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WELLBEING

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) in Richmond with Springfield visitor, friend and advocate, Tilly Blanding.

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NEWS



Gov. Terry McAuliffe appeared and spoke at the airport Saturday. U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (right) visited the ongoing demonstration Monday afternoon.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Right, U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) was able to get one pair of detainees released Saturday evening with the help of immigration attorneys: Fairfax County resident and green card holder Ahmed Mohedian, 71, who had been held with his wife after returning from Iran.

Anti-Immigration Ban Rallies Held at Dulles

Demonstrators, volunteer attorneys and elected officials welcome travelers, extend help detainees.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Del. Marcus Simon (D-53) brought his two children, 13 and 11, to Dulles International Airport Jan. 28, not to fly, but to witness and learn.

Demonstrations sprang up at airports around the United States over the weekend, following an Executive Order by President Donald Trump that blocks travelers from seven largely Muslim countries — Iraq, Iran, Syria, Yemen, Sudan, Libya and Somalia — in the interests of more significant vetting and preventing would-be terrorists from entering the country.

Simon's wasn't the only family in attendance. Many had brought their children to the demonstration.

"You show them this is what you do, how you protest, be patriotic," Simon said, "when the government does something you don't agree with. You expose them to something positive."

THE BAN was announced Friday and officials at airports began enforcing it immediately. Travelers from the seven countries are blocked from entering the U.S. for 90 days, and new refugee admissions from the same nations blocked for 120 days. Syrian refugees are blocked indefinitely, according to the ban.

Some individuals who hold valid visas were impacted by the ban, and others with



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE

Left, PFC Post and (right) PFC Gibson from the Fairfax County Police Department visit the Al-Fatih Academy in Reston, as a show of support following recent attacks against Muslims and mosques.

legal status and green cards have been detained at airports. A federal judge in Brooklyn passed a ruling over the weekend that blocked part of Trump's action, and Judge Leonie M. Brinkema of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia issued a temporary restraining order Saturday night specifically for those detained at Dulles.

Brinkema ordered airport authorities to grant lawyers access to detainees who are permanent legal residents, and that permanent residents not be removed for seven days.

Simon was at Dulles Saturday and Sunday, as well as state Sen. Jennifer Wexton (D-33), U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) and U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), asking that

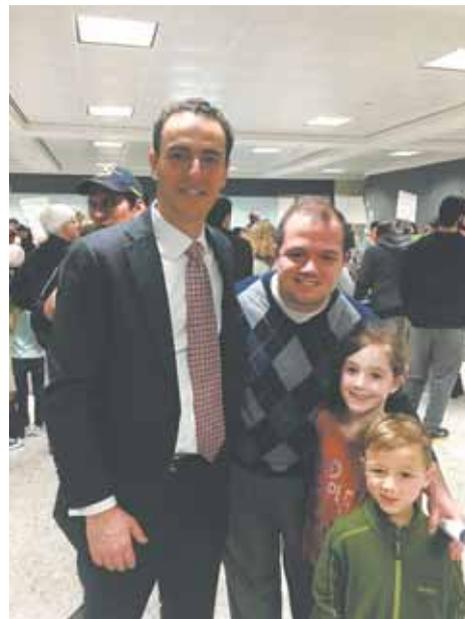


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Del. Simon's (D-53) wasn't the only family in attendance at anti-immigration ban rallies over the weekend at Dulles airport. Many had brought their children, including these constituents of Simon's.

some of the more than 20 lawyers present be given that opportunity to meet with the detainees.

The scenes were intense and a little chaotic, Simon said, but the demonstrators were nonviolent and positive.

"I was just amazed at the number of people, the energy, the spirit, the spontaneity," said Simon. "In some ways, it was heartening, to see so many Northern Virginians reacting to [the ban]."

Gov. Terry McAuliffe appeared and spoke at the airport Saturday. U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (D) visited the ongoing demonstration Monday afternoon.

Connolly was able to get one pair of detainees released Saturday evening with the help of immigration attorneys: Fairfax

County resident and green card holder Ahmed Mohedian, 71, who had been held with his wife after returning from Iran. He was in that country receiving medical treatment, Connolly's office said.

"America has always stood for being a beacon of hope," Connolly said in a statement reacting to the ban. "Donald Trump would paint over Emma Lazarus's words on the Statue of Liberty. There are millions of us willing to stand with immigrants coming into our country. There are millions of us willing to insist that America's doors remain open to those fleeing injury, violence or persecution. This order was not thought through and must be rescinded. We will fight this illegal Executive Order."

Simon said airport security officials and border control told them they weren't allowed to say anything. One of the concerns, he said the legislators had heard, was that individuals arriving from the ban-affected countries were being met once they got off the plane and asked to sign a document that essentially forfeited their green card.

"If that's what's going to happen," Simon said, "it shouldn't be."

If he had just landed in a foreign country and was met by men with guns when getting off the plane, said Simon, "I'd sign anything that was stuck in front of me." That's why it was important for the lawyers to meet with these people and explain their rights to them, he added.

Another issue Simon raised was the apparent lack of information and clarity on the details of the ban — airport officials seemed unprepared for enforcing it.

"The rank and file employees, they were stuck between a rock and a hard place, a really difficult position," Simon said. Typically with a ban like this, he continued, "you'd expect there to be some more coordination with agencies, planning, and in

SEE RALLIES, PAGE 15

Bipartisan Agreement Forged in House Panel on Reducing Suspended Driver's Licenses

Republicans work with Cabinet officials to craft changes to let more people keep drivers licenses.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

When Ryan Johnson was in college at Virginia Tech, he made a stupid decision. He got high with a group of friends, and he got caught. The police charged him with possession of less than a gram of marijuana. He was an honor student, and he was the first in his family to go to college. But suddenly he found himself caught up in the criminal justice system.

One part of his sentence puzzled him, though. It wasn't the monthly visits with the probation officer or the random drug tests. It wasn't the drug and alcohol education program or the the community service at a nursing home. And he paid all the court fines while working a part time job at night after school. What surprised him was the loss of his driver's license.

"I thought to myself why is my license being suspended for something that didn't involve a car or driving?" he explained to lawmakers during a hearing this week. "How am I supposed to get to school or work? How can I pay for my fines and my court costs and my lawyer if I can't get to work?"

Johnson is not alone. About 200,000 people in Virginia have a suspended license for a legal infraction that has nothing to do with a driving offense. Virginia is one of 15 states that impose mandatory driver's license suspensions on simple possession



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Brian Moran tells lawmakers to balance their concerns about the cost of not penalizing people with the cost of filling up Virginia jails for no reason.

charges that do not involve motor vehicles. And 650,000 people in Virginia have a suspended license for failing to pay court costs, mainly drug offenses and child-support violations. Democratic Gov. Terry McAuliffe told lawmakers earlier this month he wanted to make the issue of restoring drivers licenses to these people one of the hallmarks of this year's legislative session.

"Another step we can take to protect Virginians' economic productivity is to limit the number of people whose driver's licenses are suspended due to unpaid court costs and non-driving related offenses," said McAuliffe. "Suspending people's driver's licenses limits their ability to work, which only makes it more difficult to earn the money to pay off their debt and build better lives."

REPUBLICANS AGREE with McAuliffe that too many people suffer from suspended drivers licenses, and leaders in both parties met this week in a House committee room

send a real strong message that as attorney general, I'm going to stand up against that kind of predatory tactic in what we believe was misleading for consumers."

This week, Herring secured a \$15 million settlement against a California-based CashCall that will help 15,000 victims who took 17,000 loans. The settlement includes \$6 million worth of absolved debt and \$9 million worth of cash payments to victims of the fraud.

The federal judge who approved the settlement did not mince words about the significance of the case.

"When you look at this case," said Judge **John Gibney**, "your jaw drops at what a predatory scheme this was."

Long Memories

Election 2016 may have come and gone. But that doesn't mean that everything that was said and done last year has been for-

to forge a compromise, sifting through about a dozen legislative proposals to craft a set of proposals with bipartisan support that is likely to be one of the major accomplishments of the 2017 session.

"Many of them are driving now, and then they get stopped and they get arrested for driving on a suspended license," said Brian Moran, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security. "I would just ask you to balance your concern about the cost of not penalizing that person with the cost of their being arrested for driving on a suspended license and filling up our jails."

According to the version of the legislation that emerged from a House Courts of Justice subcommittee this week, those who are convicted of a non-driving related offense would be able to serve more community service instead of having their driver's license suspended. The amount would double from 25 hours to 50 hours. And, as one delegate noted, many times community service is very difficult and grueling work.

gotten. Some of the heated rhetoric from last year's election recently overshadowed a bill that would have created a fund for family and medical leave. While explaining his bill, Del. **Mark Levine** (D-45) said creating the fund would benefit working people, and then be brought up the election.

"Some would say the 2016 election was largely based on struggling working-class people," said Levine.

Bringing up the election may have been a tactical mistake for Levine.

"We saw what you wrote in a blog about working-class people," responded Del. **Tim Hugo** (R-40), referring to a post by Levine on Blue Virginia.

The blog post, which was published just after the election, clearly made an impression among Republicans.

"What were we? Mentally deficient?" asked Del. **Peter Farrell** (R-56).

"I said people who want to kill **Hillary**

"I thought to myself why is my license being suspended for something that didn't involve a car or driving? How am I supposed to get to school or work? How can I pay for my fines and my court costs and my lawyer if I can't get to work?"

— **Ryan Johnson**, former student at Virginia Tech who lost his driver's license after being busted with marijuana

"At first they'll say they want to be on litter duty instead of being in the jail" said Del. Ben Cline (R-24). "And after a few eight-hour days of picking up litter in 95-degree weather, they want to go back to jail."

Delegates struggled with the best way to handle those who have not paid court costs and fees.

THEIR MAJOR CONCERN was finding a way to keep people from gaming the system, evading local court clerks and potentially clogging dockets with unnecessary hearings and appeals. One of the problems is that many court clerks demand a 50 percent down payment on court costs, which many people are unable to pay. Ultimately, they were able to create a deferred payment system that has unanimous support from Democrats and Republicans.

"If people are going to pay, they're going to pay," said Martin Kumer, superintendent of the Albemarle jail. "And they certainly won't pay if they don't have a job, and they can't drive to and from their job."

Clinton are mentally deficient," said Levine.

Skeptical of that answer, Hugo went online and tracked down Levine's blog post so he could throw Levine's words back in his face. Just before the Republican-led subcommittee killed Levine's bill about family and medical leave, Hugo returned to the heated politics of Election 2016.

"What we saw you wrote was that Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax will never be places where homophobia, racism, sexism or religious prejudice will be tolerated," said Hugo. "Does that mean where all these others are, do you think they tolerate religious prejudice down there?"

"I was speaking for my community," said Levine. "I know that they are not tolerated in my community."

At that point, the Republicans voted to kill Levine's bill.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

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IN SESSION

'Tribe for Hire' Fraud Offered Loans

The television commercials made the loan look so easy: Get \$5,000 in your checking account now. The message was delivered by what appeared to be a Native American woman as a tribal drumbeat blared in the background, and the company billed itself as having ties to the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe in South Dakota. But Virginia Attorney General **Mark Herring** says that was nothing more than a fraud, a scheme he calls "rent-a-tribe."

"There was a thinly veiled attempt to try to create the appearance to a connection to a tribal entity when in fact they really didn't have one, and then made people think that state laws like our usury laws didn't apply," said Herring, who secured a \$15 million settlement this week. "With that kind of a scheme involved it was really important to



Honoring Dr. King with a Day of Service

Cub Scout Pack 1683, chartered by the Newington Forest Community Association, honored the MLK Day of Service by participating in the Girl Scout Cadet Troop led Cleanup project on Jan. 16, 2017 at Mason Neck State Park. Several of the Pack gathered under Cubmaster Jesse's leadership for a 3 hour 3 mile hike with trash bags to beautify the Mason Neck State Park. The Pack didn't notice a whole lot of trash, but as Cubmaster Jesse said, not much trash is not a bad thing, as it means people are preserving our State Parks even without our help.




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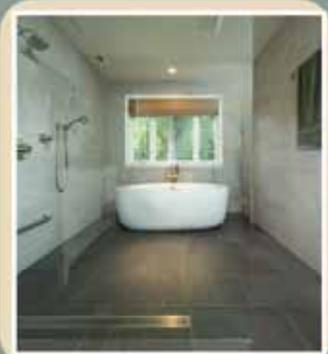
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OPINION

So Much Happening, Don't Blink

Demonstrations at Dulles in reaction to travel ban; fast moving General Assembly lacks transparency; other key issues.

There is so much going on this week: Locally, the effects of a travel ban at odds with American values played out at Dulles International Airport, but stimulated a heartening response, with volunteer attorneys offering help, local, state and federal elected officials demanding accountability and peaceful demonstrators protesting the un-American assault on travel from particular Muslim-majority countries.

"I was just amazed at the number of people, the energy, the spirit, the spontaneity," said Del. Marcus Simon, who used FaceBook Live to share the scene over several days. "In some ways, it was heartening, to see so many Northern Virginians reacting."

See reporter Tim Peterson's story in this paper.

CROSSOVER is Feb. 7; that's when only bills that have passed either the House of Delegates or the Virginia Senate can move forward.

As this date approaches, the General Assembly has a serious transparency issue, as it continues to kill most proposed legislation with unrecorded voice votes in subcommittee, with no accountability or record of how members voted.

This was raised to new heights earlier this week, when a House of Delegates subcommittee killed proposed constitutional amendments including non-partisan redistricting and restoring voting rights of felons, along with more than 20 proposed amendments, in a single vote.

John Horejsi of Vienna, who heads the organization Social Action Linking Together, notes that his organization is unable to track what

happens to legislation they support. This headline, which ran last week on www.roanoke.com, says it all: "Bill to require recorded votes dies on an unrecorded vote, again."

State Sen. Creigh Deeds continues important work on mental health reform, citing three priorities this year, requiring most of Community Services Boards around the state to provide same-day service and certain outpatient services; to assess and provide care for inmates who have mental health needs; and long-term supportive housing to help avoid repeated mental health crises.

About 200,000 people in Virginia have had their motor vehicle licenses suspended for a legal infraction that has nothing to do with a driving offense. And 650,000 people in Virginia have a suspended license for failing to pay court costs. This is an obstacle to holding a job and being able to meet other obligations, and legislation to stop this counter-productive practice is still alive in the Virginia Senate.

The sale of high-proof grain alcohol in Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control stores passed the House of Delegates earlier in the session, and is just foolish.

EFFORTS by state Sen. Adam P. Ebbin and others, supporting repeal of the Virginia constitutional amendment approved by voters in 2006 forbidding gay marriage should move forward. The 2006 amendment is no longer valid because the U.S. Supreme Court in 2015 legalized same-sex marriage.

State Sen. Chap Petersen introduced a doomed bill to ban contributions from public utilities. "Monopolies like Dominion or Appa-

lachian Power have an undue influence on the political process. That leads to legislation which has a direct cost to Virginia consumers, both residents and small businesses," Petersen said.

It looks like the felony threshold will increase to \$500 from \$200, an important distinction championed by Petersen and state Sen. Scott Surovell.

While the constitutional amendment to address voting rights for felons who have served their sentences died in the above action, Gov. Terry McAuliffe should be commended for restoring the civic rights of more than 128,000 Virginians, and his plans to restore rights for any remaining Virginia citizens who lost their rights. This has been a laborious and worthy process, adapted as needed to meet legal challenges and court rulings.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Submit Photos to Pet Connection

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish the last week of February, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Feb. 15.

Please tell us a little bit about your creature, identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description what is happening in the photo, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just your town name).

Email editors@connectionnewspapers.com or submit online at www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets.

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Not Representative of Who We Are

BY EILEEN FILLER-CORN
STATE DELEGATE (D-41)

Like so many of you and so many Americans, I was appalled when I learned of President Trump's Executive Order barring those from seven Muslim majority countries from entering the United States, even if they have valid American visas of any kind. This is not representative of who we are as a country. It is in direct opposition of our American values and our constitution because it essentially creates a religious test for entry into the United States. Until a recent reversal by



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

RICHMOND REPORT

the White House, it also denied due process to green card holders who have been unable to reenter the country.

One of the many reasons my husband and I chose to live and raise our family in Fairfax County was due to its diversity. We wanted our children to be exposed to people of different cultures and religions. We strived to set an example for them to be tolerant of others. We taught them that America is great because of immigrants, not in spite of them.

We should know better than to repeat the mistakes of the past, such as when European Jews were turned away from American shores and in many cases, like that of Anne Frank, later perished in concentration camps. Accepting this as the status quo is unacceptable.

Joining Women's March on Washington

I was honored to join the hundreds of thousands of women and men who participated in the Women's March on Washington last week. All of us who took part

in one of the largest peaceful marches in American history exercised our First Amendment right to peaceably assemble. We sought to remind our new President how important it is to us that he protect our precious civil liberties. In addition to well over half a million people marching in Washington, estimates placed the number of participants nationwide at over 3 million in more than 500 separate locations—with every state represented.

I cannot accurately put into words the feeling I had marching with my daughter and my husband as well as being surrounded by so

SEE RICHMOND REPORT,
PAGE 7

Springfield
CONNECTION

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Richmond Report

FROM PAGE 6

many passionate women of all ages, daughters, mothers, grandmothers, as well as men of all ages as far as the eye could see. This past Monday, I gave my first floor speech of the session about the Women's March, why we marched and how precious our First Amendment right to peacefully assemble is. You can watch my remarks here.

Legislative Update

This past week several of my bills were acted upon in subcommittee, full committee and on the floor of the House of Delegates.

❖ **Notification of Bullying.** My bill, HB 1709, which would direct school principals to notify the parent of any student involved in an alleged incident of bullying of the status of any investigation within 14 school days following the allegation of bullying, unanimously passed the House this week. Next, I will have the opportunity to present the bill to the State Senate. I was appreciative of the compelling testimony provided the previous week by Sylvia and Brandon Farbstein. Brandon is a 17-year old student in Henrico County Public Schools who was a victim of bullying. His mother Sylvia struggled to get updates about the status of the incidents in which Brandon was victimized. It is my hope that this legislation will ensure that parents receive timely updates when their child is a part of a bullying investigation.

❖ **Encouraging Workforce Development in Schools.** My bill HB 1708, which would require the Board of Education to consider including industry credentials earned when measuring school accreditation, was passed in the Education Innovation Committee. I will present this bill to the full Education Committee tomorrow. As Chair of Jobs for Virginia graduates, I often visit schools that not only ensure that students graduate, but also prepare them for life after high school. For some students, that may include higher education, for others it may be directly entering the workforce. This bill advocates for rewarding schools that provide career technical education to their students.

❖ **Boundaries and Consent.** I had two bills up in the Elementary and Secondary Education Subcommittee this past week. One, HB 2257, would ensure that consent education is taught in High School Family Life Education. The other, HB 2406, would re-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41), center, with Precious Crabtree and Jessica Bowser, lobbying on behalf of public education.

quire any family life education curriculum offered in any elementary school, middle school, or high school to include instruction on the importance of the personal privacy and personal boundaries of other individuals. HB 2406 and HB 2257 passed out of subcommittee and will go before the full Education committee tomorrow.

Visitors to Richmond

This was another week of friends, constituents and groups visiting me in my office in Richmond. I truly appreciate visitors taking the time to make this effort. I met with representatives from the GMU Student Government Association, members of the VEA, AARP, SEIU, 4H, and student hygienists from Northern Virginia Community College among many other groups.

It is my privilege to serve in the House of Delegates on your behalf and address the issues that face the 41st District and the Commonwealth as a whole. I look forward to hearing from you or seeing you in Richmond and/or out and about in the 41st District during the weekends. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any assistance from my office.

Write The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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Find more information about submissions online at www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets.

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NEWS

Passenger Killed in Car Crash on Clifton Road

Estrada Izaguirre, 21, of Springfield was pronounced dead at the scene of a single-vehicle crash in the 7600 block of Clifton Road in Fairfax Station on Thursday, Jan. 26.

Fairfax County officers from the West Springfield Police District responded to a call about the incident around 10 p.m. that night.

Police said they found a 2007 Volkswagen Golf that had hit a tree after leaving the road.

The 18-year-old driver, also from Springfield, had non-life-threatening injuries, police said, and was taken to Inova Fairfax Hospital.

Crash Reconstruction Unit detectives initially believed the VW was heading eastbound

on Clifton Road when the driver lost control, and that excessive speed was a factor in the crash. Police gave no indication of how fast the car was believed to have been going.

Additionally police did not release the posted speed limit in the area of the crash, nor whether either the VW's driver or passenger were wearing seatbelts at the time.

FCPD spokesperson Don Gotthardt said in an email the crash is still under investigation and that it's not known yet "what the driver's actions were or if a seatbelt was used."

—TIM PETERSON

AREA ROUNDUPS

Community Meeting on the Braddock Road Multimodal Study Set for Feb. 6

Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) and Braddock District Supervisor John C. Cook will host a community meeting to discuss the Braddock Road Multimodal Study, which encompasses areas in Annandale, Springfield, Burke and Fairfax, on Monday, Feb. 6, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke.

At the meeting, residents will learn about the current planning efforts for future improvements to Braddock Road, including roadway, bicycle and pedestrian alterna-

tives. There will be an open house at 6:30 p.m. with an opportunity to learn about the different facets of the project at various stations with FCDOT staff, a presentation by the Braddock Road Task Force at 7:30 p.m., and a question and answer period after.

Feedback on the study is also welcomed and can be provided at the meeting or online. To view a project map and background information, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/braddockroadmmstudy/>.

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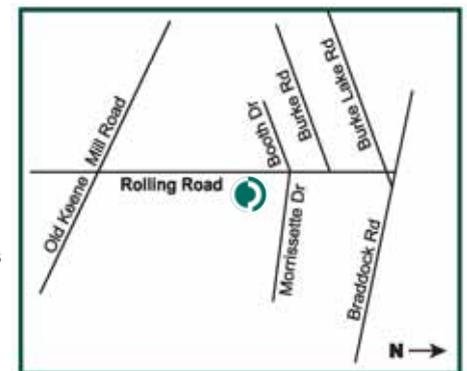
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When the World Turns Upside Down

Lorton resident shares personal impact of Trump Executive Order on travel.

When Anahid Ali of Lorton first heard of President Donald Trump's executive order blocking travelers and refugees from seven majority-Muslim countries including her native Iraq, it turned her world upside down.



When Anahid Ali of Lorton first heard of President Donald Trump's executive order blocking travelers and refugees from seven majority-Muslim countries including her native Iraq, it turned her world upside down.

Friends, family and others immediately started contacting Ali about getting help with translations to and from English. She said she's been trying to help as many people as she can.

"I was just shocked," Ali said. Though she moved to the United States from Jordan in 2007 and has since become a naturalized U.S. citizen, Ali's brother has refugee status and a valid green card but must travel using his Iraqi passport.

Ali said he needed to postpone plans to go back to Jordan to visit family, because lack of clear information about the travel ban worried her he might join the individuals detained at international airports.

"This is just something that's not Constitutional," Ali said. "As an American, it's so disappointing. This is not the country we were dreaming to live in."

In Iraq, Ali worked as a translator with the U.S. military until the situation became too tense there.

Due to her work, she said people called her a spy and a traitor. Her family suggested she move to Jordan to avoid further conflict. Shortly after that she took advantage of a visa program for people who worked with the military to come to the America.

Ali's brother had a more difficult time: She said it took him five years to go through the green card application and vetting process. But that lengthy and thorough process is exactly why Ali believes the travel ban impacting people like her brother doesn't make any sense.

"The people who voted for [Trump], I respect their vote," Ali said, "but this is not a good way to protect this country. You're trying to solve a problem, but it just incites more violence, more hate."

"People need to find a Muslim person, someone from one of these countries," Ali continued. "Talk with them, engage with them, see how they think."

Though she didn't participate in any of the airport demonstrations the weekend after the executive order was announced, Ali was following them on social media and the news. "I saw a lot of people coming together," she said. "It's still the country we believe in."

She did work with others to circulate a Move.org petition over the weekend in opposition to the travel ban. By Monday evening, the petition was just 7,000 short of its goal of 100,000 signatures.

Ali also planned to participate in another demonstration Wednesday evening Feb. 1 at Washington Reagan National Airport.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Though Anahid Ali (left) moved to the United States from Jordan in 2007 and has since become a naturalized U.S. citizen, her brother (right) has refugee status and a valid green card but must travel using his Iraqi passport.

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WELLBEING

To Move Or Not To Move

Local family moves mother into newly opened Kensington Falls Church.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

One of the most heart-wrenching decisions that Denise Schossler, her two siblings and her 95-year-old mother had to make was whether or not to move her into an assisted living facility, leaving the home where she's lived since 1954. Physical limitations and a need for social interaction drove the decision to relocate to the newly opened Kensington Falls Church.

"My mother has managed to stay in her home all this time with the help of an aide who comes every day, but she realized that it just couldn't continue. One of the main things is the isolation and the loneliness," said Schossler. "She needs more social interaction than she gets alone in her home. She's someone who's had an active social life, but now it's just television and books."

A dearth of social interaction is one of the factors that can lead seniors into assisted living facilities. In fact, a recent study published in the Journal of Gerontology shows that seniors living in assisted living facilities have fewer unmet needs such as companionship, help with cooking, bathing and doing laundry than those who live independently. However, the survey of more than 4,000 people over the age of 65 shows that even in such retirement communities, unmet needs still exist. To address this challenge, local gerontology experts say that families must determine whether a loved one's needs meet the criteria for assisted living candidacy and once placed, work to ensure that those needs are being met.

"In counseling families making this difficult decision, I focus on safety factors for the patient and other family members," said Maureen Moriarty, D.N.P., assistant professor of nursing at Marymount University in Arlington. "Often cognitive impairment is the reason for assisted living. Perhaps memory is affected so the patient can no longer safely drive or remember the steps in carrying out activities of daily living such



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KENSINGTON AT FALLS CHURCH



Denise Schossler's 95-year-old mother will move into the newly opened Kensington Falls Church assisted living facility later this month.



as cooking, bathing or management of finances."

In making this decision, an evaluation by an objective gerontology expert can be necessary, says Patrice Winter, DPT, assistant professor at George Mason University in the Department of Global and Community Health. "They come out and evaluate the house and the person as well," she said. "You have an objective, unemotional person instead of an adult child going, 'Mom you can't live here anymore.' and the mom saying, 'Stay out of my business.'"

Such an evaluation will show that there are times when a lifestyle adjustment is all that is needed. "Sometimes they can offer simple solutions that can make huge changes," said Winter. "Could it be that they need their eyesight and hearing checked? Or the washing machine moved upstairs? so they can do laundry more frequently?"

When seeking an evaluation, Winter recommends local social service agencies such as the Fairfax County Area Agency on Aging. "The issue may not be cognitive, but the need for a living environment with more

"She needs more social interaction than she gets alone in her home. She's someone who's had an active social life, but now it's just television and books."

— Denise Schossler

support may be triggered by physical limitations," added Moriarty. "Perhaps a chronic degenerative illness such as Parkinson's Disease has left the patient with physical care needs beyond the scope of family members."

Safety can become an issue when family members' physical limitations restrict the quality of care they are able to offer. "This opens issues not only to patient safety but also the family member may be frail or have their own physical limitations that limit their capacity to assist someone who, for instance, has balance loss," said Moriarty.

Local Resources

- ❖ Alexandria Area Agency on Aging <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Aging>
- ❖ Fairfax County Area Agency on Aging <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/>
- ❖ Arlington Aging and Disability Services Division <https://aging-disability.arlingtonva.us/>
- ❖ Kensington Falls Church Open House Feb. 1, 5 and 22, 4:30 to 7 p.m. 700 West Broad St., Falls Church

"The key assessment as a clinician for me is that the family no longer has the resources to care safely for this individual in a home environment."

"If there is any question at all, the person should have a medical evaluation," added Winter. "There could be an imbalance in the system that could cause changes so a really good physical by a geriatric internist would be paramount before any drastic actions are taken."

Once a senior has moved into an assisted living facility, they often need someone to advocate on their behalf. Regular visits and telephone calls to both the family member and the staff are necessary. "You need to make sure you know what's going on," said Thompson, who recently moved her own mother into an assisted living facility. "It's OK to be a pest. I communicate with the staff at my mother's facility. She complains to me about things that she won't complain to the staff about so I have to complain on her behalf."

Even in the best of facilities, a person's needs can be inadvertently overlooked, says Thompson, so a family member's presence is necessary. "Walk around, pay attention to how other residents seem," she said. "Are they happy and engaged or are there signs of neglect?"

"Establish a relationship with those providers who will be involved in the care of your family member," added Moriarty. "Become part of the team by attending regular team meetings. Make them aware of your loved one's special needs. For example, if your family member always had tea in the morning, request that this continues."

Schossler says that her proximity to the Kensington Falls Church will allow her to be in regular contact with both her mother and the staff.

"My mother has grandchildren and great-grandchildren and we can visit her because the Kensington is just a few minutes away from where I live," she said. "My mother has already made connections with three people who will be there, so she's looking forward to moving. We happened to find the right fit at the right time."

WELLBEING NOTES

THROUGHOUT MARCH 2017

Free Public Service Seminars. March 1, 8, 15, 21, 29, at 7 p.m. on Selling Your Home, Aging in Place, Downsizing, Retirement Communities Seminars. Free public service seminars on "Selling Your Home" (March 1, McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Rd., McLean), "Working With Builders" (March 8, Falls Church HS, 7521 Jaguar Trail, Falls Church), "Financing Your Retirement" (March 15, Marshall HS, 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church), "Tax & Estate Planning" (March 21,

Madison HS, 2500 James Madison Dr., Vienna), and "Decluttering & Organizing" (March 29, Oakton HS, 2900 Sutton Rd., Vienna). For more information and seminar registration go to RetireeRealEstate.org, or call 703-772-3033.

ONGOING

Are You A Caregiver? Shepherd's Center of Oakton Vienna Caregivers' Support Group takes place first & third Thursday of each month. Feb. 2nd and 16th, 2017 from 10

a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Join us at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax (UUCF) - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Rd, Oakton, VA. For more info contact facilitator, Jack Tarr, 703-821-6838 jtarr5@verizon.net.

Volunteers Needed. PRS is looking for empathetic and caring volunteers to make phone calls to older adults who may be feeling socially isolated. The commitment is one 3-hour shift per week for one year. Located in Arlington. Ages 21 & up. Intensive training provided. Learn more

and apply: <https://prsinc.org/caring-volunteering/>. Questions? Email lpadgett@prsinc.org.

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/ltombudsman/.

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.

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

Bicycle Advocacy Workshop 9:30 - 3 p.m. Prince of Peace Lutheran Church 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield.

The Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling is offering an advocacy workshop to provide you the basic tools and strategies needed to help make bicycling better in your community. Learn how to build a successful advocacy plan, identify key local decision makers, and familiarize yourself with helpful online advocacy tools. There is no charge for the workshop, but participants are asked to pre-register by January 29, 2017.

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 Kreations, 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.

THURSDAY/FEB. 9

Art & Lunch event at Old Town Hall 10:30 - 2:30 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Dr, Fairfax. The Fairfax Art League will be hosting an Art & Lunch event at Old Town Hall. Bring lunch and enjoy the company of other artists. Free and open to the public. New members welcome. Please visit the Fairfax Art League on Facebook or at www.fairfaxartleague.net or call 703-587-9481.

Artist Reception 7 - 9 p.m. Village Gallery, 3950 University Dr, Fairfax. The Fairfax Art League will be having a reception at the Village Gallery. Come enjoy refreshments, meet the featured artist and be a part of your local artist community. Free and open to the public. New members welcome. Please visit the Fairfax Art League on Facebook or at www.fairfaxartleague.net or call 703-587-9481.

FRIDAY/FEB. 10

"Three for a Song" - Ragtime Piano & Vocalists 8 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Dr, Fairfax. The Bonita Lestina Old Town Hall Performance Series. Founded in 1983 by the late Ray Abell, the Cathedral Brass performs sacred and secular works from all eras in support of the music ministry at Vienna Presbyterian Church. The group draws its membership from around the DC Metro area, and includes current and former professionals and members of the Service Bands. The Cathedral Brass is under the direction of L. Thomas Vining. 703-385-7858 www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts



There will be a Bicycle Advocacy Workshop on Saturday, Feb. 4 from 9:30 - 3 p.m. at the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. The Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling is offering an advocacy workshop to provide you the basic tools and strategies needed to help make bicycling better in your community. Learn how to build a successful advocacy plan, identify key local decision makers, and familiarize yourself with helpful online advocacy tools. There is no charge for the workshop, but participants are asked to pre-register by January 29, 2017.

FRIDAY/SATURDAY/FEB. 10-11

"And Then There Were None." South County High School's performance, 7 p.m. at South County High School Auditorium, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. For tickets, call Maria Pangelinan at 619-708-2237.

SATURDAY/FEB. 11

Second Sunday Program - "African American Schools and Desegregation" 2 - 4 p.m. Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main Street, Fairfax. 703-385-8414.

Champagne and Chocolates 4 - 7 p.m. Gunston Hall Docent Association 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. The event will feature a historic guided tour, Hors d'oeuvres, string quartet, raffle and live auction. \$40 per person. RSVP by Feb. 4. To RSVP, send a check payable to GHDA to Debbie Bullock at 5700 Barbemor Court, Alexandria, VA 22310.

Questions about the event? Email Debbie a DBullock@verizon.net.
Beethoven's Triple 8 p.m. GMU Center for the Arts Concert Hall 4373 Mason Pond Dr, Fairfax. 2017 marks the beginning of our 60th Anniversary Celebration. The FSO rings in the new year by featuring the extraordinarily talented trio: National Symphony Concertmaster Nurit Bar-Josef; renowned cellist Amit Peled; and FSO audience favorite Alon Goldstein, who performed Beethoven's "Emperor" concerto with the orchestra last season.

SUNDAY/FEB. 12

Table Top N Gauge Model Train Event at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum 1 - 4 p.m. The Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Museum members and children 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; ages 16 and older, \$4. www.fairfax-station.org, 703-425-9225. www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, [Twitter@FFXSTNRR](https://twitter.com/FFXSTNRR).

Song-catcher Cecil Sharp in Virginia 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. A multi-media presentation about the original "Song-catcher," English folk song collector, Cecil Sharp, and his discoveries in the hinterlands of Virginia in the early 20th century. Cost: Free. Information & Directions: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library or 703-293-6227 x6

MONDAY/FEB. 13

Funday Monday Storytime & Crafts 10:30 a.m. - Every Monday - Old Town Hall, 3999 University Dr, Fairfax. There will be music, movement, story telling, performances, crafts, and more! It is open to children of all ages, however especially for those who haven't yet

started school. Programs are free and open to the public, donations are gratefully appreciated. There is ample free parking in the downtown area, and stroller access at the rear of Old Town Hall on Main St. 703-385-7858 www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts

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

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.fpov.org for each month's location. Prior to attending, please

complete the online application found at <http://www.fpov.org/> volunteer. Please do NOT bring your pets to this orientation. Also, see weather policy for possible cancellations. www.fpov.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.

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Board Approves 2018-2022 Capital Improvement Program

Five-year plan includes three new elementary schools and one new high school.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

This year, Fairfax County Public Schools experienced one of the smallest annual enrollment increases in nearly a decade: 1,368 students, compared to the average of 2,400 since the 2008-09 school year, bringing the total to 187,202.

By far the lowest was a growth of only 223 in the 2015-16 school year.

Interim FCPS Superintendent Dr. Steven Lockard attributed the slowed growth to decreases in those entering kindergarten cohorts and net migration. The five-year forecast of enrollment growth, he said in an introduction to the latest Capital Improvement Program information document, has FCPS reaching 190,600 students by the 2021-22 school year.

“These new trends of growth are inconsistent across the county and continue to present a facilities capacity challenge,” Lockard said. “The school system struggles to provide sufficient capacity in our schools. Despite the planned additional capacity intended to address projected needs, uneven membership growth throughout the county will necessitate the continuation of small- and large-scale boundary adjustments to take advantage of available capacity whenever it is practicable to do so.”

The FCPS School Board unanimously approved a new Capital Improvement Program covering FY2018-2022 at the business meeting Jan. 26. The five-year program is updated annually with enrollment projections and capacity calculations, and lays out plans for new construction, renovations and other capacity-increasing work to accommodate the growing student body.

“It has evolved over the past several years and become very responsive to input from the school board and from the community,” said Mount Vernon District representative to the board Karen Corbett Sanders. “It’s a great tool for identifying both the opportunities to better serve our students through facilities but also to set a framework on when we need to start talking about how to best provide capacity and programming at each of our schools.”

The capacity enhancements in this latest approved CIP include construction of new schools, additions to existing schools and other renovations, with a total price tag of \$824 million.

FCPS said a little less than half of that, \$385 million, will be covered by funds approved in the 2015 school bond referendum and previous referenda, and the remaining \$439 million is currently unfunded.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The FCPS School Board unanimously approved a new Capital Improvement Program covering FY2018-2022 at its business meeting Jan. 26. The five-year program is updated annually with enrollment projections and capacity calculations, and lays out plans for new construction, renovations and other capacity-increasing work to accommodate the growing student body.



Dalia Palchik of Providence District praised the FCPS facilities staff that produced the 2018-2022 FCPS Capital Improvement Program.

Some of the projects already funded by that first figure include a new elementary school in the Route 1 area and additions to South Lakes High School in Reston.

Unfunded projects in the program include a new elementary school in northwest Fairfax County, another in the Fairfax-Oakton area, a high school in western Fairfax County and additions to three other high schools.

The new high school is intended to bring down capacity stress in the Centreville, Chantilly, Herndon, Oakton, South Lakes and Westfield areas.

Renovations are planned for 32 elementary schools as part of the CIP, as well as five middle schools.



Springfield District School Board representative Elizabeth Schultz said “there is work yet to be done” when it comes to showing work over time with regards to enrollment growth projections.

Springfield District School Board representative Elizabeth Schultz praised the FCPS facilities staff that produced the CIP, along with Dalia Palchik of Providence District who introduced the motion to approve it, and Corbett Sanders who seconded the motion.

But Schultz also said there’s room for improvement with showing their work over time, looking back in two to three years and assessing the accuracy of these enrollment growth projections.

“That’s the space where we still need to do some work for the overall health of the division,” Schultz said.

“Everything else after the numbers, whether it’s desks, books, buses, teachers

— it doesn’t matter if we don’t get those numbers right,” Schultz continued. “It all stems from how accurate we are with our projections.”

Schultz said she looked forward to working with facilities staff to achieve that objective and “improve transparency of the numbers.”

In the next two months, the adopted FCPS CIP should be incorporated into the Fairfax County CIP and presented to the county’s Planning Commission.

More information about the Capital Improvement Program (and previous years’ programs) is available online here: www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/facilities-planning-future/capital-improvement-program.

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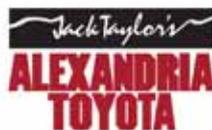
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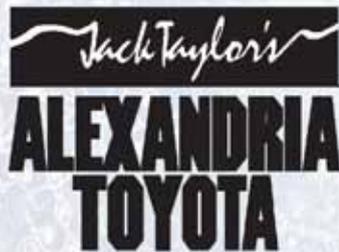
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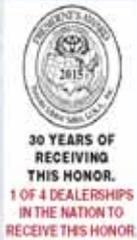
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November 8, 2016

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
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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FBI HQ CONSOLIDATION

Notice of Public Meeting

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) is holding a public meeting in Fairfax County, Virginia to provide an update on the transportation impacts from the potential Federal Bureau of Investigation Headquarters (FBI HQ) Consolidation project at the Springfield site. The public will learn about the methodology for changes in the modal splits, reasons for the change, impacts of the additional vehicles, and the resulting mitigations. Lastly, we will outline how to participate in the FBI HQ transportation activities after the conclusion of the Final EIS.

This meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 14th, 2017** from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm at the Robert E. Lee High School Cafeteria; 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield, VA 22150

More information on the project can be found at: <http://www.gsa.gov/fbihqconsolidation>. If you require any additional assistance, please contact Denise Decker at 202-748-7691 or fbi-hq-consolidation@gsa.gov.

NEWS

Left, Simon was at Dulles airport Saturday and Sunday, as well as (center) state Sen. Jennifer Wexton (D-33), and (right) U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), asking that some of the more than 20 lawyers present be given the opportunity to meet with the detainees.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Rallies at Dulles

FROM PAGE 3

formation.”

In the press conference Saturday, Beyer referenced his Freedom of Religion Act he introduced in 2016, which stated that no one would be denied entry to the United States based on their religion.

“It’s so ironic that President Trump came out and said that we’re going to give special preference to Christians who are refugees because so many of them are being killed,” Beyer said. “Well I’m a Christian, but I respect that there are many more Muslims being killed right now, many more who are refugees.”

IN A STATEMENT released through her Twitter account on Jan. 29, U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) said she supports increased vetting based on national security concerns. However, Comstock said she has consistently asserted: “I don’t believe it is constitutional to ban people from our country on the basis of religion.”

“The President’s Executive Order issued yesterday went beyond the increased vetting actions that Congress has supported on a bipartisan basis and inexplicably applied to green card holders,” Comstock continued, “people who are legally within our country who have followed the rules.”

Other Local leaders Weigh In

On her Facebook page Monday, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova said:

“The Executive Order issued on Friday is offensive and counter to what defines this country. We are a nation of immigrants committed to religious freedom. I am committed to keeping Fairfax County a safe and welcoming place. When I was sworn in as chairman, I swore to support the Constitution. I believe this ban on travel is unconstitutional and I urge the judiciary to continue to exercise its role in preventing further damage to our country’s values and our reputation around the world.”

U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner (D), released a statement Friday, the same day as the Executive Order was announced. Warner is vice chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence:

“The Trump Administration Executive Order that indefinitely suspends the Syrian refugee program and pauses visas from Muslim countries runs counter to our American values. While I have always been open to a pause on our refugee program to ensure appropriate time for intelligence and law enforcement experts to ensure we protect our national security, these actions by the President presume the solution before the review is complete. It is a policy targeting Muslims that national security experts have testified would harm, not help, our national security interests. I join the inter-

faith community in Virginia and around the country in objecting to these moves, and I will work in Congress to block an effort which trades dubious increases in U.S. security for certain alienation of partners with whom we must cooperate to address terrorism.”

The Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington, released a statement as well, expressing solidarity with refugees:

“In his statement on the Executive Order halting refugee admissions, Bishop Joe Vasquez, chair of the Committee of Migration and Bishop of the Diocese of Austin, highlighted our nation’s long and proud tradition of welcoming newcomers and refugees in a humane manner, even as we have pursued a strong vetting system to ensure our safety and security. Together with Bishop Vasquez and my brother bishops, I encourage Catholics to contact our elected officials to make our voices heard: Our communities have been and will continue to be hospitable to refugees, in keeping with our legacy of welcoming the stranger. Together, we also pray for comprehensive immigration reform and for peace, safety and harmony within our nation and throughout the world.”

The full text of the Jan. 27 Executive Order is available online here:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/01/27/executive-order-protecting-nation-foreign-terrorist-entry-united-states>.

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