen, accounting and administrative associate for Food for Others, demonstrates an average supplementary backpack in the Power Pack Program (P3). These weekend packs are provided to the most needy students in 28 elementary schools in Fairfax County during the school year. Each P3 contains two each breakfast, lunch and dinner items, two snacks and two drinks.



Ted Hoch will be stocking shelves on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the next three weeks at the Food for Others warehouse on Prosperity Avenue. Food is neatly arranged by meat (12 oz.), veggies, crackers, soup and by expiration date. Other volunteers will come along and pull things off the shelves for the families who stop by the warehouse between 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. on weekdays to pick up emergency food. An additional new area has been created in the warehouse for “client choice.”

Neighborhood Sites

Anyone in need of food may come to one of the following neighborhood sites at the times specified. The only question that is asked is, “How many people are in your household?” People should bring their own grocery bags.

ANNANDALE: THURSDAY

❖ Immanuel Methodist Church: 7901 Heritage Dr., Annandale. **6 p.m.**

BAILEY’S AND CULMORE: 1ST, 3RD, AND 5TH MONDAY OF THE MONTH; EVERY WEDNESDAY

❖ Bailey’s: Parking lot of Bailey’s Shelter, 3525 Moncure Ave., Bailey’s Crossroads. **6 p.m.**

❖ Culmore: 6055 Glen Carlyn Dr., Falls Church. **6:30 p.m.**

BURKE: MONDAY, THURSDAY

❖ Summit Oaks: Parking lot on Oak Bluff Court at the end of Oak Leather Drive, Burke. **6:30 p.m.**

❖ Crevenna Oak: Parking lot on Crevenna Oak Drive at the end of Oak Green Drive south of Burke Center Parkway, Burke. **7 p.m.**

FAIRFAX : MONDAY, THURSDAY

❖ West of Circle one-quarter mile on US 50, north on Draper Drive to end at Kingsbridge. Parking lot of Yorkville Apartments, facing Kingsbridge. **6 p.m.**

SEVEN CORNERS: TUESDAY, THURSDAY

❖ Willston: In front of Building #6134 Willston Garden Apartments, off Willston Drive and west of John Marshall Drive, Falls Church. **6 p.m.**

❖ Patrick Henry: Greenwood Drive, west of Patrick Henry Drive near Building #6195, Falls Church. **6:30 p.m.**

SPRINGFIELD GARDENS: FRIDAY

❖ Community Center behind Springfield Plaza at 7224 Commerce St., opposite SunTrust Bank, Springfield. **6 p.m.**

SPRINGFIELD - CHELSEA SQUARE: TUESDAY

❖ St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, 5800 Backlick Road, in the basement of Fellowship Hall, on side adjacent to Chelsea Square Apartments. **6 p.m.**

SPRINGFIELD - EDSALL PARK: THURSDAY

❖ Springfield Christian Church, 5407 Backlick Road, Springfield. Entrance is the southwest corner of the building, the opposite side from the office, door nearest the street. **6 p.m.**

ers. In addition, the USDA TEFAP program provides monthly food at the warehouse to clients meeting income guidelines. In FY 2015, Food for Others provided 22,517

emergency food packages to families directly from the warehouse. In addition, Food for Others provides food on some weeknights at 16 sites located in low-in-

come neighborhoods. Food provided at the neighborhood sites is available with no referral necessary. They also provide bulk food items to about 20 community-based organizations that in turn distribute the food to families unable to meet their basic food needs. In 2015, Food for Others distributed 248,992 pounds of free food through the Community Partners. The warehouse is open Monday-Friday from 9:30-5 p.m. for people to pick up free food supplies or for donations of food to be dropped off.

CURRENTLY about 85 families have been coming to the warehouse Monday through Friday to pick up emergency groceries.

“Two weeks ago we added the element of client choice,” Cogen said. She says this means the family can either take home the free box of prepackaged groceries or select for themselves from the items they have available. “This gives the clients greater dignity and can allow them to supplement what they already have.” There is a rush at the beginning and the end of the month. Charitable contributions provide most of the budget for of Food for Others. Recently, Walmart gave \$35,000 for the general support of their activities, Northrup-Grumman made a donation toward the school Power Pack program and Wegmanns Food Markets just finished a cash register drive. “The community makes this possible; these are just a few examples of recent contributions. “...Our goal is to bring the community together to help solve hunger” Cogen said.

CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/ or call 703-778-9416. The deadline is the Friday prior to the next paper's publication at noon. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

ONGOING

Evenings on the Ellipse. 5:30-7 p.m. Thursdays through Aug. 25. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Fun music and good company. Paradise Springs and The Winery at Bull Run will be offering complimentary tastings of their premium reds and whites. If it rains, concerts will be moved inside to the Government Center Forum. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/>

Storytime in the Park. Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. 703-385-2712.

Wednesday Morning Tai Chi. 6:30 a.m. Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31. Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. At the pergola. 703-385-2712.

Rock the Block! 6:30 p.m. Every fourth Friday through Oct. 28. Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Come any way you can - walk, run, ride your bike or drive! You don't want to miss out on this brand new concert series! Food is available for sale. Bring chairs and or blankets to sit on. Kids - wear swim suits and bring towels. Enjoy the new spray pad. No Pets allowed except service animals. fairfaxva.gov.

Redder Blood. Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m. Sundays, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. July 8-31. New School of Northern Virginia, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax, Virginia 22031. A premiere co-production between the Hub Theatre and the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, written by Helen Parfumi. Follows character Sadie, a woman who hears the voice of God. \$20-\$30. www.jccnv.org. thehubtheatre.org. 703-537-3000.

The Farmer's Market at Springfield Town Center. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Through November. Corner of Spring Mall and Loisdale roads, Springfield. Enjoy fresh baked goods, produce, vegetables & fruits, meats & cheeses, and a host of other vendors. springfieldtowncenter.com.

Mestey Films Productions presents: Live Onstage: The Wizard of Oz in Fairyland. 1 p.m. Workhouse W-3 Theatre, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Every Saturday from July 2-30. Children's theatre production combining the stories of "The Wizard of Oz" with "Aladdin," "Alice in Wonderland" and "Snow White." \$14.50 adults, \$11.50 children 12 and under. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-2900.

Color Me Happy. 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays July 18, Aug. 15. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Discover your inner Picasso. coloring pages from books designed especially for adults. Coloring pages, pencils and markers provided. Free. 703-978-5600.

Lovers and Madmen. June 18-Aug. 19. Epicure Cafe, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Features local artists. epicurecafe.org.

Fairfax Rotary Club Meeting. 12:15-1:30 p.m. Mondays. American Legion, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Meetings with luncheon and program. fairfaxrotary.org.

Plant Clinic. 9 a.m.-noon. Sundays till end of September. Lorton Farmers Market, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton. Conducted by Master Gardeners. Answer gardening question, identify plants and insects, soil tests, etc. fairfaxgardening.org.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Th Pohick Church Docent Guild will host a Garden Party on Saturday, Aug. 13 at the Historic Pohick Church.

Carolina Shag. Wednesdays. 6:30-10 p.m. Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m. No partners needed. Dinner menu. \$8. Under 21 free. nvshag.org.

FUN-Exercise. Thursdays, noon-12:50 p.m. Grace Presbyterian Church Family Room, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Inova certified exercise instructor leads a moderate level exercise class with music and current events conversation. Muscle, Balance, Strength Training using stretch bands and weights both standing and seated exercises. Instructor donation is \$5. Contact Chris Moore at moorefitt@yahoo.com or 703-499-6133.

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.

MONDAY-FRIDAY/JULY 25-29

Art Classes. Call for times. Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. For details and registration information, call 703-250-6930 or go to www.czartlessons.com.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/JULY 28-30

"The Music Man." Check for show times. Sydney Lanier Middle School, 3801 Jermantown. Road, Fairfax. <http://www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org/the-music-man.html>

THURSDAY/JULY 28

Evenings on the Ellipse. 5:30-7 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Caravan of Thieves. Fun music and good company. Paradise Springs and The Winery at Bull Run will be offering complimentary tastings of their premium reds and whites. If it rains, concerts will be moved inside to the Government Center Forum. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/>

Art Workshop, Oil/Pastel July 29 - July 31, 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., 7135 Main Street Clifton at the Acacia Lodge. Spaces available. Award winning artist eager to

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SATURDAY/JULY 30

Mount Vernon Nights: The United States Air Force Celtic Aire (Celtic). 7-8 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Performs classical Irish melodies and favorite songs with traditional Celtic instruments. The premier folk ensemble of the U.S. Air Force. Free. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-2900.

BRYC 50th Celebration. 4-8 p.m. Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Games, Prizes, Dunk Tank, Inflatables. Adult/Alumni Games. Free. Laurabryc@gmail.com.

SUNDAY/JULY 31

Nation's Capital Model T Ford Club. 1-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Model T cars will be on display. \$2/\$4. www.fairfax-station.org. 703-425-9225.

Burke Historical Society Meeting. 4:30 p.m. Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, 6304 Lee Chapel Road, Burke. "Burke: Summer of 1916." slawski_brian@yahoo.com.

MONDAY/AUG. 1

"The Greatest Sports Heroes A to Z." 10:30 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Performed by Bright Star Touring Theatre as part of the Summer Reading Program. For more information, 703-339-7385.

Children's Performance Series. 10:30 a.m. Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Mr. Skip. Free. fairfaxva.gov.

MONDAY-THURSDAY/AUG. 1-4

Art Classes. Call for times. Woods Community Center, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. For details and registration information, call 703-250-6930 or go to www.czartlessons.com.

TUESDAY/AUG. 2

"The Greatest Sports Heroes A to Z." 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Performed by Bright Star Touring Theatre as part of the Summer Reading Program. For more information, 703-249-1520.

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8/24/2016...Newcomers & Community Guide Pullout
8/31/2016.....Connection Families: Enrichment, Care & Back to School

SEPTEMBER
Labor Day is September 5
9/7/2016.....Wellbeing
9/14/2016.....HomeLifeStyle Pullout - Real Estate & New Homes
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- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Oakton Connection

School Board Work Session Draws Transgender Regulation Protesters

The Fairfax County School Board was scheduled to discuss new regulations for addressing daily life at school for students who identify as transgender or gender-nonconforming at July 21 work session held at the school system's Gatehouse Road headquarters in Falls Church.

The week of the session, however, newly elected School Board Chair Sandy Evans announced in an FCPS release that implementation of the regulations would be put on hold while a court case elsewhere in Virginia involving a transgender student's bathroom usage is decided.

The topic was therefore removed from the July 21 work session agenda.

The regulations are an implementation strategy for the words "gender identity" being added to the school system's non-discrimination policy in May 2015.

Regardless, a group of demonstrators, clad in red mostly, showed up at the

Gatehouse facility around 5 p.m. to voice their opinion against the regulations. Some stood along Gatehouse Road flashing signs that called the regulations unlawful, or threatening to non-transgender students.

Inside the building's lobby and cafeteria, other demonstrators in red appeared at first to be penned in by a row of security detail. But eventually they were let through to the meeting.

Robert Rigby, a West Potomac High School Latin teacher and leader of the employees' LGBTQ organization FCPS Pride, was present in support of the regulations.

FCPS spokesperson John Torre said the work session was open to the public, as all work sessions are.

The School Board meets again July 28 for its regular business meeting. The transgender regulations were not on the agenda as action items or new business as of going to print.

—TIM PETERSON



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Security initially formed a line between demonstrators and the hallway to the Fairfax County School Board work session on July 21, but eventually they were allowed through.



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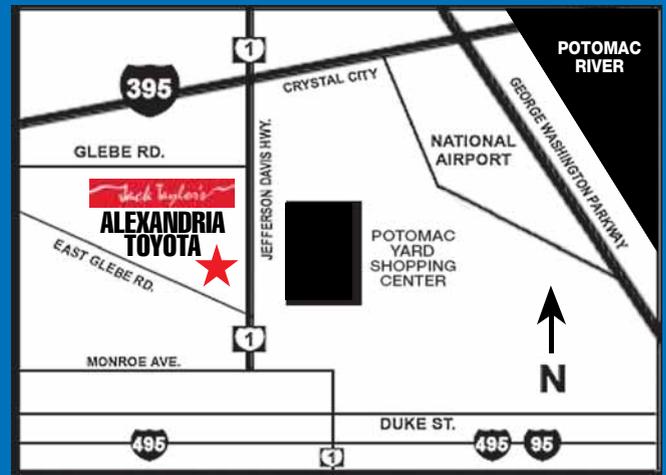
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SUMMER MAINTENANCE SPECIAL \$59⁹⁵

INCLUDES: Genuine Toyota oil filter, up to 5 qts of conventional oil, inspect windshield wipers, tire rotation, check tire condition, check battery (with print-out), inspect and adjust all fluid levels, inspect air & cabin air filters Alexandria Toyota's 27 pt. inspection.

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SUNDAY ONLY SPECIALS

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
LUBE, OIL & FILTER SERVICE \$29⁹⁵ \$49⁹⁵

NON-SYNTHETIC PLUS FREE TIRE ROTATION. SYNTHETIC \$10 MORE.

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DETAIL SPECIALS
STANDARD HAND-WASH & VACUUM Recommended Monthly **\$39⁹⁵**

Vacuum carpets, floor mats, upholstery & trunk, wipe down dash board, console & door panels, wash wheels, tires & fender wells, hand wash exterior door jams, and dress tires.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
LUBE, OIL & FILTER SERVICE SPECIAL

NON-SYNTHETIC **\$29⁹⁵** SYNTHETIC **\$49⁹⁵**

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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
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Synthetic \$10 More

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The AWG Director should have knowledge or experience in the areas of social work and gerontology and be comfortable working in a church environment. Knowledge of Fairfax County elder care programs and opportunities is a plus. Proficiency in computer technology is required. The AWG Director should also be knowledgeable about geriatric care resources and be able to work with families making palliative care and hospice decisions.

The position currently set at 20 hours per week with a salary of \$26,000 per year.

Contact Human Resources: Linda Hitchens at aging@gracepresby.org

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Banyan Tree Grill, LLC trading as Banyan Tree South Asian Grill, 3987 Pickett Road, Fairfax, Fairfax County, Virginia 22031 is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverage. Sunil Kavi, Owner. NOTE: Objection to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or by calling 800-552-3200.

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Fairfax \$629,900
Distinguished colonial sits pretty on a lovely lot offering a gracious lifestyle. Be enchanted by the updated kitchen with granite counter tops, gas cooktop & wall oven; the charming family rm with wood stove & built in entertainment ctr; spacious living & dining rms; 4 big bdms upstairs; a walkout lower level with rec rm, hobby rm & den; & a 2-car garage with side apron. Huge custom deck too!

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