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A host of elected officials, faith and community leaders stood together to condemn not just the Monday bomb threat and recent crimes against the Jewish community, but all acts of hate and intolerance. Attorney General Mark Herring (center) said the amount of hate crimes being committed is rising in Virginia and around the nation.



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Standing Together Against Hate

Lawmakers, faith leaders respond to Feb. 27 bomb threat at Gesher Jewish School.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Students at Gesher Jewish Day School in Fairfax started their week with a bomb threat. The call came in Monday morning, Feb. 27, the head of school Dan Finkel said. Nearly 100 similar threats have been received at Jewish community centers and schools nationwide, amid recent instances Jewish cemeteries being vandalized and desecrated.

Finkel said the morning was scary, but that the school received rapid response from the FBI and local law enforcement.

"The ensuing moments were filled with love and support," he said, allowing them to more quickly get back to the primary goal of providing "outstanding education for Jewish children across northern Virginia."

Finkel spoke at a news conference Friday afternoon on March 3 at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia in Fairfax. The event was organized by the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington.

Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia executive director Jeff Dannick said in response to the crimes of hate, there's a question of whether to be outwardly strong or keep a low profile.

"History has taught us always stand up against hate," he said. "There was a time when Jews did hide in fear, we'll not do that again."

Dannick and Finkel were joined by a host of elected officials, faith and community leaders standing together to condemn not just the Monday bomb threat and recent crimes against the Jewish community, but all acts of hate and intolerance.

Attorney General Mark Herring said the amount of hate crimes being committed is rising in Virginia and around the nation.

"There is something deeply wrong in our national climate, that individuals feel empowered to take action against houses of worship, against children," Herring said. No matter what you look like, where you're from, or how you pray, he continued, "You have a place in Virginia."

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) said the 2016 Presidential election represented a sliding back in the history of America. As a consequence hate groups are feeling emboldened, he said.

Support, inclusion, opportunity and acceptance are basic American values, Connolly continued, which "can only grow because of these incidents."

U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10)



Students at Gesher Jewish Day School in Fairfax started their week with a bomb threat. The call came in Monday morning, Feb. 27, the head of school Dan Finkel (right) said.

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION



Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova used her speaking opportunity to advertise a "United Response to Hate Speech, Bias Incidents and Hate Crimes" event, scheduled for Sunday, March 26. The event will take place from 3-5 p.m. at The Ernst Cultural Center of Northern Virginia Community College, located at 8333 Little River Turnpike in Annandale.



Students at Gesher Jewish Day School in Fairfax started their week with a bomb threat. The call came in Monday morning, Feb. 27, the head of school Dan Finkel (right) said.

brought up the prevalence of the Internet in helping hate groups organize and radicalize members online. She called for providing solutions to that connectivity through law enforcement, as well as parents understanding how dangerous the web can be for impressionable children.

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) called anti-semitism "a scourge on the human community," and encouraged people to "respect, lift up, love the Jewish friends and neighbors we have."

The politicians also used their speaking out to call out President Trump for a response.

State Senate Minority Leader Dick Saslaw (D-35) echoed Connolly saying that the

2016 campaign "emboldened virtually every bigot in this country." And that it didn't help with Trump encouraging supporters to violently remove protesters from his rallies offering to pay their legal expenses.

Responding to these hate crimes, Saslaw said, "the buck stops at the White House. The most forceful act needs to come from the White House, and it needs to come in a hurry."

The Rev. Scott Sammler-Michael of Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church in Burke shared a message after the conference that he has been spreading in synagogues, mosques, his own congregation, and anyone else: embodied faith. "Take steps into the world," to counteract hate,

he encourages. "Take your time, your talents, your treasure."

To the Jews and Muslims and others who have felt targeted, Sammler-Michael said he's told them, "we will stand where you need us," whether it's behind in support, arm-in-arm, or in front, as a "holy defense line."

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More information is available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/cic.

Independent, Civilian Oversight in Place

New auditor and panel will make an excellent police force better, more transparent and accountable.

In February, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors followed through in establishing two forms of independent oversight of law enforcement for the first time in county history.

Richard Schott will begin as independent auditor on April 17, reporting directly to the Board of Supervisors.

Nine members have been named to the county's inaugural Civilian Review Panel, chaired by Adrian Steel. More than 140 Fairfax County residents applied to be considered to serve on the panel, and those named appear to have a remarkable set of qualifications.

Independent, civilian oversight of law enforcement is a national best practice.

Schott is a 27-year veteran of the FBI where he specialized in training on officer use of force, civil rights and color of law issues. He worked on the Henry Glover and Danziger Bridge civil rights cases, prosecutions of New Orleans Police Department officers for civil rights violations after Hurricane Katrina.

The Office of the Auditor will handle cases of police use of force that result in serious injury and death and the Civilian Review Panel will handle complaints about Fairfax County Police abuse of authority or misconduct.

These methods of oversight were adopted

by the board following recommendations of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, established by Chairman Sharon Bulova in the wake of the police shooting death of John Geer and public reaction to 17 months when FCPD released no information about the case until forced to by court order.

Leadership of FCPD, especially Chief Edwin C. Roessler Jr., have embraced the almost all of the 202 recommendations of the commission, which acknowledged the overall excellence of Fairfax County Police.

Nevertheless, the county's first independent auditor will come on board with work to do.

In his mandate to monitor and review internal investigations of Police Department officer-involved shootings, in-custody deaths and use-of-force cases in which an individual is killed or seriously injured, Schott will begin with the investigation of the officer-involved shooting death of Herndon resident Mohammad Azim Doudzai in progress.

Among the questions for Schott will be why it took 45 days, rather than the recommended 10 days, to release the name of the officer involved in the shooting. The chief needed the additional time to fully investigate and mitigate any possible threats to the officer and his family, and respond to legal action by the officer seeking to stop the release of his name, a delay permitted by the new policy. The officer

was involved in two other uses of deadly force, one in 2005 and one in 2010, with the suspect wounded but not killed in those two incidents. (The officer received valor awards for the 2005 incident for rescuing the store manager during an armed robbery with shots fired.)

Other questions that we hope the auditor can answer for the public:

According to the chief's statement at the scene on the day of the incident, two officers used less lethal force (taser and foam bullet) while one officer fired his service weapon. Was a supervisor coordinating the plan? What was the sequence of events and uses of force? Was there an attempt to subdue the suspect without deadly force?

Why is so little additional information forthcoming about the incident? Subsequent releases have contained fewer details than were release on the day of the incident. What video exists and when will it be released?

The policy states: "It is important to note the 10 day period is primarily related to the release of officer names and is only designed as a limit to not be exceeded without cause, not a recommended standard, and the board and the public expect the Police Department to release other appropriate preliminary factual information and updates to the public as soon as possible."

Another area of inquiry is analysis of data released last year that indicates 40 percent of the subjects of use of force by FCPD are African American, while only 8 percent of the county population is African American.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Eight Pieces of Legislation with Positive Impact

BY DAVE MARSDEN
STATE SENATOR (D-37)

COMMENTARY

The 2017 General Assembly Session has officially adjourned Sine Die, concluding our legislative session. Over the next few weeks Governor McAuliffe and his staff will review the legislation passed and approve, veto, or amend the bills. Included this year are eight bills that I passed.

The most significant bill I had passed this year was SB1027, legislation to allow for the growing, processing, and dispensing of Medical Marijuana Oils. Three years ago, I met with Fairfax County residents who had members of their family who suffered from intractable epilepsy. Intractable epilepsy is a neurological disorder that produces serious, debilitating, and many times life threatening seizures. Many people, especially children, can suffer from hundreds of seizures a day. The severity of this ailment can't be downplayed. These fami-

lies have spent countless hours in emergency rooms trying to stabilize their loved ones and many hours seeking better treatment. The FDA approved drugs come with some of the worst imaginable side effects.

But these families, like thousands across the nation, had found a medication that helped and no side effects. CBD and THC-A Oils are non-hallucinogenic oils derived from marijuana plants. These families saw drastic reductions in seizures and emergency room visits. We are not only helping people with this legislation, but will save hundreds of thousands of dollars by not having patients rely on expensive FDA approved drugs paid for by Medicaid.

In 2015 we passed a law that made it possible for these families to possess this medication without fear of criminal prosecution. However, we did not provide them with

a way to legally procure the medication. SB1027 created Board of Pharmacy regulations that allow for the lawful growing, manufacturing, and dispensing of this medication to qualified patients. The oils will be available sometime in 2018 and I am optimistic that other disorders will be added to the list of qualifying illnesses such as Crohn's Disease, cancer, glaucoma, multiple sclerosis, ALS, and perhaps others.

Another bill, SB1467, will allow election officers to start counting overseas ballots early on Election Day. Currently registrars cannot start counting these ballots until after the polls close and because of their format they must be counted by hand. In Fairfax County it takes 80 people over six hours to count these ballots, delaying the final vote tally. If you ever wondered why Fairfax County is one of the last localities to report their election results, look no further than this culprit. SB1467 will allow the elections board to begin counting these bal-

lots at 3 p.m. on Election Day.

Two hot button issues during our general assembly session included mental health reforms and our continued battle with the Commonwealth's opioid problem. I passed SB1031 that would allow access by laboratory staff to Naloxone, a pharmaceutical that helps save lives when someone overdoses on an opioid. This was an important safety measure as our state labs perform dangerous yet important tests and studies on opioids. In Virginia, more than 1,000 people died from opioid overdoses in 2016. I joined Senator Louise Lucas in passing SB 895/SB935, in response to the tragic deaths of folks who were being held in our jails instead of receiving the mental health treatment they needed. This legislation streamlines the process to allow an inmate to receive mental health treatment in a hospital while awaiting trial.

My final four pieces of legisla-

SEE MARSDEN, PAGE 5



LETTERS

Hate Crimes Have No Place In Our Communities

To the Editor:

In recent weeks there has been an alarming increase in acts of anti-Semitism at Jewish Community Centers, cemeteries, and schools, and at Muslim Community Centers and mosques. Well over 100 incidents have been reported just since the beginning of 2017, including recent bomb threats at a Jewish Community Center in Fairfax and at two mosques and a Muslim Community Center in Montgomery County. Government leaders, faith-based organizations, and our entire community should condemn these incidents and call upon law enforcement to work with the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security to seek out the perpetrators of these hate crimes and prosecute them to the fullest extent of the law.

Desecration of Jewish cemeteries and bomb threats at Jewish and Muslim schools and community centers are intended to cause fear and intimidation, and have no place on our communities. Coordinated government involvement at all levels is needed to identify and prosecute those who

are responsible for these hate crimes. Congress must ensure that funding for the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice is maintained to ensure that adequate resources are available to make prosecution of hate crimes a priority. The President, Members of Congress, and our Governors should continue to speak out against the hate crimes which have escalated alarmingly. All of this will require leadership, but each of these steps is required to ensure that all Americans regardless of their religion, are free from hate crimes such as desecration of cemeteries and bomb threats at religious schools and community centers. Lastly, during the Easter season, Christian churches should take the opportunity to condemn the recent acts of hate crimes directed at Jewish and Muslim communities because of their religion, and include in the Easter liturgy a reaffirmation of the bonds of humanity shared by the Jewish, Muslim, and Christian religions.

Brad Penney
Springfield

Marsden

FROM PAGE 4

tion on the Governor's desk include SB812, an important consumer protection bill that would require home inspectors to report the presence of yellow shaded corrugated steel tubing that can cause a fire when the building that contains it is struck by lightning; SB 840, extends the life of the Commission on Civic Education; SB873, authorizes a fire chief to ban or restrict privately owned drones at the scene of fires, acci-

dents, etc.; and SB1488, which I co-sponsored with Senator Scott Surovell that would require a judge to seek reimbursement of fees from a family when a Guardian ad litem has been appointed for a child, an exemption is available for families who are unable to pay.

As you can see it was a busy legislative session. I look forward to the Governor signing these bills and seeing the positive impact they will have on our community and Commonwealth.

Clifton are held on Sundays at 8:50 and 10:50 a.m. 703-323-9500 or www.Lordoflifeva.org.

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

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

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.

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

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

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Coalition Calls on County to Recommit

Faith communities coalition wants dedicated Energy Office.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

As Fairfax County prepares to update its formal Environmental Vision, the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS) is calling on local elected officials to recommit to the environmental protection pledge they adopted under then-Chairman Gerry Connolly. The non-profit coalition of about 50 interfaith communities sent a red-clad contingent to support the FACS members registered to speak at the Feb. 28 meeting of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. One after another, the speakers praised the supervisors for the county's environmental stance, but urged them to renew their dedication to the goals outlined in the pledge.

Coming from different walks of life and offering different perspectives, those who testified were united in asking the board to establish an office to oversee the transition to clean energy in the county. Peter Clifford, representing FACS member Unity Church of Fairfax, called for a department with the "authority and responsibility to address what you established" in the initial pledge. "Establishing firm goals and regular measurement," Clifford said, was the key to success in this endeavour.

In her testimony, pediatrician Dr. Samantha Adhoot of Alexandria acknowledged that the county is in a tight budget climate, but, echoing the request for an office for environmental advocacy, she warned that environmental issues were also "public health issues," with more cases of Lyme disease, asthma and other respiratory conditions occurring with the longer seasons of unusual warmth.

THE COOL COUNTIES Climate Stabilization Declaration, as the pledge is officially named, established the goal of reducing the D.C. region's overall greenhouse gas emissions to 80 percent below 2005 levels by 2050. It was signed on July 16, 2007. In the 10 years since, it's difficult to tell if progress is being made by Fairfax County, according to Eric Goplerud, chairman and co-founder of FACS.

In an opinion piece recently published in the Washington Post, Goplerud argues that statements about the county's efforts, made by Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, may confuse residents. In her post of Feb. 6, Bulova cited a 10 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions per capita for the county. Goplerud says the chairman was referencing a report by the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments (WMCOG) published in April of 2016 and covering the years between 2005-2012. Not a timely piece of evidence



The Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions brought a red-clad contingent of supporters for their speakers at the Fairfax County Feb. 28 Board of Supervisors meeting.



John Clewett, Cindy Speas, and Ray Martin were among the supporters from The Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions who attended the Feb. 28 Board of Supervisors meeting. The group wants an Energy Office for the county.

in Goplerud's view.

Goplerud also points out that the Cool Counties commitment is for a "total reduction," in emissions, versus per capita. When the data is reviewed from that perspective, given the population growth in the county, carbon pollution may actually have risen, as the county's own 2013 "Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory" indicates. That report shows yearly greenhouse gas emissions in the county as having risen by 3 percent between 2006 and 2010, somewhat at odds with the WMCOG that credited the county with a 2 percent overall decrease in emissions during its last study period.

Kambiz Agazi, the county's environmental coordinator, has said that the lag in providing emissions data is due to the time it takes to compile the complex information, but that the county is committed to publishing the data every three years.

Goplerud and other speakers from FACS aren't willing to accept that delay. While they admit that there is an enormous amount of information to be recorded and analysed, the FACS says that Fairfax need only look at their immediate neighbors to see that measuring energy activity can be done with much more expediency.

The FACS cites Arlington County, Montgomery County in Maryland, and the District as examples of jurisdictions with more current data. Arlington reports a 21 percent reduction, Montgomery County a 10 percent decrease, and the District more than a 20 percent improvement. Fairfax provides a number of bar graphs on their "Energy Data" website to display usage of electricity and natural gas and their "equivalent

carbon emissions in metric tons" in government buildings sorted by category, but there are notations cautioning that "the data is limited by the way the facilities are metered." There are no measurements for private buildings or emission outputs related to transportation for comparison sake at this web location, but the 2013 Greenhouse Gas Inventory does include detailed measurements of emissions by source, as of 2010.

While it's difficult to make an apples-to-apples comparison on the actual results among the localities because of the types of buildings that each includes in their reporting and the dates studied, the data that the others provide is more up-to-date than what is published for Fairfax County. Goplerud and other local environmental activists believe that the difference is due in great part to those jurisdictions having dedicated energy efficiency offices to tackle the issues versus the "lone coordinator" the county employs, despite being the largest jurisdiction in the region.

The county and the activists agree that the county itself is only responsible for about 3 percent of the emissions produced in the area. The speakers all praised the county's efforts to improve their own performance, but pointed again to the goals of the Cool Counties pledge — significant emissions reductions for the region, not just the public sector which comprises such a small percentage of the emissions problem. Some, like Clifford, and FACS executive director Reba Elliott, also reminded the supervisors that much of the improvement in recent years can be attributed to the local utility companies change from coal to natu-

ral gas as the generators for their power.

"I don't think we will see such a change" from the utility companies again, said Clifford. Instead, it's "up to public-private partnerships" like the work being done in Arlington County with LEAP (The Local Energy Alliance Program).

Before the meeting, Elliott added that citizens rely on the county to use their knowledge and resources and their power to educate businesses and the public, guiding them on working toward the energy goals that "are in the best health and economic interests of us all."

AT THE CONCLUSION of the Public Comment period, Bulova expressed the board's thanks to the FACS speakers "for their advocacy." She spoke briefly about the county's "Energy Dashboard" which launched Phase I in March 2016 to provide an overview of the energy usage between 2006 through 2014 in four key service areas: county Government Buildings, Public Works, Parks and Housing and Human Services. The information was updated in August of 2016 to add data for usage in 2015.

Phase 2 of the Dashboard, completed in November of last year, added additional detail and in January, graphics and tables were included to show the reduction in equivalent carbon emissions.

"Thank you for pushing us for [the dashboard]," Bulova said to the FACS members. She made note of the Environmental Vision update underway, and announced that later in the year she would be reconvening her "Private Sector Energy Taskforce" for study and recommendations on how to more forward.

"It's sounds very positive," said Ray Martin after the meeting. Martin was one of the FACS supporters in attendance and belongs to the Lewinsville Presbyterian Church. "But we really need that dedicated office [of Energy]. We're here to help and do what we can. I hope they will try harder."

The Energy Dashboard can be found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/energy/energydata. A description of the county's efforts, with links to other resources, is available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/environmental/sustainability/. The Cool Counties Pledge is also on the county's website.

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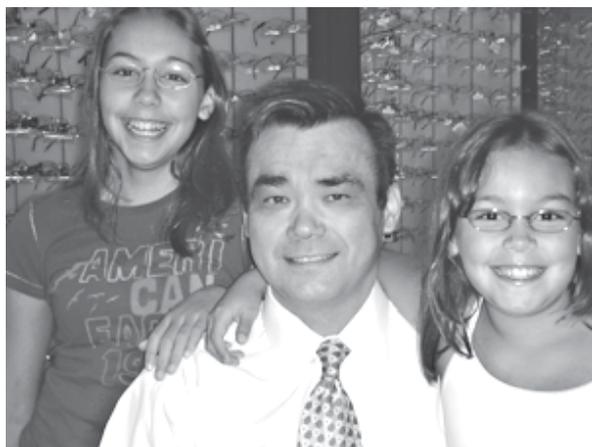


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ENTERTAINMENT

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.

ONGOING

Senior Line Dancing 1-2 p.m. Little River Glen Senior Center 4001 Barker Court, 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

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.

Exercise Program Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 a.m. year-round at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Rd. Fairfax. The exercises are for strength, balance and maintaining limberness. Contact SCFB office at 703-426-2824 for more information.

Cafe Ivrit (Hebrew Cafe). Wednesdays 8:15-9:15 a.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Shalom (hello) Did you always want to converse in Hebrew? Join Na'ama each week for conversational Hebrew. You will learn and practice Hebrew in a fun and interactive way while learning more about Israel. Free, however we ask that you try to attend regularly. RSVP Naama.Gold@jccnv.org.

English Conversation Groups weekly at George Mason, Burke Centre, and Lorton Libraries Practice and improve your English. Day and start times vary. Visit: va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp

MARCH 8-APRIL 2

"Her Story" Art Exhibition. Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri: 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun: 12-5 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Show focuses on how women have a role in inspiring and shaping our society. The artists will be on hand to talk about their work and the processes they use at the opening reception 6-9 p.m. on March 11. Visit www.workhousearts.org/ for more.

MARCH 9-12

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." Various times at Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive. A cast of 35 7-12 graders, a live band, and a hard-working behind-the-scenes crew will present the famous and family-friendly show. Visit www.burkepreschurch.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 11

Culinary Challenge and Wellness Expo. 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Rodney Taylor, director of FCPS Food and Nutrition Services, will be a keynote speaker, and the event will feature celebrity chef demonstrations, a

student culinary challenge to create dishes for school meals, public food tastings, workshops led by food experts, and prize drawings. Visit www.realfoodforkids.org for more.

Frisbee Golf Challenge. 10 a.m. at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Professional Disc Golf Association tournament. Call 703-371-4873 or email at novadiscgolf@gmail.com for more.

Polaris Piano Trio. 3 p.m. at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway, West Springfield. Featuring the works of both familiar and less-heard composers. Email concerts@kirkwoodpres.com, visit www.kirkwoodpres.com, or call the church office at 703-451-5320.

Scholarship Gala. 6 p.m. at the Springfield Hilton, 6550 Loisdale Road, Springfield. Second Annual Fort Belvoir Scholarship Gala hosted by the Belvoir Enlisted Spouses' Club a nonprofit organization operating out of Fort Belvoir. Email President@belvoiresc.org or call 703-372-5574 for more.

SUNDAY/MARCH 12

Pop-Up Shopping Fair. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Key Center School Cafeteria, 6404 Franconia Road, Springfield. Vendors such as LulaRoe, Beach Body, Norwex, Stella & Dot and many others will be on hand. 15 percent of proceeds will go to benefit the MOD POD – a multi sensory environment initiative for the school. Contact Kelly Zukosky, kmzukosky@fpcs.edu or call 703-313-4000 for more.

Purim Carnival and Silent Auction. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Congregation Adat Reyim, 6500 Westbury Oaks Court, Springfield. There are costumes, games and prizes, lunch, and silent auction. Email publicity@adatreyim.org for more.

Girl's Day Hinamatsuri Festival. 12:30-2 p.m. The Ekoji Buddhist Temple, 6500 Lakehaven Lane, Fairfax Station. Celebration includes a traditional Japanese doll display, friendship doll story as told by Girl Scout Troop 6252, Japanese calligraphy, yukata-style kimono try-on, origami dolls and a special souvenir memento. Call 703-239-0500, e-mail ekojiinfo@gmail.com or visit www.ekoji.org for more.

County Spelling Bee. 1:10-5:30 p.m. at Lanier Middle School, 3801 Jermantown Road, Fairfax. 2017 Fairfax County Spelling Bee. Free. Call 703-295-9257 for more.

Tap Ensemble. 6:30-8 p.m. at Metropolitan School of Arts, 5775 Barclay Drive, Kingstowne. The Arts Youth Tap Ensemble is performing a preview to its 10-year anniversary show, scheduled in May, called 2x2. Call 703-339-0444 or visit www.metropolitanarts.org for more.

MARCH 17-18

Transit Driver Appreciation Day. Thank transit drivers on Transit Driver Appreciation Day when the region observes it, March 17 (or on the actual day, March 18). In the City of Fairfax, 34 drivers keep CUE Bus on the road — and two of them, Steve Shillingburg and Lisa DePuy, have been with CUE for 25-plus years. On Transit Driver Appreciation Day, make sure the CUE Bus drivers know how valued they are. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov.

SATURDAY/MARCH 18

Book Sale. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Fairfax City Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Thousands of gently read books and non-book media organized into categories including picture books, early readers, nonfiction, holiday, chapter books,



Members, from left, kneeling: Trey Cluff, MinhTu Tran and Brandon Vaca; standing: Josh Piel, Zach Wade, Christian Crawford, Joseph Carley, JR Davis, Andrea Hatcher, Seth Rothstein, Dylan Shoemaker, Eric Smith, Andrew Watson, Christos Roulades, Maria Euripides, and Zach Polnow.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Team Excels in 'Sport for the Mind'

The Springfield/Burke FIRST Robotics Competition Team #2421 RTR Team Robotics, came in 2nd place at their first regional event of the 2017 season this past weekend. Their robot "VULCAN" out competed 33 other teams to rack up high scores in this year's difficult "SteamWorks" field game. Participating in the ultimate "Sport for the Mind" required the 25 high school members to raise funds, design a team "brand," build and program a 120-pound industrial-sized robot all within an intense six-week time limit. The team calls it "the hardest fun you'll ever have."

The non-profit community-based team includes eight West Springfield High School students, 16 Lake Braddock Secondary School students and one homeschooler. It is sponsored by engineer mentors and parent volunteers and operates out of loaned retail space at Springfield Plaza. Their budget was approximately \$12,000 and was made possible by Springfield Plaza, LLC, Rapport Companies, Boeing, Federal Acquisition Strategies, BAE Systems, and the Air Force Officer's Spouses Club of Greater Washington D.C., as well as a national grant from NASA.

2421 RTR Team Robotics's next event will be a Chesapeake Regional being held 25-26 March at South River High School in Edgewater, Md. Anyone interested is invited to attend the free competition. Schedule can be found at www.firstchesapeake.org/index.php. Students



Getting ready to compete, from left, Seth Rothstein (LBSS), MinhTu Tran (WSHS), Josh Piel (LBSS) and Zach Wade (LBSS).

who want to learn more about 2421 RTR Team Robotics should email FIRST2421@gmail.com and get ready for next year's season starting in November 2017.

young adult, etc. \$0.25-\$2.00. Some specials \$3 and \$4. Call 703-644-4870 or email friendsoffairfaxcitylibrary@gmail.com for more.

AAUW 2017 Spring Fling. 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Springfield Golf and Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. The American Association of University Women provides advocacy for women through education, philanthropy and research. Molly Smith will be the guest speaker. \$40. Email SpringFlingAAUW@gmail.com or call 703-973-3783 for more.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner. 6-8 p.m. at Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. This is a fundraising event to support the

many Christian outreach programs sponsored by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew Men's Group of Pohick Episcopal Church. \$15 for adults, \$40 for a family, and children under 12 are free. www.pohick.org or call 703-680-1664 for more.

MARCH 18-19

SPRINGPEX 2017. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday, and 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Sunday at Springfield Stamp Club Show, Robert E. Lee High School cafeteria, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. Local collectors are invited to attend the show, and to display competitive and non-competitive philatelic exhibits. Free.

Visit www.springfieldstampclub.org, or contact G. Frazier at frazierg@cox.net for more.

THURSDAY/MARCH 23

Greendale Women's Golf League. 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre Drive. The Greendale Women's Golf Association is an 18-hole league that plays once a week on Thursday mornings at the Greendale Golf Course on Telegraph Road. The league is open to experienced golfers of all abilities. Please join us as we discuss the upcoming golf season. Call 703-399-6496 or visit gwgl.wordpress.com for more.

3

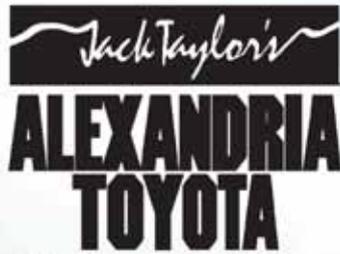
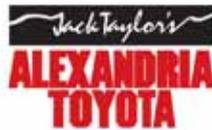
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Send notes to the Connection at connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/ or call 703-778-9416. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

MARCH 10-11

Free Dental Care for Adults. Various times at NVCC, Medical Education Campus, 6699 Springfield Center Drive, Springfield. Free dental care will be provided to adults with income at or below 200 percent of Federal Poverty Guidelines. Dental care is generally limited to one service per client and may include a filling, cleaning, extraction, or root canal. Call 703-222-0880 for appointment.

SATURDAY/MARCH 11

Social Action Linking Together (SALT). 9-11:15 a.m. at the Virginia International University (VIU), in Conference Room (VD-102), 4401 Village Drive, Fairfax. Legislators will discuss safety net issues in the 2015 General Assembly session. visit www.S-A-L-T.org or contact John Horejsi at jhorejsi@cox.net or Dr. Bilgin at kbilgin@viu.edu for more.

Immigration Discussion Panel. 10:30 a.m.-noon at the Kings Park Community Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Chairman Sharon Bulova and state Sen. Scott Surovell will be leading a discussion on immigration and its impact on our Fairfax County residents. Free. Email politicalaction@fairfaxnaacp.org for more.

Camp Fair 2017. Noon-4 p.m. at Audrey Moore RECenter, 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale. Get details about Park Authority camps. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/camps or call 703-324-9201 for more.

MONDAY/MARCH 20

Budget Town Hall. 7 p.m. at the West Springfield Government Center, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield. Supervisor Pat Herryty will be hosting, with Fairfax County Executive Ed Long. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield for more.

SUNDAY/MARCH 26

A United Response to Hate Speech and Crime. 3-5:30 p.m. in the Ernst Room at Northern Virginia Community College - Annandale, 8333 Little River Turnpike. Brief presentations by experts who specialize in preventing hate rhetoric and hate crimes, followed by a discussion between the audience and a panel comprised of diverse religious leaders. Email ncsinterfaith@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-324-3453.

TUESDAY/MARCH 29

Domestic Violence Workshop. 11:30 a.m. at Kings Lutheran Church, 4025 Kings Way, Fairfax. This workshop is presented by Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood & Community Services and The FCIA Interfaith Domestic Violence Prevention Committee. Registration deadline is Monday, March 27, 2017. Visit tinyurl.com/fairfaxcountycic, email ncsinterfaith@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-324-3453.

THURSDAY/MARCH 30

Nomination Deadline. These awards recognize dedicated community service done by our youth and encourage them to continue to be active in their communities, sponsored by Eagle Bank. Cash prizes will be awarded in the tiered amounts of \$100 for elementary school students, \$200 for middle school students, and \$300 for high school students. Email NSCAServiceAwards@gmail.com for more.

FRIDAY/MARCH 31

Scholarship Application Deadline. The Springfield/South County (SYC) Board of Directors are sponsoring the George Angulo Scholarship Award. The \$1,000 college scholarship will be awarded annually to an area high school senior with a history of volunteer service. Visit www.sycva.com for more.

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

26 Antiques

26 Antiques

LEGAL NOTICE

According to the Lease by and between Joseph Strauss (of unit 1131) and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: trunk, clothes, boxes, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Friday March 24, 2017 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

According to the Lease by and between Michael Jordan (of unit 2069) and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: beds, furniture, books, clothes, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Friday March 24, 2017 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

According to the Lease by and between James D Williams (of unit 4043) and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: bike, TV, bedding, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Friday March 24, 2017 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

According to the Lease by and between James D Williams (of unit 4048) and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: ladders, exercise equipment, boxes, lamps, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Friday March 24, 2017 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

According to the Lease by and between Lina Chovil (of unit 4075) and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: luggage, boxes, tubs, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Friday March 24, 2017 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

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West Springfield High School

Saturday, April 1

12 pm to 2 pm

Co-sponsored by West Springfield HS Student Government and Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce

South County Secondary School

Saturday, April 29

11 am to 1 pm

Co-sponsored by Supervisor Dan Storck, South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, South County Federation, and South County Secondary School

To register as an employer or student, or for more information, please visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teenjobfair.htm



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Where Dreams Never End! Wake up to the stunning interior of this classic 5 bed/3.5 bath colonial sitting on a lovely cul-de-sac lot. Alluring interior includes 2-story foyer; gleaming hardwoods; family room with gas fireplace & custom built-ins; remodeled kitchen with stainless appliances; main level study; walkout Rec Room & a romantic master suite with luxurious bath. Impressive Plus!



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Local homes and gardens will be part of Virginia's Historic Garden week on Tuesday, April 25. Featured here, a home on Lake Newport. See www.vagardenweek.org

Spring 2017
HomeLifeStyle

PHOTO BY DONNA MOULTON/FAIRFAX GARDEN CLUB

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Kitchen Design Trends for 2017

Local designer share popular design ideas.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Those looking for kitchen design ideas have a new source of inspiration: the National Kitchen & Bath Association's (NKBA) list of trends for 2017. Local designers reveal which trends are most popular in the Washington, D.C. region.

NKBA predicts that contemporary-styled kitchens will overtake traditional to become the second most popular design after transitional. Locally, Michael Winn, president of Winn Design + Build expects to see "a strong move towards transitional and contemporary styles, with no fussy designs."

Homeowners are looking for "kitchen spaces that look comfortable, calming and clutter-free," said Shannon Kadwell of Anthony Wilder Design/Build, Inc.

Clean lines, built-in shelving and simple door styles dominate kitchen designs. Megan Padilla, senior designer for Aidan Design reports an interest in custom storage ideas. "We're inspired by our work with clients who often have collections of table décor — everything from antique trays to vintage oyster plates," she said. "By creat-



PHOTO COURTESY OF WINN DESIGN + BUILD

White and gray painted cabinets like those in this kitchen by Winn Design + Build will dominate kitchen color schemes in 2017.

ing custom storage these cherished items can be readily accessible."

When it comes to painted cabinetry, gray is the new white and the popularity of both colors shows no signs of slowing down, according to the NKBA survey. However, blue painted and high gloss kitchen cabinets are emerging, especially in the Washington area, says Winn. "Blues

and grays are very popular [and] "White continues to be popular."

For overall color schemes, two-toned kitchens are gaining popularity while blue and black are emerging as sought after colors. "We're seeing a rise in product offerings available in matte black — from appliances to plumbing fixtures to cabinet hardware," said Padilla. "We love it paired

with white in a classic black and white kitchen, but also as an accent piece. Matte black also pairs beautifully with brass, which has been trending for the past couple of years."

Quartz is the most sought-after kitchen countertop material, followed by granite. "Most of our clients aren't really interested in a kitchen that [is] too trendy since they plan to have it in place for 15-20 years," said Padilla. "We've seen an uptick in interest in incorporating color by way of alternate neutrals. Navy blue is probably the top choice, but taupes and lighter blues are also on the list."

An interest among homeowners in incorporating technology in kitchen design is increasing as well. About one third of the NKBA professionals surveyed reported recent projects that included wiring and pathways for future tech integration. "I would also expect the technology side to be a focus in D.C.," said Samantha Klickna, project developer with Case Design/Remodeling, Inc. "The ease and comfort of controlling your home while at the office or on travel is very appealing and convenient for the city dweller."

Induction cooktops and convection ovens are trending higher, and microwave drawers are surpassing freestanding or built-in microwaves in popularity. "People have been purchasing appliances like steam ovens and induction ovens now more than ever before," said Kadwell. "People have less time, but still want to cook. They want to be able to cook quickly, so they're looking for appliances that can accomplish that."



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Garden Club of Virginia hosts 84th Annual Historic Garden Week.

During the last eight days of April every year nearly 26,000 visitors tour homes and gardens across Virginia.

This year, Historic Garden Week features 30 tours organized and hosted by 47 Garden Club of Virginia member clubs. Nearly 250 private homes, gardens and historic sites will be open. For nearly a century the Garden Club of Virginia has been committed to preserving the beauty of Virginia for all to enjoy. Garden Club of Virginia members were early leaders in conservation and environmental concerns. Tour proceeds fund the restoration and preservation of more than 40 of Virginia's historic public gardens and landscapes, a research fellowship program and a centennial project with Virginia State Parks.

RESTON TOUR Tuesday, April 25

Hosted by Garden Club of Fairfax, the tour headquarters and

facilities are at The Lake House, 11450 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston. Tickets, maps and restrooms are available on tour day. Tickets \$40 per on tour day, advance tickets are \$30.

See www.vagardenweek.org. By mail before April 10, send a self-addressed stamped envelope and check made out to "The Garden Club of Fairfax" to Marty Whipple, 11508 Yates Ford Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22093. 703-978-4130. Fairfax@vagardenweek.org.

Complimentary refreshments will be served 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lake House. Reston Town Center, Lake Anne, and North Point Village Center are minutes away and offer a variety of eateries and lunch options for visitors.

The Reston tour includes Round Pebble Lane, garden only; Stones Throw Drive home and garden; and three modern homes and gardens on Lake Newport.

For more, including tours in Alexandria and Leesburg, see www.virginiagardenweek.org

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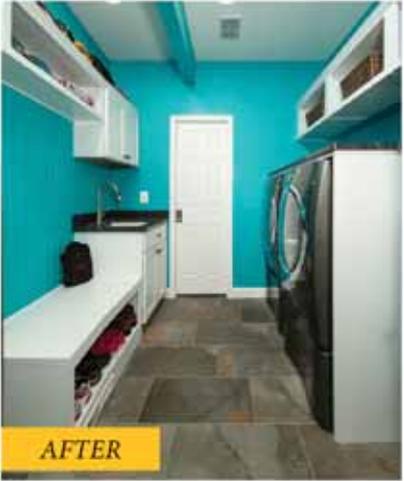
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BEFORE: Above, owners Jack and Marie Torre wanted square footage for a larger kitchen and dining room, but “set-back” rules prohibited building in the rear, and the front-facing roof overhang limited options for re-designing the facade.

AFTER: Best Whole House Makeover in 10 states, left: Sun Design Remodeling’s conversion of a circa 1960s split-level into a neoclassical style residence has been named a regional “Contractor of the Year” (COTY) winner by the National Association of the Remodeling Industry.

From Split-Level to Neoclassical

Conversion wins regional “Contractor of the Year” award.

BY JOHN BYRD

Converting a circa 1960’s split-level into a spacious neoclassical-style residence has won Sun Design Remodeling a regional “Contractor of the Year” award from the National Association of the Remodeling Industry. The Fairfax residential makeover was named the best whole house remodeling in the “\$250,000 to \$500,000” range in a 10-state area that extends from Maryland and Florida to as far west as Tennessee. Owners Jack and Marie Torre have been so pleased with the outcome that they’ve held an several open houses just to show the changes to curious neighbors. Another open house will be held in the annual Parade of Home, April 22-23.

To accommodate the owner’s requirements, Sun Design added a 300-square-foot addition, introduced a front veranda with a foyer, and elaborated the exterior in a wholly new architectural language.

The Torres had purchased the 3,000-square-foot brick and siding structure in 1984, and found a perfect spot for raising children. As the children moved on, however, the couple recognized that the changes they wanted to make to the house were apparently infeasible.

“We couldn’t add on to the rear because of set-back restrictions,” Jack Torre said. “The bigger problem, though, was a six-foot roof overhang in front, and the seven steps

required to walk from the ground level foyer to the primary living area.”

The couple were actively looking at relocating when a chance visit to a Sun Design remodeled split-level nearby convinced Marie Torre to make an appointment with Bob Gallagher, the company’s president.

In the first meeting, a “wish list” emerged that included a larger kitchen, a formal dining room with a tray ceiling, a family room with a view of the tree-lined back yard, and a spacious first-level powder room.

With these goals in mind, the design team focused on how best to configure the essential components within a well-inte-

grated whole.

Since new space couldn’t be added on the rear, the east side of the house was designated for the new dining room/sitting room wing.

Still more problematic: under the existing plan, one entered the house from a narrow front foyer — ascending to a main level hall that segued in three directions.

What was missing, Gallagher observed, was a “procession” in which rooms unfold in an inviting orderly sequence.

“The structural challenge was finding an optimal way to raise the front door to the main level of the house,” Gallagher said.



The split-level’s former bow window was converted to a set of French doors which overlook the new veranda. Though the execution makes the addition hard to detect, the dining room beyond the fireplace is actually in the home’s new wing.

“This would require extending the front foyer eight feet to get past the existing roof overhang. We also needed to redesign the front elevation to better rationalize the difference between the grade at ground-level and the home’s main living area — a distance of about seven feet.”

What evolved was not merely a larger foyer, but an improved and more appropriate architectural context that allows for a front verandah that surrounds and presents the front entrance to the home.

The resulting interior meanwhile revolves around two comparatively modest additions: a 44-square-foot foyer aligned with the front door; 300-square-foot west wing that houses a formal dining room and an adjacent rear-of-the house sitting area.

The new addition includes a two-sided fireplace visible in the living room. The enlarged kitchen now accommodates a custom-designed banquette, and storage pantries.

The gourmet kitchen, according to Marie Torre, provides spaces for all cooking utensils, even items formerly stored in the basement.

Replacing the roof over and raising the ceiling from eight feet to nine feet has made the living room feel substantially larger.

Better yet, the remade rear elevation — which includes a “bump-out” with divided light windows and French doors — invites abundant natural light.

“This is a completely different house,” said Marie Torre, “One much more satisfying to occupy.”

Sun Design Remodeling frequently sponsors design and remodeling seminars as well as tours of recently remodeled homes. Headquartered in Burke, Sun Design also maintains an office in McLean. Visit www.SunDesignInc.com.