



Fairfax Station

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Fairfax County police commanders receive diversity training as part of a monthly meeting normally off-limits to the public and media. On this occasion, however, Chief of Police Edwin Roessler wanted to include eyes from the outside as he continues to "re-engineer" the force in terms of community engagement, transparency and accountability.

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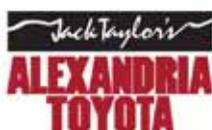
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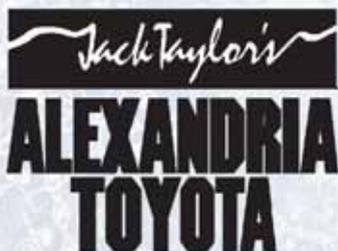
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Fairfax County police commanders receive diversity training as part of a monthly meeting normally off-limits to the public and media. On this occasion, however, Chief of Police Edwin Roessler wanted to include eyes from the outside as he continues to “re-engineer” the force in terms of community engagement, transparency and accountability.



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Author and attorney Eric Broyles (right) said he wanted to remind officers they “have a higher burden” when it comes to meeting with citizens. “They’re the professionals,” he said. “They have to raise the standard. It’s socially unacceptable to have officers operate with racial innuendo.”

A Look Inside Police Diversity Training

Commanders hear speeches on openness, forgiveness, professionalism.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

West Springfield District Police Commander Cpt. Gervais T. Reed said when police officers leave the profession, some are in good shape, others are bitter. In the course of carrying out their duty to protect and serve citizens, officers can be cursed at, assaulted and have projectiles hurled at them, he said.

That kind of backlash can wear a person down and stress them out, even make them feel victimized, Reed said. “But we have to forgive,” he continued, “not take those things personally, to the extent that we can. We’ve got to be professional.”

Heightened professionalism and forgiveness in law enforcement were part of the message delivered by Eric Broyles to a room full of Fairfax County police commanders, leaders from the Sheriff’s Office and several other civilian leaders on Feb. 2.

Broyles is a Washington, D.C.-based attorney and co-author of the book “Encounters with Police: A Black Man’s Guide to Survival.” He said he wrote the book for a group of young men he was mentoring, preaching the concept of “comply now, contest later” in the event of a traffic stop or other interaction with police.

But speaking to the other side of that interaction, Broyles said he wanted to remind officers they “have a higher burden” when it comes to meeting with citizens. “They’re the professionals,” he said. “They have to raise the standard. It’s socially unacceptable to have officers operate with racial innuendo.”

Reed said he had already read Broyles’



Shirley Ginwright, chair of Fairfax County Communities of Trust Committee, took time with Chief Edwin Roessler following the presentations to sign a memorandum of understanding between the Communities of Trust and Fairfax County Police Department, formalizing the role her organization would play in preventing a social crisis like the one in Ferguson, Mo., following the shooting of Michael Brown in 2014.

book, and that him coming to address the police commanders was a noble task. The author’s statements about professionalism and forgiveness, Reed said, made the most impact, and are things he intends to take back to his station and share with his first line supervisor and other officers.

The commanders were receiving diversity training as part of a monthly meeting normally off-limits to the public and media.

On this occasion, however, Chief of Police Edwin Roessler wanted to include eyes from the outside as he continues to “re-engineer” the force in terms of communication, transparency and accountability.

Roessler said diversity training is required by the Commonwealth of Virginia to be administered every two years, but at the bare minimum that involves a mere computer course.

“We have to change the culture of policing,” Roessler said, “this is about ethical leadership through engaging with the com-

munity.”

To go above the requirement the day’s training included three speakers, of which Broyles was third.

First was Geneviève Fine, board member of the Fairfax County Domestic Violence Prevention Policy and Coordinating Council. Though members of the media weren’t able to see any of her presentation, Fine said afterward that she spoke to the commanders about Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender issues, educating them about terminology, how to best approach a situation involving someone from the LGBT community and ideas for avoiding escalating a potentially violent situation.

Fine said there is some fear among LGBT individuals, especially in young people, of being outed to their parents through an interaction with police.

“You have to be careful how you take care of that case,” Fine said.

During a question-and-answer period,

Fine said officers asked her about the always controversial issue of transgender people using bathrooms of the sex with which they identify.

“If they’re called to a bathroom,” Fine said, “it’s likely there’s something else going on,” and not transgender people causing the problem. Most just want to get in and get out as quickly as possible, she said.

Second to speak was Shirley Ginwright, who until January was president of the Fairfax County NAACP. She addressed the commanders, however, as chairman of the Fairfax County Communities of Trust Committee. Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova created the committee in 2015 “to advance collaboration, partnerships and outreach between public safety agencies and the communities they serve,” according to the county’s website.

Ginwright emphasized that in Fairfax County, police and communities are building on existing trust, not starting from square one.

But she also wanted to remind the commanders what the Communities of Trust can offer, what they’re doing and what they’re planning on doing.

“We have a lot of volunteers,” Ginwright said, “and resources they haven’t tapped into.”

Ginwright took time with Roessler following the presentations to sign a memorandum of understanding between the Communities of Trust and Fairfax County Police Department, formalizing the role her organization would play in preventing a social crisis like the one in Ferguson, Mo. following the shooting of Michael Brown in 2014.

Ginwright said the chief of police would contact the communities of trust committee in case of such an event, who would then communicate immediately with an array of community leaders to help organize citizens and maintain peace and order.

Roessler said this type of action is already part of his personal crisis protocol, but the memorandum established a standard to which future chiefs and committee chairs shall commit as well.



A fire within the Covanta Fairfax Waste to Energy Facility in the 9800 block of Furnace Road in Lorton started Thursday evening Feb. 2 and smoldered through the weekend.



Fire and Rescue said units were first dispatched to the fire around 9:09 p.m. Thursday night. Fire Station 19 units arrived on the scene first and saw “a significant amount of fire and smoke coming from the rear and roof of a four-story building,” according to a release from the department.

Trash Burned at Covanta Waste Facility

Fire lasted through the weekend.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

A fire started within the Covanta Fairfax Waste to Energy Facility in the 9800 block of Furnace Road in Lorton Thursday evening Feb. 2 and smoldered through the weekend.

As of Monday, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue spokesperson Ashley Hildebrandt said in an email that fire officials were “still there and going through all the trash making sure all the fire had been extinguished.”

Fire and Rescue said units were first dispatched to the fire around 9:09 p.m. Thursday night. Fire Station 19 units arrived on the scene first and saw “a significant amount of fire and smoke coming from the rear and roof of a four-story building,” according to a release from the department.

First responders immediately called in a second alarm for help to contain and extinguish the fire.

All the employees of the facility had escaped safely, Fire and Rescue said, and there were no injuries to either civilians or firefighters reported.

Though the exact cause of the fire is still

First responders immediately called in a second alarm for help to contain and extinguish the fire.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE



being investigated, the fire reportedly started on the building’s tipping floor and spread to a full holding pit. Due to the depth of the fire in the facility, it has taken several days to fully extinguish.

The Friday after the blaze started, Fire and Rescue shared a message from the Vir-

ginia Department of Environmental Quality that there should be no concern for air quality, since all that was burning was “ordinary household trash.”

Covanta spokesperson James Regan said in an email that the Lorton facility is closed, but that they hope to restart operations in

the coming weeks after repairs are completed.

“Assessment of the damage is ongoing,” Regan said, “but we do know that the primary facility systems are intact, with damage contained to the waste storage pit and roof.”

Regan said waste from Fairfax County has already been diverted to alternate facilities and that there should not be any impact to waste collection for residents.

Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) referenced the fire in his Feb. 4 Mount Vernon town meeting, saying that he was “very unhappy” about it.

Storck said there should be other prevention measures in place at the aging plant.

“We should not have this kind of air and water pollution,” he said.

The Covanta Fairfax facility was opened in June 1990 and while open processes 3,000 tons of paste per day, according to the Covanta website. The facility generates and sells up to 80 megawatts of energy — enough, the company says, to power more than 80,000 homes.

—TIM PETERSON

Deadline Reached for Civilian Review Panel

Supervisors to review applications before Feb. 14.

Jan. 31 was the final day for applications and nominations for Fairfax County’s first Civilian Review Panel, one of two new forms of independent oversight for the police department.

The Board of Supervisors voted to establish the nine-member panel Dec. 6 last year, after it also created an office of the independent police auditor, which will review police use of force cases and po-

lice internal investigations.

The auditor will be a full-time position working for Fairfax County, while the panelists will be volunteers, and specifically review citizen complaints against police officers of misconduct or abuse of authority. Those reviews would include accessing completed police department internal investigations of such complaints.

Between now and its Feb. 14 meeting, the Board of Supervisors will review the more than 90 applicants and nominees. Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) said they will discuss the applicants in closed session and potentially make the appointments then.

Once the panelists are selected, Cook said, the board will select a chair and make plans to convene the panel for the first time.

Issues Before Panel

Examples of citizen complaints against police officers that could be directed to the civilian review panel:

- ❖ The use of abusive, racial, ethnic or sexual language;
- ❖ Harassment or discrimination based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, marital status, age, familial status, or disability;
- ❖ The reckless endangerment of a detainee or person in custody;
- ❖ Serious violations of Fairfax County or FCPD procedures.

They’ll begin with writing their own by-laws.

Cook said the auditor may also be hired as soon as the 14th, at least ideally.

—TIM PETERSON

VOLUNTEER EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Fairfax County’s free **Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group** meets by phone on **Tuesday, March 14, 7-8 p.m.** Share your experiences, gain support and get important information without having to travel. Register beforehand at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults and click on Telephone Caregiver Support Group. Call **703-324-5484**, TTY 711.

The **Fairfax Commission on Aging** meets on **Wednesday, March 15** from Noon-3 p.m. at the **Lincolnia Senior Center - Craft Room, 4710 North Chamberliss St. Alexandria.** (Please note new meeting location.) The public is welcome to attend and join in the comment period that begins each session. Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults and click on Commission on Aging. Call **703-324-5632**, TTY 703-449-1186 for meeting access needs – advance notice requested.

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-**

SEE VOLUNTEERS, PAGE 5

VOLUNTEERS

FROM PAGE 4

5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Meals on Wheels Drivers are urgently needed in **Fairfax, Centreville** and the **Reston-Herndon** area. **Co-coordinators** are needed for routes throughout the county. Call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or Register Now.

The **Chronic Disease Self-Management Program** needs volunteer leaders to facilitate 2-hour workshops during this 6-week program that meets in Fairfax County. For more information, contact Colleen.Turner@FairfaxCounty.gov, call **703-324-5489**, TTY 711, or go to www.FairfaxCounty.gov/DFS/OlderAdultServices/chronic-disease.htm.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to **drive older adults to medical appointments** and wellness programs. Call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Meals on Wheels needs **Drivers, Coordinators, and Co-coordinators** for routes throughout the county. Call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Contact Kristin Martin at **703-324-7577**, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The **Little River Glen Senior Cen-**

ter in Fairfax is in need of **instructors** for the following classes: **Qigong, Art, Basic Language, ESL, Group Fitness, Computer Lab Assistant, Fitness Instructors** and **ASL**. Call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Providence Community Center Senior Program** in **Fairfax** is looking for an **ESL Instructor**. Call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Sully Senior Center in Centreville** is looking for the following instructors: **Zumba Gold, Basic Art, Tai Chi/Qigong, Current Events Discussion**, and a **Personal Trainer**. Call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Mott Community Center Senior Program** in **Fairfax** is looking for a volunteer **Tai Chi Instructor**. Call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Pimmit Hills Senior Center in Falls Church** is looking for a **Ceramics Instructor** who can lead participants and operate the center's kiln. Call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Vietnamese Meals on Wheels needs drivers in **Falls Church-Annandale** to deliver meals. (Speaking Vietnamese not required.) Call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

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.

FRIDAY/MARCH 3

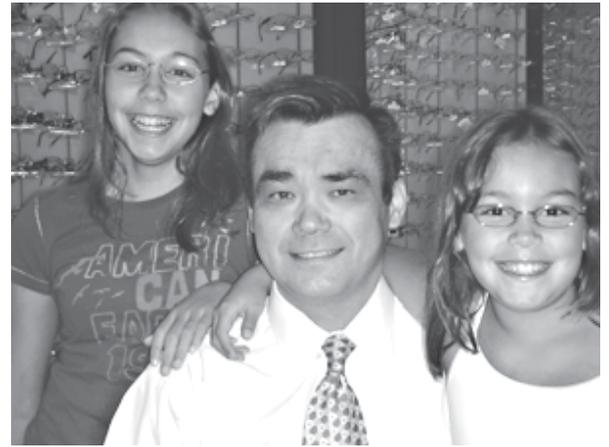
Rising Above Fear. Burke Presbyterian Church Distinguished Speakers Series, with Omid Safi, director of Duke University's Islamic Studies Center, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Being Muslim in America: Between ISIS and Islamophobia. Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke, 703-764-0456. Tickets are available at <http://www.BurkePresChurch.org>. They are \$25 for Friday and Saturday sessions and \$15 for a single session. Tickets are limited.

SATURDAY/MARCH 4

Rising Above Fear. Burke Presbyterian Church Distinguished Speakers Series, with Omid Safi, director of Duke University's Islamic Studies Center, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Moving Forward in Love: An Interfaith Collaboration, Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke, 703-764-0456. Tickets are available at <http://www.BurkePresChurch.org>. They are \$25 for Friday and Saturday sessions and \$15 for a single session. Tickets are limited.

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.

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First Amendment Is Alive and Well

BY RONALD GOLDFARB

“Congress shall make no law ... abridging ... the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

Having worked in D.C. and lived in Alexandria since 1961 when I came to work for Robert Kennedy in the Justice Department, I’ve experienced the First Amendment in real time action, by assembling and petitioning my government for redress of grievances.

In 1963 my wife and I stood near the Lincoln Memorial where Martin Luther King, Jr. pleaded to the world for civil rights for all people, and delivered his immortal “I Have a Dream” speech. About 250,000 people — black and white — peacefully gathered in the nation’s capital to plead for President Kennedy to provide 19 million Afro-American descendants the right to vote, travel, and work.

Fears abounded. The D.C. police and FBI were present on the streets. There were altogether over 8,000 guardians of the peace. The federal government and many businesses were closed. Hospitals canceled elective surgery so all beds would be available for riot-related emergencies. Jails were emptied to provide room for predicted arrests. Judges were on around-the-clock standby.

These precautions were not necessary. The assembly was non-violent. People arrived from all over the world and marched with dignity. Many swarmed around the Reflecting Pool in

a field of humanity that ran all the way to the Washington Monument.

On that day we listened to the greatest orator of his time pleading for racial justice, claiming that the time had come “to lift our nation from the quicksand of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood,” calling for “the fierce urgency of now,” then urged on by Mahalia Jackson, departed from his prepared text and segued into his immortal plea, “I have a dream,” that reverberates still in the hearts and minds of all decent people.

The New York Times called the event “the most impressive assembly for a redress of grievances in America’s history.” The Washington Post reported that the assembly was a happy combination of prayer meeting, picnic, and political rally, a crowd “united in a sense of brotherhood and common humanity.” The next year, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed.

Unfortunately, many of the social injustices deplored on that summer day in Washington, D.C., have not yet been overcome. But Aug. 28, 1963, was a seminal moment in American history. It demonstrated the power and dignity of democracy in action.

In 1971, the scene was more fractious when my wife and I joined Vietnam War protests on the streets of Washington D.C., a gathering which was rougher and more proactive than the 1963 event. We were gassed, with many others, near Dupont Circle by police overreacting to the noisy protests. Eventually the public demonstrations worked. The war was ended, too late, but it might not have ended when it did without these public pro-

tests. Critics of the war hastened the end of it, and resulted in a president leaving politics.

❖ ❖ ❖

In 1986, my wife, daughter and two human rights activist friends, the late Pat Derian and Rose Styron and their daughters marched on a sunny day near Congress in a sea of women who came from across the country to support the ERA. But this time their pleas were not successful in terms of reaching the goal that gave rise to that march. But peace prevailed and eventually the goals they asserted then have been advanced in major ways.

❖ ❖ ❖

On Saturday, Jan. 21, 2017, an estimated half million Americans filled the streets of Washington, as did huge crowds in other cities in America and around the world to claim rights they felt were disparaged by the Trump campaign and election. The Saturday crowds far surpassed Friday’s relatively insignificant inaugural crowds. President Trump now argues about the relative size of his crowds — those applauding his election, and those crying out against it.

My children who attended here in D.C. and other locations reported a cheering good spirit, upbeat communal behavior, welcoming friendly law enforcement officials, filled bleachers, and an upbeat camaraderie.

Now what remains after people returned to their homes away from Washington, D.C. is the question: how does this experience change the future? Will the energy become harnessed into a movement that changes politics? We all ponder that question, bravo to the people who are trying.

COMMENTARY

How to Support Refugees in Our Community

BY RANA NOVACK

Clifton’s greatest strength is our ability to come together to support those in need, and some of our residents are doing inspiring work to support refugees both here at home and abroad.

The figures are overwhelming: More than 65 million people forcibly displaced globally, 4.8 million from Syria alone. Compounding matters is a partisan sentiment hostile towards the world’s most vulnerable populations in the name of national security, politicizing the greatest humanitarian disaster of our time. So how can we even begin to help? Here are a few ideas to get started.

❖ **1. Educate.** Yourself, and others. Read, learn, or share a post on social media. As an advocate for refugees and civilians in conflict, I’ve tried not to take personally the vitriol directed at refugees because it is often due to a lack of knowledge of our refugee admissions process, and always due to

misguided fear. The false notion that refugees are resettled to the US with little or no vetting is easily contradicted by even a superficial understanding of our refugee resettlement program: the US has the most stringent refugee resettlement program in the world that takes on average 18-24 months due to rigorous background checks. Refugees don’t choose their resettlement country, rather an ecosystem of international and government agencies including the Department of Homeland Security, Department of State, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees work together to determine resettlement referrals and triage the most desperate of cases. Keep learning, reading, and talking. Education is always the answer.

❖ **2. Contact your representative.** Now more than ever, our representatives need to hear from you, even if they have already expressed support for refugees. Call, write, and if you have the time, schedule a meeting to urge them

to welcome refugees. Public opinion matters. Your voice matters, and it’s important that you use it to advocate for those that aren’t in a position to advocate for themselves.

❖ **3. Support Social Entrepreneurship and Local Fundraising Efforts.** Refugee support organizations always welcome donations, but buying products made by or otherwise associated with refugees is a fantastic way to empower displaced persons by creating a symbiotic economic environment. Clifton resident Kathy Hertz has partnered with Hydrangea Home & Gift Boutique in Historic Clifton to sell earrings from which 100 percent of the proceeds go directly to families in the Nea Kavala refugee camp in Northern Greece. Yoga studios frequently host donation classes to support featured organizations, and last year I partnered with several local studios and USA for UNHCR to raise money for Syrian refugees. Find ways to support local businesses while also support-

ing refugees.

❖ **Volunteer with a Local Refugee Resettlement Agency.** With so much of the focus on the refugee crisis in the Middle East and Europe, it’s easy to overlook the families working to assimilate into our communities right here, right now. But they are here, quietly building a new life in a new country. Apply to be a volunteer with one of several local refugee resettlement agencies: the International Rescue Committee has offices in Charlottesville, Richmond, and Silver Spring. Church World Service is seeking volunteers to serve in various roles. Catholic Charities in Arlington, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, and other local faith-based organizations do much of the work to help refugees and immigrants get off to a strong start in their new surroundings. Contact them and ask how you can help.

I’ve seen it time and time again — whether coordinating meal delivery for a grieving family, orga-

SEE NOVACK, PAGE 7





PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE

As part of the March 11, 2016 River Drive homicide investigation, detectives have canvassed the Hallowing Point area going door-to-door on several instances, sometimes conducting follow-up interviews.

Detectives Ask for Public's Help in 2016 Mason Neck Murder Investigation

Johan De Leede, 83, was shot inside his home in the 6000 block of River Drive in the Mason Neck area. Shots were fired from outside the residence before dawn on March 11, 2016, police reported.



Johan de Leede

The last update from Fairfax County police came in June of 2016, at which point they had not named any suspects in the case.

In a Feb. 2, 2017 release, the department said it is still looking for a "dark full-sized pickup truck leaving the area quickly," that was reportedly seen by a neighbor on the night of the homicide.

Police said the truck is just one of several leads in

the case, but that they "definitely want to rule out any involvement."

Police continue to ask anyone with information related to the incident or knowledge of such a truck, however trivial it may seem, to contact the Major Crimes Division at 703-246-7800 or Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at <http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org> or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call police non-emergency at 703-691-2131.

Civilians can also follow the latest releases from Fairfax County police through their Twitter account @FairfaxPolice and blog: www.fcpdnews.wordpress.com.

—TIM PETERSON

Novack

FROM PAGE 6

nizing a vigil for a loved one gone too soon, or gathering household items for a family working to get back on their feet, Clifton is a place of unreserved inclusion, kindness, and generosity. Let's

extend the compassion that I see in our community every day to refugees, both here at home and around the world.

Rana E. Novack lives in Clifton and is an advocate for refugees and civilians in conflict.

Gary Kramer, D.D.S.
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HomeLifeStyle



The owners of this antebellum home in Fairfax updated it with modern conveniences while maintaining its architectural integrity.

PHOTOS BY
HOMEVISIT

"We modernized it but maintained the integrity of the original features."
— Betsy Rutkowski

Honoring the Past and Present

A home with both a rich history and modern conveniences is on the market in Fairfax.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When Betsy Rutkowski purchased her Fairfax home, she was drawn to its rich history and the childhood memories which it evoked.

"It is made of stone and brick, which attracted us," said Rutkowski, who is also an agent with Long & Foster Real Estate Inc. "I grew up in Pennsylvania in an area where the homes were made of stone and brick, and when my husband and I were looking to buy a home, we wanted something with that same feel."

The antebellum home, named Aspen Grove, dates back to the 1700s. It was once owned by William Jefferson Sagar and his family who vehemently opposed slavery. In fact, during the Civil War, the Sagar family fled to New York seeking refuge from the fighting and unrest in Virginia.

During the war, the home was occupied by both Confederate and Union soldiers, and even sustained fire damage. The Sagar family spent years restoring Aspen Grove before selling it in 1920.

While Rutkowski has a great appreciation for Aspen Grove's storied past, she recognizes the sensibility of modernization. It is this notion that guided the decisions she made while renovating and updating the four bedrooms, three-and-a-half-bathroom house.

"It feels very modern even though it's historic," said Rutkowski. "We modernized it, but maintained the integrity of the original features." The kitchen was designed with



The master bathroom in this Fairfax home features Carrera marble, radiant heated floors and a large, frameless glass shower.



The owners of this antebellum home in Fairfax updated it while maintaining its architectural integrity.

Carrera marble countertops, white-glazed, glass front cabinets, a cherry wood island, farm sink by Kohler and stainless steel appliances. Other amenities include four fireplaces, detailed moldings, built-in bookcases and heart-of-pine flooring throughout.

When designing the master bathroom, Rutkowski again chose Carrera marble surfaces, radiant heated floors and a large frameless glass shower. The first floor powder room is accessorized with toile wallpaper and marble floors, giving it an equestrian theme.

"We updated old lead pipes and old wiring," said Rutkowski. "We've renovated the bathrooms and added a custom, claw foot tub in the master bath. "We added a flagstone patio and custom English gardens."

Rutkowski says that she has hosted hundreds of charity events at Aspen Grove, but the most memorable occasion was her stepdaughter's wedding and reception. "It was wonderful. The outdoor entertaining space is phenomenal. We're able to entertain on the large front porch," she said. "The inside has a good flow, which you might not expect from an older home."

Rutkowski and her husband have decided that it's time to say goodbye to Aspen Grove. "We lived in London briefly and we got the urban bug," she said. "We want to downsize and move into Washington, D.C. We have two grandchildren who live a mile and a half away from our home, but we're hoping to move to a place with Metro access."

The home is located at 10212 Aspen Willow Drive in Fairfax and is on the market for \$1,075,000.



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Rocky Road Ahead

Governor, business leaders and analysts offer insights on regional economy.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

The road signs along the highway to the region's economic future are a bit difficult to read, sometimes pointing positively one way, and at other times seeming to indicate slow downs and hazards ahead, according to speakers and panelists at last week's regional economic conference.

"Mapping New Economic Opportunities" was the title of the 25th annual conference, hosted by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce (NVCC) in partnership with Cardinal Bank, George Mason University, and the Washington Business Journal, that played to a standing room only crowd on Feb. 1 at the Marriott Fairview Park in Falls Church.

Stephen S. Fuller, Ph.D. has been studying, analyzing and reporting on the region's economy for decades. A member of the faculty at George Mason University since 1994, from 2002 until May of 2015 he was the director of GMU's Center for Regional Analysis. After a brief retirement, Fuller is back as the Dwight Schar Faculty Chair and as the director of the university's Stephen S. Fuller Institute.

FULLER'S SESSION was billed as a "Progress Report" on the area's recent economic performance. He started with the "Downsides of Being a Company Town," noting the adverse effects that sequestration has had on the region. From the end of 2011 through 2014, sequestration and the reduction in Federal procurement and contracts has meant a loss of about \$2 billion in government wages and more than \$6



Gov. Terry McAuliffe addresses the attendees at the 25th annual Northern Virginia Economic Conference, noting the Commonwealth's advancements in job growth and in certain segments of the state's economy. "We're number 5 in wine production. When I'm done, they'll think Napa is an auto parts store," he told the crowd. The governor also expressed his concerns about the new administration's immigration policies and the negative effects on business in Virginia and elsewhere.

billion less in contract revenues.

Fuller and speaker Terry Clower, Ph.D. Northern Virginia chair and professor of Public Policy at GMU — and Fuller's successor at the Center for Regional Analysis — agree that business in the region has done surprisingly well over the last two years, slowly pulling away from its dependency on the Federal Government. "2015

and 2016 were our third best two years in history," said Fuller, "and that without booming Federal spending."

"Despite all of the campaign rhetoric," the overall trend in job growth has been positive since 2010, with 14 million jobs added since then, and 2.2 million just in the last year," said Clower. It's been a steady, but not "spectacular" climb, according to Clower, but both experts detect potential threats ahead unless addressed promptly.

Clower provided a list of "look out" items. Related to the new administration, the fac-

tors that will impact the region — and the nation's — economic growth ("positively or negatively remains to be seen") included changes to the corporate tax rate, spending on infrastructure, changes in interest rates, the ratio of spending vs. revenues vs. debt and the potential for the rise of inflation and changes in immigration policy.

Among the speakers, Clower was not in the minority on the subject of immigration. "There is no doubt we need immigrants" particularly in the science, health and technology fields. Clower, Fuller and others among the speakers insist that educated immigrants are vital to the companies that currently employ them, and key to the future viability of the economy. In many industry sectors, "they don't take jobs away," said Clower. "They help create jobs with their work and innovations. And if we can't attract them, someone else will."

In his remarks, Gov. Terry McAuliffe expressed his concerns that poorly crafted immigration policies can have disastrous effects, noting the recent cancellation of two foreign investor site visits to Virginia that had been in the works for months. "Businesses are afraid to take a chance that the people they need might not be able to get into the country."

While acknowledging the challenges and the uncertainties in navigating economic growth, McAuliffe, Clower, and panelists like Jennifer Aument, general manager, North America, Transurban Inc. and chair of the NVCC, Teresa Carlson, VP, Amazon Web Services Worldwide, S. Tien Wong, CEO, Tech 2000 & Appnetic, and chairman, Lore Systems, and keynote speaker Christopher Nassetta, president and CEO of McLean-based Hilton, offered positive comments on doing business in Northern Virginia.

Nassetta spoke about Hilton's decision to move its headquarters from Beverly Hills to McLean in 2009. "It was a major disruption and enormously expensive," but the benefits offered by the region, including a robust hospitality talent pool, lower cost of living, and the Eastern Time Zone that enhance global operations made sense to Hilton executives, and allowed the company to "accelerate cultural change."

THE GOVERNOR gave a high-speed update on achievements in job growth and business recruitment that have taken place during his administration, including the Commonwealth's surge to become the nation's leader in cybersecurity centers and the fact that the Port of Virginia now handles more cargo than any other in the country. He also informed the attendees that he was about to announce another major corporate relocation. After leaving the conference, the governor announced the upcoming relocation of Nestle, S.A. from Glendale, Calif. to Arlington.

While they agreed that Northern Virginia does have an enviable talent pool in some



Stephen Fuller, former director of George Mason University's Center for Regional Analysis, current head of the school's Stephen S. Fuller Institute, and an acknowledged expert on the region's economic history and prospects, delivered a cautionary session to the Northern Virginia Economic Conference attendees.

PHOTOS BY
ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION



Joe O'Brien with CB Richard Ellis, and Mark Palmer of FVC Bank did some networking during the break.

SEE OUTLOOK. PAGE 5

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/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



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

On Sunday, Feb. 12, at 3 p.m. — Music at Messiah at Messiah United Methodist Church, 6215 Rolling Road, Springfield, presents the Amelia Ensemble, a flute, piano and clarinet trio, performing music from around the world. The concert is free.

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

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 Dozent 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 Barbmor 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

Music at Messiah Concert Series: The Amelia Ensemble, at 3 p.m. at Messiah United Methodist Church, 6215 Rolling Road, Springfield. Music at Messiah presents the Amelia Ensemble, a flute, piano and clarinet trio, performing music from around the world. The concert is free.

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.

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, storytelling, 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/>

TUESDAY/FEB. 14

Valentine Day Sale at INOVA Fair Oaks Hospital Auxiliary 8 - 3 p.m. Come and get your last minute gifts - balloons, flowers, candy and more! The sale will take place in the Hospital Atrium 3600 Joseph Siewick Dr, Fairfax.

Valentine's Paint Night 7:30 - 10 p.m. Paint Your Own Pottery, 10417 Main St, Fairfax. Couples, singles, friends and family come paint or do a mosaic to candlelight, complimentary coffee or tea and dessert. \$10 per person plus the price of the item you choose to create. Reservations required. MyFriend@createlikecrazy.com, 703-218-2881, <http://www.createlikecrazy.com/>

THURSDAY/FEB. 16

Friday Morning Music Club noon - 1 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Dr, Fairfax. Friday Morning Music Club, Inc. is a community of music lovers and musicians dedicated to promoting classical music throughout the metropolitan area. On the third Thursday of the month they host their performances at Old Town Hall. Free and open to the public. www.fmmc.org

THE CONNECTION
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Special Edition



PET Connection

Publishes: Feb 22, 2017 • Ads close: Wed, Feb 16, 2017

Connection readers love their pets. This keepsake edition will feature photos, anecdotes, advice and more about beloved family pets. Reach pet owners where they live in a section sure to attract and hold their attention.

The Pet Connection will publish on February 22, 2017, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by February 16. We welcome short stories about how you got your pet, a noteworthy talent or anecdote about your pet, tales of the bonds between your family and your pet, plus drawings, paintings or other artwork of your pet by children or adults.

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Cracking Down on On-the-Road Screen Time

Texting while driving is already illegal, but what about all the other screen time?

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Lawmakers in Richmond are a bunch of angry birds, frustrated at existing law they believe does not solve the problem of drivers devoting their attention to their handheld screen instead of the road. This week, a panel of House members approved a measure they say would dramatically expand options for law-enforcement officers to crack down on behavior beyond texts and emails — a list that includes everything from Snapchat to Facebook, online behavior that many believe falls beneath the virtual cracks.

“Currently, the code does not cover anything except entering digits and manipulating keys for the purpose of crafting a text message,” said Del. Rich Anderson (R-51). “Posting on Facebook is not covered. Neither is posting on YouTube or watching YouTube. This gives our law-enforcement officials greater discretion.”

In 2013, lawmakers took action to criminalize texting while driving. But Anderson and others believe that leaves a loophole large enough to allow for a distracted driver to barrel his way through a crime scene and not even notice. Anderson says the current law is restricted to text messaging and iPhone messages. He says that leaves a gaping hole in the code that



Del. Rich Anderson (R-51) explains his bill to a panel of House members.

allow for all kinds of screen time that should be prohibited, although some lawmakers are skeptical.

“The way you’ve structured this, you are saying it’s not you must not drive in a manner to endanger the life, limb or property,” said Del Rob Bell (R-58). “You are sort of creating a definition that says if you are substantially diverted it counts, right?”

ANDERSON’S BILL received support from both Republicans and Democrats and is now moving through the House of Delegates, although many questions remain about how the bill would work. Police and prosecutors are in favor of the bill, saying it’s a good start to crack down on the crisis of distracted driving in Virginia. But lawmakers are divided over language aimed at behavior

that “substantially divert” drivers from the road.

“If I give my grandmother a handheld personal communication device,” said Del. Ben Cline (R-24), “she will not be able to use it in a way that does not substantially divert her attention from the operation of the vehicle.”

“May I humbly suggest that she shouldn’t be using it while she’s driving a car,” responded Del. Todd Gilbert (R-15).

Members of the panel crafting the initial draft of the bill want to find a way that allows drivers to use their smart phones without being distracted by them. That might include a way for people to use a map to find a location but prohibit a driver from posting on Facebook while behind the wheel. For members of the General Assem-

“You should be able to use your phone (while driving). You should be able to look at it once in a while, take a call, make a call as long as you are not staring at the thing.”

— Del. Todd Gilbert (R-15)

bly, that creates a dilemma: How do lawmakers allow some good behavior while prohibiting bad behavior. Finding a middle ground isn’t easy.

“You should be able to use your phone,” said Gilbert. “You should be able to look at it once in a while, take a call, make a call as long as you are not staring at the thing.”

THE VERSION of the bill that emerged from a subcommittee of the Courts of Justice has a compromise that gives police officers a new kind of discretion — cracking down on behavior that is reasonably likely to substantially divert attention from the road. Some lawmakers believe that’s a standard that will work while others are not sure. Supporters say it’s worth a shot.

“I can’t think of a place in the code where we do something like that,” said Bell. “This isn’t an infraction. It’s a criminal charge.”

The bill is likely to receive another round of amendments when it is heard by the full committee next week, followed by another round of scrutiny when it heads over to the Senate. And then, of course, the governor will have his turn.

IN SESSION

Storing Evidence

The backlog of untested rape kits has received a lot of media attention in recent years, and lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have been working to find ways to process all that evidence. But that’s not the only problem with rape kits.

Many of them are simply thrown away.

Del. **Mark Levine** (D-45) is pushing legislation that would force law-enforcement officials to keep more rape kits for longer periods of time. One particular target of the bill is child victims of sexual assault. Under current law, the rape kit is thrown away when the child turns 20. Levine’s bill would extend that to 10 years after the child becomes an adult.

“By the time a young person is 28 years old, I think they have both the financial wherewithall and perhaps as importantly the emotional wherewithal to be able to say OK I’m ready to prosecute,” said Levine. “Maybe they’ve had some therapy to go through what happened to them as young person.”

Another target of the bill is victims of

sexual assault who are not yet ready to prosecute in the immediate aftermath of the crime. Levine’s bill would force law-enforcement officials to hold evidence for 10 years. Arlington County Board member **Katie Cristol**, who worked with Levine to craft the bill, says this will provide some much-needed time for victims to work through trauma before moving through a difficult legal process.

“Being able to hold out a decision, and hold out the evidence while a survivor is able to work through some of the trauma that he or she has experienced,” said Cristol, “that’s more likely to lead to not only a healing outcome for that survivor but greater public safety for all of us.”

Levine’s bill passed the House this week with unanimous support.

Porn Hazard

Republican Del. **Bob Marshall** (R-13) wants Virginia to declare pornography a public health hazard, and he has the backing of the vast majority of House members. During a debate on the merits of porn, Marshall quoted from a number of articles

and studies that raise alarms about the increasing availability of online smut.

“Fifty six percent of divorce cases involved one party having an obsessive interest in pornographic websites,” said Marshall.

But that wasn’t all, Marshall said. He quoted experts and offered statistics. He named publications and offered sources of further information for those who were interested in learning more. After a few minutes, lawmakers on both sides of the aisle started waving papers in the air, a cheeky tradition in the House that’s the equivalent of waving the white flag. They’d heard enough and they were ready to vote.

“I would urge members to vote against this,” said Del. Paul Krizek (D-44). “My constituents don’t have this problem.”

That crack elicited a lengthy round of laughter in the House chamber. Nevertheless, the bill passed with an overwhelming majority. Only eight House members voted against it.

“It’s just the dumbest thing,” said Krizek after the vote. “Look, the reason it was 91 to 8 is because nobody wants to run against somebody else who puts in their brochure ‘oh you’re for pornography.’ But I think it’s

up to people to have their choice.”

Beloved Redux

Should parents get a warning every time their children read a sexually explicit book in the classroom? That was a question debated last year, after a Fairfax County parent raised alarm bells over the Toni Morrison classic “Beloved.” The General Assembly passed a bill that would have required warnings for sexually explicit content in the classroom, although Democratic Gov. **Terry McAuliffe** vetoed it.

This year, Republicans are back at it again. And they have a different strategy. This year, they want to target any book that features sexual assault or rape — as defined by the criminal code of Virginia.

“I take offense too to the individual parents that were concerned about this — that you describe them as individuals who want to ban books when that’s just not true,” said Del. **Steve Landes** (R-25).

SEE IN SESSION, PAGE 13

NEWS

Economic Outlook

FROM PAGE 10

disciplines, and in general a well-educated population, the speakers and the governor all provided examples of difficulties in finding enough personnel with technology-specific knowledge and expertise.

McAuliffe said Virginia has about 36,000 openings for cyber-related jobs with starting salaries of \$80,000, and 149,000 vacancies in other tech fields. "This is our biggest roadblock. We need internships, externships, on the job training, and curriculums that are realistic."

"A Bachelor's Degree has been called the modern high school diploma," said Clower. To compete as a region, and for individuals to compete in the job market, Clower says there needs to be "continuous personal educational upgrades."

Using a series of statistical charts, Fuller showed the audience just where the growth in the region's economy has been coming from and explained why this pattern is ultimately not sustainable. Dividing types of jobs into 11 main "clusters," he illustrated that professional and business services,

retail, and leisure and hospitality were three of the top four clusters in growth from February 2010 through December 2016. Biomedical and health services was third on the list, but it's the smallest cluster in the region and the numbers don't compare with the other three. Those three clusters are the most vulnerable to economic pressures in Fuller's estimation, and generally don't pay as well as jobs in clusters like "information services" — an area that has lost ground, in spite of the fact that Northern Virginia has earned a reputation as a cybersecurity hub. "We are basically selling services to ourselves, and that is still the wrong focus." Fuller's research indicates that a failure to refocus job creation direction will lead to compounding money lost to the region totaling an estimated \$177.9 billion by 2025.

"And the longer it takes to get off this slow track, the harder it is to do. Remember, many of our competitors are on that fast track right now," said Fuller. "It's going to take a true regional approach, real regional cooperation and a redoubling of our efforts to get us there."

IN SESSION

FROM PAGE 12

Del. **Alfonso Lopez** (D-49) says the end result of the bill would be censorship.

"Would a trip to the National Gallery of Art require a warning to parents that many Greek and Roman sculptures depict sexual assaults?" asked Lopez.

"Are we saying that history and civics classes would not be able to discuss the real problem of war crimes involving rape?"

The bill passed the House this week, although the governor is already threatening a veto — if it gets through the Senate.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

SCHOOL NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday.

Tara Ackerman, graduate of Lake Braddock Secondary School and resident of Burke earned semester honors from Kansas State University.

Meredith Elaine Shock, of Burke, has been named to the dean's list at James Madison University for the fall 2016 semester. Shock is scheduled to graduate in 2017 and is majoring in writing, rhetoric & technical communication.

Nabila A. Guled is a senior majoring in organizational leadership. Nabila has been named to the Fort Hays State University dean's honor roll for the fall 2016 semester.

Meghan Chandler Presing of Fairfax earned a MSW - Master of Social Work at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. UWM is the second largest university in the State of Wisconsin, with approximately 26,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

James Hua Lau a senior at Hampden-Sydney College, has been recognized in Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael N. Lau of Springfield.

Three Fairfax County residents have been recognized for academic excellence during the fall 2016 semester at New River Community College.

Justin Luu of Fairfax made the president's list

Elisa Stephano of Burke made the president's list

Cristian Rice of McLean made the dean's List

Honor Students from Fairfax at Baylor University in Waco, Texas

Ho Yeon Kim, College of Arts and Sciences

Vincent Lorenzo Rimaneli, College of Arts and Sciences

Yo'Lauder Holt, of Springfield, majoring in Social work, was named to the dean's list at Brescia University, (Owensboro, Ky.)

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The McLean Connection
The Great Falls Connection

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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Kaiten Sushi, Inc trading as Kai 10 Sushi, 9650 Main St, #41, Fairfax, VA 22031. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.
David Kim, President
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NEWS

Help Find Missing Teen and Her Baby

Detectives have been searching for a missing 16-year-old girl and her 5-month-old baby boy. The girl, Lizzy Lizbeth Rivera Colindres of Springfield, and her son, Aidan David Castillo Rivera, were last seen on Jan. 14. Her mom reported her missing the next day and they were entered as missing juveniles. Initially, detectives believed Rivera Colindres left voluntarily with Aidan and their son's father, 18-year-old Jose Ivan Castillo Rivas, but new information suggests she and the baby might be in danger and left home out of fear of him — according to FCPD Public Affairs Bureau.

Lizzy Rivera Colindres is described as Hispanic, about 5 feet 6 inches tall and 125 pounds. She has long black hair with light-colored strips in it. She wears glasses.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective K. Mason (571-585-2378) or Detective M. Fox (571-489-1796) or the Fairfax County police at 703-691-2131 or you can contact Crime Solvers electronically



Lizzy Rivera Colindres is described as Hispanic, about 5 feet 6 inches tall and 125 pounds.

by visiting www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text-a-tip by texting "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES(274637).

BULLETIN BOARD

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

FEBRUARY

Over-40 Softball League. A Fairfax-based league is looking for enough players to form another team. Players must be at least 40 years of age to be eligible. All games are doubleheaders - played on Sundays at Bready Park in Herndon between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. If interested, email skeduman@aol.com for more information.

"Fairfax County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated (FCAC-DST) announces its annual scholarship application is now available. The FCAC Scholarship application is available on the chapter website: <http://www.fcacdst.org/applications.htm>. The completed application must be postmarked no later than February 17, 2017 and mailed to: Fairfax County Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Attn: Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 221224, Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1224."

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

FRIDAY/FEB. 17

Scholarship Application. Deadline for Fairfax Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority scholarship applications. The application is available on the chapter website: <http://www.fcacdst.org/applications.htm>. The completed application must be postmarked no later than February 17, 2017 and mailed to: Fairfax County Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Attn: Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 221224, Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1224.

SATURDAY/FEB. 25

Community Tax Assistance Day. Deloitte presents its 10th annual Community Tax Assistance Day or Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Day (VITA) to serve qualified individuals and families. Deloitte employee/volunteers will assist families with 2016 Federal and state tax returns for households with a total income of \$54,000 or less. Translations services in Spanish, Korean and Vietnamese will be provided. In addition, American Sign Language interpreters will be available. Location is Fairfax SkillSource Center, Heritage Center, 7611 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. This event is presented in partnership with the Fairfax County Department of Family Services and Volunteer Fairfax. Appointments are recommended: e-mail taxday@volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3896. Walk ins are welcome. Visit www.nvacash.org. On tax preparation day, clients should bring all pertinent documentation. For a complete list, visit www.volunteerfairfax.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 3

Rising Above Fear. Burke Presbyterian Church Distinguished Speakers Series, with Omid Safi, director of Duke University's Islamic Studies Center, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Being Muslim in America: Between ISIS and Islamophobia. Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke, 703-764-0456. Tickets are available at <http://www.BurkePresChurch.org>. They are \$25 for Friday and Saturday sessions and \$15 for a single session. Tickets are limited.



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