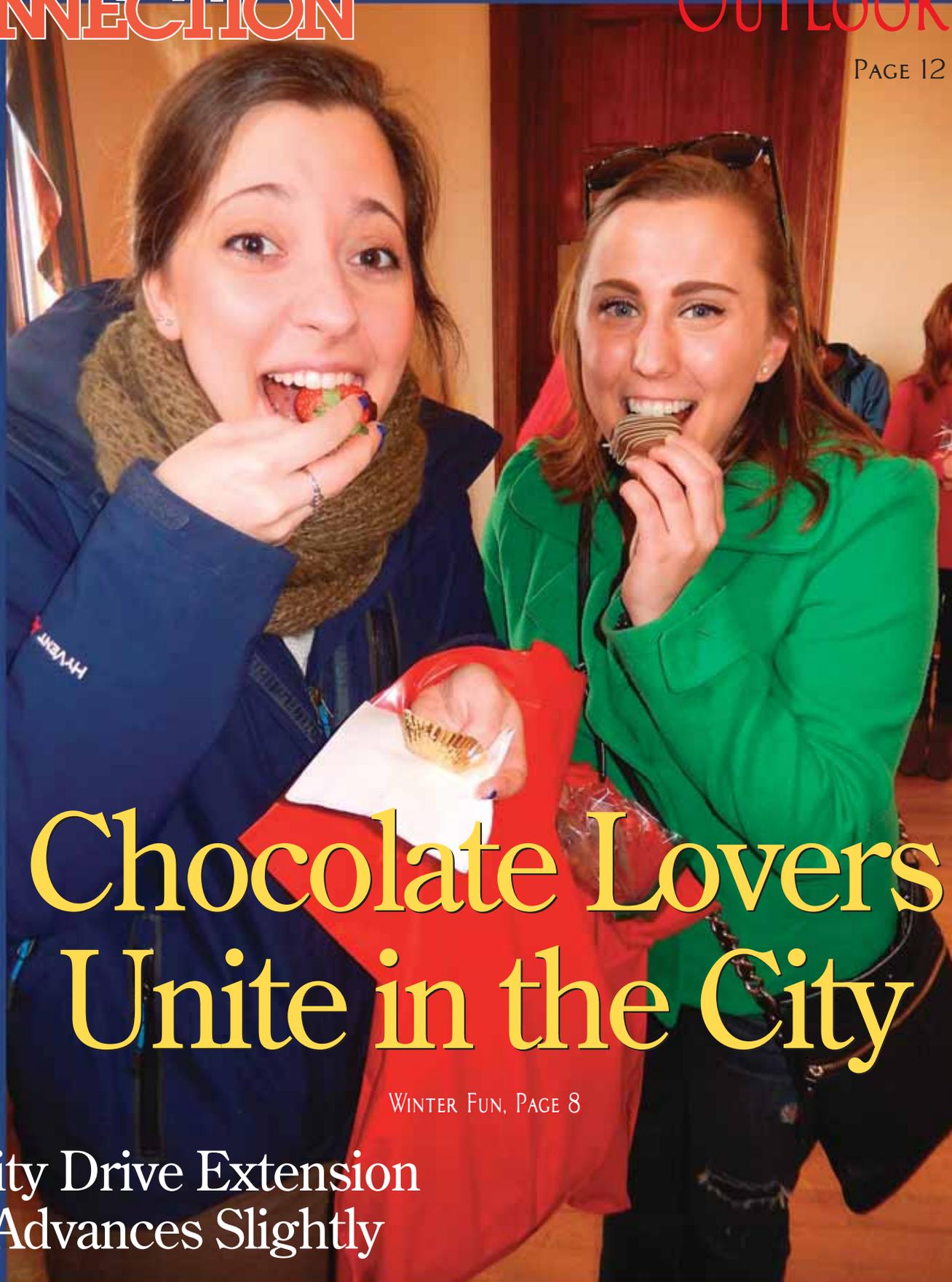


Inside **WINTER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT**

2017 VIRGINIA PRESS ASSOCIATION
Fairfax CONNECTION

COMMUNITY OUTLOOK 2017

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Enjoying chocolate-covered strawberries are (from left) Emily Adler and Leah Wedge. Fairfax's 25th annual Chocolate Festival is set for Feb. 4-5.

Chocolate Lovers Unite in the City

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

NEWS

Two Alarm House Fire Displaces Family of Five

At approximately 10:10 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 23, units responded to a reported house fire in the 5000 block of Huntwood Manor Drive in the Fairfax section of Fairfax County.

Units arrived on scene and observed smoke coming from the attic area of a three-story house. Firefighters quickly located the fire and found that it had spread into the basement and attic space. A second alarm was requested to bring additional resources to the scene. The fire was brought under control in approximately 30 minutes.

The home was occupied by two adults and three children. There were working smoke alarms

in the house, however the fire was discovered by an occupant before the alarms activated. All occupants safely evacuated the home prior to the arrival of fire and rescue units.

A total of five occupants were displaced. Red Cross assistance was offered and declined. There were no civilian or firefighter injuries reported.

Fire Investigators determined that the fire was accidental and originated in the chimney. The fire was caused by an operating gas fire place that caused the ignition of the structural wooden framework within the chimney chase. Damage estimates as a result of the fire is \$30,000 according to Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT

The fire was brought under control in approximately 30 minutes.



The Kensington at Falls Church is now welcoming guests for visit and tours

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**Opening
Early
February**



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An Assisted Living Community

FALLS CHURCH

700 West Broad Street, Falls Church, VA | 703.992.9868 | www.TheKensingtonFallsChurch.com



FAITH NOTES

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

Fairfax Baptist Temple, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a bible study fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and children's church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100 or www.fbtministries.org.

Grace Presbyterian Church offers Sunday school for all ages at 9:15, and a blended worship service 10:30 a.m. every Sunday morning. Coffee and fellowship follows worship. Nursery care is provided from 9:00-11:45. 7434 Bath Street, Springfield. 703-451-2900 or www.gracepresby.org.

The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism. The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to understand the workings of the mind, overcoming inner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit <http://www.guhyasamaja.org> for more information.

Lord of Life Lutheran offers services at two locations, in Fairfax at 5114 Twinbrook Road and in Clifton at 13421 Twin Lakes Drive. Services in Fairfax are held on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 and 10 a.m. Services in Clifton are held on Sundays at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. 703-323-9500 or www.Lordoflifeva.org.

First Baptist Church of Springfield offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by both traditional and contemporary worship services at 10:30 a.m. at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or www.fbcspringfield.org.

Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton, offers Sunday worship services at 10 a.m. and Cup of Fellowship at 11 a.m. Nursery care is provided from 9:45-11:15 a.m. Christian education for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. 703-830-3175.

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton, conducts Sunday masses at 7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., Latin mass at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. It also offers a Saturday vigil at 5:30 p.m. and a Thursday Latin mass at 7 p.m. Additional mass offered Monday-Friday at 6:30 a.m. (except on Federal holidays) and 8:45 a.m. 703-817-1770 or www.st-andrew.org.

NEWS

University Drive Extension Project Advances Slightly

Council votes to bring it to 30-percent design.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax City Council has not completely approved the controversial University Drive extension from Fairfax Boulevard to Eaton Place. But the project inched forward slightly Tuesday night when the members voted to advance it to the 30-percent design stage.

It doesn't mean the City is committed to going through with construction. It just enables the Council to have additional information before it has to make a more permanent decision to either continue with this project or scrap it altogether.

It will cost about \$100,000 for this further preliminary engineering, but the work will also include more in-depth traffic studies, plus evaluation of four other design alternatives that may prove better. And until the project reaches 30-percent design, VDOT is unable to determine whether these alternatives fall within the guidelines under which the City received \$10 million in federal, Smart Scale funds for this project.

"At this point, we don't like the current design," said Councilman Jeff Greenfield. "We can spend the money to get to 30 percent; and if we then don't like it, we can pull out. We did this with other projects to get the additional information we needed."

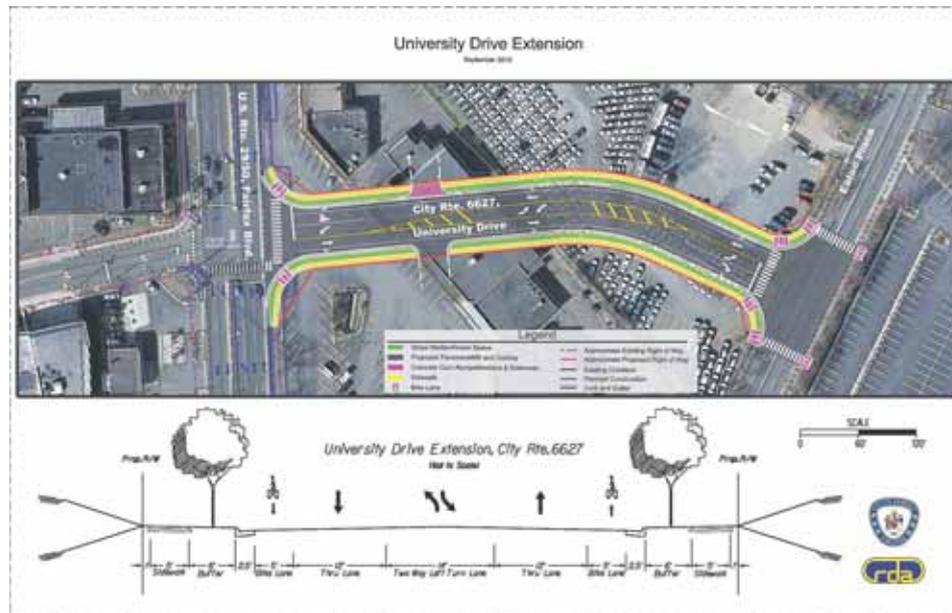
The City's Comprehensive Plan recommends the road extension as part of an expanded roadway grid to provide more travel routes and better connectivity within the Northfax area. The work would include new sidewalks, on-road bike lanes, lighting, landscaping and reconstruction of the traffic signal at the intersection of University Drive and Fairfax Boulevard.

THE EXTENSION would have turn lanes on each side leading to Eaton and Fairfax Boulevard. The alignment would travel through part of the existing Fairfax Shopping Center and car dealership, so \$7.5 million of the project total would be for right-of-way acquisition from two, private property owners.

Thanks to the Council's Jan. 24 action, the design alternatives to be evaluated are:

Adding a mid-block roundabout; offsetting the interchange to the west; including either full or half-channelized entrances on one or both ends of the extension; and reducing the roadway to two lanes, removing the dedicated bike lanes and replacing them with on-street sharrows. And before any alternative can go beyond the 30-percent stage, there'd be further Council and community input.

At Tuesday night's meeting, several residents commented before the Council voted. Talia Schultz said this north-south road would be a cut-through to Eaton Place and



The proposed road alignment at 10 percent of the design work.



The grid network for Northfax as is currently proposed.

I-66. She then gave City Clerk Melanie Crowder a petition with 322 signatures and 10.5 pages of comments urging Council to vote no on the extension.

But, said Betsy Bicknell, "It would be a transportation corridor for all the City residents. It would ease traffic for us and might lead to commercial development that would reduce all our property taxes." And Ray Girard said the extension would make Northfax more attractive to developers.

Bob Kemp, though, called it a "safety issue" for University Drive residents, as well as pedestrians crossing that street. "So let's call it a done deal and move on to another project," he said.

But Hal Creel disagreed, saying, "It's necessary to see the alternative concepts. You can't make a sound decision, yes or no, without knowing what's feasible."

"Let a private developer do this, instead," said Robert Orr. "I think the City would have to pay for the road maintenance." His wife Roberta said a cut-through would be detrimental to the neighborhood.

Before committing money to this project,

said Elizabeth Epstein, the City should "make a real, bike and pedestrian-focused center between Van Dyke Park, downtown and GMU." And Andrew Margrave said the extension will increase traffic congestion everywhere, including on Rt. 123 and the Cobdale community. He also worried that the project cost could increase greatly and the shopping center could fizzle out.

"No traffic study has been done where the kids cross to get to Van Dyke Park, and traffic is terrible at the intersection of Ford Road and University," said Brenda Kuhlman. "Go to Eaton Place at 5 p.m., weekdays, and traffic is backed up to get to I-66. It would be even worse with a cut-through."

Crowder then read various residents' letters into the record. "Most community members don't want this extension," wrote Amy Anspach. "And it's not necessary for economic development there." And both Becky Steckle and John Norce (in person) said a developer should put in an access road at his own expense.

But, wrote Jennifer Passey, moving forward would "allow us the possibility to ex-

plore options for future growth in the City. Otherwise, we'd be left in the dust by areas with more vibrant neighborhoods and [commercial development]."

If ultimately approved, said Transportation Director Wendy Block Sanford, this project would be done in 2021. If not, the City could reapply for federal funding in the future. With a 30-percent design, said Public Works Director David Summers, "You can get a much better cost estimate."

AFTER FURTHER COUNCIL DISCUSSION, Councilwoman Janice Miller made a motion to proceed with the 30-percent engineering, including evaluation of the design alternatives. Greenfield seconded. Noting that she'd discussed this project with community members and City staff over the past six weeks, Miller said residents like the idea of walking from their University Drive neighborhood to a revitalized Northfax east area.

"But residents are concerned about the speed of vehicles and pedestrian and bike safety on University Drive south," she said. And when Miller asked the audience members who didn't like the current design, most raised their hands. "I believe that, if we move forward and find a better design modification, we can work together to see if it works," she said. "If it doesn't, we can tell VDOT we're not interested in moving forward."

But until the City knows how Northfax will be developed, said Councilwoman Ellie Schmidt, "We don't know exactly where to put the roads. So I don't think this is ready to go forward. This would cause an increase in traffic on University Drive, and it'll cost us \$100,000 out of our own pocket if we do the 30-percent design and then don't go forward. We'd like economic development and improvement in Northfax, but I think this is premature."

Councilman Michael DeMarco said the road's intent isn't to be a cut-through, but to encourage people to shop in Northfax. "The street should be narrow to slow down traffic, and I want sidewalks and even raised areas that act as speedhumps, as part of the 30-percent design," he said. "Then if we don't like it, we could walk away and re-submit at another time. But to walk away now would be shortsighted."

"All the comments acknowledged the need to develop Northfax, and we should develop more options for it," added Councilman David Meyer. "We need to develop consensus about it, but that doesn't mean everyone agrees. I believe an appropriate alternative can be realized, so I vote in the affirmative."

"I know it's \$100,000," Greenfield told the audience. "You elect us to make tough decisions and to do that with as much information as we can. We don't have that information tonight. I'm going to support this; but if we're not able to prevent more south

SEE UNIVERSITY DRIVE, PAGE 4

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NEWS



PHOTOS BY MARK MOGLE/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County police officers, in foreground, provide security to President Donald Trump's limousine as it makes its way through the streets of Washington during the Inauguration Day parade Jan. 20. More than 3,000 officers from across the country were sworn in to assist with Inauguration activities, including 105 officers from the Fairfax County Police Department.

Inauguration Day

Local officers provide security for inaugural events.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
 THE CONNECTION

More than 100 officers from the Fairfax County Police Department assisted in security during Inauguration Day activities Jan. 20 in Washington, D.C. as Donald Trump was sworn in as 45th President of the United States.

among the more than 3,000 local law enforcement officials sworn in to help with security throughout the day. FPD officers began arriving in DC around 2:30 a.m. and worked throughout the day, ending their shift around 10 p.m. that night.

"Although it was a long day, we are proud of the exemplary professionalism displayed by each one of them," posted the FPD on its Facebook page.



More than 100 Fairfax County Police officers were part of the security detail as Donald Trump is sworn in Jan. 20 as 45th president of the United States.

University Drive Alternatives Studied

FROM PAGE 3

bound University traffic, I'll then vote against it."

The Council then approved moving forward, 5-1, with just Schmidt voting no. Miller then

moved that Council initiate a traffic study on University between Fairfax Boulevard and Kenmore Drive and direct staff to work with residents as soon as possible pursuant to the City's Traffic Calming Policy.

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NEWS



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMY DOZIER

Inova staff members gather with Anna (center left) and Sadie Lauer (center right) outside The Woods community center in Burke, after completing the sixth annual Friends of Sadie Blood Drive in 2015.

Friends of Sadie Blood Drive Returns Feb. 12.

The eighth annual Friends of Sadie Blood Drive is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 12 from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

In early 2010, friends of the Lauer family in Burke first organized a blood drive for Sadie Lauer who was three months old at the time. Sadie had been diagnosed with neuroblastoma and underwent several surgeries to remove a cancerous mass in her neck. The procedures required quite a bit of replacement blood, inspiring the friends to act and reach out to the community for help.

The first drive was so successful, an annual drive in Sadie's honor was established. Sadie is alive and in remission.

"Friends of Sadie" organizers hope to

continue raising awareness of childhood cancer, as well as supplying Inova Blood Donor Services with much-needed blood.

The drive will take place at the Woods Community Center in Burke, 10100 Wards Grove Circle. A photo ID is required to donate. Donors should allow one hour for the process.

There will be free childcare and activities offered, as well as a bake sale with all proceeds going to The Truth 365. For more information, contact INOVA at 1-866-256-6372, sponsor code 7637, or visit www.friendsofsadie.org.

—TIM PETERSON

Dentist Corner

with Evelyn Samuel, DMD

Q. What are sealants?

A. Sealants are clear or white plastic material placed on the chewing surfaces of permanent back teeth. The posterior teeth have deep grooves in them which may be difficult to clean. After eating, plaque and food may settle in the grooves. The bacteria in the plaque cause acids which break down the enamel and may result in cavities. Sealants seal the grooves. A conditioning gel (etchant) is used on the teeth, the sealant is brushed on, and a light hardens the material. Anesthesia is usually not necessary for the application process. Children should receive sealants upon eruption of their permanent molars (around age 6 and 12 years). The sealants may last several years, but over time may need to be replaced. Sealants are an effective measure in the prevention of dental decay. Have a dental question? Email your question to info@drevelynteaguesamuel.com for a chance to have your question posted and answered in The Dentist's Corner.

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Not Helping the Local Economy

Federal hiring freeze will have rippling effect.

The hiring freeze announced earlier this week, will not help the local economy which has struggled in recent years due to the sequester, automatic cuts and limits to federal spending. The federal government is a critical part of the local economy and had helped recession-proof the Northern Virginia area, but more recently it has been a negative.

Kudos to U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) for speaking out against a foolish freeze on federal hiring. As the lone Republican representing Northern Virginia in Congress, her opposition is important.

“The federal budget cannot be balanced on the backs of our federal workforce. I don’t support this type of across-the-board freeze and think it is better to look at priorities and areas where appropriate cuts can be made and where we can consolidate efforts or identify unnecessary costs that can be eliminated,” Comstock wrote. “As the General Accounting Office has previously reported, past hiring freezes in both Republican and Democrat administrations have cost the federal government money in the long-run because of staffing problems, or problems in recruiting or disruption of key government operations and required services to the American people. We will be monitoring and highlighting the results of this freeze and how it is impacting the mission of various agencies.”

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) identifies the freeze as one of many “anti-federal workforce policies” in the works.

“Past hiring freezes in both Republican and Democrat administrations have cost the federal government money in the long-run because of staffing problems, or problems in recruiting or disruption of key government operations and required services to the American people.”

— U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-VA10)

“An across-the-board federal hiring freeze is a mindless way to manage. ... It fails to take into account the need to actually beef up certain capabilities in the federal government, like cybersecurity,” Connolly said. “This Executive Order, coupled with many of other anti-federal workforce policies being proposed in Congress, will have a depressing effect on our ability to recruit and retain the next generation of federal workers.”

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) calls it

scapegoating. “The number of federal workers is at its lowest level since the 1960s, and over 30 percent will be eligible to retire in the next year,” Beyer said. “A report by the General Accounting Office (GAO) on previous federal hiring freezes stated such freezes are not an effective strategy for shrinking the size of the workforce, and only serve to disrupt agency operations and in the long-term increase the cost of government operations.”

Bills to Watch in General Assembly

In no particular order, more to come next week:

- ❖ SB 1005 Community services boards and behavioral health authorities; services to be provided, in particular, access to same-day access to mental health screening services.

- ❖ SB 923 raises felony larceny threshold to \$500 (\$1,000 would have been better).

- ❖ SB 1379 that discourages universities from stockpiling cash, and instead lowers tuition for Virginia students and families.

- ❖ SB 931 removes the exemption for “working papers and correspondence” for university presidents.

- ❖ SB 1376, requires a 30-day notice from the Board of Visitors before tuition can be raised.

- ❖ SB 1102, records of closed investigations of unattended deaths were not exempt from the state Freedom of Information Act.

- ❖ SB 1442, requires the Department of Criminal Justice Services to identify an evidence-based, standardized instrument for mental health screening for anyone incarcerated in local, regional, and community correctional facilities.

- ❖ Various proposals for nonpartisan redistricting.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Protesting Vote Suppression

To the Editor:

I am fed up with gerrymandering and other tactics politicians use to stack the votes in their favor! Gerrymandering distorts the electoral process, undermines democracy, and renders legislative elections a

meaningless exercise. I am a tax-paying citizen of Virginia, but my one vote does not count as one vote. Here in Virginia, state legislators redraw district lines, which means that the party in power of the State House and Senate can draw the lines to serve their own interests, not those of our communities. Since Virginia has been Republican controlled, that means that my Democratic vote has less value in my district than a Republican vote does in another district.

According to Governing.com, Virginia is ranked as one of the most gerrymandered states in the country (fifth worst!), both on the congressional and state levels

based on the lack of compactness and contiguity of its districts. Throughout the State, counties and cities are broken in half or into multiple pieces to create heavily partisan districts. Most of the “elections” in Virginia therefore result in no change in party because of these gerrymandered districts!

With Republicans in control of the Virginia House and Senate, the gerrymandering, not only suppresses Democrat votes, but has had a detrimental impact on persons of color causing distinct echoes of Jim Crow laws. Are we going to allow discriminatory disenfranchisement to proceed unchecked in our State? I urge all Virginians and Virginian Representatives to support changes to the Virginia constitution and enactment of laws that would strengthen voting rights, make voting easier and fairer, and eliminate unfair redistricting that politicians use to keep themselves in power.

Nancy Blethen
Springfield

Area Residents Join March on Washington

One of the thousands of signs displayed at the Saturday’s March on Washington, D.C. The Women’s March on Washington turned out to be one of the largest demonstrations in the city’s history, according to city officials, drawing more than 500,000 participants. The march was scheduled to follow on the heels of Friday’s Inauguration of the 45th president, Donald Trump.

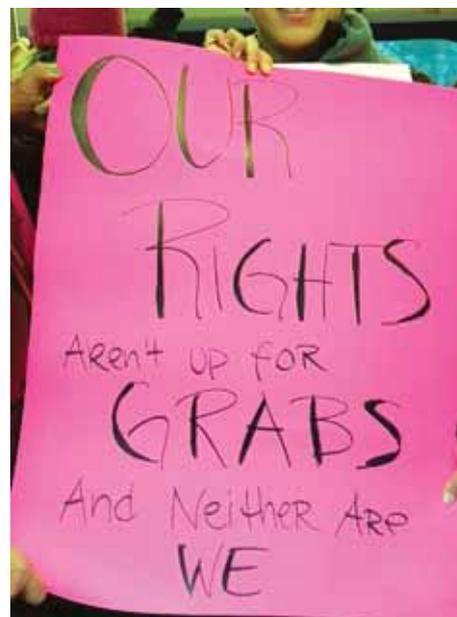


PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN LOVAAS



WEEK IN FAIRFAX

Town Hall Meeting Feb. 11

Del. David Bulova (D-37) and Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) will hold a town hall meeting Saturday, Feb. 11, from 9 - 11 a.m., at Fairfax City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St. in Fairfax. All are welcome to attend, hear about their legislative agenda, ask questions and share concerns.

No Ban on a Plastic Yard Waste Bag in County

At Tuesday's Board of Supervisors meeting, the public hearing to consider an ordinance to amend and readopt Chapter 109.1 of the Fairfax County Code on the prohibition of plastic bags for yard waste was deferred indefinitely. The Board of Supervisors also voted unanimously to approve Supervisor Herry's motion to immediately communicate to the citizens, trash haulers, and lawn service companies that there is currently no approved ban in Fairfax County.

Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield) stated, "I am glad our residents will have the ability to weigh in on any attempt to

ban plastic bags for yard waste and that the County is clarifying that no ban currently exists. I believe a ban would negatively impact our residents and our recycling efforts."

Nominations Sought for Scholar-Athlete Honors

The National Capital Region Chapter of the National Football Foundation is accepting nominations for their 2017 Scholar-Athlete banquet. The Chapter awards five \$1000 scholarships annually to deserving high school senior scholar athletes who played high school football. Nominees are evaluated on academic and athletic excellence, as well as contributions to their school and community. Nomination packets have been mailed to each high school head coach in the National Capital Region. Deadline for submission of nomination packets is April 7, 2017. The 11th Annual Awards Banquet will be held on April 23, 2017 at the Army-Navy Club in Arlington.

The National Capital Region Chapter requests and urges participation from all high schools in the National Capital Region.

For additional information, contact your Head Football Coach.



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*Registration is limited to two people per RSVP. Photo ID may be requested at event entrance.

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Announcing Group Interviews for The Kensington Falls Church

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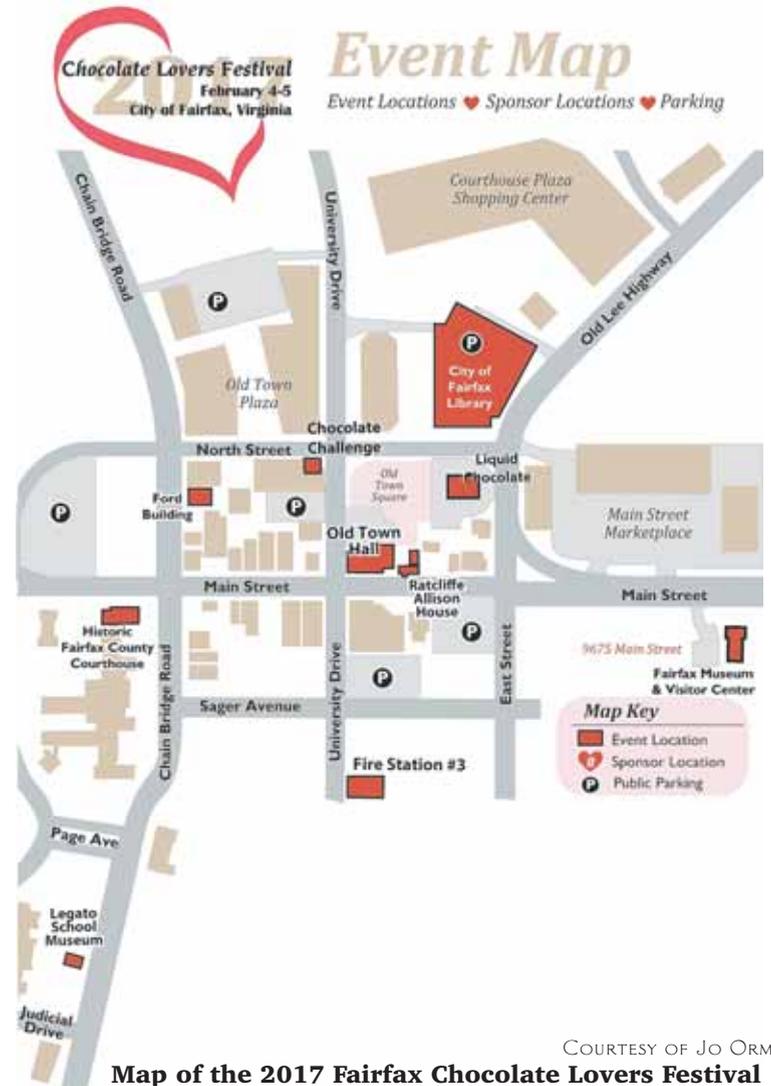
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WINTER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT



Map of the 2017 Fairfax Chocolate Lovers Festival

COURTESY OF JO ORMESHER

Chocolate Lovers Unite in the City

Fairfax's 25th annual festival is set for Feb. 4-5.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

A quarter of a century is a long time; but there's no expiration date on people's love of chocolate. So it's no surprise that the City of Fairfax is about to hold its 25th annual Chocolate Lovers Festival.

This delicious, always fun event is set for Saturday, Feb. 4, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 5, from noon - 4 p.m. And it will feature chocolate in pretty much every form imaginable - and not just cupcakes, candy, cookies, cakes, ice cream and fudge, but chocolate-chip pancakes and exotic alcoholic beverages flavored with chocolate.

"If you love chocolate, then Fairfax is the place to be during the Chocolate Lovers Festival," said City Mayor Steve Stombres. "The festival is a fun experience for the whole family and a great way to discover Fairfax."

"I've been a Chocolate Lovers volunteer for many years, and I love welcoming guests to the City of Fairfax at Old Town Hall, experiencing the excitement of the crowd, and seeing the chocolate-covered faces of so

many children after eating a delicious treat," he continued. "Every year we have a great turnout for this signature event, so I invite everyone to come out and enjoy a fun-filled day of chocolate with friends and neighbors from around the region."

The festivities include the Taste of Chocolate, where attendees purchase samples of mouthwatering, chocolate treats from two floors of vendors in Old Town Hall. Another highlight is the Chocolate Challenge, in which both professionals and home cooks vie to see who can make the most beautiful and creative chocolate sculptures, cakes and cupcakes.

Throughout the festival, children and adults will enjoy a full slate of activities. There'll be musical performances, fairytales, magic, juggling, face-painting, a cake walk, fire-safety puppet show, Chocolate Caper mock trial, cupcake-decorating and open houses in historic buildings.

All venues are handicap-accessible, and the Chocolate Express will provide free, fully accessible shuttle service between event locations. It'll run Feb. 4, from 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., and Feb. 5, from 11:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Only certified service animals are allowed inside any event site.

Chocolate Festival Schedule of Events

FRIDAY, FEB. 3

Liquid Chocolate - Inside a heated tent will be varieties of chocolate soda, chocolate wine, chocolate beer, hot chocolate, dessert wine pairings, chocolate milk and more.

6-8 p.m.
Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, (upper parking lot)

SATURDAY, FEB. 4

Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast and Bake Sale

8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive

Grant recipient Every1CanWork
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
City of Fairfax Regional Library,
10360 North St.

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

Chocolate Challenge and Silent Auction
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Former Pacers site, 10427 North St.

Child Fingerprinting - Fairfax County Sheriff's Office
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.,
Historic Fairfax Court House, 4000 Chain Bridge Road

Historic Records and Archives
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Historic Fairfax Court House, 4000 Chain Bridge Road

Fire Department Life Safety Puppet Show
10:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m.

City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St.

Harley Eye Candy Photos
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
City of Fairfax Regional Library, Front Porch, 10360 North St.

The Chocolate Caper Mock Trial - "Little Miss Muffett"
11 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
Historic Fairfax Court House, 4000 Chain Bridge Road

So You Think You Are Smarter Than a Lawyer?
12:30 p.m.
Historic Fairfax Court House, 4000 Chain Bridge Road

Cake Walk
1 p.m.
Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive

Chocolate-Dipped Tales with Kaydee Puppets
2 p.m.
City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St.

Liquid Chocolate
3-7 p.m.
Old Town Square (upper parking lot), 3999 University Drive

Be Our Valentine! Music with Cody & BJ!
3:30 p.m.
City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St.

Open House and Exhibits
*Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., 10209 Main St.;
*Legato School, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Route 123/Chain Bridge Road, between Judicial Drive and Sager Avenue;
*Ford House, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 3977 Chain Bridge Road;

*Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer House, noon to 4 p.m., 10386 Main St.

SUNDAY, FEB. 5

Grant recipient Every1CanWork
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
City of Fairfax Regional Library,
10360 North St.

Chocolate Challenge and Silent Auction
Noon to 4 p.m.
Former Pacers site, 10427 North St.

Taste of Chocolate
Noon to 4 p.m.
Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive

Construct a Cupcake
Noon to 3 p.m.
Twins Ace Hardware, 10310 Main St.

Chocolate-Covered Fairy Tales - with storyteller Gary Lloyd
2 p.m.
City of Fairfax Regional Library,
10360 North St.

Cake Walk
1-2 p.m.
Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive

Jonathan Austin - Magic & Juggling
3:30 p.m.
City of Fairfax Regional Library,
10360 North St.

Open House and Exhibits
*Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., 10209 Main St.;
*Legato School, noon to 4 p.m., Route 123/Chain Bridge Road, between Judicial Drive and Sager Avenue;
*Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer House, noon to 4 p.m., 10386 Main St.



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Liquid Chocolate and Pancakes

This year's chocolate fun will kick off Friday, Feb. 3, from 6-8 p.m., with a new event - Liquid Chocolate featuring a variety of chocolate libations. It'll be held inside a heated tent on Old Town Square's upper parking lot, 3999 University Drive. And because it's such a fun idea, it'll return on Saturday, Feb. 4, from 3-7 p.m.

There'll be beverages for all ages, ranging from chocolate soda, hot chocolate and milkshakes for children to chocolate wines, chocolate beers and dessert wine pairings for adults. Admission is free; alcohol tastings are \$2 each, nonalcoholic tastings, \$1 each. Participating businesses include The Wine House, Adroit Theory Brewing, Freddy's Steakhouses, Adventure Brewing and Twins Ace Hardware.

And as always, the Saturday festivities will begin with the Kiwanis Club of Fairfax Pancake Breakfast. From 8 a.m.-1 p.m., enjoy regular or chocolate-chip pancakes, sausage, coffee, juice and milk, at Fire Station 3, at 4081 University Drive. Cost is \$8, adults; \$4, children ages 4-10. Children 3 and under eat free with a paying adult (limit two children per adult). Face-painting will be available for \$2/child.

Taste of Chocolate

The festival's centerpiece, the Taste of Chocolate, will be held Feb. 4, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Feb. 5, from noon - 4 p.m. in Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive (corner of Main Street and University Drive). Strollers may be left on the front porch; a fully accessible entrance is at the door on Main Street.

Admission is free; visitors buy pogs for \$1 each and then browse vendors' tables to see the wide array of chocolate treats being offered. They purchase



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Hanadi Eljari and daughter Rama (on left) of Le Papiyon Chocolatier at the 2016 Taste of Chocolate.

them with pogs and may buy as many pogs as they want from roaming volunteers in red aprons.

Paradise for chocolate lovers, the variety of goodies includes chocolate candies, bars, brownies, cakes and fudge, chocolate-covered strawberries and ice cream. And one of the biggest hits each year are the chocolate fountains into which customers may dip fruit, cream-filled doughnut holes or marshmallows.

Among the vendors will be: C & D Sweets, CakeLove, Cakes by Shelby, Cameron's Coffee & Chocolates, The Capital Candy Jar, Capitol Chocolate Fountains; The Chocolatier's Palette, Chocotenago, Confection Connection, Dave's Candy Kitchen, HB&M Chocolate, Le Papiyon Chocolatier, Mike's Fudge, Salazon Chocolate Co., Sugar Mama's Ice Cream and Virginia Chocolate Co.

SEE CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL, PAGE 16

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WINTER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

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.

THURSDAY/JAN. 26

Lake Braddock Secondary School's production of Carousel 7:30 p.m. 9200 Burke Lake Rd, Burke. This classic musical by Rodgers and Hammerstein was once named "the musical of the century" by Time magazine. Opening night is January 26 and the cast will have a dress rehearsal on Jan. 21st if you would like to get some photos of students in costumes. Cost: Tickets start at \$12 and are available from www.brownpapertickets.com.

FRIDAY/JAN. 27

Lake Braddock Secondary School's production of Carousel 7:30 p.m. 9200 Burke Lake Rd, Burke.

SATURDAY/JAN. 28

Lake Braddock Secondary School's production of Carousel shows at 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. 9200 Burke Lake Rd, Burke.

History Lecture on Parson Mason Locke Weems 1 - 2 p.m. at Pohick Episcopal Church 9301 Richmond Highway in Lorton, on U.S. Route 1 between Telegraph Road and Pohick Road. The staff of the Weems-Botts Museum in Dumfries will be giving a lecture on the colorful and controversial figure of Parson Mason Locke Weems. Weems served as temporary Minister at Pohick Church from about 1800 to 1817. He was the writer of the biography of George Washington that contains the famous "Cherry Tree Story." 703-928-8184 or dickhamly@aol.com www.pohick.org.

SUNDAY/JAN. 29

Lake Braddock Secondary School's production of Carousel 3 p.m. 9200 Burke Lake Rd, Burke.

Virginia Dance Coalition Dance Festival 10 - 8 p.m. Ernst Cultural Center on the Northern Virginia Community College's Annandale Campus 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. The program includes three Master Classes (Ballet, Modern, and African) along with dancer wellness and career seminars. There are two performances - an Informal Showcase for emerging companies and artists, and a Gala Evening Performance for the professional and pre-professional groups. Registration info at www.VirginiaDanceCoalition.org 703-409-7988.

1898 Looting of Burke 4:30 - 6 Abiding Presence Lutheran Church 6304 Lee Chapel Rd, Burke. Cindy Bennett, BHS Treasurer, will speak on the 1898 looting of Burke by troops from Camp Alger during the Spanish-American War. Cost: Free. slawski_brian@yahoo.com www.burkehistoricalsociety.org

Concert by the Havenwood Trio 6 p.m. Calvary Hill Baptist Church, 9301 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. 703-323-1347.

TUESDAY/JAN.31

Writer Liane Kupferberg Carter at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia 7 p.m. 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. The insightful author will speak about her memoir, *Ketchup is My Favorite Vegetable: A Family Grows Up with Autism*, an unflinching portrait of family life, and a look at what has



There will be a **LEGO Workshop for children ages 6 through 11 on Friday, Feb. 3 from 2 - 5 p.m. The workshop will take place at the Sherwood Community Center, located at 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Fee: \$30/day. Registration Forms are available in office or online at www.fairfaxva.gov/parksrec. parksrec@fairfaxva.gov 703-385-1695.**

really gone on in the two decades after her son's diagnosis. Tickets: \$11 General Admission, \$8 for JCCNV members, persons 65+ and under 30. Tickets are available at <http://bpt.me/2740223>. 703-323-0880 jccnv.org.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 1

Fairfax Pets on Wheels New Volunteer Orientation First Wednesday of each month. 7:30 - 9 p.m. 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. An orientation for new volunteers interested in visiting residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities with their approved pets through the Fairfax Pets On Wheels program is held the first Wednesday of every month starting at 7:30 p.m. Please check our website, www.fpow.org for each month's location. Prior to attending, please complete the online application found at <http://www.fpow.org/volunteer>. Please do NOT bring your pets to this orientation. Also, see weather policy for possible cancellations. www.fpow.org 703-324-5424.

A Sacred Walk 7:15 p.m. Sydenstricker United Methodist Church, 8508 Hooes Rd., Springfield. 703-451-8223, sydenstrickerumc.org/sacred-walk Donna Authers will guide you through the pages of her book, *A Sacred Walk*. If you fear death or the dying process or you would like to know how best to provide practical, emotional, and spiritual support to a friend or loved one living with a life threatening illness, this evening and this book are for you. sydenstrickerumc.org/sacred-walk

FRIDAY/FEB. 3

Early Release LEGO Workshop 2 - 5 p.m. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Ages: 6 - 11. Spend your afternoon having a great time building and playing with thousands of specialty pieces and dozens of mini figures. Fee: \$30/day. Registration Forms are available in office or online at www.fairfaxva.gov/parksrec. parksrec@fairfaxva.gov 703-385-1695.

SATURDAY/FEB. 4

Make Your Own Valentines Table. American Cancer Society Crop/Craft: 9-5 p.m. with Fun Vendor Shop: 2-4. West Springfield High School Cafeteria (6100 Rolling Road, Springfield). Vendors: Stella & Dot, Mary Kay, Pampered Chef, Karinas Creations, Tupperware, Stampin' Up, LuLaRoe, Thirty-One Gifts, Creative Memories, Scentsy. All donations go to American Cancer Society. Call Leslie Carlin at 703.866.4962 or email fourcarlins@verizon.net for info.

ONGOING

Senior Line Dancing 1 - 2 p.m. Little River Glen Senior Center 4001 Barker Ct, Fairfax. Line Dancing is a gentle, social form of aerobic activity. Studies have shown it aids in warding off Alzheimer's disease. No previous experience needed. Cost: \$5 per 8 week session. barbriba@hotmail.com 703-524-3739

Fairfax Pets on Wheels New Volunteer Orientation First Wednesday of each month. 7:30 - 9 p.m. 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. An orientation for new volunteers interested in visiting residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities with their approved pets through the Fairfax Pets On Wheels program is held the first Wednesday of every month starting at 7:30 p.m. Please check our website, www.fpow.org for each month's location. Prior to attending, please complete the online application found at <http://www.fpow.org/volunteer>. Please do NOT bring your pets to this orientation. Also, see weather policy for possible cancellations. www.fpow.org 703-324-5424. dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov

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

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. moorefitt@yahoo.com or 703-499-6133.

"Out of the Blue..." Art Show **Workhouse Arts Center** February 8 to March 8 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Building 9 Hours: Wednesday - Sunday 11 - 6 p.m. Part of the Workhouse Arts Center 2nd Saturday Artwalk. "Out of the Blue..." is the featured artist show of Karen Chin. Her collection of pieces are "Out of the Blue" unrelated topics and represent a collection of subject matter that has been accumulating on her art to-do list. The show includes a nod to the hearts, reds and pinks of February.

EXERCISE PROGRAM Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 a.m. year-round at SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

Corey Bix appearing in Virginia Opera's 'The Magic Marksman.'



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA OPERA

Kara Shay Thomson appearing in Virginia Opera's 'The Magic Marksman.'



PHOTO BY DEVON CASS/ COURTESY OF VIRGINIA OPERA

Dramatic, Suspenseful, Colorful

"The Magic Marksman" from Virginia Opera at Fairfax's Center for the Arts.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

"It's a suspenseful thriller, with passionate romance and the struggle between good and evil." That is how Adam Turner, principal conductor, Virginia Opera, described "The Magic Marksman," the Opera's next offering at the Center for the Arts.

"It's basically a story of "boy loves girl, girl loves boy, but boy must win shooting competition to win the girl, but because of his recent bad luck he decides to bargain with the Devil, in exchange for a perfect shot..." Turner added.

With a haunting score by Carl Maria von Weber, the "The Magic Marksman" (*Der Freischütz*) is "a highly entertaining opera, full of spooky, suspenseful, supernatural elements, with the central theme of a man's passionate struggle," said Turner. "It has a 'Legend of Sleepy Hollow'-like mood to it."

The von Weber's score is dramatic, suspenseful, and colorful. "Our audiences will be chilled to the bone by Weber's unique orchestration." Weber paved the way for composers of the European Romantic Era.

To make the opera even more accessible to audience members, the opera will be sung in English. The Virginia Opera commissioned a new English translation courtesy of "The Magic Marksman" director Stephen Lawless and writing partner Dan Dooner. "It has a stylistic approach mirroring that of 19th-century American author Washington Irving," said Turner.

The Center for the Arts pre-show "Opera UpClose" discus-

Where and When

Virginia Opera presents "The Magic Marksman" at George Mason University, Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performances: Saturday, Feb. 4 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 5, 2017 at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$54-\$90-\$110. Call 888-945-2468 or visit: www.cfa.gmu.edu. Note: "Opera UpClose" 45 minutes before each performance; a "behind the scenes" discussion with Dr. Glenn Winters. Sponsored by Friends of the Center for the Arts.

Winters noted that in its own way "The Magic Marksman" could be seen as the great-grandfather of "Star Wars Episode IV: The Empire Strikes Back" with Luke Skywalker, Yoda and Darth Vader. He will explain that in his up-coming press show chat.

Performers featured in "The Magic Marksman" include Corey Bix, seen in last year's Virginia Opera production of another supernatural thriller, "The Flying Dutchman" and dramatic soprano Kara Shay Thomson, who will make her Virginia Opera debut joining opera favorites Katherine Polit and Jake Gardner.

"The Magic Marksman" may be a less well known opera, but Turner made clear that with its reality twists, forays into the supernatural and lush dramatic music, it will mesmerize.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Rd. Fairfax. The exercises are for strength, balance and maintaining limberness. Contact SCFB office at 703-426-2824 for more information.

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, however 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.

NARFE Monthly Meeting Every Second Tuesday 11:30 a.m. American Legion Post 177 located at 3939 Oak Street, Fairfax. NARFE Fairfax 737 monthly luncheon meeting. Enjoy lunch accompanied by a special program. Lunch at noon. Cost: \$11 Speaker/Program-12:45PM. rharney2@cox.net 703-501-0020

English Conversation Groups weekly at George Mason, Burke Centre, and Lorton Libraries Practice

and improve your English. Day and start times vary. Visit: <https://va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp>

First Sunday Jazz Brunch 11 - 2 p.m. Recurring monthly on the 1st Sunday at Bazin's on Church 111 Church St N.W., Vienna. Enjoy brunch accompanied by the soft jazz sounds of Virginia Music Adventure. Visit: <http://www.fxva.com/listing/bazins-on-church/1686/>

Stories From Strawberry Park 10 - 11 a.m. Tuesdays in Mosaic - Strawberry Park 2910 District Avenue, Fairfax. Enjoy a live interactive performance each week taught by a group of unique storytellers. For ages 10 and under. Held outside in Strawberry Park. In

inclement weather and October through April, storytime will be held in Angelika Film Center. Recurring weekly on Tuesday. Visit: <http://www.fxva.com/listing/mosaic-district/2326/>

African American Studies, Women and Gender Studies, BSA, DKA, and University Life. 703-993-2768 <http://www.fxva.com/event/>

SATURDAY/FEB. 18

Valentine's Day Banquet. Greater Zion Baptist Church will host Family Ministry 2017 Valentine's Day Banquet, 6:30-11 p.m. at Waterford Receptions at Springfield, 6715 Commerce Street in Springfield. Cost: \$50 per person. Contacts: Anthony and Terri Bazemore @GLZBC (703-764-9111); abazemore6@verizon.net; terrib6@verizon.net. Special features: Dinner Buffet, Music & Dancing. Payment deadline: Feb. 12.

Plan Ahead Events BFLS

MONDAY/FEB. 13

GMU Visiting Filmmakers Series: 13th with cinematographer Hans Charles 4:30 p.m. Johnson Center Cinema 4400 University Dr, Fairfax. sponsored by Film and Media Studies, Film and Video Studies, African and



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This free program will be led by Betsy Sue Scott, Esq. Betsy Sue is Principal in the Law Office of Betsy Sue Scott of Reston. Her specialties include wills, trusts, probate, estate administration, elder law, and assisted living admissions. She serves on the Board of Trustees of Virginia Diocesan Homes.



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- 2/1/2017.....Wellbeing - National Children's Dental Health Month
- 2/8/2017.....HomeLifeStyle
- 2/8/2017.....Valentine's Dining & Gifts II
- Valentine's Day is February 14
- 2/15/2017.....A+ Camps & Schools
- 2/22/2017.....Connection Families: Pet Connection

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- 3/1/2017.....Wellbeing
- 3/8/2017.....HomeLifeStyle Real Estate & Remodeling Pullout

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COMMUNITY OUTLOOK 2017



IMAGE COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A renovation of Cherry Run Elementary School will add 21,000 square-feet of space.



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Sunrise Senior Living is building an assisted living facility behind the Silas Burke House.

Neighborhood Development Update

BY TIM PETERSON

The Connection keeps a running list of land use projects being planned, under construction and nearing completion in the community. The list is updated quarterly.

Burke Junction — Intersection of Guinea Road and Zion Drive area

The developer has cleared land 17 single-family homes and a model home is constructed. Efforts to preserve the historical and environmental integrity of the site include the Potomac Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant society moving native plants to the site of a stormwater restoration project that was recently completed, as well as relocating the old post office that stood on the property to the grounds of the Silas Burke House.

Cherry Run Elementary School — 9732 Ironmaster Drive, Burke, VA 22015

A full renovation of the elementary school includes adding 21,000 square-feet and replacing an outdoor modular of eight classrooms for students with disabilities. The project will upgrade all spaces, music classrooms, art labs, multi-purpose spaces and spaces for specialists such as counselors that don't currently exist in the school.

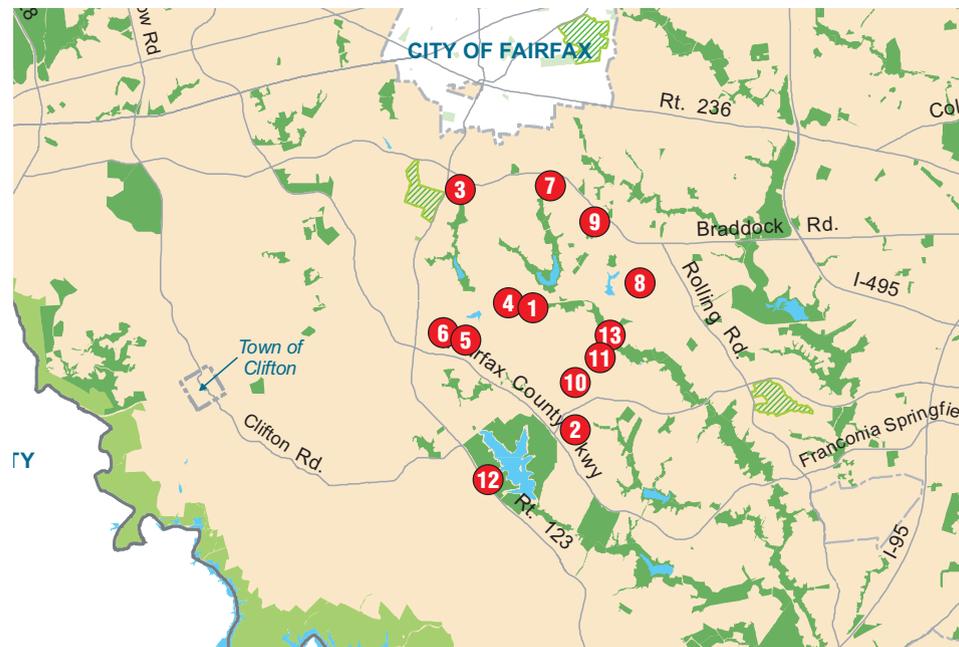
Christopher at Kenilworth — Braddock Road near intersection with Dequincy Drive

Land clearing for a development of nine single-family homes is complete, with a large number of trees coming down. Houses are being constructed and actively sold.

Forest Ridge — Lee Highway at Forest Hill Drive NV Homes is working with an approved site plan to build 40 single-family homes. The land has been cleared.

Giant Food at University Mall — 10681 Braddock Road

The grocery anchor for University Mall is



Developments Underway in Burke Area

- 1 **Burke Junction — Intersection of Guinea Road and Zion Drive area**
- 2 **Cherry Run Elementary School — 9732 Ironmaster Drive, Burke, VA 22015**
- 3 **Christopher at Kenilworth — Braddock Road near intersection with Dequincy Drive**
- 4 **Giant Food at University Mall — 10681 Braddock Road**
- 5 **Lake Royal Dredging — Northeast of Guinea Road and Zion Drive**
- 6 **New Chick-fil-A — 5793 Burke Centre Parkway**
- 7 **Five Guys Burgers and Fries — Burke Centre Shopping Center**
- 8 **Northern Virginia Training Center — 9901 Braddock Road**
- 9 **Old Burke Lake Preserve — Old Burke Lake Road at Lake Braddock Secondary School**
- 10 **New Popeyes — 9521 Braddock Road**
- 11 **Silas Burke House — Along Burke Lake Road between Burke Centre Parkway and Shiplott Boulevard**
- 12 **Townes at Burke Lake Crossing — 9537 Burke Lake Road**
- 13 **Woodglen Lake Dredging — Burke, Fairfax Station**
- 14 **Woodward property — Corner of Burke Lake Road and Coffey Wood Road**

undergoing renovation that will increase the size of the existing store considerably, up to 58,000 square-feet.

Lake Royal Dredging — Northeast of Guinea Road and Zion Drive

The last of the area's lakes to be dredged, Royal's ten acres of dredged material will be more difficult to relocate than Woodglen Lake's five. Dredging is currently underway on the \$6 million project. Most of the dredging has been completed on the lake side park portion; now the focus is on the park side. The work is on schedule, with negotiations now to dredge an additional 20,000 cubic yards of sediment. The completion date is still scheduled for June 26, 2017.

New Chick-fil-A — Burke Centre Shopping Center

Chick-fil-A is moving into a former bank building near the Burke Kohl's. Construction is expected to begin soon.

Five Guys Burgers and Fries — Burke Centre Shopping Center

Five Guys will be located in a new structure currently being erected on the property once occupied by the Friendly's restaurant that was torn down.

Northern Virginia Training Center — 9901 Braddock Road

All residents of the former state-owned residence and treatment facility for individuals with disabilities were relocated as of March, 2016, though some were moved to group homes sitting on the site's 80-acre property. The Commonwealth of Virginia is in the process of selling the land and has been in contract negotiations with the preferred, yet unnamed corporate buyer since April 2016. Scant yard work has been done and some security monitoring is provided by the state, though there is also an agreement than the West Springfield District police station may patrol there.

SEE OUTLOOK, PAGE 16

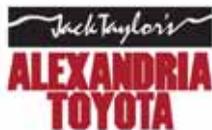
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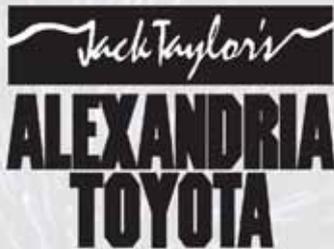
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21 Announcements

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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Lead Agency: Department of Army
Title of Proposed Action: Supplemental Environmental Assessment of Communications Line Extension, Davison Army Airfield, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.
Affected Jurisdiction: Fort Belvoir, Virginia
Prepared By: Directorate of Public Works, Fort Belvoir, Virginia
Approved By: Colonel Angie K. Holbrook, Commander, Fort Belvoir, Virginia

Abstract: This Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) documents potential impacts to the physical, biological and human environments associated with the extension of a new underground communications line from the main garrison area of Fort Belvoir to Davison Army Airfield (DAAF). The proposed ductbank is required to provide enhanced voice and data telecommunications connectivity to DAAF from the existing communications network within Fort Belvoir. After evaluating communications network needs at DAAF, Fort Belvoir network personnel identified a single viable alternative, extending the ductbank along the Poe Road corridor (Proposed Action). This Poe Road Alternative was selected based upon the location and availability of existing network infrastructure connection hubs at either end of the alignment and required communication system diversity needs. The No Action Alternative was evaluated to provide a baseline for evaluating impacts of the Proposed Action. None of the impacts associated with the Proposed Action are considered significant. As a result, it is anticipated that preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) will be published in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Review Period: Interested parties are invited to review and comment on the EA and draft FNSI during a 30 day period. Please submit any comments to Commander, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir, Attention: Directorate of Public Works, Building 1442, 9430 Jackson Loop, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5116 or email your comments to: usarmy.belvoir.imcom-atlantic.mbx.enrd@mail.mil.

The EA and draft FNSI were available for review on the internet at: <http://www.belvoir.army.mil/envirodocssection2.asp>. Documents were also provided for public review at the following libraries for a period of 30 days:

Fairfax County Library
Lorton Branch
9520 Richmond Highway
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The exploits of Col John Mosby are being recounted in a 3-week course.

BY DAVE RYAN
OLLI OUTREACH DIRECTOR

Many Northern Virginians probably think of guerilla fighting as a relatively modern phenomenon, exemplified by the fighting units of the Viet Cong in Vietnam and Fidel Castro in the Sierra Maestra Mountains as he sought to overthrow the Batista regime in Cuba. Yet over 150 years ago, right here in our own backyard, Colonel John Singleton Mosby, a Confederate army cavalry battalion commander nicknamed the "Gray Ghost," used similar guerrilla tactics to terrorize the Union Army stationed in Northern Virginia.

The exploits of Col Mosby are being recounted by CIA veteran Patrick Diehl in a 3-week course beginning Jan. 25 at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at George Mason University.

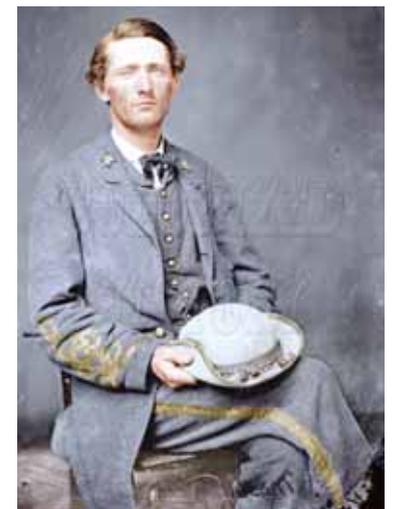
From 1863-65, Mosby led a small (usually 150-200 men) but daring group of cavalry that operated behind Union lines in Fairfax, Prince William, Loudoun, and Fauquier counties, as well as areas around the Shenandoah Valley. Loudoun and Fauquier counties, in fact, known as "Mosby's Confederacy" because it was so risky for Union soldiers to travel there.

Mosby's "Rangers" struck isolated Union detachments without warning, and usually captured most of the men and their horses. Then the Rangers would seemingly vanish into the countryside, not to be found by pursuing Union forces. The secret to this



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Mosby and men on Fairfax Courthouse Raid, 9 March 1863.



PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN

John Singleton Mosby.



PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN

John S. Mosby.

Or how about the Great Train Robbery outside of Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, when Mosby captured Sheridan's payroll of \$176,000.

Mosby also provided excellent intelligence to Robert E. Lee and Jeb Stuart on Union troop movements heading south to Richmond. Mosby was regarded as the finest scouting source for Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.

Mosby's activities were a serious thorn in the side of the Union authorities trying to control the Northern Virginia counties. At one point there were 10 Union regiments pursuing him, and there were approximately 60 military engagements from 1863-64. The Rangers suffered a total of 85 killed in action and 200 prisoners at war's end. By contrast, historians generally estimate Union losses at around 2900 killed, wounded and captured and a total of 3500 horses and mules stolen.

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successful disappearing act was Mosby's recognition of guerrilla warfare principles, a perception almost unique in the Civil War era. The most important principle being that sympathetic civilians in Loudoun and Fauquier counties housed and fed Mosby's men on their farmsteads. Thus the Rangers became virtually indistinguishable from the locals, and the Union soldiers never really knew whom to take into custody.

Other Mosby innovations covered in the course include: (1) Relying on revolvers in combat instead of the traditional cavalry saber; and (2) Setting up a network of long range scouting parties along the Shenandoah River and the Potomac River in Fairfax, providing Mosby with early warning of Union troop movements.

The course also highlights some of Mosby's most celebrated attacks. These include the nighttime capture of a Union general and other officers at Fairfax Court House in 1863. Then there was the famous Wagon Train raid at Berryville, Virginia in 1864 when the Rangers captured and destroyed over 200 wagons supplying the divisions of Union General Philip Sheridan.

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.

BULLETIN BOARD

SATURDAY/FEB. 11

Town Hall Meeting. Del. David Bulova (D-37) and Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) will hold a town hall meeting, from 9-11 a.m., at Fairfax City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St. in Fairfax. All are welcome to attend, hear about their legislative agenda, ask questions and share concerns.

FEB. 11 - 12, FEB. 18-19, AND FEB. 26

Loudoun Freedom Girls Basketball Tryouts
Tryouts to form girls' teams from 2nd grade through 11th grade for the 2017 season will be held the weekends of Feb. 11 - 12, Feb. 18-19, and Feb. 26. If you are interested in your daughter playing at a higher competitive level and developing into a great player, consider trying out. See www.loudounfreedom.com for the full schedule, how to register Contact loudounfreedomball@gmail.com

ONGOING

Fairfax-based non-profit Britepaths offers free Financial Education Classes Sessions at various locations in the Fairfax County area to low- and middle-income adults who reside throughout Northern Virginia. The offerings are free and open to the public, but reservations are required. <https://britepaths.org/news/get-financially-fit-new-year>

"Thrifty Thursdays" Basic Budgeting Classes in Annandale, Chantilly and Alexandria 7-9 p.m. Heritage Building 7611 Little River Turnpike, East Wing 1st Floor Conference Room D Annandale. Thursday, January 19, 2017 & Thursday, April 20, 2017.

South County Government Center 7-9 p.m. 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Thursday, February 16, 2017 (Room 220) & Thursday, May 18, 2017 (Room 220) Chantilly High School 7-9 p.m. 4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Thursday, March 16, 2017 (Room 253) & Thursday, June 15, 2017 (Room 253) For All Sessions, RSVP to: Carole Rogers at crogers@britepaths.org or 703-273-8829 Register Now for Free Parenting Classes — Sessions Begin Jan. 23, 2017

The Fairfax County Department of Family Services' Parenting Education Programs is enrolling families for several upcoming parenting classes. These programs are special in that both parents and children attend the classes together but are taught in separate classrooms. Classes are free for Fairfax County residents. Depending on the curriculum, classes meet once a week from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. for 12, 13, 18, or 24 weeks. Free childcare and dinner are provided each night. There are a variety of classes available throughout the year, but the following three

- classes will start this month:
- ♦ January 23, 2017 through June 26, 2017 – Ages 0 to 4 – Curriculum taught in Spanish. Mondays, 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Main Street Development Center in Fairfax.
- ♦ January 23, 2017 through May 1, 2017 – Ages 5 to 11 – Curriculum taught in English. Mondays, 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Fairfax Church of Christ.
- ♦ January 31, 2017 through May 9, 2017 – Ages 5 to 11 – Curriculum taught in Spanish. Tuesdays, 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Springfield.

Registration is required, so please register as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Raiza Barraza by phone at (703) 324-7745, or by email at raycelly.barraza@fairfaxcounty.gov. You may also contact Natalie Bailey by phone at (703) 324-3617 or via email at natalie.bailey@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Reminder Crime Prevention – Please contact the Fairfax County Police Department at 703-691-2131 (non-emergency) to report ANY suspicious activity, no matter how small or insignificant it may seem at the time. It is better if police reports can be called in while the suspicious activity is in progress to the extent possible.

WINTER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

Chocolate Festival Returns Feb. 4-5

FROM PAGE 9

Chocolate Challenge, Cake Walks

The Chocolate Challenge is a display of creative and imaginative chocolate sculptures, cakes and cupcakes. It runs Feb. 4, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Feb. 5, from noon - 4 p.m. But this year, it's in a new location at 10427 North St., in the former Pacers site at the corner of North and University. Admission is \$1/adult; children under 18 are free. A designated stroller-parking area is outside the building.

Both professionals and amateurs participate, and judges and visitors judge them in various categories. Visitors may use their admission ticket to vote for the People's Choice Award winner and participate in the silent auction of challenge entries, plus items from local businesses.

In addition, cake walks will be going on throughout the day, Saturday and Sunday, in Old Town Square. Participants will have the chance to win cakes.

Grant Recipient

Each year, the Chocolate Lovers Festival Committee chooses a charitable organization to receive part of the festival proceeds. This year's recipient is Every1 Can Work, a local nonprofit providing permanent employment opportunities for young adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

In the City of Fairfax, it's better known as Cameron's Coffee & Chocolates, which opened Oct. 1, 2013, in Fairfax Circle. Then, it hired three workers with intellectual disabilities; today, it employs 14 trained not only in work skills, but in life and social skills, too.

They help prepare from scratch and then bake fresh muffins and cookies daily. And using Callebaut Belgian chocolate, they hand-dip a wide assortment of caramels, truffles, toffee and more. Cameron's is open for breakfast, lunch, coffee or a chocolate delicacy. And Sundays, from 8-10 a.m., they host Cars and Coffee, during which people display their cars, share stories and spend time together.

Cookbooks, Valentines

Chocolate Lovers Festival Cookbooks (\$10) may be purchased at both the pancake breakfast and the Taste of Chocolate.

The official, 2017 festival valentine features Woody's Ice Cream. Drawn by local artist Jackie Liedl, these limited-edition valentine's cost \$5. Each in-



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

(From left) Alistair Leith and Ryan Sword dip treats into last year's chocolate fountain.



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

This cake won first place in last year's Chocolate Challenge professional category.

cludes a coupon for five, \$1 pogs to use at the Taste of Chocolate. Buy valentines at City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St., room 123; Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St. or from any member of the Independence Day Celebration Committee. Or find them during a scavenger hunt at downtown businesses.

COMMUNITY OUTLOOK



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

The old post office that stood on the Burke Junction property is being relocated to the grounds of the Silas Burke House.

Neighborhood Development Update

FROM PAGE 12

Old Burke Lake Preserve — Old Burke Lake Road at Lake Braddock Secondary School

Two homes are being built on a three-lot subdivision, developed by-right.

New Popeyes — 9521 Braddock Road

Popeyes fast food fried chicken is moving into the old Pizza Hut restaurant at Twinbrooke Centre. The move has been approved by the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission and is in the site design and planning phase, which can take nine to 12 months or longer.

Silas Burke House — Along Burke Lake Road between Burke Centre Parkway and Shiplott Boulevard

Sunrise Senior Living is building an assisted living facility behind the Silas Burke House. At a date yet to be determined, the historic house will be joined on the top of the hill by the old post office from Burke Junction. Sunrise agreed to make repairs to the historic house, including improved foundation supports, new windows, roofing and interior work. The completion target date for the new facility is fall 2017. The old house will be made available to the public several times a year.

Townes at Burke Lake Crossing — 9537 Burke Lake Road
The developer has begun the process of clearing the site for

Christopher Companies' planned 12 townhomes at the intersection of Burke Lake Rd. and Shiplott Blvd.

Woodglen Lake Dredging — Burke, Fairfax Station

The project began with fish relocation to Lake Accotink in November 2014 and is now complete. The contractor added vegetative plugs to the bottom of the lake that will support a new fish population. Over the summer 2016, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries began restocking the lake with fish, the first in a three-year cycle. This year restocking will be done with different species. Work will continue for two more years.

Woodward property — Corner of Burke Lake Road and Coffey Wood Road

Christopher Companies has filed an application to develop 2.72 acres for nine single family homes around this intersection. Alternative proposed plans include entrances on Burke Lake Road and on Coffey Woods Road. The Planning Commission hearing has been pushed back to early March. The developer has been talking with the Burke Village homeowners association, as well as discussing traffic logistics with transportation officials.

Sources: Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) and land use aide, Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) and land use aide, Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) and land use aide.

Where to Park for Festival

Free parking is available at the following locations, with handicapped parking offered at all sites, except for Sager Avenue:

- ❖ **Bank of America**, 10440 Main St. (accessible from Route 236 and North Street).
- ❖ **City Hall**, 10455 Armstrong St. (accessible from Route 123/Chain Bridge Road and George Mason Boulevard).
- ❖ **City of Fairfax Regional Library**, 10360 North St. (accessible from University Drive and Old Lee Highway).
- ❖ **East Street parking lot** (accessible from Route 236/Main Street and East Street).

- ❖ **Fairfax County Courthouse Garage B**, 4400 Chain Bridge Road (accessible from Page Avenue).
- ❖ **Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center**, 10209 Main St.
- ❖ **Fire Station 3**, 4081 University Drive.
- ❖ **Old Town Plaza**, 3955 Chain Bridge Road (accessible from Route 123/Chain Bridge Road and University Drive).
- ❖ **Old Town Village** (behind Pacer's, 10427 North St.) Open at noon Saturday and all day Sunday; (accessible from University Drive).
- ❖ **Sager Avenue parking lot** (accessible from Sager Avenue and University Drive).