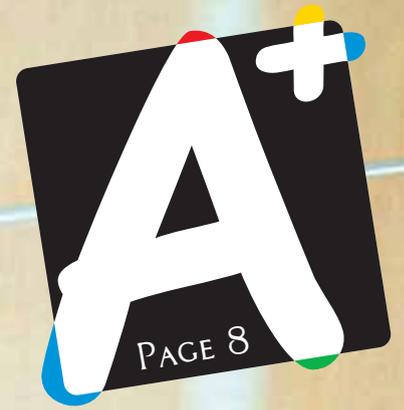




Springfield CONNECTION

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Committed to Peacemaking

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Social Justice
Network Hosts
Richmond
Wrap-Up
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First Taste of the
Working World
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Lee High School senior Naomi Soquar helped found a chapter of the Amnesty International Club at Lee — she currently serves as its president.

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Lake Braddock senior Jamie Hunstad set up a Special Olympics program at Lake Braddock, starting with a basketball team and adding track and field.



South County senior Narjes Bencheikh helped co-found a Muslim Student Association and International Club at her school.

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Committed to Peacemaking

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Suraya Sadeed said hearing more than 20 stories of students promoting peace in and out of their schools made her believe “there is still hope for a brighter future.”

Sadeed is a native of Kabul, Afghanistan who made a new home in the United States in 1982, fleeing the aftermath of the Soviet invasion. She founded the non-government organization Help the Afghan Children and is author of “Forbidden Lessons in a Kabul Guesthouse.”

The former owner of a real estate company, Sadeed has risked dangerous situations to deliver humanitarian aid to women and children in war-torn Afghanistan. On Sunday, March 12, she addressed high school students from around Fairfax County being honored at the Student Peace Awards.

Sadeed spoke about the importance of promoting peace through education, as a preventative measure against bullying, hatred and violence later in life.

“The cost of providing peace education to 8 million children in Afghanistan is less,” she said, “than buying one military plane.”

The student peace awards are offered in all Fairfax County public high schools and some private schools. Schools choose their winners based on their work to promote peace as well as prevent causes of violence: poverty, discrimination and injustice.

Each of the individual or groups of students not only took action for peace, but did so with creative, entrepreneurial energy — founding clubs, organizing charity projects, leading training sessions or creating documentary films.

Fairfax County School Board chair Sandy Evans said she was deeply impressed with the work of the students being honored at the Stacy Sherwood Community Center in Fairfax, from anti-bullying to human trafficking awareness to anti-genocide.

“Few goals are more important in the world today,” Evans said, “than promoting peace, acceptance, kindness and tolerance.”

Evans was joined in congratulating the students by fellow board members Ryan McElveen (at-large) and Dalia Palchik (Providence).

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors vice chairman and Mason District representative Penny Gross (D) read a letter of recognition from board chairman Sharon Bulova that thanked the students for their commitment to peacemaking.

All the students have come together, Gross read from Bulova’s letter, “in one goal, strengthening peace and unity.”

Del. Kenneth Plum (D-36) joined the other elected officials in congratulating the award-winners.

The 2017 Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County winners are as follows, bios according to the event program:

Ethan Mirani, junior at the Cedar Lane School in Vienna

Mirani was a member of the school’s Anti-Bullying Committee for two years and worked to grow the group as well as plan activities and keep things organized.

Jasmine Howard, senior at Centreville High School

Howard organized members of the Centreville Key Club to sell 240 wristbands from Guatemala, made out of leather and pieces of coconut shell with colored string, raising \$1,700 in sales and donations that went back to the wristband artisans and disadvantaged foreign youth.

Shaan Chudasama, senior at Chantilly High School

Chudasama co-founded and is vice president of Young at Art, a non-profit organization using art-related activities to improve the quality of life of seniors, less fortunate children and veterans. With his sister, the other co-founder, they’ve partnered with the Special Olympics and Sunrise Assisted Living.

Vanessas Mae Avendano, senior at Falls Church High School

Avendano is vice president of Falls Church’s Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender club, and also founded Falls Church High School United, a group of clubs united to spread peace and acceptance. The group has produced a series of videos dealing with anti-bullying and giving respect.

Sabah Munshi, senior at Hayfield Secondary School

Munshi helped organize a project called Walking for Water and raised both awareness of the world’s water crisis and more than \$2,000 for the Tap Project by UNICEF. She has also volunteered at Virginia Hospital Center in the renal unit.

Surabhi Khanal, senior at Herndon High School

Khanal has been a member of the Herndon Leo Club and founded MedLove, Inc, a non-profit organization with the mission of helping rescue women in the United States and abroad who are human trafficking victims. Through the Key Club, Khanal and other students also organized a benefit gala to raise awareness of local trafficking and \$3,000 for combatting HIV and AIDS in her native Nepal.

Naba Khan and Shafia Tala, juniors at King Abdullah Academy in Herndon

Khan and Talat founded the organization Women of the World (WOW) to promote women’s rights and help women struggling with homelessness, hunger, oppression or abuse. Some of their projects include opening a sewing institute in Nalgona, India and fundraisers involving the whole student body.

Jamie Hunstad, senior at Lake Braddock Secondary School

Hunstad set up a Special Olympics program at Lake Braddock, starting with a basketball team and adding track and field. She coaches both teams, and also helped the Rachel’s Challenge program find a presence

at her school. Rachel’s Challenge deals with stomping out bullying and promoting tolerance and inclusion.

Donya Momenian and Chrissie Ivanova, seniors at Langley High School

The two seniors co-founded a chapter of the Girl Up Club at Langley, growing it from two to 30 members who meet bi-monthly. The national and international club empowers young women in education, fundraising, advocacy and service, as well as runs development programs in Guatemala, India, Liberia, Malawi, Uganda and Ethiopia.

Naomi Soquar, senior at Robert E. Lee High School

Soquar helped found a chapter of the Amnesty International Club at Lee — she currently serves as its president. She led club members and volunteers in writing letters against human rights violations, which in one case contributed to two political prisoners in the Democratic Republic of Congo being released. Soquar also serves with Girls Learn International, the Capital Area Food Bank and Habitat for Humanity.

Sean Doyle, senior at James Madison High School

A member of Madison’s Amnesty International Club Doyle is coordinating activism with others on such issues as abolishing the death penalty, reducing gun violence and police brutality, and convincing the Vienna Town Council to make Vienna a “I Welcome Refugees” town.

Aidan Kemp, senior at George C Marshall High School

Kemp is the lead senior mentor for the Marshall Freshman Transition program and does community service work through St. Thomas Episcopal Church in McLean.

Josh Leong and Sam Gollob, juniors at McLean High School

The two juniors created a 10-minute film documenting the struggles of Herman

SEE PEACE AWARDS, PAGE 4

NEWS

From left: Brad Beal, Dave Combs, and Katrina Blackwell, American Red Ball and J.D. Morrisette, Ken Morrisette, Jr., Ken Morrisette, Sr. and Sang Han, Interstate.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Local Mover is Moving Up: Interstate Continues to Grow

Springfield-based Interstate Group Holdings, Inc., the third generation Morrisette Family enterprise and parent of Top Hat Service provider Interstate Van Lines, Inc., announced the acquisition of Indianapolis, Indiana, headquartered American Red Ball World Wide Movers. This combining of the 74-year-old Interstate and 98-year-old American Red Ball will position Interstate as one of the largest independent movers in the United States.

The deal will add approximately \$30 million in revenues and increase Interstate's national transportation fleet by 34 percent. The company intends to maintain its corporate offices and services in Springfield, while taking advantage of the existing re-

sources in Indianapolis to jointly manage and operate the combined companies.

Founded in 1943, The Interstate Family of Companies encompasses a worldwide group of transportation, warehousing, relocation management, logistics and real estate solutions serving government, corporate, and individual clients.

The company maintains its headquarters in Springfield, working with a global alliance of 1,500 service partners and 17,500 professional associates in 112 countries across six continents. On an annual basis, it is entrusted with the care and oversight of more than \$1 billion in customer-valued goods and property. Learn more at MoveInterstate.com.

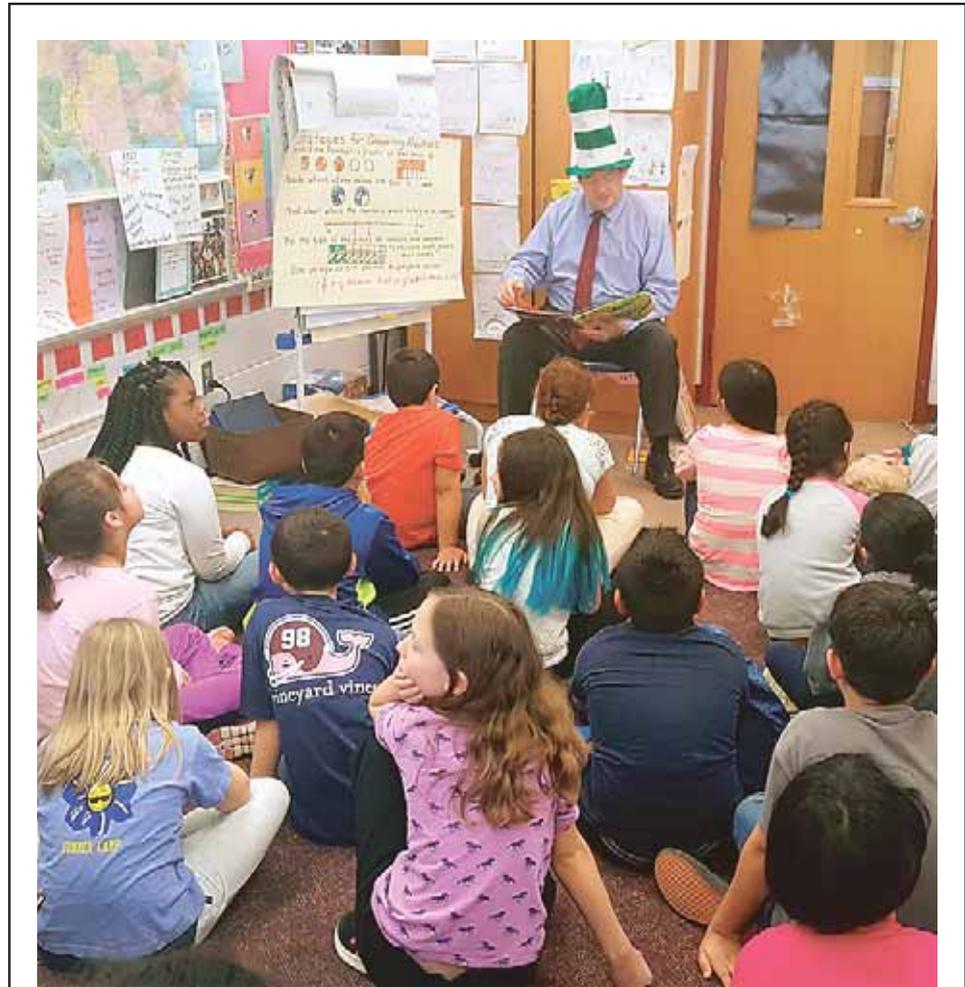


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Read Across America

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) reads Dr. Seuss to students at Cardinal Forest Elementary School on March 1 for the National Education Association's Read Across America reading motivation and awareness program.

Peace Awards Presented

FROM PAGE 3

Wainggai, a human rights advocate from West Papua who escape political imprisonment by taking a boat to Australia. "Herman Wainggai: A Hidden Genocide" premiered at the Garifuna Indigenous Film Festival in Los Angeles in April, 2016.

Yosaph Boku, senior at Mount Vernon High School

Boku helped create a program that teaches disadvantaged youth and adults in his community computer skills. The senior also gives groups of counselors feedback, suggestions for encouraging more minority students to take advantage of advanced courses.

Roza Al Barznji, senior at Mountain View Alternative High School

Al Barznji came to the United States three years ago as a refugee from Northern Iraq, and works to help her classmates understand her Kurdish heritage using photography. She's also published seven stories about her own journey becoming a Kurdish American, the people of Syria and refugees in American communities, as well as made a documentary about American Thanksgiving traditions.

Members of Blossoming Beauties at Quander Road School

Young women in the Blossoming Beauties program work on both becoming more well-rounded and confident, as well as carrying out school and community projects together. In 2016, the group raised money for Bethany House shelter for female victims of domestic abuse; they've also produced fleece blankets for New Hope Housing and their mission to end homelessness. In 2017, Blossoming Beauties is collaborating with A Space of Her Own to target and support fifth grade girls avoiding delinquency.

Narjes Bencheikh, senior at South County High School

The South County senior helped co-found a Muslim Student Association and International Club at her school. The 50-person Muslim Student Association carries out role-playing exercises and discusses issues encountered in the community.

Emily Lockwood, senior at South Lakes High School

Lockwood mentors freshmen transitioning to high school and coaches track for children with special needs. For a school assign-



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

The Student Peace Awards are offered in all Fairfax County public high schools and some private schools. Schools choose their winners based on their work to promote peace as well as prevent causes of violence: poverty, discrimination and injustice. This year's awards were given out March 12 at the Stacy Sherwood Community Center in Fairfax.

ment, she worked with the Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C., to find primary and secondary sources looking at improving state and societal relations in Myanmar (Burma).

Maiss Mohamed and Deema Alharthi, juniors at JEB Stuart High School

The Stuart juniors revitalized their school's Model United Nations Club and have become active with Students in Training for Advocacy and Responsibility. They also participate in Key Club, Girls Up and Interact, and volunteer with groups including the Virginia Coalition of Latino Organization.

Members of TJ Minds

Matter, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology

The student-led group offers support for handling stress and disappointment, and provides resources for learning how to engage with someone in a crisis and non-crisis situation. TJ Minds Matter hosted a Mental Wellness Week in January this year, including days dedicated to random acts of kindness and stomping out stigma (surrounding mental illness).

Students with Combatting Intolerance at West Potomac High School

The Fairfax County class Combatting Intolerance was created in

2015 — West Potomac teacher Robert Kerr molds the curriculum around social justice topics, racism, sexism, welcoming immigrant and refugee students, and advocating for the rights of lesbian, gay, transgender and asexual students, staff and other people in the community. The 22-member class raises money to support small local non-profits and sponsored a school-wide Diversity Week.

Rodney Wrice, senior, and Audrey Wever, junior, West Springfield High School

Friends Wrice and Wever started a kindness campaign using candy bars and sticky notes to encourage positive messaging

NEWS

First Taste of the Working World

Teen Job Fairs begin this weekend.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield) said his first job working at a pool over the summer formed a lot of his work ethic.

“First jobs are critical,” he said. “I learned what a job was, what working for a living was. We need to provide the opportunity to do that for our kids.”

Beginning this weekend will be the third year of teen job fairs for young people in Fairfax County. In 2015, Herry and Pat Malone came up with the idea to host a fair, meeting an unmet need by bringing together employers and young job-seekers together in a single location to meet face-to-face.

Malone, who lives in the Kingstowne area of Alexandria, said a first job can set the foundation for where you want to go in life.

“Where your mindset is,” Malone said, “What you have some energy to wake up for in the morning, to get started, to do for the day, to conduct your life.”

Whether young people stay with the job for a long time or move on to something else, the experiences in a first, or even second or third job, are meaningful in building career skills.

“It’s working together with a team of people, working with the public,” said Malone. “You want to do a good job, and use it as a springboard.”

Nancy-jo Manney, president of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, which is a co-sponsor of the job fair being held April 1 at West Springfield High School, said the fairs are also extremely valuable for businesses to attend.

Getting a diverse group of young potential employees together in one room is much more effective

than placing ads in the newspaper or online, Manney said. It’s also free for them to attend, and gives them access to potential workers who are local to their business locations.

“If your company has part-time positions, and or is looking to hire summer employees in Fairfax County,” Manney said, “it’s a no-brainer to attend.”

The first teen job fair in 2015 was held at West Springfield and brought in around 350 students who met with employers and filled out job applications. Last year, the fair expanded to Chantilly High School.

Just at Chantilly, they added a workshop for helping job applicants write and build a resume. With the success of that program, it’s being added to all four locations of the 2017 job fair. At each location, there will be two such seminars.

So far this year, Herry said at least 700 teens are pre-registered across the four job fairs, which also include dates at Oakton High School and South County High School. Pre-registration online isn’t a job application and isn’t any type of commitment; it just connects the teen with fair updates and resources, and gives employers an idea of how many people.

For teens attending the fair, Manney said first impressions are important, so dress professionally.

It doesn’t have to be a suit and tie, or dress, but teens should have on clean, dress clothing: no saggy pants or short tops or skirts.

Herry expects at least 40 employers at each of the job fairs, offering not just part-time or summer employment, but also full-time, after school, internships and volunteer opportunities.

For more information and to register either as a student or a business, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teenjobfair.htm.

2017 TEEN JOB FAIR DATES

- ❖ **Saturday, March 18**, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Chantilly High School, 4201 Stringfellow Road in Chantilly.
Co-sponsored by Supervisor Kathy Smith, Chantilly HS STEM Academy, and Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce
- ❖ **Saturday, March 18**, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Road in Vienna.
Co-sponsored by Supervisor Linda Smyth and Oakton HS Marketing Department
- ❖ **Saturday, April 1**, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road in West Springfield.
Co-sponsored by West Springfield HS Student Government Association and Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce
- ❖ **Saturday, April 29**, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., South County High School, 8501 Silverbrook Road in Lorton.
Co-sponsored by Supervisor Dan Storck, South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, South County Federation, and South County Secondary School

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OPINION

Stop Bullying Federal Workers

BY U.S. REP. DON BEYER (D-8) AND
U.S. REP. GERRY CONNOLLY (D-11)

Republicans hold control of all three branches of government, and therefore have a responsibility to lead the civil service that employs millions of Americans, and every American relies upon for myriad services. The overwhelming majority of federal workers are hardworking people who devote themselves to public service. They secure borders, keep food safe, advance scientific and medical research, deliver our mail, and provide care to many of us, including our veterans.

Republican leaders have repaid this service with repeated attacks.

In 2013, they shut down the government as a political stunt, and came hours away from doing it again in 2015 at the Department of Homeland Security. They enacted the Budget Control Act, which ultimately led to Sequestration, cutting the budget of every federal agency with the surgical precision of a meat-ax.

But since Republicans acquired total control over government, their treatment of federal workers has been beyond the pale.

On the first day of the new Congress, House Republicans passed a rules package over our loud objections containing a reinstatement of the Holman Rule, which would potentially allow Congress to engage in political retribution against federal workers by reducing any given employee's salary to \$1. Only three Republicans opposed the measure on the floor, none from Virginia or Maryland.

The Holman Rule was especially troubling in light of the new administration's so-called "enemies list" of employees who had worked



Beyer



Connolly

on specific policy areas for the Obama Administration, such as climate policy.

As one of his first actions, President Trump announced a hiring freeze for federal workers. This is terrible policy and a mindless approach to management that dodges hard decisions.

The Government Accountability Office studied past hiring freezes and found them "not effective." The government is more likely to rely on overtime and contract work, which often costs taxpayers more. Meanwhile, tens of thousands of Americans have total uncertainty in their professional lives. Agencies are unable to make efficient, long term plans, driving up costs and hurting morale. Over time, Americans trying to manage social security benefits, travel in airports, or secure healthcare will see the impact of this freeze when benefits are not mailed or airport security lines move much more slowly.

Two other classes of citizen are hit particularly hard: people with disabilities and veterans.

In 2015, due to Obama Administration initiatives, 19 percent of the federal government's new hires were people with disabilities. The federal government has hired

109,000 people with disabilities in the past five years.

Veterans stand to be among those hardest hit by the hiring freeze. The Veterans Administration is one of the largest federal employers, but is also significantly understaffed. Delivering the care promised to those who served in the armed forces depends on having effective staff to deliver that care.

Over 30 percent of the civilian federal workforce is made up of veterans, a number which has grown consistently as agencies prioritized hiring vets. Many of the positions held vacant by the hiring freeze would have gone to vets, and the progress we have made on veteran unemployment will be halted.

Contrary to this administration's claims, the federal workforce is dwindling as a share of the population. And 85 percent of federal workers are located outside the beltway. It is also aging, and over a third of the current feds will be eligible for retirement by September. Federal workers have been treated as a piggy bank by Congress for years now, their pay raises delayed or denied, they've been furloughed and had their benefits cut. Now their morale is hit by politicians who make them a political punching bag. A bill just proposed in Congress would make all federal workers "at-will" employees, exposing them to political retribution and punishment by a hostile administration without recourse.

The federal workforce is not, as Mr. Trump has said, a "swamp." It is a group of committed Americans who serve us, and they deserve better from Congress. The Republican Party has total control over the levers of government. Will any of its leaders have the decency or the courage to fight for the civil service which serves us all?

COMMENTARY

General Assembly Approves New Policies

BY SCOTT SUROVELL
STATE SENATOR (D-36)

Last week, I reported on my accomplishments in the recent session of the General Assembly. This week, I am highlighting a few other important policy changes coming to Virginia because of our action.

First, we passed several bills addressing the ongoing opioid crisis which is causing carnage across Virginia. Community organizations will be authorized to possess the counter-overdose drug naloxone and after 2020 opioid prescriptions will only be allowed to be transmitted electronically to minimize forgery risk.

We passed legislation authorizing Virginia to sign onto the Interstate Metro Safety Compact. This was absolutely necessary not only

because of Metro's ongoing problems, but to ensure that Metro continues to receive critical federal funding.

I have heard from several communities about problems created by AirBnB, a company that allows people to temporarily rent rooms or their homes. In some areas, neighbors feel like residential properties have become hotels. We passed legislation to confirm that localities' can regulate these temporary rentals. The bill also authorizes localities to create registries for people renting their rooms for fewer than 30 days and to fine abusers.

We passed legislation allowing robotic ground-based drones to make deliveries of goods like food or other products. We also modified our "Uber legislation" from two years ago to authorize services

like Uber to allow drivers to make deliveries. I believe the legislation has sufficient insurance protections. This compromise measure had wide support.

Virginia finally took some steps to alleviate our overly-harsh, post-conviction driver's license suspension process. First, we passed Sen. Adam Ebbin's bill to eliminate license suspensions after marijuana possession dispositions. Second, we approved a bill to require judges to consider a person's individual financial circumstances when devising payment plans for unpaid fines.

We passed Del. Eileen Filler-Corn's legislation to require health insurance plans to cover a one-year's supply of birth control. This will save many Virginia women time and hassle.

We took some minor steps to

improve mental health services. First, we authorized local community services boards to provide same-day mental health services. Second, we required that the governor appoint to the Board of Corrections someone who has professional mental health experience.

The General Assembly also finally addressed "SLAP" suits or "Strategic Lawsuits Against Public" interest. The legislation basically provides civil immunity to citizens who make statements about matters of public concern in good faith at public hearings. I always have mixed feelings about immunity bills, but this bill ultimately passed on unanimous votes after lots of tinkering.

We approved Del. Dave Albo's bill that prohibits an entertain

SEE OPINION, PAGE 7

Springfield
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OPINION

FROM PAGE 6

ment venue like Ticketmaster from denying access to people if they purchase a ticket second-hand, such as from a friend.

Governor McAuliffe is likely to veto over 20 bills. We will reconvene on April 5 to consider the governor's actions. I will report more about those next week along with other legislation that did not pass.

Please complete my constituent survey at www.scottsuovell.org/survey and email me at scott@scottsuovell.org if you have any questions.

It is an honor to serve as your state senator.

LETTER

Give People a Voice on Policing

To the Editor:

I am writing in regards to the article titled "Fairfax County Names First Independent Police Auditor" by Tim Peterson. To be completely honest, before I read this piece I did not know the police auditor position existed.

Richard Schott, as the first independent individual appointed to the position, has a great deal of power, including the abilities to monitor and review internal investigations where an individual is either seriously injured or killed and request further investigations if he does not believe the internal investigation was thorough enough. It is extremely rational and logical to have an individual that is not personally connected to the department in this position so he (or she) is not restricted by any particular agency or institution and is able to see the situation for what it is.

One point that I found to be very interesting was the creation of the citizen review panel. Fairfax County is letting the people have a voice. By getting people not directly involved in the police force in Fairfax County, but rather directly affected, allows a different perspective when looking at cases regarding abuse of power. This will allow for more transparency of the police force which will be greatly appreciated by the public. However, I am not sure as to how welcoming the police will be of these newcomers. It is very important for there to be transparency of the system; the people have a right to know what is happening.

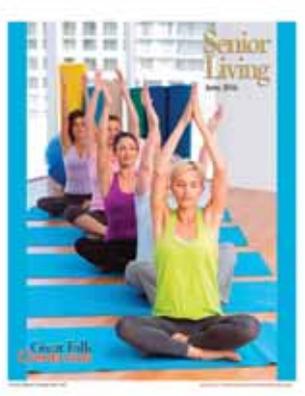
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Practice Makes Perfect

Local educators share strategies for getting children to practice music.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When Linda Guly'n's son reached high school age and asked to quit his clarinet lessons, the Arlington mother of four declined his request.

"My son Timmy is an excellent clarinet player. The philosophy I've established in my house is that music is part of your overall education like science or math, so you can't just quit," said Guly'n, saxophonist, former music teacher and professor of psychology at Marymount University.

During the month of March, which is designated as Music in our Schools Month, educators highlight the benefits of quality music education programs. Part of a music education is practice, encouraging that in children can be daunting for some parents.

For children who play a musical instrument, regular practice is not only a path toward proficiency, it helps establish discipline that is useful in other areas of one life's. This habit, however, must be established purposefully says John Kilkenny, assistant professor of music at George Mason University. "Treat practice time like a part of child's daily routine," he said. "They have to have a consistent time for practice. For example, they come home from school each day, have a snack and practice for 30 minutes."

One key to keeping children motivated to practice is setting goals, be they long-term or for the current practice session. "Goal-oriented practice for younger kids, like a recital to work toward, for example is a good motivator," said Kilkenny. "The biggest thing is consistency, practicing at or near the same time every day just like everything else they do so that it becomes part of their routine."

For practice sessions to be effective, they must be organized and purposeful. This is another area where goal setting can be useful says, Ann McCoy, who teaches piano and violin in her Bethesda, Md. home. "Maybe a goal for a child who is working on a par-



Fifteen-year-old Timothy Guly'n plays Christmas music with fellow clarinetists. His teacher brings together all her clarinet students to perform with each other several times a year.

"Treat practice time like a part of a child's daily routine. They have a consistent time for practice."

— John Kilkenny, George Mason University

ticularly difficult piece of music could be to spend their practice time perfecting three or four measures," she said. "Rather than focusing on practicing for a set amount of time, they could practice until they can play the three measures perfectly and then they're finished for the day. That is more effective than saying sitting for 30 minutes without accomplishing something specific."

Adding a light-hearted element to practice, which can be seen by some children as laborious, also encourages students to practice. "There should be some sense that play-

ing the instrument is supposed to be fun and students should ... have some flexibility beyond a rigid experiences," said Kilkenny. "It shouldn't feel like it's a negative experience."

For parents who have trouble getting a child to start a practice session, McCoy recommends trying different times of the day. "For example, I had one mother who had screaming matches with her children to get them to practice after they'd finished their homework in the evening," she said. "She changed their practice time to the morn-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LINDA GULYN

Twelve-year-old Christopher Guly'n prepares for an audition with the Arlington Junior Honors Orchestra.

ings after breakfast, but before they left for school. That made a huge difference in their willingness to practice because they were rested and in a better mood."

Parents should be realistic about their child's temperament and musical talent said Guly'n. "A child is only going to enjoy playing an instrument if they're good at it and parents have to be realistic about that," said Guly'n. "Music isn't easy for everyone."

Choosing a teacher who is a good fit for one's child can have an effect on their desire to practice. "Ask around for recommendations, but find a teacher who inspires their students," said Guly'n.

"It's important to make sure the teacher is somebody who is credentialed and has degrees in music and also that they're continuing to be engaged professionally as teachers and performers," added Kilkenny. "Usually in terms of choosing a teacher, parents and children should have an opportunity to try a sample private lesson."

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SCHOOLS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department officials presented a special Life Saving Award to Taeloire on March 6.

Ravensworth Student Receives Life Saving Award

Ravensworth Elementary student Taeloire knows how important it is to listen in class. So when the Fairfax County Fire Department visited with some fire safety lessons, Taeloire not only paid attention, he remembered what he was taught.

When an accidental fire started in his house, Taeloire immediately alerted his mother and made sure she and his baby brother got out of the house safely. His quick response helped to save the lives of his family. Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Depart-

ment officials presented a special Life Saving Award to Taeloire on March 6 for his heroic actions. His third grade classmates witnessed the presentation.

"Taeloire is a kind and bright young man," says Ravensworth principal Roxanne Salata. "He is a compassionate friend to his classmates, and it's no surprise that he rose to hero status by acting so fast to save his family from the quickly spreading fire. Everyone at Ravensworth is so proud of Taeloire."

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DID YOU KNOW?

Enforced by Federal law all states must have a transparent website that clearly shows all contractors licenses. If they've ever paid taxes in VA, they're in there. Easily validate your contractor by going to <http://www.dpor.virginia.gov/LicenseLookup/>

Contractors are validated through their Class License and Specialty Licenses. Class C contractors can only perform jobs of a monetary value up to \$10,000.00 and ONLY \$150,000 yr. Class B contractors up to \$120,000.00, and no more than \$750,000 per yr. Class A there is no monetary limit.

For Bathroom or Kitchen remodels a number of different Specialty Licenses are required. BLD License covers framing, drywall, tile work. PLB covers all plumbing such as the replacement of shower and kitchen faucets. ELE covers electrical work such as the replacement of lighting. HVA covers the replacement of ventilation fans and range hoods.

How do I submit a complaint about my Unlicensed Contractor?

Due to code limitations in the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code, complaints regarding construction activity more than two years old cannot be accepted.

- If a person identifies him/herself as a licensed contractor and it is discovered the person is not licensed, it is a violation of State and County Code. Complaints/violations may be reported using the online complaint form; or
- Call the Department of Code Compliance at 703-324-1300, TTY 711, to start the complaint process and an investigator from the Code Enforcement Branch will contact you; or
- Call the Virginia State Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation at 804-367-8500, TTY 711.

What are the risks of Unlicensed Contractors?

In most circumstances, unlicensed contractors offer lower quotes because they do not pay a licensing fee, or obtain a bond to protect their work, and in many cases, don't purchase liability or workers compensation insurance. Without these

expenses, the unlicensed contractor can offer a lower rate.

Many things can go wrong on a construction site, from injuries to shoddy workmanship to destruction of power, sewer or water lines. Ultimately, all issues are the responsibility of the general contractor. The general contractor and their insurance carriers are the primary payers in the event something goes awry on the job.

What most people don't know is that if you don't hire a licensed and insured contractor to handle your project, **you're the general contractor!** If your unlicensed contractor breaks a sewer line, **you're responsible.** If a worker gets hurt and can't work for two years, and there's no workers compensation coverage in place, **you are on the hook** for that workers' medical bills and lost wages.

The implications of using an unlicensed contractor go beyond the risks associated with the property worked on and injury to the workers. A homeowner or association that hires an unlicensed contractor can also be liable for the negligence of the contractor.

A neighboring property, a passerby or other property that is negligently damaged by the contractor can lead to liability to the person that hired the contractor. As the contractor's employer the hiring party is responsible for the contractor's actions during the course of that employment.

When a general contractor takes on a job they have overall responsibility for legal compliance, safety, quality of workmanship and just about everything else that happens on the job site. What's more, your homeowners insurance or landlord liability insurance isn't going to cover you for these events.

All policies exempt damage caused by the use of illegal or unlicensed contractors. Fire and water damage can be... expensive. If an unlicensed contractor improperly installs an appliance, such as a water heater that leaks and in rare instances explodes, your insurance will not cover it. If an unlicensed contractor installs an appliance, such as a dishwasher, and so on, the product warranty will be voided.

If you knowingly enter into a contract with an unlicensed contractor, you are not allowed to use the fact that the contractor is unlicensed as a defense for non-payment. Note that an unlicensed contractor can still file suit for fraud and deceit.

Those who are caught contracting without a license likely will have to appear before a District Court Judge and DPOR investigator to answer to misdemeanor charges that can carry a potential sentence of up to six months in jail and/or a \$5,000 fine, as well as an administrative fine of \$200 to \$15,000.

If illegal contracting continues, the penalties become more severe. A second offense results in a mandatory 90-day jail sentence and a fine of 20 percent of the contract price or \$5,000. <https://vacode.org/54.1-1115/>

Felony charges are filed against anyone who illegally uses another person's contractor license or who tries to mislead consumers into believing that he or she is a licensed contractor. Anyone who contracts for work in a state or federal natural disaster area without an active state contractor license also could face felony charges. If convicted of a felony, a person may have to serve time in state prison.

Furthermore, your state contractor board will not "typically" help you to make a warranty claim "Contractor Recovery Fund" against an unlicensed contractor. So if you are trying to recover at all, you will need to go to civil court. Even if you win in civil court, without a bond, there's a good chance the unlicensed contractor will not be able to pay your damages.

Recently, Fairfax County has been using sites like Zillow and Realtor.com to see if improvements have been done when selling ones home! AGAIN, the days of hiring an unlicensed "Friend", or "Neighbor" to work for monetary purposes is strictly prohibited and is easily verified through <http://www.dpor.virginia.gov/LicenseLookup/>.

All in all, it's not worth it! Always protect yourself by hiring a licensed contractor for your remodeling project.

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Classic Literature Comes Alive

Providence Players present "To Kill A Mockingbird."

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

A revered classic for five decades, the Pulitzer Prize winning book by Harper Lee, "To Kill a Mockingbird" will come to full life on stage from the Providence Players. Director Beth Whitehead described "To Kill a Mockingbird" as taking place in Alabama during the Great Depression, "a hungry hurting time in America."

Told through the eyes of young girl named Scout, the story follows a black man "on trial for a crime he did not commit and the heroic efforts of lawyer Atticus Finch to defend Tom Robinson in a town that mostly see just black and white and the divide between them."

In an interview Whitehead made clear that "To Kill A Mockingbird" is not only "a powerful story about a town seeking a hero, but also about family, hope, truth and compassion. It is a love story of Scout, her dad Atticus Finch, her brother and her search for her place in the world. It is a story that reminds us of how important integrity is in each of our lives."



Sophia Manicone makes her Providence Players debut as Scout in "To Kill a Mockingbird" at the James Lee Community Center Theater.

The Providence Players production has a cast of 27 including 16 area actors making their Providence Players debut. Nearly 90 actors from throughout the Virginia, Maryland and D.C. area auditioned for roles.

In the role of Scout is 12-year-old Sophia Manicone of Vienna. Describing her charac-

Where and When

Providence Players present "To Kill a Mockingbird" at James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church, Virginia 22042. Performances: March 24-April 8, 2017. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday matinees 2 p.m. March 26 & April 2. Tickets: \$17-\$20. Call: 703-425-6782 or visit www.provincendeplayers.org

ter, Manicone said Scout "learned that one should not be quick to judge others, and to have courage to try to stand up for what is right."

Scout's older brother Jem is played by 14-year-old Brenden Dure of Vienna. For Dure, his character must come to face a loss of innocence as "he is awakened to injustice."

The accused Tom Robinson, is played by Philip Kershaw. For Kershaw, "the play is about a community and what can happen to marginalized groups in precarious conditions. Those who live on the fringes, automatically presumed guilty by the larger community."

Atticus Finch is played by Robert Heinly a veteran performer throughout Northern Virginia. "Heinly has an earthy gentle quality that came out immediately in the auditions. He can look at other actors and connect with them; so important to this role," said Whitehead.

Many may remember reading "To Kill A Mockingbird" or seeing the movie, but inviting audiences to the Providence Players production, Kershaw said "please come to our production to re-experience and enjoy it in a different way."

Puccini's 'Turandot' on Mason Stage

Virginia Opera comes to Center for the Arts March 25-26.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Virginia Opera concludes its 25th season at George Mason University with a "complete sensory experience," said Aaron Breid, Chorus Master/Assistant Conductor. The production is Puccini's "Turandot," a moving story of love, and love's difficulties. It has not lost an ounce of impact since its premiere nearly 100 years ago.

"Turandot" is an epic tale, bringing the splendors of Imperial China and Puccini's extraordinary richly layered music. Center for the Arts audience will witness the plight of a heart-broken young woman up against "a powerfully frightened princess learning vulnerability, and a young prince willing to risk it all for the chance to earn love," noted Breid.

Virginia Opera's Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor, Adam Turner, said that the "Turandot" has a cast of celebrated performers including soprano Kelly Cae Hogan in the title role as Turandot, tenor Derek Taylor as the enamored Prince Calfa aiming to change the cold heart of Turandot as well as soprano Danielle Pastin as the emotionally vulnerable woman Liu. Virginia Opera veteran Lillian Groag will direct and John DeMain conduct.



Kelly Cae Hogan in a title role in Virginia Opera's "Turandot."

PHOTO BY
LUCID FRAME PRODUCTION
COURTESY VIRGINIA OPERA

Known for its vocal and musical power, "Turandot" will have a 44 member chorus that does more than just sings for nearly the entire production.

The chorus is also much more than just in the visual and aural background. With quick costume changes, many in the chorus will also play Imperial Guards, Executioner's Assistants, Handmaidens, Voices of the Dead, Wise Men, and Heralds.

Members of the Virginia Opera chorus including Erin Hannon, Marilyn Kellam, Andy Li and Nancy Pope, described Puccini's grand

Where and When

Virginia Opera performs "Turandot" at George Mason University, Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performances: March 25 at 8 p.m. and March 26 at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$54, \$90, \$110. Call 888-945-2468 or visit www.cfa.gmu.edu. Pre-opera discussion by Virginia Opera's Dr. Glenn "Dr. Opera" Winters 45 minutes before the curtain.

"Turandot" as divine, glorious and sublime. "The sound will be big and totally ensnare the audience," said Hannon. For Pope, the sound of the many voices and the Richmond Symphony Orchestra will be "awesome; a wall of sound with sweep and dignity," Kellam and Li described how the chorus is woven into the entire fabric and moving drama of "Turandot."

The Virginia Opera chorus comes from all walks of life spanning vocations such as physicians to university administrators to realtors. Members audition and must meet high musical standards to perform.

In thanking local audiences, Virginia Opera President and CEO Russell P. Allen said, "Virginia Opera has built a loyal Northern Virginia fan base that regularly gives us feedback expressing both significant enthusiasm for and support of Virginia Opera."

"Turandot" is a never ending onslaught of action onstage," added Breid. 19"

CALENDAR

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

MARCH 16-19

Jersey Mike's Subs Benefit. 9 a.m.-noon at Jersey Mike's Subs, at 5250-G Port Royal Road, Springfield. Grand opening and free sub fundraiser to support Lake Braddock Secondary School and Annandale High School. Visit www.jerseymikes.com/ for more.

FRIDAY/MARCH 17

Local Nature Film. 6:30 p.m. at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10215 Lakehaven Court, Burke. "Hometown Habitat-Stories of Bringing Nature Home" profiles stories of community commitment to conservation landscaping. For two years, producer/director Catherine Zimmerman and film crew traveled around the country to visit hometown habitat heroes and film their inspiring stories. Free. Call 703-503-4579 or email administrator@accotinkuu.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/ for more.

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, young adult, etc. \$0.25-\$2.00. Some specials \$3 and \$4. Call 703-644-4870 or visit 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.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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.

Artist Reception. 7-9 p.m. at Village Gallery, 3950 University Drive, Fairfax. Meet the featured artist and be a part of the local artist community. Free. Visit www.fairfaxartleague.net or call 703-587-9481 for more.

FRIDAY/MARCH 24

Bingo. 7 p.m. at the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Benefits the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/ for more.

Old Town Hall Performance Series. 8 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Ensemble Gaudior is performing chamber music from the Baroque and Classical eras, using instruments from those periods or copies. Free. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts or call 703-385-7858 for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 25

Women Entrepreneurs. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at JCC of Northern Virginia,

8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. 2017 Women's Conference is a day of presentations, networking, empowerment, from five engaging and experienced women entrepreneurs. \$55 includes lunch. Visit jccnv.org/womensconference or call 703-323-0880 for more.

Senior Center Appraisal Event. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Receive verbal appraisals from a certified appraiser on items such as jewelry, clocks, coins and more. Call 703-273-6090 for more.

Art and Lunch. noon-3 p.m. at Village Gallery, 3950 University Drive, Fairfax. The Fairfax Art League will be hosting an Art & Lunch event at the Village Gallery. Bring lunch and enjoy the company of other artists. Free and open to the public. New members welcome. Visit www.fairfaxartleague.net.

"Harriet Tubman: Move or Die." 2 p.m. at Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Actress Gwendolyn Briley-Strand will perform a presentation as Ms. Tubman followed, by a question and answer session. Ms. Briley-Strand will bring an exhibit, "The Portals through Time," about Miss Tubman's life on Maryland's Eastern shore and later in Auburn, N.Y. Call 703-591-6728.

SUNDAY/MARCH 26

Hands On Activity Day. 1-4 p.m. at The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Railroad and/or historical crafts and activities will be offered for all ages although most are suited for ages 8 and above. Museum members and children 4 and

under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; ages 16 and older, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

Burke Historical Society. 3:30 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, at 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Mary Lipsey will present a talk on "Anna Maria Fitzhugh" highlighting the life of Anna Maria Fitzhugh of Ravensworth, one of Fairfax and Stafford Counties' most prominent landowners from her widowhood in 1830 to her death in 1874. Visit burkehistoricalsociety.org.

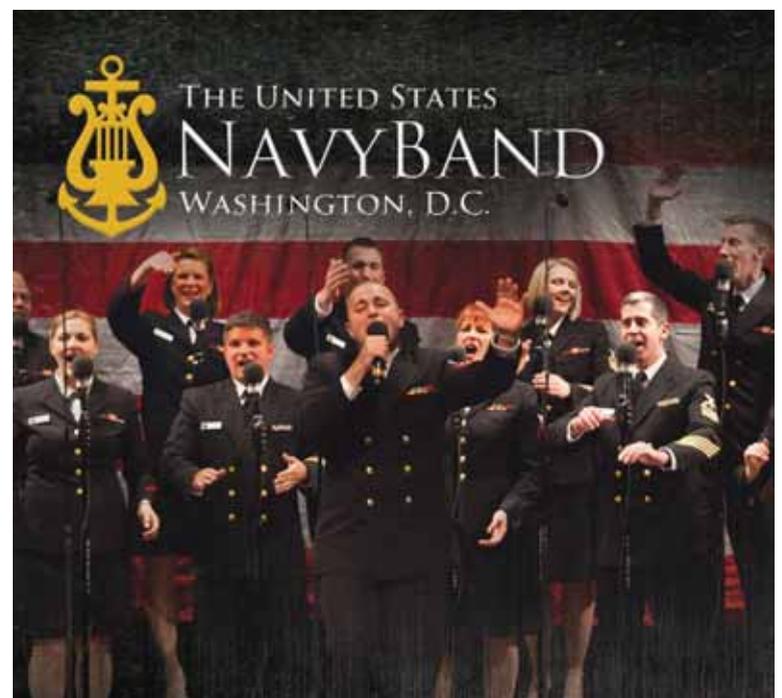
"Barber, Bernstein, and Broadway." 7:30 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Joining the band to sing a variety of Broadway showstoppers will be the Mason Cabaret of the George Mason University School of Theater. Visit fairfaxband.org or a call 571-336-CFBA (2322) for more.

MONDAY/MARCH 27

Rise Against Hunger. All day at Malek's, Springfield Plaza, 7118 Old Keene Mill Road. 25 percent of the daily sales goes to providing food and aid to the world's most vulnerable and creating a global commitment to mobilize the necessary resources. Visit malekspizza.com for more.

FRIDAY/MARCH 31

Dance Gala Concert. 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. The Gala Concert is Mason Dance Company's crowning season event featuring "Second to Last," by Alejandro Cerrudo, "Mass," by Robert Battle, "Balance/Imbalance," by Soon Ho Park, and a new work by Susan Shields. \$10-\$25. Call 703-993-8794 or email cdevlin6@gmu.edu.



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Social Justice Network Hosts Richmond Wrap-Up

Some successes, some defeats, and a partisan rallying call for 2017 elections.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

The 2017 Legislative Session of the Virginia General Assembly was adjourned on Saturday, Feb. 15. The Social Action Linking Together (SALT) network allowed the lawmakers two weeks to recover, then hosted its annual Legislative Wrap-Up forum on March 11 at the Virginia International University in Fairfax.

Eleven elected officials were on hand to offer their reports, focusing on the fates of bills and resolutions related to social justice, human services and welfare. Several of the proposed legislations had been requested, inspired, or actively supported by SALT. The faith-based non-profit seeks to advocate for the most vulnerable in the community by educating citizens and policy makers, researching and selecting priority issues for action, and taking their causes directly to the state capitol.

Pointing to the panel of speakers, founder John Horejsi, admitted that SALT members, who have grown from eight to around 1,200, have often been seen “prowling the halls in Richmond.”

State Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) indicated his approval of SALT’s visits. “People like you, and the people in this room, they are the bedrock of our county,” he told them.

State Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31) added “how important it is to see your faces in Richmond,” noting it was too rare to see individuals and concerned citizen groups rather than professional lobbyists. “You study and you recommend, and we are appreciative.”

Favola has been a driving force for assistance to single mothers and children, particularly through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. The senator told the assembly that lawmakers had tried to secure increases for TANF recipients for 15 years without success. Now, she said, “we have had three increases in three years.”

“The money doesn’t come from our state budget,” said Favola. TANF is funded federally through block grants. With nods of agreement from her colleagues on the panel, Favola said it would be shameful not to utilize the money available “for what it was intended. Helping families in need and moving them toward self-sufficiency.”

\$55 million were still available through the TANF grants, yet Del. Kathleen Murphy’s (D-34) HB 2041 to allocate \$1 million for a TANF Scholarship Pilot Program to allow 200 students to attend community colleges was “recommended to be laid on the table



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Members of the Virginia General Assembly offered their views on the recently adjourned session and listened to questions and comments from the audience during the SALT 2017 Legislative Wrap-Up forum.

by voice vote” in subcommittee.

THE FACT that the panel was composed only of Democrats did not go unnoticed. “Where are the Republicans?” asked David Jesse of Reston, who said this was his first time to attend such a forum. “I was hoping to hear some balanced debate.” Horejsi replied that in the past, Republicans like Del. James LeMunyon (R-67) had attended. “We sent out 40 invitations.” The Republican representatives either declined or did not respond to SALT’s request.

With no one from “across the aisle” present to contradict their opinions, several of the lawmakers insisted that many of the issues that were of concern to groups like SALT fall victim to the overwhelming Republican majority in the House of Delegates.

“Left in such-and-such committee or Left on the Table by voice vote” — that just means they killed it,” said Del. Mark Levine (D-45).

Deciding on a proposed piece of legislation by “voice vote” is another tactic to forestall any discussion of an issue, according to Murphy. Republicans control the committee memberships and the schedules. The lawmakers on the panel said it was not uncommon for Democrats to be placed on committees with conflicting schedules. When the time comes for a bill to be voted on in a committee and the question “Move by Motion” is asked, the “silence is deafening,” she said, since any Democrats who might have supported the bill were engaged in another committee.

It’s in the committees and the sub-committees that the “real work gets done,” said Levine. That was when citizen testimony and support would be most valuable, he remarked, but under the current system, “interested parties might get a call at 6 p.m. the night before a bill is to be read and told if they want to be heard, they need to be in Richmond for a 7 a.m. start the next morning.” This just isn’t right, according to Levine. “The public has a right to know and to participate.”

Issues that have captured national atten-

tion were also hotly debated topics in Richmond this year — issues like immigration and voting rights, redrawing electoral districts, and minimum wage rates. Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) was disappointed when her bill, HB 2405, which would have allowed newly-minted American citizens additional time to register to vote, was “left in the Privileges and Elections Committee.”

Tim Dempsey of Arlington asked about Minimum Wage increase efforts, unions, and redistricting. Del. Marcus Simon (D-53) and Marsden explained how they couldn’t get traction for their bills. “\$7.25 per hour is not a living wage,” said Simon, who denies that the entry wage rate is primarily applied to students and trainees.

State Sen. George Barker (D-39) was one of the speakers who tackled the issue of redistricting. “Nothing on reworking our electoral districts passed this session.” Barker strongly believes that redistricting is essential to insure real representation of “all the people.” He offered several alternatives that would promote “balanced and competitive” elections and foster diversity in the elected ranks.

Marsden added that a bill had been vetoed that would most certainly have “suppressed votes among lower income and minority voters, particularly in urban areas” by requiring a driver’s license to cast a ballot.

THINGS TURNED a bit emotional for audience members and elected officials alike, when Jisan Zaman of Arlington, came to the microphone with a question. Zaman, a software developer for a company in McLean, apologized several times as he became visibly shaken while asking his questions. “I am sorry. I usually don’t have trouble with public speaking,” he said, “but I am scared. I am Muslim. I am American. But I am scared of a Muslim registry, and of all these hate crimes. What will you do to protect people like me? Will you stand behind me?”

Several members of the audience rushed to hug Zaman in support, and the panel all



“Who will protect people like me?” Jisan Zaman of Arlington was momentarily overcome by emotion as he questioned the lawmakers. “I am Muslim. I am American,” he said, but expressed concern with the rise in hate crimes and the threat of a Muslim registry. Members of the audience rose to support him, and the lawmakers applauded him before tackling the questions.

rose to applaud him. Several of the lawmakers responded.

Del. Mark Keam (D-35), born in Seoul, South Korea, has been a citizen of the United States for some 25 years, but admitted that in these heated times, “I try to carry my passport more often and keep my Naturalization papers nearer to hand.” Keam said that dialogue about race and ethnicity and all areas of differences between people needs to be honest and open. “Let’s face it. Most of the people in this room won’t be affected by Trump and his administration on this issue. But people like myself, or Mr. Zaman, or others with darker skin tones ... might very well be.” Keam also reminded the audience that it was a Democratic President who signed the orders to allow the imprisonment of Asian Americans in United States during World War II. “We all need to be alert.”

There were other successes to be applauded in the 2017 General Assembly Legislative Session. Del. Jennifer Boysko (D-86) pointed to a bill that now makes prescription Naloxone more available for use in treating heroin drug overdoses. Murphy noted the passage of a bill that would better protect students attending for-profit schools, and another that provides parents with class size information for middle and high school students.

The forum ended with the lawmakers vowing to continue to press for an agenda that includes and protects all Virginians, “but we need you,” said Levine. “When government goes off the rails, we the people are in charge.”

“Elections matter,” added Favola. “Be heard.”

Legislation can be tracked by Patron, by topic, by pass or defeat status, or by browsing the entire list at www.lis.virginia.gov. SALT invites the public to learn more about their education and advocacy efforts at www.S-A-L-T.org.

3

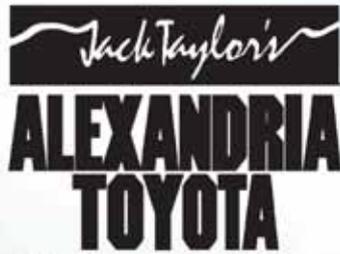
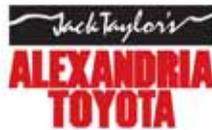
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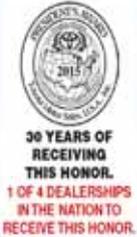
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21 Announcements

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 Kwanchanok Griffith, Director
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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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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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Public Hearing

Springfield Community Business Center Commuter Parking Garage
 Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services

Thursday, April 20, 2017 7:00 p.m.

Key Center Cafeteria, 6404 Franconia Road, Springfield, VA

The Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services will conduct an open forum public hearing on the design of the Springfield Community Business Center (CBC) Commuter Parking Garage project. The proposed project would include 6 parking levels with about 1,100 parking spaces, a bus transit center with 7 bus bays, 12 commuter spaces, and a short term parking area for drop off and pick up. A pedestrian bridge connecting Springfield Plaza to the parking garage is also proposed. Other features include bicycle storage, passenger waiting areas, a community area on the ground floor and on the roof top. Project schedule information will be discussed at the public hearing.

Preview the project information, environmental documents, and preliminary plans prior to the public hearing at the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 449, Fairfax, VA 22035, (tel. 703-324-5800). Please call ahead for staff availability.

Give your written comments at the hearing or submit them by May 4, 2017 to Mr. Deepak Bhinge, Project

Manager, Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, at the same address. You may also email your comments to Deepak.Bhinge@fairfaxcounty.gov. Please reference "Springfield CBC Parking Garage Comments" in the subject heading.

Fairfax County ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all county programs, services and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. State Project #0644-029-175, P101, R201, C501; Federal Project #CM-5A01 (742).

ACCESSIBILITY TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: This hearing is being held at a public facility believed to be accessible to persons with disabilities. Any persons with questions on the facility should contact Mr. Deepak Bhinge, Project Manager, Fairfax County Department of Public Works, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 449, Fairfax VA, (tel. 703-324-8770). Persons needing interpreter services for the hearing impaired or those with limited English proficiency must notify Mr. Deepak Bhinge no later than Thursday, April 13, 2017 so appropriate arrangements can be made.

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MONDAY/MARCH 20
Budget Town Hall. 7 p.m. at the West Springfield Government Center, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield. Supervisor Pat Herrity will be hosting, with Fairfax County Executive Ed Long. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield.

FRIDAY/MARCH 24
Kindergarten Orientation. 2 p.m. at Rolling Valley Elementary School, 6703 Barnack Drive, Springfield. Call 703-923-2700 or email the registrar, Mary Beth Vaughn, at mevaughn@fcps.edu.

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 28
Immigration, Protest Rights. 7-10 p.m. at Johnson Center Cinema, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Know your rights if ICE approaches and when participating in a peaceful protest, and how to record law enforcement and submit videos automatically with ACLU's Mobile Justice app. Free. Contact Bethany Letiecq at bletiecq@gmu.edu or 703-993-5076 for more.

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.

SATURDAY/APRIL 1
Civil War Scholarship Deadline. Scholarship to be given for research of local Civil War history. The Bull Run Civil War Roundtable in Centreville offers a \$1500 scholarship to a public or private high school senior who resides in Fairfax, Fairfax City, Prince William County, Manassas City, or Manassas Park and will attend college in the fall of 2017. Information and application instructions can be found at bullruncwrt.org.

Special Education Conference 2017. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. The latest research, strategies, and trends in the education of students with disabilities. Over 60 workshops to choose from and over 80 exhibitors to see. Translators available. Register: www.fcps.edu/node/33238 or call 703-204-3941 for more.



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