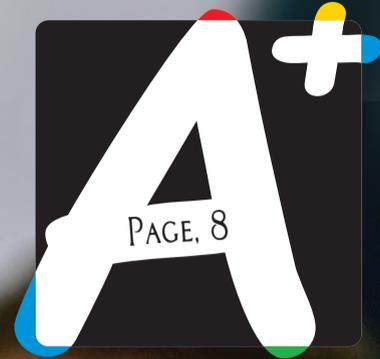


Springfield CONNECTION

Franconia ♦ Kingstowne ♦ Newington



Yasmeen Durrani and Naila Alan, both of Herndon, came to the West Springfield town hall-style meeting to ask what U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (D) would do about the Trump travel bans. "Keep up the fight, work with those who oppose them," replied the senator.

Town Hall Told of 'Chaos-Causing Trump Effect'

NEWS, PAGE 3

Assembly Begins to Reflect
Diversity of Virginia

NEWS, PAGE 6

Therapeutic Riding
To Expand in Area

NEWS, PAGE 7

FOLLOW ON TWITTER: @SPRCONNECTION

OPINION, PAGE 4 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 9 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

JANUARY 18-24, 2018

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

12

VIRGINIA

2017

Special VIP Offer for your Toyota

BUY 3 TIRES AND GET ONE FREE

BONUS: ADD A 4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT FOR \$39.95

SEE SERVICE ADVISOR FOR DETAILS. **GOT TIRES?**

INCLUDES ROAD HAZARD PROTECTION, TIRE WARRANTY, AND FREE COURTESY INSPECTION.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/18.

Jack Taylor's
ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

3750 Jefferson Davis Hwy
Alexandria, VA 22305
703-684-0710
www.alexandriatoyota.com

CHECK ENGINE LIGHT DIAGNOSIS NO CHARGE

INITIAL DIAGNOSIS

WE WILL RETRIEVE VEHICLE CODES & GIVE YOU AN ESTIMATE OF REPAIR COSTS.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/18.

Jack Taylor's
ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

ServiceCenters
Keep Your Toyota in Toyota

TOYOTA
Let's Go Places

31 YEARS OF RECEIVING THIS HONOR.
1 OF 4 DEALERSHIPS IN THE NATION TO RECEIVE THIS HONOR

Service & Parts Dept. Hours:
Monday - Friday, 7:00am to 7:00pm
Saturday, 8:00am to 5:00pm

YOU HAVE SATURDAY OFF. THAT'S EXACTLY WHY WE DON'T!

ToyotaCare Customers

Don't Forget Your **FREE** Service.
5,000 • 10,000 • 15,000 • 20,000 • 25,000 Mile Services
Call your ASM for details

ToyotaCare Plus \$329⁰⁰
Covers up to 4 years/45,000 miles

NOW AVAILABLE

PSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MERRIFIELD, VA
PERMIT NO. 772

BASIC LUBE, OIL & FILTER CHANGE SERVICE

\$29⁹⁵ NON-SYNTHETIC
\$44⁹⁵ SYNTHETIC

Includes: Genuine Toyota oil filter, up to 5 qts of conventional oil*, inspect windshield wipers, check tire condition, check battery (with print-out), inspect and adjust all fluid levels, inspect air & cabin air filters.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/18.

BRAKE SPECIAL \$79⁹⁵

INCLUDES: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect front & rear rotors & drums, check tire condition and inspect all hardware. Pads only.

MACHINE ROTORS ADDITIONAL
NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/18.

SIGHT LINE WIPER BLADES \$10 OFF

Sight Line only.
NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY. GOOD THRU 1/31/18.

FREE

BATTERY CHECK-UP

Check cold cranking amps and visual inspection of battery condition. Includes battery condition print out.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/18.

VARIABLE DISCOUNT

- \$15.00 OFF** when you spend \$100.00 - \$199.99
- \$30.00 OFF** when you spend \$200.00 - \$299.99
- \$45.00 OFF** when you spend \$300.00 - \$399.99
- \$50.00 OFF** when you spend \$400.00 or more

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/18.

SPECIAL OFFER

TRUESTART BATTERY \$99⁹⁵

INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION

Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month **FREE** replacement, 24 month **FREE** roadside assistance.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/18.

4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT

\$64⁹⁵

Your car's alignment suffers, and can cause uneven tire wear and steering problems.

INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts & shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/18.

Jack Taylor's
ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

Check your windshield. Does your sticker say **11/17, 12/17, or 1/18**? If so, your VA Safety Inspection is now due

VIRGINIA STATE INSPECTION

FREE

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/18.

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT AT 703-684-0710 OR SCHEDULE ONLINE AT ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM



Kofi Annan, president of the Fairfax County NAACP, moderates the Town Hall-style conversation with U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (D), in a community room above Giardino Italian Restaurant in West Springfield.



U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (D) speaks with Dr. Michelle Woody with the Fairfax County NAACP, the organization that hosted the Town Hall with the senator.

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Town Hall Told of 'Chaos-Causing Trump Effect'

Fairfax County NAACP hosts Town Hall gathering with Kaine.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (D) spent almost two hours with area residents at a Town Hall-style gathering in West Springfield on the evening of Jan. 11, hosted by the Fairfax County NAACP and moderated by the organization's president, Kofi Annan.

Annan began: "From the outside, from our perspective, it looks like no one knows what's going on, it's chaos [on Capitol Hill]. How are things going in your view?"

The junior senator from Virginia since 2013, Kaine answered that in terms of the daily workings of the Senate, his response would be mostly unchanged from the last few years to this moment. "In our general work, more happens cooperatively than you think. A lot less happens than should. For example, Obama Care. We spent a year fighting to protect health care for 32 million Americans. Instead of repeal, we should have been working on improve, and we weren't."

But the real change today in Kaine's view is "the Trump Effect, not knowing, quite frankly what new surprise will come along."

Kaine spoke of the alleged vulgar remarks made by President Trump earlier in the day about immigrants and some of the countries from which they came. "I mean, you hear that and you just don't know what to say."

THIS LATEST CONTROVERSY, according to Kaine, makes the work being done to address the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Act (DACA) and immigrants in the country under Temporary Protection Status (TPS) that much more difficult.

"And then we didn't know that last week was going to be 'open season for offshore drilling week' around the country," Kaine

added, saying that this decision was followed this week by an exception for the state of Florida. "Why Florida? Because we listen to Floridians and the Governor there opposed it. Well, so do we in Virginia."

Kaine admitted that the "Trump Effect" was chaos-causing and frustrating when there "is so much critical work on the table, like hurricane emergency relief and avoiding a government shutdown," but instead, he says, that work gets side-tracked. "Every week it's left hooks, curve balls and surprises."

Annan also asked the senator his opinion of racism in America, including "Why isn't the Ku Klux Klan categorized as a terrorist organization?"

"I don't know," replied Kaine. "To me, it is. I am not sure of the process, but you know, I now plan to find out."

Racism has long been a societal scourge, Kaine said, but that it was the election of Donald Trump and the actions and comments made by the Trump administration that "gave permission to express those racist views" basically with impunity. But he still sees good that may come from this new attitude of "taking off the mask."

"You know who and what you are up against. To really deal with a problem you have to know its dimensions." It is Kaine's belief that the exposure of the depth and breadth to which racism continues to exist will help bring focus to the issue and aid in the fight against it.

The attendees questioned Kaine and the topics were wide-ranging.

Nayely Lopez is a field employment specialist with CASA, an organization that works with low-income immigrant communities. She attended the session with Sookyung Oh, area director for the National Korean American Service and Education Consortium (NAKASEC), and Jung Bin Cho, also with NAKASEC. "Will you vote to ap-

Jung Bin Cho of Springfield works with NAKASEC - the National Korean American Service and Education Consortium.

After the Town Hall meeting with U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (D), Cho said he still wasn't satisfied with the senator's unwillingness to pledge a "No" vote on a budget continuing resolution "unless we have a clean DACA Bill."



Jorel Sabado of Springfield wondered how the senator's religious beliefs affect his political work. U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (D)

replied that it

was not the job of any politician to impose his or her religious views or the rules of any religious organization on others. "Of course, my values help shape my actions and decisions, but my job is to represent all Virginians, not to oblige others to follow the rules of my religion."

prove the continuing resolution [to fund the government] if there is not a clean DACA bill before then?" she asked.

Kaine was unwilling to commit to her request. Despite being a "passionate advocate" for immigrants, he also said "I am an anti-shutdown person" and cited the damage done to the Virginia economy and many of its citizens because of the government shutdown in 2013. "I need to see the details of the bills being put forth before I can make a decision. I think we are really close."

THE QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS kept coming — environmental protections and the effects of climate change, LGBT rights and the status of transgender persons in the military, protection against voter suppression, advancing opportunities for minorities at Governors Schools in Virginia (a program started in 1973 by then-Governor Linwood Holton who would later become Kaine's father-in-law), even the possibility of promoting programs like Fairfax County's Diversion First (aimed at diverting individuals with mental health issues to medical care versus the criminal justice system) on the national level.

Jorel Sabado of Springfield wanted to know how the senator's Catholic faith affected his political actions. "Of course, your values inform your decisions," replied

Kaine, but added that it was not his job to make everyone follow the rules of his church. "That is not why we are elected."

Naila Alam from Herndon, and a member of the All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS) worries about the travel bans that have been in and out of effect and in the courts since President Trump first introduced them as an Executive Order January last year. Kaine vowed to continue to fight against them.

Asked to comment on the election of more Democrats to the Virginia Legislature, Kaine responded that it gave him a level of energy and confidence for his own chances in Virginia, it bode well for the expansion of Medicaid in the state, and that as a member of the Senate Health and Education Committee there was a synergy that could result.

Kaine is seeking re-election in November, and has already made campaign stops "in some areas of our state that are really suffering," but said that the Town Hall meeting wasn't about campaigning, but about keeping up a dialogue with all Virginians. "Hearing what the concerns are, and keeping people informed — that's practicing democracy."

First Week in Richmond

BY BARBARA FAVOLA
STATE SENATOR (D-31)



It is always exhilarating and humbling to sit in the Chamber as the President of the Senate gavel an unruly body of 40 senators into order. On Jan. 10, Lieutenant Governor Ralph Northam did just that. The next day, Lt. Gov. Northam presided over the Senate for the last time. We wished him well and sent him off to be inaugurated as the 72nd Governor of Virginia.

HIGHLIGHTS OF MY WEEK

Transparency: Committee votes will now be recorded and live-streamed, so Virginians can hear the substantive debates on bills as they work their way through the process. Most bills, especially controversial ones, face their defeat

COMMENTARY

in committee meetings. This long overdue bit of sunshine will enable Virginians to see for themselves how seriously lawmakers are tackling issues important to them. The link to view meetings can be found under the “Members and Session” tab of the viriniageneralassembly.gov website.

Education: Option for Four-Year Teaching Degree: I am proud to say that my bill SB 76 to enable prospective teachers to potentially gain a teaching degree in four years, rather than five, passed out of the Senate Health & Education Committee unanimously. This will reduce the opportunity cost of becoming a teacher, a factor that weighs heavily on prospective teachers who have incurred a large school debt, yet they have the desire to enter

an important but low-paying profession.

Children & Families: Kinship Care Bill — My bill (SB 44) provides support payments to relatives who are willing to offer kin in foster care a permanent home. It passed out of the Rehab and Social Services Committee but was referred to Finance. More than 75 percent of the cost of this kingship program, called “Fostering Futures” is born by the Federal Government. I really hope the money committees can find the \$45,000 to start this program.

On a lighter note, my bill to help small business that bake alcohol infused confectionery products obtain an ABC license, so they may continue to grow their businesses, passed out of committee, as well.

Your emails and support are crucial to the legislative process. It is an honor to represent you and to fight for our values.

The state senator represents parts of Arlington, Fairfax, and Loudoun.

Mr. speaker — Not Mr. Speaker

BY KENNETH R. “KEN” PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)



One of the first tasks in a new session of the Virginia General Assembly is to decide who is going to run the show. In the Senate of Virginia, the decision is made by the voters of the Commonwealth when they elect the Lieutenant Governor whose principal duty is to preside over the Senate.

In the House, the Speaker of the House is the presiding officer who is elected by the members of the House. The political party with the most members has control of the House and elects the Speaker. Republicans control of the House is 51 to 49 this session, a sharp drop in the 66-34 control of recent years. The closeness of the balance of power led to some meaningful discussions that should result in more transparency in the operation of the House.

My interest in becoming the presiding officer of the House by being elected Speaker was well known. Once the two disputed delegate elections were decided in favor of the

COMMENTARY

Republicans there was no way I could reasonably expect to win. Only the Republican who had worked in his party and in the legislature for decades was nominated, and he was elected unanimously. That helped the session get underway in a cooperative spirit. There will be ample opportunity for debate when the many bills that reflect the issues before the General Assembly are considered.

What does a Speaker wannabe do when his party does not gain control of the legislative body? I have decided for myself that if I cannot be the formal Mr. Speaker of the House of Delegates then I can return to my role as Mr. speaker (small “s”) speaking out on tough issues that some may want to duck, and I can speak out on institutional practices that are not transparent or fair. In this way, I can best serve my constituents and the long-term interest of the Commonwealth. I can also serve as a mentor to the many new exciting members that are joining the House of Delegates, and I can

help to reduce any feelings of intimidation they might be experiencing. Certainly the legislature provides experiences that are not replicated in any other role in life.

The techniques of mass communication through phone calls, postcards, rallies, opinion writings, and other practices that were so successful in helping to get candidates elected can be utilized in the legislative process to help influence the outcome of legislation. I have already been seeing groups shifting from advocacy for individual candidates to advocacy for issues. On issues like expansion of health care and independent redistricting, a strong public voice and advocacy are necessary for success.

There will be more opportunities for the public to follow the legislature in real-time this year than ever before. Video streams of meetings of House Full Committees can be accessed online. Download an instruction sheet at https://publications.viriniageneralassembly.gov/display_publication/209.

You can contact me in Richmond by using regular email, kenplum@aol.com or by calling my local telephone number 703-758-9733, which will ring in my Richmond office.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Redefining ‘Temporary’

To the Editor:

The Connection Newspapers’ editorial, “Pulling Legal Status” [Jan. 10-11], insists there is “no upside” to terminating “Temporary Protected Status” for immigrants, but even the editorial hints at upsides:

- ❖ Salvadorans send \$3.6 billion in remittances to their home country. In national accounting, these remittances are treated like im-

ports — money leaves the U.S., exacerbating our trade, or what economists term “balance of payments” deficit.

- ❖ Your editorial counts the losses to GDP of ending TPS, but many of those jobs will go to Americans, perhaps at a higher wage due to a tightened job market.

- ❖ Returning TPS recipients to their homelands before they become eligible to receive Social Security benefits increases the Social Security trust fund’s solvency.

- ❖ Much of affordable housing’s

disappearance is driven by demand. Repatriating people will suddenly create lots of vacant housing units, and thereby drive down rents — no government subsidies or zoning density bonuses for affordable housing needed.

Your editorial is essentially a non-sequitor, demanding permanent “Temporary Protected Status.” Something permanent per se cannot be temporary or vice versa. The average person sees a sort of corruption in our government abusing language and legal concepts in this fashion and would

foreseeably oppose granting temporary protected status to others beset by future disasters if this one ended up being a sleight-of-hand. The fact that TPS recipients have mortgages, U.S.-born children, etc. is irrelevant to their reason for being here under temporary protected status. And if “temporary” really means permanent, our government is perpetrating a fraud on its citizens, much like developers calling a proposed new building’s rooftop “open space.”

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

@SprConnect

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

NEWS DEPARTMENT:
south@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ❖ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Worker
Reporter
aworker@connectionnewspapers.com

Mike Salmon
Editorial Assistant
south@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
e-mail:
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Steve Hogan
Display Advertising, 703-778-9418
shogan@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunc@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,
Ali Khaligh
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher
Jeanne Theismann
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

CIRCULATION
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



AREA ROUNDUPS

Fatal Crash in Springfield Investigated

Officers were called to the scene of a crash in the 7700 block of Loisdale Road Jan. 11, just before 12:30 p.m. Officers found that a 2006 Ford Ranger being driven by 73-year-old James Jones, of Manassas, was traveling south on Loisdale Road. He then hit a jersey wall causing his car to travel into the northbound lanes of Loisdale Road and collide with an oncoming car, according to FCPD. Jones and the driver of the other vehicle, a 66-year-old woman from Lorton, were both taken to the hospital.

Jones was pronounced dead a short time later at the hospital. The other driver received non-life-threatening injuries.

Detectives from the Fairfax County Crash Reconstruction Unit continue to investigate the events that led to the crash. Speed and alcohol are not believed to be factors contributing to the crash. Detectives are working to determine if Jones suffered a medical emergency before the crash.



PHOTO BY GARLAND C. 'GARY' BLACK III

Hosting the Senator

U.S. Senator Tim Kaine, flanked by Brandon Lloyd, a manager, and Tony Santana, a waiter, from Giardino, 8944 Burke Lake Road, Springfield, at Kings Park Shopping Center during Kaine's Town Hall-style meeting with area residents in West Springfield on the evening of Jan. 11, hosted by the Fairfax County NAACP.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Olivia Mytty, of Alexandria, qualified for the fall 2017 dean's list at Belmont University (Nashville, Tenn.).

Timothy Ray Davis, of Springfield, was named to the dean's academic honor roll for the 2017 fall semester at Baylor University (Waco, Texas).

Dawoud Ameri, of Springfield, graduated from Eastern New Mexico University.

Kasson Massimino, of Springfield, has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2017 semester at Nazareth College (Rochester, N.Y.). Massimino is majoring in health sciences.

Jessica Probst, of Alexandria, graduated from Troy University (Troy, Ala.) during the fall semester/term 2 of the 2017/2018 academic year. Probst attended TROY Online and graduated with the Bachelor of Science in business administration.

Jenna L. Chappell, a senior majoring in biology, from Springfield, was named to the fall 2017 dean's list at

Bridgewater College (Va.).

Cat Haufe, a sophomore majoring in health and exercise science, from Springfield, was named to the fall 2017 dean's list at Bridgewater College (Va.).

Muhammad Khan, a junior majoring in biology, from Springfield, was named to the fall 2017 dean's list at Bridgewater College (Va.).



Reaves

has been named as the next provost of Northern Virginia Community College's Medical Education Campus. Currently, vice president for academic and student affairs at City Colleges of Chicago — Wilbur Wright College in Chicago, Ill., Reaves starts at NOVA in March.

Reaves holds a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from North Carolina State University, an M.A. in Education and a B.S. in Public Health from East Carolina University.

Dr. Nicole Reaves has been named as the next provost of Northern Virginia Community College's Medical Education Campus. Currently, vice president for academic and student affairs at City Colleges of Chicago — Wilbur Wright College in Chicago, Ill., Reaves starts at NOVA in March.

Home of the \$6,850 Bathroom Remodel

From Now to WOW in 5 Days Guarantee

TWO POOR TEACHERS

Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling

10% down
nothing until the job
is complete for the
past 17 years



Free Estimates

703-214-8384

Visit our website: www.twopoorteachers.com

Select your products from our Mobile Showroom and Design Center

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed Since 1999

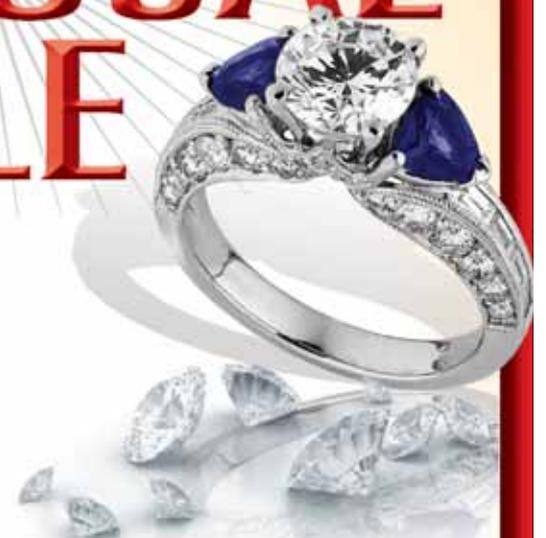


GOING OUT OF BUSINESS Sale

After 30 years,
CLOSING THE DOORS FOREVER!
Must liquidate our entire collection of
fine jewelry and custom designs!

DIAMOND DISPOSAL SALE

FINAL DAYS...
HURRY, SALE
ENDS SOON!



FIVE STAR JEWELERS
and Gemological Laboratory

5765-S BURKE CENTRE PARKWAY • BURKE • 703-259-1500
MON.-FRI. 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM, SAT. 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM, SUN. CLOSED

FIVESTARJEWELERS.NET

Major Credit Cards and Layaways Accepted • Discounts Off Original Retail / Suggested Retail Prices

Assembly Begins to Reflect Diversity of Virginia

Del. Kathy Tran (D-42) writes a diary of her first week at the Virginia General Assembly session in Richmond.

Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2018

I joined my Democratic colleagues at my first press conference of the session to highlight the importance of breaking down barriers to voting and increasing voter participation.

I discussed HB 1058, the Uniform Military and Overseas Act, which will give active duty military service members and Virginia National Guard members who are stationed overseas the option of securely voting online.

I introduced this bill, which is chief co-patroned by Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34), because I believe that voting is a cornerstone of our democracy, and I want to ensure that our service men and women – who risk their lives every day to protect our right to vote – have more options to take part in our democracy, especially when stationed overseas.

My staff and I finished moving into our offices at the Pocahontas Building. We are located at W432 and W432A, and I hope that many of my constituents from the 42nd District will come and visit us in Richmond.

Wednesday, Jan. 10

The deadline to pre-file legislation was at 10 a.m. and I was excited to file my first set of bills.

These bills aim to strengthen our public school system, support our workforce including the successful transition of veterans to the civilian workforce, and promote green energy.

The Virginia House of Delegates convened at noon and the 2018 General Assembly session officially started. I was sworn in, along with my colleagues, and I promised to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Commonwealth of Virginia.

I am honored to represent my community and am dedicated to doing all I can to be a thoughtful policymaker and a strong voice for my constituents in the 42nd District.

Looking around the House of Delegates, I was very moved to see our government begin to reflect the diversity of our Commonwealth. I am proud to be one of the first Asian American women and the first Vietnamese American to be elected to state government in Virginia. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that everyone has opportunities to thrive in our Commonwealth.



Del. Kathy Tran (D-42), middle, meets visiting constituents in Richmond.

This afternoon, I welcomed to Richmond several constituents who came as my guests to watch the start of the session and to hear Governor McAuliffe's final State of the Commonwealth and farewell address. I ended the first day of session by attending Governor McAuliffe's reception to mark the conclusion of his tenure as governor.

Thursday, Jan. 11

I joined my Democratic colleagues in the House and Senate for a joint press conference on expanding Medicaid to nearly 400,000 hardworking Virginians. The strong moral and economic imperatives for expanding Medicaid are undeniable. Del. Wendy Gooditis (D-Clark County) shared her powerful story about how lack of access to medical care for her brother motivated her to run for office. I stand with Delegate Gooditis and all families across the Commonwealth who understand firsthand the need to increase access to healthcare. I am committed to working with my Democratic and Republican colleagues in the General Assembly to ensure we expand Medicaid.

During session, Speaker Kirk Cox (R-Chesterfield) announced the 2018 Committee assignments. I am honored to have been selected for the Privileges and Elections Committee and the Science and Technology Committee.

Del. Vivian Watts (D-39) delivered a powerful speech regarding the history of women in the Virginia House of Delegates. She highlighted that there have never been more than 19 women in the House of Delegates at any one time before this year, when 28

women took the oath of office.

The professional experiences and backgrounds that we bring to the General Assembly better reflect the communities we serve and keenly inform our policymaking.

I also met with the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy to discuss different issues impacting diverse faith communities with my colleague Del. Debra Rodman (D-Henrico). I enjoyed the conversation and look forward to continuing to engage with constituents and local community organizations.

Friday, Jan. 12, 2018

I attended my first Privileges and Elections Committee meeting. There are numerous bills that have been introduced in the House of Delegates focused on ending gerrymandering and making voting more accessible. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Privileges and Elections Committee this session to find solutions to concerns people across the Commonwealth, including here in the 42nd District, have regarding our democratic process.

Later on in the day I spent time talking to my colleagues in the General Assembly on different issues I am working on, including strengthening our schools and ensuring that Virginia is welcoming and inclusive of everyone. The busy week ended on a positive note as I prepared for Inauguration Weekend in Richmond with my family.

Saturday, Jan. 13

My husband and I were honored to par-



Del. Kathy Tran (D-42) joins her Democratic colleagues at her first press conference of the session to highlight the importance of breaking down barriers to voting and increasing voter participation. Tran writes a Richmond Diary of the first week of the session for The Connection.

ticipate in the inauguration ceremony for the 73rd Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Dr. Ralph S. Northam, Lt. Governor Justin Fairfax, and Attorney General Mark Herring. The General Assembly met in a Joint Assembly in the House Chamber at 11 a.m. and then convened on the Capitol Portico for the inauguration ceremony at noon.

In his address, Governor Northam spoke about how his upbringing on the Eastern Shore and his experience as a pediatric neurologist has shaped his perspectives as a policymaker, and he shared his vision to advance opportunity and hope for all in the Commonwealth.

It was a bitterly cold afternoon with some snow flurries, but the sun shined brightly at the conclusion of Governor Northam's speech. After the inauguration ceremony, there was a parade featuring marching bands and community organizations from across the Commonwealth.

I found it very moving that Lt. Governor Fairfax, only the second African American to hold statewide office in Virginia, was sworn in during Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend. That night, we celebrated our new statewide officials at the Governor's inaugural ball.

Sunday, Jan. 14

After a whirlwind first week of the 2018 General Assembly session, I spent time with my family in Richmond. My husband, children and I visited the "Terracotta Army: Legacy of the First Emperor of China," special exhibit at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

This was our first time going to the VMFA, and I was glad to have a chance to explore one of the Commonwealth's finest cultural institutions.

“Looking around the House of Delegates, I was very moved to see our government begin to reflect the diversity of our Commonwealth.”

— Del. Kathy Tran (D-42)

Therapeutic Riding to Expand in Area

Groundbreaking ceremony for new facilities for Clifton-based program.

BY HANAN DAQQA
THE CONNECTION

Good news for children and adults with disability, Youth at Risk and military families: The Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program (NVTRP) broke ground on the first phase of their whole scale capital improvement project and set the footprint for the indoor arena and barn on Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2018.

The first phase will include extensive infrastructure and foundation work; a new, larger, lighted outdoor riding ring; expanded parking and improved access; and an accessible playground.

Blythe Champion, 30, has been riding at The Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program (NVTRP) in Clifton for 19 or 20 years now. She has brain damage from infections.

"For me it is more of an emotional thing...I know the horses and I have a great relationship with Booker. I get on him and he is kind of ...sometimes I have trouble getting into canter but he is the kind of horse I will get on him and he can tell 'Okay, Blythe's legs go back, oh, I know what she wants, here we go...'

"It does not help me improve anything, because the brain damage is not going to change but I know for fact how it helped other riders. It helped them with their strength, their balance, their coordination. We had riders with autism. It helped with their speech and also it helps PTSD wounded warriors. It is very stressful and emotional all the time for them, so riding brings back basically a positive feeling in their lives," said Champion.

When asked about partnering with Fairfax County Public Schools to bring children with special needs to the farm as part of the school day once a week, Kelsey Gallagher, the executive director of NVTRP, said: "We just begun exploring [partnering with public schools as a possibility] when kids are in the farm they are motivated, they work harder, try harder, they are more engaged. Recently, we started a partnership with a private school in Prince William County. They bring kids for part of the school day... there are a lot of children who are on the autism spectrum. Once a week, they come out for two hours... they have different academic or social goals working with the horses...[their goals] can be anything from leadership skills or interpersonal skills. We have different types of services, so for the schools, they pay a fee to participate. We fundraise for over half of our budget. Our therapeutic riders, children and adults with disabilities, that come to us on



Blythe Champion and Leah Martin, riders at The Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program, with shovels at the groundbreaking ceremony last Wednesday, Jan. 10.



Kelsey Gallagher, the executive director of The Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program, promotes partnership with area schools to introduce children to joy of riding.



Blythe Champion has been riding at The Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program (NVTRP) in Clifton for 19 or 20 years now.

their own, they pay about the third of that cost to put on the lesson. We have partnerships with different groups and they pay a fee for lessons. Youth at Risk riders and our military, we fundraise for them to ride at no cost... Loudoun County's budget supports the Special-Ed program to go out and ride."

For more information on the Build to Thrive campaign and ways you can support the project, visit www.nvtrp.org or contact Development Director Wendy Baird at 703-764-0269.

PHOTOS BY HANAN DAQQA/THE CONNECTION

Where Your Dental Needs Come First!

Se habla Español

Family Dentistry

NEW PATIENT SPECIAL

\$99

(Regularly \$311)

Includes Exam, Cleaning (in absence of gum disease) and X-rays

703-323-9394
yourdentalfirst.com

Raja Gupta, DDS
Dental First Associates, LLC

6116 Rolling Rd., Suite 312
Rolling Mill Professional Park
(next to West Springfield H.S.)
Springfield, VA 22152

We've Moved!

New Year, New Order Local organizers teach methods for streamlining a space.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

With the holidays now a memory, local organizers are getting requests from those with overflowing buckets of ambition to create and maintain a clutter-free space.

“One of the first things to learn is that a few minutes spent on a few tasks each day can go a long way in maintaining order,” said Jodie Jacobs of SOUPerior Organizing. “Decide how important a clean, clutter-free space is to you and follow through on keeping it that way. Prioritize it like other important things in your life.”

One habit that Susan Unger of ClutterSOS teachers her clients to focus on simple things that can be done easily and frequently. “In general, I recommend keeping up with household duties on a daily basis so none of them become a bigger project,” said Unger. “For example, don’t leave dishes in the sink. Load the dishwasher after every meal and put all cooking and food prep items away so the counters are clear.”

Establishing a daily routine so that tidying becomes second nature is a technique that Unger uses in her own life and teaches to her clients. “I always make my bed first thing in the morning,” she said. “Having a neat bedroom is a great way to start the



Teaching children to put away toys at the end of the day can create a peaceful environment.

day.”

Also on her recommended list of daily tasks: apparel. “Be sure to put all clothes away on a daily basis rather than leaving them on a chair or the floor,” said Unger. “Clean clothes should be hung up or put in drawers and dirty clothes in the laundry basket.”

In fact, Unger tells clients to gather the entire family at the end of each day and spend 10 minutes tidying as a group. “Make a sweep of your house and determine which items need to be put in their proper place,” she said. “It makes for a less stressful and



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JODIE JACOBS

Small tasks such as putting away clothes each day can lead to an organized space.

more pleasant morning when you’re not waking up to clutter sitting around,” said Unger.

Deal with mail on a daily basis so it doesn’t pile up, advises Unger. “Immediately recycle or shred the junk mail and put bills, items to file and reading in an appropriate place.”

Whether it’s a small basket by the front door or storage boxes placed under a bed, one technique for tidiness is having a designated space for items. “Kids’ homework should have a landing place like a backpack,” said Jacobs. “The backpack should

go in a particular place, like on a hook. You have to figure out what works for your family.”

Keep bathrooms in order by adding over-the-door hooks to hold towels, suggested Todd Martz, Home on Cameron in Alexandria. “This might make the room appear smaller, but it [offers] a place to put towels,” he said. “Include a decorative bag on the door hook for toiletries so they’re out of the way.”

“Add an ottoman or coffee table with storage,” continued Martz. “Maximize the space next to a utility or laundry room by adding a ... shelf to hold blankets.”

Whether it’s once a week or once a month, schedule time to spend on organization projects and record it on a calendar, advises Jacobs. “Tie it to something that you already do and select a time that won’t be overrun by other events, she said. “If you know that every Sunday at nine o’clock, you always watch a television show, set aside that time to go through mail, pay bills and respond to invitations while you’re watching. That way, your time won’t get bumped for a soccer game or business meeting.”

One caveat that Jacobs offers her clients is, “Maintaining a routine doesn’t mean that you won’t slip up at times,” she said. “You have to hold yourself to realistic standards or you’ll get discouraged.”

Start the New Year with a
New Look & Great Savings!

12 Months Same as Cash
Financing available

Buy 1 Shutter Blind or Shade*
get the second of equal or lesser value
50% OFF

BeltwayBlinds & MORE

*Offer applies to Alta Window Fashions & Norman Shutters only.

Shutters | Shades | Blinds | Motorization |

For a free in-home consultation call:
703-991-7264

THE CONNECTION
Newspapers & Online

NEW YEAR, NEW ADVERTISING OPTIONS!

JANUARY
1/24/2018.....Neighborhood Outlook
1/31/2018.....Connection Families; Winter Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment
PLUS: Valentine's Dining & Gifts I

FEBRUARY
2/7/2018...Wellbeing - National Children's Dental Health Month PLUS: Valentine's Dining & Gifts II

Email SALES@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM for more specials, digital advertising options and pricing.

Have The Connection emailed directly to you every week!
www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

LOCAL MEDIA CONNECTION
Newspapers & Online
703-778-9431
www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Reaching Suburban Washington's Leading Households

- Alexandria Gazette Packet
- Arlington Connection
- Burke Connection
- Centre View
- Chantilly Connection
- Fairfax Connection
- Fairfax Station/Clibbon/Lorton Connection
- Great Falls Connection
- McLean Connection
- Mount Vernon Gazette
- Oak Hill/Herridon Connection
- Potomac Almanac
- Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Dalton Connection

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

Adopt Donate Volunteer

Volunteers needed for adoption events, fostering, transportation, adoption center caretaking and more.

lostdogandcatrescue.org

CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday.

ONGOING

Children's Science Center at Fair Oaks Mall. Stop by the Experiment Bar in January and check out Lava Tubes! Learn about density and polarity in this small tube. And back by popular demand, DIY Snow is here for another month to celebrate winter. Visit childsci.org.

Second Saturdays. 6-9 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. Meet nearly 85 Resident and Associate Artists, creating art in the studios or exhibiting in our galleries. Experience performances of dance, cabaret, comedy, big band, jazz, and theater. Indulge in classes in the art of mixology or cuisines from around the globe. Enjoy art exhibitions in nine galleries of the region's finest sculpture, painting, glass, ceramics, and fiber art works. Visit www.workhousearts.org/.

THURSDAY/JAN. 18

Lunch N' Life. noon-2 p.m. at the Fairfax Presbyterian Church, 10723 Main St. John Cox, who was a guide at the U.S. Capitol Building will speak on the history of the building. \$10. Call 703-323-4788 or visit www.scfbva.org.

Friday Morning Music Club. noon-2 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Friday Morning Music Club, Inc. is a community of music lovers and musicians dedicated to promoting classical music throughout the metropolitan area. On the third Thursday of the month they host their performances at Old Town Hall. Visit www.fmmc.org.

Burke Toastmasters Open House. 6:30 p.m. at The Oaks Community Center, 5708 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. Improve public speaking and presentation skills. Email pmagnuson@hotmail.com.

FRIDAY/JAN. 19

B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Call 703-273-3638 or visit fairfaxvfd.com.

Sherwood Family Movie. 7 p.m. at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway. Featuring "Smurfs Lost Village." Participants may bring their own snacks. Britepaths will accept donations of non perishable food. Call 703-385-7858.

Dance Fest 2018. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Harris Theatre at George Mason University, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The Virginia Dance Coalition presents DanceFest 2018 Gala Performance



PHOTO BY GLENN COOK/COURTESY VIRGINIA DANCE COALITION

Encore Dance Company in performance.

Dancefest 2018 to Celebrate Northern Virginia Dance

Virginia Dance Coalition presents DanceFest 2018 at George Mason University (GMU), 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, on Jan. 19 and 21, 2018.

- ❖ Gala Performance at GMU Harris Theatre on Jan. 19, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$25.
- ❖ Workshops including master classes and seminars at GMU DeLaski Performing Arts Building on Jan. 21, 2018

from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$40 for observer tickets for teachers and parents. Full two-day packages begin at \$125 for college students with ID, to \$140 for VADC member to \$170.

- ❖ Showcase performance of emerging talent at the GMU Harris Theatre on Jan. 21, 2018 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets \$20.
- ❖ For early bird rates, tickets, and registration go to www.virginiadancecoalition.org or call 703-409-7988

highlighting 12 member companies. Visit www.virginiadancecoalition.org.

SATURDAY/JAN. 20

African American Museum. 1-3 p.m. at Kings Park Library, Large Meeting Room, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Dr. Johari Rashad will give an inside look at the new National Museum of African American History and Culture, located in Washington, D.C. Free. Visit <http://Sprannva.aauw.net>.

Grand Opening. Board & Brush Creative Studio, 11215 Lee Highway, Suite J, Fairfax. Join Board & Brush Creative Studio for an open house and introduction to a fun new DIY workshop concept in Fairfax. Free food, drinks and the first 50 guests will receive gift bags full of Board & Brush Fairfax giveaways. One lucky person will win a free workshop for 10. Visit boardandbrush.com/fairfax/.

MONDAY/JAN. 22

Funday Monday. 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive,

Fairfax. Movement Monday-Kids Zumba. Free. Call 703-385-7858.

Qigong and Tai Chi Easy. 2-3 p.m. at King of Kings Lutheran Church, 4025 Kings Way, Fairfax. This six-week class will include Tai Chi Easy and other Qigong practices, with a focus on balance, flexibility and vitality — in all aspects of life. The class is suitable for all levels. Movements can be modified to suit individual needs. New students are welcome. Cost \$90. Pre-registration required. Call 703-378-7272 or email churchoffice@kofk.org.

THURSDAY/JAN. 25

Fall for the Book. 5:30 p.m. at the Great American Bistro, 10427 North St., Fairfax. Fall for the Book's New Pop Up Lit Nights invite the community to happy hour appreciations of literature and storytelling. Visit fallforthebook.org.

FRIDAY/JAN. 26

B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Call

703-273-3638 or visit www.fairfaxvfd.com.

Old Town Hall Concert. 8 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Dave Anderson and Mike Wingo: Anderson-Wingo Duo with guest vocalist Kim Scudera. Call 703-385-7858 or visit fairfaxarts.org.

SATURDAY/JAN. 27

10th Anniversary Celebration. Noon-4 p.m. at City of Fairfax Regional Library 10360 North St., Fairfax. Celebrate 10 years in the beautiful new library space. Please join for an open house featuring music, refreshments, crafts, a balloon artist, and much more fun for the whole family. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library.

Irish Dancing Show. 7 p.m. in the George Mason University Center for the Arts' Concert Hall, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. "Stepping Out Ó by Dublin Irish Dance, an exploration of the Celtic experience through the fast footwork of Irish step-dancers and an eight-member traditional Irish band. Call calling 888-945-2468, or

visit cfa.gmu.edu.

THURSDAY/JAN. 28

Railroad Story and Craft. 1:15 and 2:30 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum will have a day of fun for younger visitors with a railroad-theme story and a related craft. The Museum is open that day from 1-4 p.m. Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2, 16 and older, \$4. Cost of activities included in admission. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

Birdland All-Stars Concert. 7 p.m. in the George Mason University Center for the Arts' Concert Hall, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. With drummer Tommy Igoe for a high-energy performance. Call 888-945-2468 or visit cfa.gmu.edu.

Burke Historical Society. 8 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Visit www.burkehistoricalsociety.org.

MONDAY/JAN. 29

Acting, Art and More. 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Spend the teacher workday indulging a creative side. Join for a full day of drama, art, and music with arts instructors who will share their craft in a fun, relaxed environment. \$60. Register at www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org/one-day-camps-spring-break.html.

FRIDAY/FEB. 2

B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Call 703-273-3638 or visit fairfaxvfd.com.

FEB. 2-4

Chocolate Lovers Festival. Various times in Historic Downtown Fairfax. Chocolate-oriented activities all weekend, including a Kiwanis Chocolate Chip Pancake Breakfast. The "love of chocolate" is the unifying theme. Visit www.chocolatefestival.net or call 703-385-7858.

SUNDAY/FEB. 4

Railroad Story and Craft. 1-4 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum will have railroad theme activities and crafts with a Valentine's Day twist. Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; ages 16 and older, \$4. Activities and craft supplies included in admission. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS
Alexandria Gazette Packet
Mount Vernon Gazette
Potomac CENTRE VIEW ALMANAC
 You can read any of this week's 15 papers digital editions here:
www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/PDFs

COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

JUBILEE CHRISTIAN CENTER
 "Loving People to Life"

Worship Gathering - Sunday 8:45 & 11 AM
 Sunday School 10:10 AM
 Sun. Evening - Realtime Worship & Youth 6 PM
 Family Night - Wednesday 7:15 PM
 Home Life Groups, College/Young Adult Ministries, and Living Free Support Groups
 Visit our Website: www.jccag.org
 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax
 Bill Frasnelli, PASTOR 703-383-1170

To Advertise Your Community of Worship, Call 703-778-9418

CLASSIFIED

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS PAPER, CALL BY MONDAY 11:00 AM 703-778-9411

Announcements

We pay top \$ for STERLING,
MEN'S WATCHES,
JEWELRY, COSTUME JEWELRY,
FURNITURE, PAINTINGS AND CLOCKS.

Schefer Antiques
703-241-0790
theschefers@cox.net

Employment

At Home Parents & Retirees
More than sales, join us and
enhance life in your community
**Need and have discipline
for flexible hours?**

Work from Old Town and/
or your home office
Full or Part Time
Sell print and digital advertising
campaigns
Area's most trusted local media
Sell all or any combination
of 15 distinct markets
Print & Digital Marketing
Web sites • Sponsored content
• Email blasts • Social media
Attract new customers based
on upper income profiles
Competitive compensation
plus commission

One page cover letter & resume
to sales@connectionnewspapers.com

Computers

**HDI
COMPUTER SOLUTIONS**
JENNIFER SMITH
Serving the Area Since 1995



- > Speed Up Slow Computers
- > Virus Removal
- > Computer Setup
- > Help with Windows 8

571-265-2038
Jennifer@HDIComputerSolutions.com

**Find us on Facebook
and become a fan!**

[www.Facebook.com/
connectionnewspapers](http://www.Facebook.com/connectionnewspapers)



Newsletters & Online
The Connection to Your Community
www.connectionnewspapers.com

Announcements

**Donate A Boat
or Car Today!**

BoatAngel

"2-Night Free Vacation!"
800-700-BOAT
(2628)

www.boatangel.com

sponsored by boat angel outreach centers STOP CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN



Announcements

Earn more with Quality!
★★★ 30 YEARS OF SERVICE ★★★

**Looking for CDL A or B drivers to deliver
new trucks all over the US and Canada.**

**Experience preferred. Must have DOT physical and be
willing to keep logs. No DUIs in last 10 years, clean MVR.**

Quality Drive-Away INC.

Apply Online at
www.qualitydriveaway.com
or call 574-642-2023

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Child turning 5 years old by Sept.30? If so, contact your child's school to make arrangements for kindergarten enrollment. Most schools begin getting information together now for parents of incoming kindergartners, and many host an orientation or open house. All kindergarten programs are full-day and located in FCPS elementary schools. Check your school's webpage or contact the school directly for specific enrollment information and dates of orientation or visit www.fcps.edu/registration/childturning5.

FY 2019 SCHOOLS BUDGET

FCPS Superintendent Scott S. Brabrand will present the **2018-19 school year (FY 2019) Proposed Budget** at the School Board meeting on Thursday, Jan. 11, at Jackson Middle School at 7 p.m. The School Board plans to hold a budget work session on Jan. 22, and a public hearing on the Proposed Budget on Jan. 29, with additional hearings on Jan. 30 and Jan. 31, if needed. Get more information on the FCPS budget at www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/budget/fy2019.

CAREGIVER WORKSHOPS

Learn more about caregiving, or brush up on a specific topic, in education programs this year at Insight Memory Care Center, including:

- ❖ **Classes for Caregivers Series** — offered the third Wednesday of each month, programs are geared with family caregivers in mind. Classes begin with the basics, and move through more specialized topics throughout the year.
- ❖ **Wellness Workshops** — offered quarterly on Saturdays, these workshops are designed for caregivers to focus on their own health and well-being.
- ❖ **Engagement Workshops** — offered quarterly on the fifth Wednesday of the month, these workshops teach practical caregiving skills. Come prepared to learn and get engaged.
- ❖ **Caregiver Bootcamp** — Short on time? Caregiver Bootcamp is a full day training session offering many popular topics all in one place. Bootcamps are offered on a Saturday each spring and fall. Visit www.insightmcc.org for more.

THURSDAY/JAN. 18

Lunch N' Life. noon-2 p.m. at Fairfax Presbyterian Church, 10723 Main St., Fairfax. **Are You 50 or Better?** Join in the next Lunch N' Life sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke. John Cox, who was a guide at the U.S. Capital Building, will speak on the history of the building. For reservations, call Bea Stephenson at 703-273-5730 by **Jan. 12**. The cost is \$10; checks payable to SCFB. If transportation is needed, call the SCFB office 703-323-4788. See www.scfbva.org for more.

SATURDAY/JAN. 20

Community Workshop. 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. The community is invited to participate in

a comprehensive planning workshop for the former Northern Virginia Training Center site and the adjacent State Police site. Snow date is Saturday, Feb. 3. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. with the program beginning promptly at 9:30 a.m. Lunch will be served. Read more at bit.ly/2CZgLYC.

Financial/Investor Presentation.

9:30 a.m. at Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center, Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. The Washington D.C. Metro Chapter of the American Association of Individual Investors invites the public to attend a presentation on "What Every Investor Needs to Know." Attendees will learn investor behavior and attitudes in the United States and how these can shape investing outcomes; investor literacy status and ongoing efforts in the United States (with an opportunity to take the FINRA Foundation Investor Literacy Quiz); and how to protect oneself from losing money in an investment fraud. \$40-\$45. Visit www.aaii.com/localchapters.

Caregivers Workshop. 10 a.m.-noon at Immanuel Church on the Hill, 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Senior Services of Alexandria and AARP are hosting Bobbi Carducci, the author of "Confessions of an Imperfect Caregiver" for a discussion about her journey as a caregiver. Insight Memory Care Center and Legacy Navigator will also be discussing programs and resources available for those serving as caregivers. This workshop is free and open to the public; light refreshments will be provided. RSVP to Senior Services of Alexandria at 703-836-4414, ext. 110.

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.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, offers casual worship services on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. featuring contemporary music. More traditional services take place on Sunday mornings at 8:15 and 11 a.m. Sunday School is from 9:45-10:45 a.m. for children and adults. The church also offers discussion groups for adults. 703-451-5855 or www.popl.org.

Franconia United Methodist

Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria, offers traditional Sunday church services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. plus Sunday School classes for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Childcare is available 8:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. 703-971-5151 or admin@franconiaumc.org or www.franconiaumc.org.

The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) offers a wide variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. www.jssa.org/growth-learning.

JCCNV Mothers Circle program, for women who are not Jewish but are raising Jewish children. Free education in Jewish rituals, practices and values, while respecting the participant's choice to retain her own religious identity. Jew-

ish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike in Fairfax. Contact Laurie Albert, 703-537-3064 or Laurie.Albert@jccnv.org.

Metropolitan Community Church of Northern Virginia, 10383 Democracy Lane in Fairfax, presents worship services on Sundays at 11 a.m. and choir practice, open to all, on Sundays from 9-10:30 a.m. www.mccnova.com or 703-691-0930.

Church of the Nativity offers a free general bereavement support group open to all adults on the first and third Thursday of each month 7:30-9 p.m. The church is located at 6400 Nativity Lane, Burke. Call 703-455-2400, ext. 17.

Employment

**VINSON HALL
RETIREMENT COMMUNITY**
Supported by State, Military Service and VA Administration

**OPEN HOUSE
Cooks and Servers**

Join our dynamic team!

Saturday, January 20, 2018
9:00am – 12:00pm
6251 Old Dominion Drive, McLean, VA 22101

Explore the opportunities at our community!

Vinson Hall Retirement Community offers competitive pay and benefits including health, dental, and 401(k). Vinson Hall is an Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/V/D



**TELL US
WHAT
YOU
THINK**

SUBMIT YOUR LETTER TO THE EDITOR HERE
www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/contact/letter

Richmond Diary

FROM PAGE 6

Monday, Jan. 15

I had a very busy Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. I attended my first Science and Technology Committee meeting and look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that we are effectively leveraging technology and scientific advancements to meet the various needs of our Commonwealth.

I joined my colleagues in the General Assembly, Attorney General Mark Herring, Lieutenant Governor Justin Fairfax, and Governor Ralph Northam at a rally to prevent gun violence organized by the Virginia Center for Public Safety. I heard moving stories of victims and families and talked with constituents about the need to find common sense solutions to end gun violence.

I also met with constituents from the Hemophilia Association of the Capital Area about support for people with bleeding disorders and spoke with stakeholders about the need to make our Commonwealth more inclusive and to protect and advance voting rights. My office heard from constituents about their rights as gun owners. It was a full day of fruitful conversations about issues that matter to our community.

My husband and children were in the gallery for the opening of session, and I was very proud that they were able to experience this aspect of our democracy. I was excited to publish my first newsletter, which will be disseminated weekly during session via email and on my website (www.kathyfordelegate.com). This is one way that I am keeping my constituents updated about happenings in the General Assembly.

Tuesday, Jan. 16

I had the honor of meeting with constituents and members of the Fairfax County Professional Firefighters and Paramedics Local 2068. We discussed the need to ensure that our firefighters receive necessary healthcare. Firefighters and first responders serve our communities in times of emergencies, and I am committed to standing with them.

My office also heard from constituents concerned about discrimination against people with disabilities. I have had the opportunity to meet with individuals with disabilities in the 42nd District, their families, and advocates, and I will be a strong advocate for their rights.

I ended the day meeting with stakeholders about HB 1111, STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) Education Fund, which would support STEAM programs in public K-12 schools. I will work hard to engage my constituents, Democratic and Republican colleagues in the General Assembly, and stakeholders to advance my bills during this session.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS, CALL KAREN AT 703-778-9422

LANDSCAPING A&S CONSTRUCTION SOD, Mulch, Clean-Up Leaf Removal Hauling. 703-863-7465		Good is not good, where better is expected. -Thomas Fuller	LANDSCAPING LANDSCAPING Patios & Drainage Your neighborhood company since 1987 703-912-6886	
ELECTRICAL ELECTRICAL K & D ELECTRIC COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE Family Owned & Operated Recessed Lighting Ceiling Fans Phone/CATV Computer Network Cabling Service Upgrades Hot Tubs, etc...		Licensed/Bonded/Insured Office 703-335-0654 Mobile 703-499-0522 lektrkman28@gmail.com	J.E.S. Services Free Estimates - Fully Licensed & Insured <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting & Landscaping Design Drainage & Water Problems Concrete Driveways, Replacement or New Patios and Walks • Masonry Work or Dry Laid Paver, Flagstone, Brick, any style you choose Retaining walls of all types All work Guaranteed	
GUTTER GUTTER GUTTER CLEANING Gutters and Downspouts Cleaned Small Repairs • Gutter Guards PINNACLE SERVICES Lic/Ins 703-802-0483 free est. email: jamie@lawnsandgutters.com web: lawnsandgutters.com Friendly Service with a Friendly Price!		TILE / MARBLE TILE / MARBLE BATHROOM REMODELING by Brennan Bath and Tile Partial or Full. Kit. Floors, Backsplashes. Specializing in Ceramic, Porcelain, Glass Tiles and Natural Stones. Also repair work. 35 yrs exp. www.brennan-tile.com 703-250-2872 Licensed • Bonded • Insured		
IMPROVEMENTS IMPROVEMENTS Power Washing Go from green to clean, do you have mold on your siding rotten wood that's a hoax violation? We do houses, decks, fences, side walks, etc. Deck and fence repair, deck staining and sealing. Licensed & Insured • Free Estimates email: jnave@comcast.net 703-987-5096		TILE / MARBLE TILE / MARBLE Quality Tree Service & Landscaping Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured. Summer Cleanup... Tree removal, topping & pruning, shrubbery trimming, mulching, leaf removal, planting, hauling, gutter cleaning, retaining walls, drainage problems, etc. 25 years of experience - Free estimates 703-868-5358 24 Hour Emergency Tree Service		
A&S Landscaping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Concrete work Retaining Walls • Patios Decks • Porches (incl. screened) • Erosion & Grading Solutions French Drains • Sump Pumps Driveway Asphalt Sealing 703-863-7465 LICENSED Serving All of N. Virginia		ATTENTION ADVERTISERS: expand your audience beyond our weekly print edition with THE CONNECTION DIGITAL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email Marketing Social Media Sponsored Content FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 703.778.9431 OR VISIT CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/ADVERTISING		
RN. CONTRACTORS, INC. Remodeling Homes, Flooring, Kitchen & Bath, Windows, Siding, Roofing, Additions & Patios, Custom Deck, Painting We Accept All Major Credit Cards Licensed, Insured, Bonded • Free Estimates • Class A Lic Phone: 703-887-3827 E-mail: rncontractorsinc@gmail.com www.rncontractors.com		An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them. -Werner Heisenberg		

Seasons Gratings



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As a baby-boomer, I've transitioned from black and white television to color to "H.D" - and of course now to "Smart Television;" and within that evolution, so too has the variety, content and number of channels- and the "demand" that we consumers can make - from home, transitioned as well. And I don't suppose much of it could have happened without advertising and the revenue it has generated. Promoted by people, places and things. From sports heroes to celebrities to news makers to cartoon characters to puppets and on to anthropomorphic agents/avatars and other creative mouthpieces.

I grew up watching television - without a remote, not listening to the radio. I remember seeing "Mr. Clean," "The Jolly Green Giant," "Mr. Magoo," "Speedy" - from Alka Seltzer - among other iconic creatures of the creative, all of whom sent so many messages to so many consumers, ripe for the plucking. A brand new medium had arrived: television, and its audience was extra large and extra eager.

And even though these spokes-things were not exactly speaking from the heart (what heart?), they were speaking/symbolizing with conviction - and repetition. The impressions made on impressionable future consumers were incalculable. It launched a generation. Not the "Greatest Generation," mind you, but a generation nonetheless, prepped and ready to make its mark: in the drug store, the convenience store, the supermarket, the box store and now the on-line store. We are not merely what we buy, we are what and how we are advertised to.

Previously I had written a column about how I loathe the computer-generated characters which have been utilized on television in an attempt to capture consumers' interest. As soon as they appear on television, I switch rather than fight. For me, it's an immediate turn off, literally and figuratively. I am not listening to inanimate objects/creations tell an "animate" (yours truly) object what to do. And though I understand the humanity behind the message, as far as I'm concerned, the delivery system does not compute (an old-fashioned usage). Artificial spokes-things are not worth the computer screens they're drawn on.

What has brought this rant on is a new element in the artificially-intelligent world in which many of us are subjected: holiday greetings from a computer. Mass emails sent by manufacturers from whom as a consumer we've emailed, inquired, bought, sold, etc., wishing me a "happy, healthy, prosperous holiday/New Year," yada, yada, yada; click/delete. As fast as I can. Are you kidding me? It's not bad enough that as consumers we are regularly watching/listening to fake spokes-things on television, I am now being directly interacted with through my personal emails too. No. That's where I draw the line/terminate my attention span.

However well-conceived, I am not getting involved with what is in effect, a thing. Pre-programmed messages of this kind are the unkindest cut of all; "Et tu, Brute?" If you/your company can only treat me like a number - and not as a person, don't treat me at all. Don't think for a nanosecond that a holiday missive to a massive holiday audience carries any substantial weight. It doesn't. It provides the exact opposite: a greater wait until I respond. It's akin to be weightless in outer space. It's for bemusement. It serves no functional purpose. And though I can certainly appreciate how getting into thousands/millions of personal email accounts with one keystroke has an appeal, you risk squandering a previously hard-earned resource: goodwill.

You want me as a customer? Don't email me feelings. Email me facts and figures. You really want me as a customer? Then speak to me, really. Save your greetings; and not for next year either.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.



BEST WASHINGTONIAN 2017

Hermandorfer Associates
Top 1% of Agents Nationally



Fairfax Station - \$729,000

Completely updated, pristine condition! Great location, Wonderful neighborhood! Screened in porch, walk out lower level. This one has it all!

Find More Information at: www.Hermandorfer.com • 703-503-1881



Burke Centre/Burke Cove - \$264,000
LARGE J-Unit w/ Lake Barton view! Two BRs, 2 Full BAs, Eat-in kitchen, LOADS of storage!



Catie, Steve & Associates
Direct: 703-278-9313
Cell: 703-362-2591
Life Members, NVAR Top Producers
Multi-Million Dollar Sales Club



Fairfax \$636,000

She's a BEAUTY! Any way you look at it, this 4 bedroom/2.5 bath colonial is a contest winner! Stunning Living/

Dining Room w/fabulous built-in china cabinets; open kitchen with maple cabinets & granite counters; large bedrooms w/ lots of nooks & crannies; plus finished lower level w/rec-room, music studio & craft room. Huge deck overlooks private fenced yard! Loads of updates...you won't be disappointed!



MARSHA WOLBER
Lifetime Member NVAR, Top Producers
Top 5% of Agents Nationally
www.marshawolber.com
Cell: 703-618-4397



Manassas - \$624,900

Custom rambler on cul de sac street w/2+ acres of privacy! Better than new w/sparkling hardwoods, open floor plan, chef's kitchen, morning room and more! Three car garage, fenced back yard, public water and NO HOA! Just 6 months young—owner suddenly transferred. 7960 Canova Forest Ct.



JUDY SEMLER
703-503-1885
judys@inf.com



Fairfax - \$589,900

Classic colonial style split foyer home in terrific location * Wood floors * 2 fireplaces * Updated kitchen that opens to screened porch & deck overlooking large, fenced back yard * 5 bedrooms * 3 full baths * Huge walkout family rm. So convenient to transportation & commuter routes, shopping, schools & GMU.



Fairfax Station - \$750,000

Beautifully appointed colonial in the Crosspointe neighborhood * 2-story foyer * Main level library w/built-in bookcases * 2-story family room w/stone fireplace * Updated kitchen w/granite, upgraded cabinets, cook island & huge walk-in pantry * Butler's pantry * Master suite features luxury bath & walk-in closet w/built-ins * Spacious deck overlooking the backyard * Call Judy.

BEST WASHINGTONIAN 2017

AMANDA SCOTT
703-772-9190
Top Producer
www.AmandaScott.net



Gainesville The Regency Creekside 55+ \$824,900

NEW BUILD, upgraded & extended 3 lvl stone-front home on premium lot-backs to trees & pond. 3 BR, Den, 4 BA, Grmt white KIT, HDWDS, Fam rm w 2 sided Gas Fpl, Loft, Attic rm, Rec rm, bonus rms, extnd 2 car Gar, Stone Patio & firepl, Front porch, Trex deck, Irrig syst, Clubs & activities. READY NOW!



Fairfax Greenbriar \$559,900

Updated & extended Georgetown, 5 BRs, (one m/lvl), 3 updt'd BAs, Grmt Kit with granite cnts, crmic tile, Brkfst rm, HDWDS, Din, Liv rm, Sunrm w skylts, fans, fitted clts, Front Porch, Fenced flat yd, Shed, 2 car Gar.

www.HeritageHuntHomes.com



DAVID & VIRGINIA
Associate Brokers
703-967-8700
www.BillupsTeam.com



ALEXANDRIA \$774,900

Just blocks away from Fort Belvoir & Wegmans! Over 4,000 SF of refined living space. Tall ceilings on all 3 levels. Huge gourmet kitchen with state of the art SS appliances. 2 story family room, gas fpl, finished basement. SBR, 3 SBA www.6079PineyWoods.info



ANNANDALE \$499,900

Great location inside the Beltway! 5 Bedroom, 3 Bath colonial with carport. New windows, flooring, roof, furnace & AC. Remodeled kitchen. Large fenced back yard with brick patio. Workshop. www.4916BristowDrive.info



David Levent
703-338-1388 davidshomes@inf.com
Experienced Agent - Amazing Results
Member, NVAR Multi Million Dollar Sales Club



Falls Church Rental - \$2800/month

Great Four Level Split Level Detached Home Inside The Beltway! 4 Bedrooms, 2 Full Ba, 1 Half Ba, Stainless Kit Appliances, Granite Countertops, Hardwood Floors, Lower Level Family Room Walks Out To Spacious fenced Backyard, Additional Lower Level With Amazing Bar and room perfect for entertaining. 2 Car Garage Home On Nice Cul De Sac Super Location.



Coming Early 2018

Gorgeous 5 Bedroom, 4 Full & 1 Half Bath Colonial Home in Hampton Forest, Totally Remodeled Gourmet Kitchen, New Hardwood Flooring, Finished Walkout Basement, Screened In Rear Porch Overlooking Large Backyard, 1st Level Master Suite, Beautifully Landscaped, Much More, Call For Details.



DIANE SUNDT
703-615-4626
Military Relocation Specialist



Judy McGuire
703-581-7679
NVAR Multi-Million Dollar Club
NVAR Top Producer

New Year, New Home?

Now is a great time for us to talk and prepare for a fantastic spring market. You can benefit from my many years of real estate experience & the expert services I offer.

Diane A. Sundt, ABR, GRI, SRES
703.615.4626
Selling Homes for Over 15 Years!

Stay Warm
Spring is right around the corner!
Call today to set up an appointment for a full report on the value of your home in today's market.



Kathy O'Donnell
703-338-7696
Kathy.odonnell@LNF.com



Fairfax - \$724,900

Beautiful 4 bed, 3.5 bath home on a quiet cul de sac. Large, bright kitchen opens to the family room or extends out to the deck overlooking the private backyard. Finished walkout basement has an office/bedroom and full bath.



ELLIE WESTER
703-503-1880
L&F Founder's Club
Lifetime NVAR Top Producer
Life Member, NVAR Million Dollar Sales Club
ellie.wester@longandfooster.com



Fairfax \$724,900

Newly Listed on Gorgeous Half Acre Over 3500 finished square feet of living space in this lovely open concept home in The Ridges of Glendolough. Four spacious bedrooms plus extensive hardwood flooring and a never ending deck that overlooks the creek and wooded common area. Multiple levels offers so many options for living in this home. Woodson Frost Pyramid and close to George Mason University, shopping, and major employment area.



"Committed to Earning the Loyalty of Our Clients by Providing Unparalleled Professionalism and Exceptional Service While Supporting Our Community."

