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2016 VIRGINIA PRESS ASSOCIATION
Burke CONNECTION

**COMMUNITY
OUTLOOK 2017**

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Lamont Atkins, Lake Braddock Secondary School's former star football player, was announced as the 2016-2017 Gatorade Virginia Player of the Year.

Player of the Year

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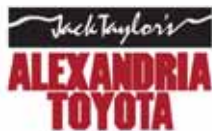
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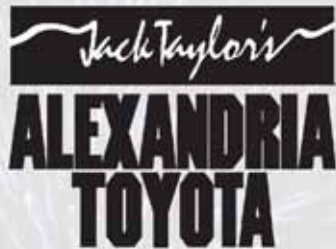
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IMAGE COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A renovation of Cherry Run Elementary School will add 21,000 square-feet of space.



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Sunrise Senior Living is building an assisted living facility behind the Silas Burke House.

Neighborhood Development Update

BY TIM PETERSON

The Connection keeps a running list of land use projects being planned, under construction and nearing completion in the community. The list is updated quarterly.

Burke Junction — Intersection of Guinea Road and Zion Drive area

The developer has cleared land 17 single-family homes and a model home is constructed. Efforts to preserve the historical and environmental integrity of the site include the Potomac Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant society moving native plants to the site of a stormwater restoration project that was recently completed, as well as relocating the old post office that stood on the property to the grounds of the Silas Burke House.

Cherry Run Elementary School — 9732 Ironmaster Drive, Burke, VA 22015

A full renovation of the elementary school includes adding 21,000 square-feet and replacing an outdoor modular of eight classrooms for students with disabilities. The project will upgrade all spaces, music classrooms, art labs, multi-purpose spaces and spaces for specialists such as counselors that don't currently exist in the school.

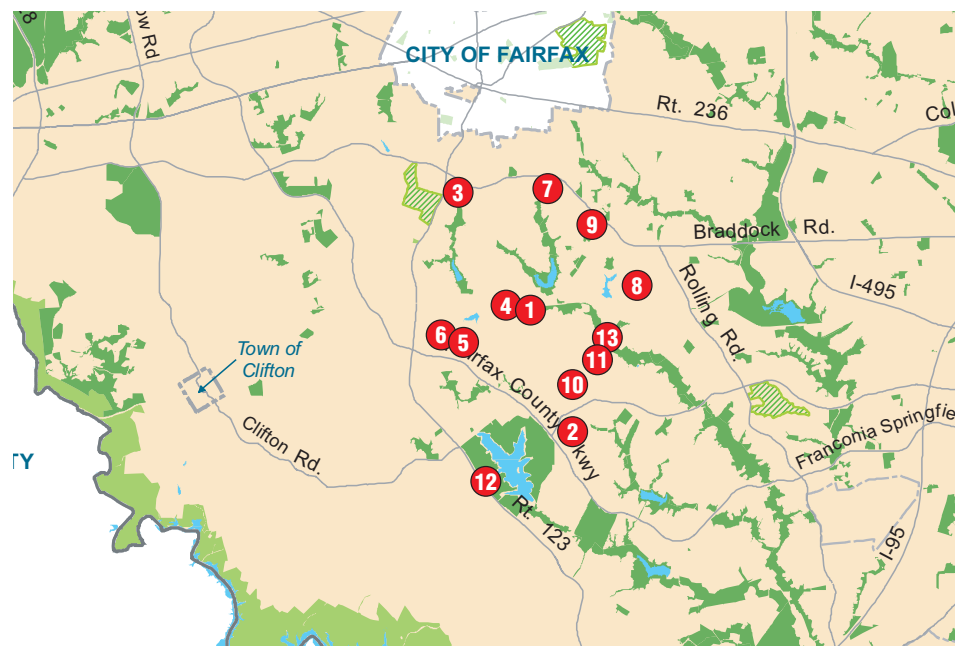
Christopher at Kenilworth — Braddock Road near intersection with Dequincy Drive

Land clearing for a development of nine single-family homes is complete, with a large number of trees coming down. Houses are being constructed and actively sold.

Forest Ridge — Lee Highway at Forest Hill Drive NV Homes is working with an approved site plan to build 40 single-family homes. The land has been cleared.

Giant Food at University Mall — 10681 Braddock Road

The grocery anchor for University Mall is



Developments Underway in Burke Area

- 1 **Burke Junction** — Intersection of Guinea Road and Zion Drive area
- 2 **Cherry Run Elementary School** — 9732 Ironmaster Drive, Burke, VA 22015
- 3 **Christopher at Kenilworth** — Braddock Road near intersection with Dequincy Drive
- 4 **Giant Food at University Mall** — 10681 Braddock Road
- 5 **Lake Royal Dredging** — Northeast of Guinea Road and Zion Drive
- 6 **New Chick-fil-A** — 5793 Burke Centre Parkway
- 7 **Five Guys Burgers and Fries** — Burke Centre Shopping Center
- 8 **Northern Virginia Training Center** — 9901 Braddock Road
- 9 **Old Burke Lake Preserve** — Old Burke Lake Road at Lake Braddock Secondary School
- 10 **New Popeyes** — 9521 Braddock Road
- 11 **Silas Burke House** — Along Burke Lake Road between Burke Centre Parkway and Shiplott Boulevard
- 12 **Townes at Burke Lake Crossing** — 9537 Burke Lake Road
- 13 **Woodglen Lake Dredging** — Burke, Fairfax Station
- 14 **Woodward property** — Corner of Burke Lake Road and Coffer Wood Road

undergoing renovation that will increase the size of the existing store considerably, up to 58,000 square-feet.

Lake Royal Dredging — Northeast of Guinea Road and Zion Drive

The last of the area's lakes to be dredged, Royal's ten acres of dredged material will be more difficult to relocate than Woodglen Lake's five. Dredging is currently underway on the \$6 million project. Most of the dredging has been completed on the lake side park portion; now the focus is on the park side. The work is on schedule, with negotiations now to dredge an additional 20,000 cubic yards of sediment. The completion date is still scheduled for June 26, 2017.

New Chick-fil-A — Burke Centre Shopping Center

Chick-fil-A is moving into a former bank building near the Burke Kohl's. Construction is expected to begin soon.

Five Guys Burgers and Fries — Burke Centre Shopping Center

Five Guys will be located in a new structure currently being erected on the property once occupied by the Friendly's restaurant that was torn down.

Northern Virginia Training Center — 9901 Braddock Road

All residents of the former state-owned residence and treatment facility for individuals with disabilities were relocated as of March, 2016, though some were moved to group homes sitting on the site's 80-acre property. The Commonwealth of Virginia is in the process of selling the land and has been in contract negotiations with the preferred, yet unnamed corporate buyer since April 2016. Scant yard work has been done and some security monitoring is provided by the state, though there is also an agreement than the West Springfield District police station may patrol there.

SEE OUTLOOK, PAGE 4

COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

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COMMUNITY OUTLOOK



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

The old post office that stood on the Burke Junction property is being relocated to the grounds of the Silas Burke House.

Neighborhood Development Update

FROM PAGE 3

Old Burke Lake Preserve — Old Burke Lake Road at Lake Braddock Secondary School

Two homes are being built on a three-lot subdivision, developed by-right.

New Popeyes — 9521 Braddock Road

Popeyes fast food fried chicken is moving into the old Pizza Hut restaurant at Twinbrooke Centre. The move has been approved by the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission and is in the site design and planning phase, which can take nine to 12 months or longer.

Silas Burke House — Along Burke Lake Road between Burke Centre Parkway and Shiplett Boulevard

Sunrise Senior Living is building an assisted living facility behind the Silas Burke House. At a date yet to be determined, the historic house will be joined on the top of the hill by the old post office from Burke Junction. Sunrise agreed to make repairs to the historic house, including improved foundation supports, new windows, roofing and interior work. The completion target date for the new facility is fall 2017. The old house will be made available to the public several times a year.

Townes at Burke Lake Crossing — 9537 Burke Lake Road

The developer has begun the process of clearing the site for

Christopher Companies' planned 12 townhomes at the intersection of Burke Lake Rd. and Shiplett Blvd.

Woodglen Lake Dredging — Burke, Fairfax Station

The project began with fish relocation to Lake Accotink in November 2014 and is now complete. The contractor added vegetative plugs to the bottom of the lake that will support a new fish population. Over the summer 2016, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries began restocking the lake with fish, the first in a three-year cycle. This year restocking will be done with different species. Work will continue for two more years.

Woodward property — Corner of Burke Lake Road and Coffer Wood Road

Christopher Companies has filed an application to develop 2.72 acres for nine single family homes around this intersection. Alternative proposed plans include entrances on Burke Lake Road and on Coffer Woods Road. The Planning Commission hearing has been pushed back to early March. The developer has been talking with the Burke Village homeowners association, as well as discussing traffic logistics with transportation officials.

Sources: Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) and land use aide, Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) and land use aide, Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) and land use aide.

AREA ROUNDUPS

No Ban on a Plastic Yard Waste Bag in County

At Tuesday's Board of Supervisors meeting, the public hearing to consider an ordinance to amend and readopt Chapter 109.1 of the Fairfax County Code on the prohibition of plastic bags for yard waste was deferred indefinitely. The Board of Supervisors also voted unanimously to approve Supervisor Herrity's motion to immediately communicate to the citizens, trash haulers, and lawn service companies that there is currently no approved ban in Fairfax County.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) stated, "I am glad our residents will have the ability to weigh in on any attempt to ban plastic bags for yard waste and that the County is clarifying that no ban currently exists. I believe a ban would negatively impact our residents and our recycling efforts."

West Springfield High to Host Valentine's Fundraiser

American Cancer Society Crop/Craft — "Make Your Own Valentines Table" — will be held Saturday, Feb 4, 9 - 5 p.m. with Fun Vendor Shop: 2 - 4 p.m. at the West Spring-

field High School Cafeteria (6100 Rolling Road, Springfield). Vendors include: Stella & Dot, Mary Kay, Pampered Chef, Karinas Kreations, Tupperware, Stampin' Up, LuLaRoe, Thirty-One Gifts, Creative Memories, Scentsy. All donations go to American Cancer Society. Call Leslie Carlin at 703-866-4962 or email fourcarlins@verizon.net for info.

Nominations Sought for Scholar-Athlete Honors

The National Capital Region Chapter of the National Football Foundation is accepting nominations for their 2017 Scholar-Athlete banquet. The Chapter awards five \$1000 scholarships annually to deserving high school senior scholar athletes who played high school football. Nominees are evaluated on academic and athletic excellence, as well as contributions to their school and community. Nomination packets have been mailed to each high school head coach in the National Capital Region. Deadline for submission of nomination packets is April 7, 2017. The 11th Annual Awards Banquet will be held on April 23, 2017 at the Army-Navy Club in Arlington.

The National Capital Region Chapter requests and urges participation from all high schools in the National Capital Region.

For additional information, contact your Head Football Coach.

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Not Helping the Local Economy

Federal hiring freeze will have rippling effect.

The hiring freeze announced earlier this week, will not help the local economy which has struggled in recent years due to the sequester, automatic cuts and limits to federal spending. The federal government is a critical part of the local economy and had helped recession-proof the Northern Virginia area, but more recently it has been a negative.

Kudos to U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) for speaking out against a foolish freeze on federal hiring. As the lone Republican representing Northern Virginia in Congress, her opposition is important.

"The federal budget cannot be balanced on the backs of our federal workforce. I don't support this type of across-the-board freeze and think it is better to look at priorities and areas where appropriate cuts can be made and where we can consolidate efforts or identify unnecessary costs that can be eliminated," Comstock wrote. "As the General Accounting Office has previously reported, past hiring freezes in both Republican and Democrat administrations have cost the federal government money in the long-run because of staffing problems, or problems in recruiting or disruption of key government operations and required services to the American people. We will be monitoring and highlighting the results of this freeze and how it is impacting the mission of various agencies."

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) identifies the freeze as one of many "anti-federal workforce policies" in the works.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Protesting Vote Suppression

To the Editor:

I am fed up with gerrymandering and other tactics politicians use to stack the votes in their favor! Gerrymandering distorts the electoral process, undermines democracy, and renders legislative elections a

meaningless exercise. I am a tax-paying citizen of Virginia, but my one vote does not count as one vote. Here in Virginia, state legislators redraw district lines, which means that the party in power of the State House and Senate can draw the lines to serve their own interests, not those of our communities. Since Virginia has been Republican controlled, that means that my Democratic vote has less value in my district than a Republican vote does in another district.

According to Governing.com, Virginia is ranked as one of the most gerrymandered states in the country (fifth worst!), both on the congressional and state levels

based on the lack of compactness and contiguity of its districts. Throughout the State, counties and cities are broken in half or into multiple pieces to create heavily partisan districts. Most of the "elections" in Virginia therefore result in no change in party because of these gerrymandered districts!

With Republicans in control of the Virginia House and Senate, the gerrymandering, not only suppresses Democrat votes, but has had a detrimental impact on persons of color causing distinct echoes of Jim Crow laws. Are we going to allow discriminatory disenfranchisement to proceed unchecked in our State? I urge all Virginians and Virginian Representatives to support changes to the Virginia constitution and enactment of laws that would strengthen voting rights, make voting easier and fairer, and eliminate unfair redistricting that politicians use to keep themselves in power.

Nancy Blethen
Springfield

"Past hiring freezes in both Republican and Democrat administrations have cost the federal government money in the long-run because of staffing problems, or problems in recruiting or disruption of key government operations and required services to the American people."

— U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-VA10)

"An across-the-board federal hiring freeze is a mindless way to manage. ... It fails to take into account the need to actually beef up certain capabilities in the federal government, like cybersecurity," Connolly said. "This Executive Order, coupled with many of other anti-federal workforce policies being proposed in Congress, will have a depressing effect on our ability to recruit and retain the next generation of federal workers."

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) calls it

scapegoating. "The number of federal workers is at its lowest level since the 1960s, and over 30 percent will be eligible to retire in the next year," Beyer said. "A report by the General Accounting Office (GAO) on previous federal hiring freezes stated such freezes are not an effective strategy for shrinking the size of the workforce, and only serve to disrupt agency operations and in the long-term increase the cost of government operations."

Bills to Watch in General Assembly

In no particular order, more to come next week:

- ❖ SB 1005 Community services boards and behavioral health authorities; services to be provided, in particular, access to same-day access to mental health screening services.
- ❖ SB 923 raises felony larceny threshold to \$500 (\$1,000 would have been better).
- ❖ SB 1379 that discourages universities from stockpiling cash, and instead lowers tuition for Virginia students and families.
- ❖ SB 931 removes the exemption for "working papers and correspondence" for university presidents.

❖ SB 1376, requires a 30-day notice from the Board of Visitors before tuition can be raised.

❖ SB 1102, records of closed investigations of unattended deaths were not exempt from the state Freedom of Information Act.

❖ SB 1442, requires the Department of Criminal Justice Services to identify an evidence-based, standardized instrument for mental health screening for anyone incarcerated in local, regional, and community correctional facilities.

❖ Various proposals for nonpartisan redistricting.

Area Residents Join March on Washington

One of the thousands of signs displayed at the Saturday's March on Washington, D.C. The Women's March on Washington turned out to be one of the largest demonstrations in the city's history, according to city officials, drawing more than 500,000 participants. The march was scheduled to follow on the heels of Friday's Inauguration of the 45th president, Donald Trump.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN LOVAAS



SCHOOL 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.

Tara Ackerman, graduate of Lake Braddock Secondary School and resident of Burke earned semester honors from Kansas State University in the fall semester of 2016. Students earning a grade point average of 3.75 or above on at least 12 credit hours receive semester honors along with commendations from their deans.

Meredith Elaine Shock, Burke, VA resident, has been named to the dean's list at James Madison University for the fall 2016 semester. Students who earn dean's list honors must carry at least 12 graded credit hours and earn a GPA of between 3.5 and 3.899. Shock is scheduled to graduate in 2017 and is majoring in writing, rhetoric & technical communication.

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

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

James Hua Lau a senior at Hampden-Sydney College, has been recognized as an outstanding campus leader in the 2016 edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*. James is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael N. Lau of Springfield, VA.

Forty-three students from Hampden-Sydney College were selected for this year's edition. Students are nominated by seniors, administrators, faculty, and coaches based on their academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities, and potential for continued success. They join a select group of students from more than 2000 institutions of higher learning in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and several foreign nations.

A private college for men, Hampden-Sydney is ranked nationally by *U.S. News & World Report*. The College is known for its liberal arts curriculum, the Honor Code which stresses individual and collective responsibility, and a focus on the education of young men.

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

Justin Luu of Fairfax made the President's List

Elisa Stephano of Burke made the President's List

Cristian Rice of McLean made the Dean's List

To be placed on the President's List, a student must have taken 12 college-level semester hours or more, attained a grade point average of 3.5 for any one semester, and earned a minimum of 20 semester hours at New River Community College. A Dean's List student is one who has taken 12 college-level semester hours of credit or more and attained a grade point average of 3.2 for any one semester. New River Community College is located in Dublin, Virginia and is one of the Commonwealth's 23 community colleges.

Honor Students from Fairfax at Baylor University in Waco, Texas

Ho Yeon Kim, College of Arts and Sciences

Vincent Lorenzo Rimanelli, College of Arts and Sciences

To be named to the Dean's List, a student must be an undergraduate with a minimum grade-point average of 3.7, while enrolled in a minimum of 12 semester hours.



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Mental Illness Takes Center Stage in Richmond

Death of Fairfax County inmate among recent controversies prompting action.

By MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

The death of a woman who struggled with mental illness at the Fairfax County jail is among the many recent controversies in Virginia correctional facilities, a reform effort that spans from changing how deaths behind bars are investigated to how law-enforcement officers interact with suspects who suffer from mental illness.



FAIRFAX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Deputies restrain Natasha McKenna at the Fairfax County Jail, where she was hit with a Taser stun gun four times while restrained. Her death led to questions about how deaths behind bars are investigated and how law-enforcement officers interact with people who suffer from mental illness.

"When you talk to pilots about planes crashing, they don't say it's any one thing that happens. It's a multitude of things," said Del. Patrick Hope (D-47). "And each piece of legislation that we have will have some sort of stop gap to make sure that it doesn't happen again."

Back in 2015, an African-American woman diagnosed with schizophrenia named Natasha McKenna died after being hit four times at the Fairfax jail with a Taser stun gun while she was restrained. The medical examiner eventually ruled that she died from "excited delirium," although critics say that's a designation created to protect law-enforcement officials.

More recently, an inmate at the Hampton Roads Regional Jail named Jamycheal Mitchell, who also had mental illness, died of starvation. His family was in Richmond last week lobbying lawmakers to take action now.

"We plead with legislators to ensure that changes are made in the

law to better protect young men like Jamycheal who suffer from mental illness," said Roxanne Adams, his aunt, during a press conference in Richmond last week. "We ask that real changes be implemented at Virginia jails to prevent another mentally ill young man like Jamycheal Mitchell from dying."

MENTAL-HEALTH REFORM is at the top of the agenda of lawmakers on both sides of the aisle yet again, prompted by the most recent cycle of tragedy and reform. But it's an old story, one that dates back to the deinstitutionalization of psychiatric hospitals decades ago. The last major round of reforms came after state Sen. Creigh Deeds (D-

25) was attacked by his son, who struggled with mental illness and died from suicide immediately after the attack on his father. Deeds sought help for his son on the day of the attack but was turned away.

Since that time, Deeds has been engaged in an ongoing effort to reform mental health services, including reshaping the community service boards that provide those services in the Commonwealth. "Because the changes are significant and costly, we have adopted a staged approach to implementation," said Deeds in a written statement. "The first step is to require same day access to service."

Democratic Gov. Terry McAuliffe put mental-health reform at the top of his agenda this year, mention-

"We've had a number of deaths over the last year and a half that we know about, and who knows if there are others in the past. This is too much, and many of it is preventable."

— Del. Patrick Hope (D-47)

ing it first in his list of priorities for the year. The governor's budget includes new funding to allow community services boards across the commonwealth to offer same-day service for people in the midst of a behavioral-health crisis. McAuliffe says that will allow them to serve Virginians rather than turning them away, as happened in the Deeds case.

"One result of our challenged mental health system is that too many individuals who suffer from behavioral health disorders wind up in jail, where there are not enough resources to properly care for them," said McAuliffe. "To solve that problem, I have proposed legislation and funding to expand mental health screenings in local

and regional jails."

THE INTERSECTION of law-enforcement officials and people who suffer from mental illness is a major theme of legislation this year. One of the changes that's already receiving agreement from both sides of the aisle examines how these deaths are investigated. A Republican senator from Chesapeake is pushing for the state Department of Corrections to investigate all deaths behind bars, which he says will provide some consistency to a haphazard system that varies greatly from urban areas to rural parts of the commonwealth.

"It's not trying to point fingers," said Sen. John Cosgrove (R-14). "It's just trying to find out what may have gone wrong. Was there negligence on anybody's part?"

Cosgrove's bill, which has bipartisan support, would require the Virginia Department of Corrections to investigate all deaths, write a written report and submit it to the General Assembly and the governor. That would apply for all deaths behind bars, which could clear up some of the confusion and ambiguity caused by investigations that happen behind closed doors and without accountability. The bill has received no opposition from sheriffs or police chiefs so far.

"There appeared to be an absence of responsibility and accountability for those reviews and investigations" said Brian Moran, secretary of Homeland Security and Public Safety. "So the governor has led with the Board of Cor-

rections. They have expertise currently. They have some relationship with jails."

ONE OF THE BILLS would replicate the concept of Fairfax County's Diversion First program at the state level, giving law-enforcement officials more discretion to help a suspect find help rather than locking them up behind bars. The bill, introduced by Hope, would give officers the ability to transport suspects to a crisis-stabilization unit in misdemeanor cases if the officer believes the suspect suffers from mental illness. That would include misdemeanor cases when victims want to press charges.

"This is a bipartisan effort, and I can't stress that point enough," said Hope. "We've had a number of deaths over the last year and a half that we know about, and who knows if there are others in the past. This is too much, and many of it is preventable."

Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31) has introduced a bill that would require mental health training for all correctional officers at Virginia jails. The idea is that they would be able to recognize the signs of mental illness — signs like Natasha McKenna biting Alexandria officers who responded to a call for service or Jamycheal Mitchell slowly starving behind bars after being incarcerated for stealing \$5 worth of snacks.

"Now is the opportunity for us to make our voices heard," said Favola. "It's sometimes so unfortunate we have to suffer a horrific tragedy to move the policy agenda forward."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Bonnie Brae residents Anna Kim, Jonah Kim, Samuel Kim, Gabriel Kim, Jacob Snawder and Bela Kekesi are members of the 4-H Club and a group called Salamander Savers. They traveled to Richmond to meet with (center) Del. David Bulova (D-37).

Residents Go to Richmond

With the Virginia General Assembly underway, many individuals and groups are traveling to the capital of the Commonwealth to lobby lawmakers.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Del. Tim Hugo (R-40) welcomed members of Girl Scouts of America Troop 797 to Richmond and introduced them on the floor of the House of Delegates.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Hayfield Secondary School students traveled to Richmond to talk with (center) Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30) about the VA STAR (Virginia Student Training and Refurbishment) program.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

IN SESSION

Nuclear Deterrence

Sen. **Chap Petersen** (D-34) called it the "nuclear option," an idea floated by Sen. **Richard Stuart** (R-38) that the city of Alexandria should lose all state funding unless it cleans up its sewage problem by 2020. Stuart and other lawmakers expressed frustrations that Alexandria continues to dump 13 million gallons of raw sewage into the Potomac River each year without a clear plan to fix the problem.

As it turns out, the nuclear option was a good negotiating point.

Behind the scenes, Sen. **Adam Ebbin** (D-30) worked with Stuart to craft a compromise — Alexandria agrees to clean up the mess by 2025 in exchange for state funding. Ebbin first announced the compromise to Connection Newspapers during a Facebook Live video.

"We will have an accelerated timetable," said Ebbin on Facebook Live. "But I expect no loss of state funds, which is super important to me, and I'm happy I was able to work that away."

Studying Internet Loans

The Wild West of internet loans may be getting a bit tamer, although lawmakers on both sides of the aisle say there's more they need to know about the growing trend. Over the course of the last week, members of the House and Senate both moved toward having state regulators take a look at internet companies that offer consumer finance loans over the internet. The move comes after charges that companies from across the globe and some companies affiliated with Indian tribes were evading Virginia law designed to protect consumers.

"There have been some questions raised by not the

companies that this intended to regulate but the companies who are already regulated," said Sen. **Scott Surovell** (D-30), who introduced the legislation on the Senate side. "The Bureau of Financial Institutions has indicated they'd like to take a deep dive into this and make some recommendations to us for next year."

Pro Publius

Letters to the editor are one of the most-read parts of every newspaper. That's just as true today as it was back in the summer of 1787, when newspapers were flooded with letters for and against ratification of the Constitution. Some of the letters in support were written under the pseudonym **Publius** became famous and are now known collectively as the Federalist Papers — a group of op-ed columns written by **Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay**.

This week, lawmakers in Richmond moved toward requiring that the Federalist Papers be taught in public schools. Del. **Tag Greason** (R-32) says he took a look at the Federalist Papers before he introduced the bill, and he says he sees some modern parallels.

"Today I would say it's more like maybe a document you might get from a lobbyist," said Greason. "I have this vision of Hamilton running around saying, 'Hey have you heard about this thing, the Constitution? Here let me explain it to you. Let me explain why I support it. Let me tell you why I support it.'"

Critics say public schools should also consider teaching articles written that were critical of the Constitution, which led to the creation of the first ten amendments, better known as the Bill of Rights.

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WINTER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

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

THURSDAY/JAN. 26

Lake Braddock Secondary School's production of Caroussel 7:30 p.m. 9200 Burke Lake Rd, Burke. This classic musical by Rodgers and Hammerstein was once named "the musical of the century" by Time magazine. Opening night is January 26 and the cast will have a dress rehearsal on Jan. 21st if you would like to get some photos of students in costumes. Cost: Tickets start at \$12 and are available from www.brownpapertickets.com.

FRIDAY/JAN. 27

Lake Braddock Secondary School's production of Caroussel 7:30 p.m. 9200 Burke Lake Rd, Burke.

SATURDAY/JAN. 28

Lake Braddock Secondary School's production of Caroussel shows at 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. 9200 Burke Lake Rd, Burke.

History Lecture on Parson Mason Locke Weems 1 - 2 p.m. at Pohick Episcopal Church 9301 Richmond Highway in Lorton, on U.S. Route 1 between Telegraph Road and Pohick Road. The staff of the Weems-Botts Museum in Dumfries will be giving a lecture on the colorful and controversial figure of Parson Mason Locke Weems. Weems served as temporary Minister at Pohick Church from about 1800 to 1817. He was the writer of the biography of George Washington that contains the famous "Cherry Tree Story." 703-928-8184 or dickhamly@aol.com www.pohick.org.

SUNDAY/JAN. 29

Lake Braddock Secondary School's production of Caroussel 3 p.m. 9200 Burke Lake Rd, Burke.

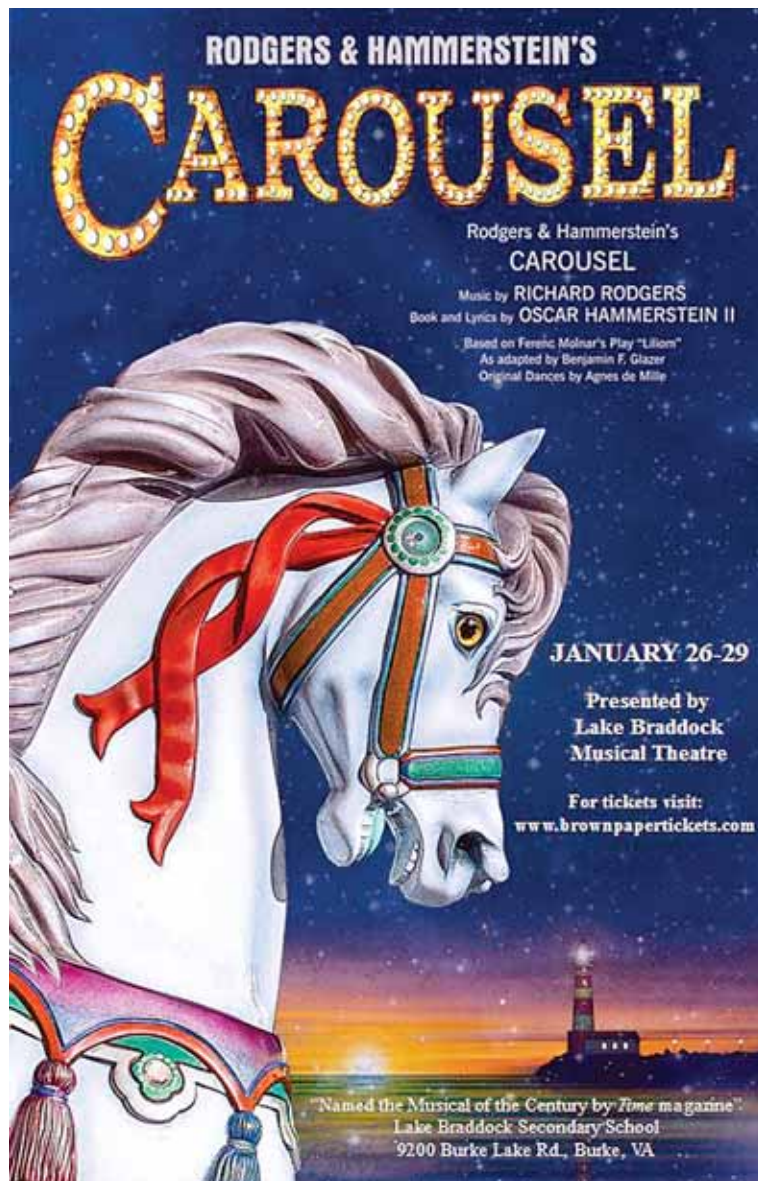
Virginia Dance Coalition Dance Festival 10 - 8 p.m. Ernst Cultural Center on the Northern Virginia Community College's Annandale Campus 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. The program includes three Master Classes (Ballet, Modern, and African) along with dancer wellness and career seminars. There are two performances - an Informal Showcase for emerging companies and artists, and a Gala Evening Performance for the professional and pre-professional groups. Registration info at www.VirginiaDanceCoalition.org 703-409-7988.

1898 Looting of Burke 4:30 - 6 Abiding Presence Lutheran Church 6304 Lee Chapel Rd, Burke. Cindy Bennett, BHS Treasurer, will speak on the 1898 looting of Burke by troops from Camp Alger during the Spanish-American War. Cost: Free. slawski_brian@yahoo.com www.burkehistoricalsociety.org

Concert by the Havenwood Trio 6 p.m. Calvary Hill Baptist Church, 9301 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. 703-323-1347.

TUESDAY/JAN.31

Writer Liane Kupferberg Carter at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia 7 p.m. 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. The insightful author will speak about her memoir, Ketchup is My Favorite Vegetable: A Family Grows Up with Autism, an unflinching portrait of



Lake Braddock Secondary School's production of Caroussel kicks off Thursday, Jan. 26 and will have showings through Sunday, Jan. 29. This classic musical by Rodgers and Hammerstein was once named "the musical of the century" by Time magazine. Tickets start at \$12 and are available from www.brownpapertickets.com.



Mystery at Workhouse

Jason Krage, featured in the mystery 'Solitary Confinement' at the Workhouse Arts Center, W-3 Theatre, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Performances: Through Feb. 12, 2017. Friday & Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$20 (students/seniors) - \$30 (general admission). Call 703-584-2900 or visit www.workhousearts.org

family life, and a look at what has really gone on in the two decades after her son's diagnosis. Tickets: \$11

General Admission, \$8 for JCCNV members, persons 65+ and under 30. Tickets are available at <http://bpt.me/2740223>.



There will be a LEGO Workshop for children ages 6 through 11 on Friday, Feb. 3 from 2 - 5 p.m. The workshop will take place at the Sherwood Community Center, located at 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Fee: \$30/day. Registration Forms are available in office or online at www.fairfaxva.gov/parksrec. parksrec@fairfaxva.gov 703-385-1695.

bpt.me/2740223. 703-323-0880 jccnv.org.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 1

Fairfax Pets on Wheels New Volunteer Orientation First Wednesday of each month. 7:30 - 9 p.m. 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. An orientation for new volunteers interested in visiting residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities with their approved pets through the Fairfax Pets On Wheels program is held the first Wednesday of every month starting at 7:30 p.m. Please check our website, www.fpow.org for each month's location. Prior to attending, please complete the online application found at <http://www.fpow.org/volunteer>. Please do NOT bring your pets to this orientation. Also, see weather policy for possible cancellations. www.fpow.org 703-324-5424.

A Sacred Walk 7:15 p.m. Sydenstricker United Methodist Church, 8508 Hoopes Rd., Springfield. 703-451-8223, sydenstrickerumc.org/sacred-walk Donna Authers will guide you through the pages of her book, A Sacred Walk. If you fear death or the dying process or you would like to know how best to provide practical, emotional, and spiritual support to a friend or loved one living with a life threatening illness, this evening and this book are for you. sydenstrickerumc.org/sacred-walk

FRIDAY/FEB. 3

Early Release LEGO Workshop 2 - 5 p.m. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Ages: 6 - 11. Spend your afternoon having a great time building and playing with thousands of specialty pieces and dozens of mini figures. Fee: \$30/day. Registration Forms are available in office or online at www.fairfaxva.gov/parksrec. parksrec@fairfaxva.gov 703-385-1695.

SATURDAY/FEB. 4

Make Your Own Valentines Table. American Cancer Society Crop/Craft: 9-5 p.m. with Fun Vendor Shop: 2-4. West Springfield High School Cafeteria (6100 Rolling Road, Springfield). Vendors: Stella & Dot, Mary Kay, Pampered Chef, Karinas Creations, Tupperware, Stampin' Up, LuLaRoe, Thirty-One Gifts, Creative Memories, Scentsy. All donations go to American Cancer Society. Call Leslie Carlin at 703.866.4962 or email fourcarlins@verizon.net for info.

ONGOING

Senior Line Dancing 1 - 2 p.m. Little River Glen Senior Center 4001 Barker Ct, Fairfax. Line Dancing is a gentle, social form of aerobic activity.

Studies have shown it aids in warding off Alzheimer's disease. No previous experience needed. Cost: \$5 per 8 week session. barbriba@hotmail.com 703-524-3739

Fairfax Pets on Wheels New Volunteer Orientation First Wednesday of each month. 7:30 - 9 p.m. 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. An orientation for new volunteers interested in visiting residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities with their approved pets through the Fairfax Pets On Wheels program is held the first Wednesday of every month starting at 7:30 p.m. Please check our website, www.fpow.org for each month's location. Prior to attending, please complete the online application found at <http://www.fpow.org/volunteer>. Please do NOT bring your pets to this orientation. Also, see weather policy for possible cancellations. www.fpow.org 703-324-5424.

dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov

Fairfax Rotary Club Meeting 12:15-1:30 p.m. Mondays. American Legion, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Meetings with luncheon and program. fairfaxrotary.org

Carolina Shag. Wednesdays. 6:30-10 p.m. Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m. No partners needed. Dinner menu. \$8. Under 21 free. nvshag.org.

FUN-Exercise Thursdays, noon - 12:50 p.m. Grace Presbyterian Church Family Room, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Inova certified exercise instructor leads a moderate level exercise class with music and current events conversation. Muscle, Balance, Strength Training using stretch bands and weights both standing and seated exercises. Instructor donation is \$5. mooreffitt@yahoo.com or 703-499-6133.

"Out of the Blue..." Art Show **Workhouse Arts Center** February 8 to March 8 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Building 9 Hours: Wednesday - Sunday 11 - 6 p.m. Part of the Workhouse Arts Center 2nd Saturday Artwalk. "Out of the Blue..." is the featured artist show of Karen Chin. Her collection of pieces are "Out of the Blue" unrelated topics and represent a collection of subject matter that has been accumulating on her art to-do list. The show includes a nod to the hearts, reds and pinks of February.

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

Cafe Ivrit (Hebrew Cafe). Wednesdays. 8:15-9:15 a.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Shalom

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

WINTER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

Dramatic, Suspenseful, Colorful

“The Magic Marksman” from Virginia Opera at Fairfax’s Center for the Arts.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Where and When

Virginia Opera presents “The Magic Marksman” at George Mason University, Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performances: Saturday, Feb. 4 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 5, 2017 at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$54-\$90-\$110. Call 888-945-2468 or visit: www.cfa.gmu.edu. Note: “Opera UpClose” 45 minutes before each performance; a “behind the scenes” discussion with Dr. Glenn Winters. Sponsored by Friends of the Center for the Arts.

“It’s a suspenseful thriller, with passionate romance and the struggle between good and evil.” That is how Adam Turner, principal conductor, Virginia Opera, described “The Magic Marksman,” the Opera’s next offering at the Center for the Arts.

“It’s basically a story of “boy loves girl, girl loves boy, but boy must win shooting competition to win the girl, but because of his recent bad luck he decides to bargain with the Devil, in exchange for a perfect shot...” Turner added.

With a haunting score by Carl Maria von Weber, the “The Magic Marksman” (Der Freischütz) is “a highly entertaining opera, full of spooky, suspenseful, supernatural elements, with the central theme of a man’s passionate struggle,” said Turner. “It has a ‘Legend of Sleepy Hollow’-like mood to it.”

The von Weber’s score is dramatic, suspenseful, and colorful. “Our audiences will be chilled to the bone by Weber’s unique orchestration.” Weber paved the way for composers of the European Romantic Era.

To make the opera even more accessible to audience members, the opera will be sung in English. The Virginia Opera commissioned a new English translation courtesy of “The Magic Marksman” director Stephen Lawless and writing partner Dan Dooner. “It has a stylistic approach mirroring that of 19th-century American author Washington Irving.” said Turner.

The Center for the Arts pre-show “Opera UpClose” discussion will be

once again led by Dr. Glenn Winters. “I tailor my discussions to illustrate that opera composers can employ all the same literary devices used by novelists: point of view, foreshadowing, symbolism and so forth. I also enjoy pointing out how operatic music can reveal psychology of the characters or serve as a mirror of the society and era in which it was created.”

Winters noted that in its own way “The Magic Marksman” could be seen as the great-grandfather of “Star Wars Episode IV: The Empire Strikes Back” with Luke Skywalker, Yoda



Corey Bix and Joseph Barron featured in Virginia Opera’s “The Magic Marksman.”



Corey Bix appearing in Virginia Opera’s “The Magic Marksman.”



Kara Shay Thomson appearing in Virginia Opera’s “The Magic Marksman.”

Performers featured in “The Magic Marksman” include Corey Bix, seen in last year’s Virginia Opera production of another supernatural thriller, “The Flying Dutchman” and dramatic soprano Kara Shay Thomson, who will make her Virginia Opera debut joining opera favorites Katherine Polit and Jake Gardner.

“The Magic Marksman” may be a less well known opera, but Turner made clear that with its reality twists, forays into the supernatural and lush dramatic music, it will mesmerize.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

(hello) Did you always want to converse in Hebrew? Join Na’ama each week for conversational Hebrew. You will learn and practice Hebrew in a fun and interactive way while learning more about Israel. Free, however we ask that you try to attend regularly. RSVP Naama.Gold@jccnv.org.

Smoke Free Bingo (with breaks for smoking friends). 7 p.m. Every Friday. Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Free coffee, entertaining callers, \$1,000 jackpot. www.fairfaxvd.com. 703-273-3638.

NARFE Monthly Meeting Every Second Tuesday 11:30 a.m. American Legion Post 177 located at 3939 Oak Street, Fairfax. NARFE Fairfax 737 monthly luncheon meeting. Enjoy lunch accompanied by a special program. Lunch at noon. Cost: \$11 Speaker/Program-12:45PM. rrharney2@cox.net 703-501-0020

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

First Sunday Jazz Brunch 11 - 2 p.m. Recurring monthly on the 1st Sunday at Bazin’s on Church 111 Church St N.W., Vienna. Enjoy brunch accompanied by the soft jazz sounds of Virginia Music Adventure. Visit: <http://www.fxva.com/listing/bazins-on-church/1686/>

Stories From Strawberry Park 10 - 11 a.m. Tuesdays in Mosaic - Strawberry Park 2910 District

Avenue, Fairfax. Enjoy a live interactive performance each week taught by a group of unique storytellers. For ages 10 and under. Held outside in Strawberry Park. In inclement weather and October through April, storytime will be held in Angelika Film Center. Recurring weekly on Tuesday. Visit: <http://www.fxva.com/listing/mosaic-district/2326/>

Plan Ahead Events BFLS

MONDAY/FEB. 13

GMU Visiting Filmmakers Series: 13th with cinematographer Hans Charles 4:30 p.m. Johnson Center Cinema 4400 University Dr, Fairfax. sponsored by Film and Media Studies, Film and Video Studies, African and African American Studies, Women and Gender Studies, BSA, DKA, and University Life. 703-993-2768 <http://www.fxva.com/event/>

SATURDAY/FEB. 18

Valentine’s Day Banquet. Greater Zion Baptist Church will host Family Ministry 2017 Valentine’s Day Banquet, 6:30—11 p.m. at Waterford Receptions at Springfield, 6715 Commerce Street in Springfield. Cost: \$50 per person. Contacts: Anthony and Terri Bazemore @GLZBC (703-764-9111); abazemore6@verizon.net; terrib6@verizon.net Special features: Dinner Buffet, Music & Dancing. Payment deadline: Feb. 12.

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NEWS

Inova staff members gather with Anna (center left) and Sadie Lauer (center right) outside The Woods community center in Burke, after completing the sixth annual Friends of Sadie Blood Drive in 2015.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMY DOZIER

Friends of Sadie Blood Drive Returns Feb. 12.

The eighth annual Friends of Sadie Blood Drive is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 12 from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

In early 2010, friends of the Lauer family in Burke first organized a blood drive for Sadie Lauer who was three months old at the time. Sadie had been diagnosed with neuroblastoma and underwent several surgeries to remove a cancerous mass in her neck. The procedures required quite a bit of replacement blood, inspiring the friends to act and reach out to the community for help.

The first drive was so successful, an annual drive in Sadie's honor was established. Sadie is alive and in remission.

"Friends of Sadie" organizers hope to continue raising awareness of childhood cancer, as well as supplying Inova Blood Donor Services with much-needed blood.

The drive will take place at the Woods Community Center in Burke, 10100 Wards Grove Circle. A photo ID is required to donate. Donors should allow one hour for the process.

There will be free childcare and activities offered, as well as a bake sale with all proceeds going to The Truth 365. For more information, contact INOVA at 1-866-256-6372, sponsor code 7637, or visit www.friendsofsadie.org.

—TIM PETERSON



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

iBOT Brainiacs, a team of students from Lorton Station Elementary and South County Middle Schools, beat 108 of Virginia and Washington, D.C.'s best teams to earn a bid to the World Festival in St. Louis, Mo

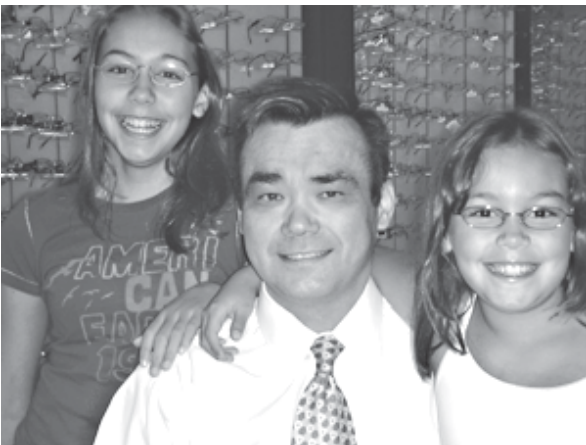
Lorton Area iBOT Brainiacs Go to World Festival

Lorton area First Lego League (FLL) team known as the iBOT Brainiacs, a team of students from Lorton Station Elementary and South County Middle Schools, coached by Carey Hancey-Shier, won top honors at the FLL Robotics State Tournament held at James Madison University. Team members Bryson Shier, Shreyas Mayya, Jay Rajurkar, Arjun Kumar, and Baylor Shier competed in the two-day event. On the first day of competition, entries were judged in the following categories: Robot Design, Project So-

lution, and Core Values. The second day of competition included participation in the Robot Game, which involved programming their robot to do more than ten missions in two and a half minutes. This team beat 108 of Virginia and Washington, D.C.'s best teams from all the regional tournaments to earn a bid to the World Festival in St. Louis, Mo. At the World Festival, which will occur in April, the iBOT Brainiacs will compete against champions from all the states as well as from 82 other countries.

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SPORTS

Lake Braddock's Atkins Selected Virginia Player of the Year

Atkins starts classes, football practice at University of Virginia.

On Dec. 12, 2016, Lake Braddock Secondary School's former star football player, Lamont Atkins, was announced as the 2016-2017 Gatorade Virginia Player of the Year. The Gatorade Company selects one winner from each state based on athletic excellence, academic achievement, and exemplary character. Atkins was given the opportunity, through Gatorade's Play it Forward program, to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a \$1,000 donation. After playing multiple sports as a youth in the Springfield South County Youth Club, he decided to pay it forward by giving the \$1,000 donation to the Springfield South County Youth Club.

After graduating from Lake

Braddock early, Lamont Atkins enrolled at the University of Virginia as a mid-term enrollee and started classes and football practice on Jan. 18, 2017. A standout in multiple sports, he left Lake Braddock as the all-time leading rusher with 3,656 rushing yards and 56 touchdowns. In addition to the Gatorade Virginia Player of the Year award, Atkins was selected to the Washington Post's All-Met Team, and the Virginia High School League's 6A All-State Team both as a running back and a linebacker. A standout on both sides of the football, he was recognized as the 6A Patriot All-Conference Offensive and Defensive Player of the Year. Most recently, Atkins was selected for induction into the Northern Virginia Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony is scheduled for March 5, 2017.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Lamont Atkins, Lake Braddock Secondary School's former star football player, was announced as the 2016-2017 Gatorade Virginia Player of the Year.

SCHOOL 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.

Tara Ackerman, graduate of Lake Braddock Secondary School and resident of Burke earned semester honors from Kansas State University in the fall semester of 2016. Students earning a grade point average of 3.75 or above on at least 12 credit hours receive semester honors along with commendations from their deans.

Meredith Elaine Shock, Burke, VA resident, has been named to the dean's list at James Madison University for the fall 2016 semester. Students who earn dean's list honors must carry at least 12 graded credit hours and earn a GPA of between 3.5 and 3.899. Shock is scheduled to graduate in 2017 and is majoring in writing, rhetoric & technical communication.

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

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

James Hua Lau a senior at Hampden-Sydney College, has been recognized as an outstanding campus leader in the 2016 edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*. James is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael N. Lau of Springfield, VA.

Fourty-three students from Hampden-Sydney College were selected for this year's edition. Students are nominated by seniors, administrators, faculty, and coaches based on their academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities, and potential for continued success. They join a select group of students from more than 2000 institutions of higher learning in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and several foreign nations.

A private college for men, Hampden-Sydney is ranked nationally by *U.S. News & World Report*. The College is known for its liberal arts curriculum, the Honor Code which stresses individual and collective responsibility, and a focus on the education of young men.

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

Justin Luu of Fairfax made the President's List

Elisa Stephano of Burke made the President's List

Cristian Rice of McLean made the Dean's List

To be placed on the President's List, a student must have taken 12 college-level semester hours or more, attained a grade point average of 3.5 for any one semester, and earned a minimum of 20 semester hours at New River Community College. A Dean's List student is one who has taken 12 college-level semester hours of credit or more and attained a grade point average of 3.2 for any one semester. New River Community College is located in Dublin, Virginia and is one of the Commonwealth's 23 community colleges.

Honor Students from Fairfax at

Baylor University in Waco, Texas
Ho Yeon Kim, College of Arts and Sciences

Vincent Lorenzo Rimanelli, College of Arts and Sciences

To be named to the Dean's List, a student must be an undergraduate with a minimum grade-point average of 3.7, while enrolled in a minimum of 12 semester hours.

Brescia University, Owensboro, KY
2016 Fall Academic Dean's List:

Yo'Lauder Holt of Springfield majoring in Social Work

Katherine Hough, Fairfax Station, has been awarded the Boeing Scholarship for outstanding academic achievement in the Volgenau School of Engineering at George Mason University.

Vocal musicians from 12 Fairfax County public schools have been named to the Virginia Honors Choir for 2016. This select choir is open only to the top 125 singers from around the Commonwealth of Virginia, and is the highest honor a choir student can attain during his or her high school career. Thirty-one Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students were selected for the choir, and five students were named as alternates. The choir will perform at the Virginia Music Educators Association (VMEA) convention to be held at the Omni Homestead Resort in Hot Springs, Nov. 17-19. FCPS students named to the 2016 Virginia Honors Choir include the following students from our area schools: **Woodson High School:** Megan Humes, Caroline Grass, Jacob Lamb, Lucas Valdes, and Marc Manaloto and **Hayfield Secondary School:** Jessica Pressley.

Dentist Corner

with Evelyn Samuel, DMD

Q. What are sealants?

A. Sealants are clear or white plastic material placed on the chewing surfaces of permanent back teeth. The posterior teeth have deep grooves in them which may be difficult to clean. After eating, plaque and food may settle in the grooves. The bacteria in the plaque cause acids which break down the enamel and may result in cavities. Sealants seal the grooves. A conditioning gel (etchant) is used on the teeth, the sealant is brushed on, and a light hardens the material. Anesthesia is usually not necessary for the application process. Children should receive sealants upon eruption of their permanent molars (around age 6 and 12 years). The sealants may last several years, but over time may need to be replaced. Sealants are an effective measure in the prevention of dental decay. Have a dental question? Email your question to info@drevelynsteaguesamuel.com for a chance to have your question posted and answered in The Dentist's Corner.

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November 8, 2016

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Lead Agency: Department of Army

Title of Proposed Action: Supplemental Environmental Assessment of Communications Line Extension, Davison Army Airfield, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Affected Jurisdiction: Fort Belvoir, Virginia

Prepared By: Directorate of Public Works, Fort Belvoir, Virginia

Approved By: Colonel Angie K. Holbrook, Commander, Fort Belvoir, Virginia

Abstract: This Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) documents potential impacts to the physical, biological and human environments associated with the extension of a new underground communications line from the main garrison area of Fort Belvoir to Davison Army Airfield (DAAF). The proposed ductbank is required to provide enhanced voice and data telecommunications connectivity to DAAF from the existing communications network within Fort Belvoir. After evaluating communications network needs at DAAF, Fort Belvoir network personnel identified a single viable alternative, extending the ductbank along the Poe Road corridor (Proposed Action). This Poe Road Alternative was selected based upon the location and availability of existing network infrastructure connection hubs at either end of the alignment and required communication system diversity needs. The No Action Alternative was evaluated to provide a baseline for evaluating impacts of the Proposed Action. None of the impacts associated with the Proposed Action are considered significant. As a result, it is anticipated that preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) will be published in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Review Period: Interested parties are invited to review and comment on the EA and draft FNSI during a 30 day period. Please submit any comments to Commander, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir, Attention: Directorate of Public Works, Building 1442, 9430 Jackson Loop, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5116 or email your comments to: usarmy.belvoir.imcom-atlantic.mbx.enrd@mail.mil.

The EA and draft FNSI were available for review on the internet at: http://www.belvoir.army.mil/envirodocssection2.asp. Documents were also provided for public review at the following libraries for a period of 30 days:

Fairfax County Library
Lorton Branch
9520 Richmond Highway
Lorton, VA 22079-2124

Fairfax County Library
Sherwood Regional Branch
2501 Sherwood Hall Lane
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Kingstowne Branch
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The exploits of Col John Mosby are being recounted in a 3-week course.

BY DAVE RYAN
OLLI OUTREACH DIRECTOR

Many Northern Virginians probably think of guerilla fighting as a relatively modern phenomenon, exemplified by the fighting units of the Viet Cong in Vietnam and Fidel Castro in the Sierra Maestra Mountains as he sought to overthrow the Batista regime in Cuba. Yet over 150 years ago, right here in our own backyard, Colonel John Singleton Mosby, a Confederate army cavalry battalion commander nicknamed the "Gray Ghost," used similar guerrilla tactics to terrorize the Union Army stationed in Northern Virginia.

The exploits of Col Mosby are being recounted by CIA veteran Patrick Diehl in a 3-week course beginning Jan. 25 at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at George Mason University.

From 1863-65, Mosby led a small (usually 150-200 men) but daring group of cavalry that operated behind Union lines in Fairfax, Prince William, Loudoun, and Fauquier counties, as well as areas around the Shenandoah Valley. Loudoun and Fauquier counties, in fact, known as "Mosby's Confederacy" because it was so risky for Union soldiers to travel there.

Mosby's "Rangers" struck isolated Union detachments without warning, and usually captured most of the men and their horses. Then the Rangers would seemingly vanish into the countryside, not to be found by pursuing Union forces. The secret to this

BULLETIN BOARD

SATURDAY/FEB. 11

Town Hall Meeting. Del. David Bulova (D-37) and Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) will hold a town hall meeting, from 9-11 a.m., at Fairfax City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St. in Fairfax. All are welcome to attend, hear about their legislative agenda, ask questions and share concerns.

FEB. 11 - 12, FEB. 18-19, AND FEB. 26

Loudoun Freedom Girls Basketball Tryouts
Tryouts to form girls' teams from 2nd grade through 11th grade for the 2017 season will be held the weekends of Feb. 11 - 12, Feb. 18-19, and Feb. 26. If you are interested in your daughter playing at a higher competitive level and developing into a great player, consider trying out. See www.loudounfreedom.com for the full schedule, how to register Contact loudounfreedomball@gmail.com

ONGOING

Fairfax-based non-profit Britepaths offers free Financial Education Classes Sessions at various locations in the Fairfax County area to low- and middle-income adults who reside throughout Northern Virginia. The offerings are free and open to the public, but reservations are required. <https://britepaths.org/news/get-financially-fit-new-year>



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Mosby and men on Fairfax Courthouse Raid, 9 March 1863.



PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN

John Singleton Mosby.

successful disappearing act was Mosby's recognition of guerrilla warfare principles, a perception almost unique in the Civil War era. The most important principle being that sympathetic civilians in Loudoun and Fauquier counties housed and fed Mosby's men on their farmsteads. Thus the Rangers became virtually indistinguishable from the locals, and the Union soldiers never really knew whom to take into custody.

Other Mosby innovations covered in the course include: (1) Relying on revolvers in combat instead of the traditional cavalry saber; and (2) Setting up a network of long range scouting parties along the Shenandoah River and the Potomac River in Fairfax, providing Mosby with early warning of Union troop movements.

The course also highlights some of Mosby's most celebrated attacks. These include the nighttime capture of a Union general and other officers at Fairfax Court House in 1863. Then there was the famous Wagon Train raid at Berryville, Virginia in 1864 when the Rangers captured and destroyed over 200 wagons supplying the divisions of Union General Philip Sheridan.



PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN

John S. Mosby.

Or how about the Great Train Robbery outside of Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, when Mosby captured Sheridan's payroll of \$176,000.

Mosby also provided excellent intelligence to Robert E. Lee and Jeb Stuart on Union troop movements heading south to Richmond. Mosby was regarded as the finest scouting source for Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.

Mosby's activities were a serious thorn in the side of the Union authorities trying to control the Northern Virginia counties. At one point there were 10 Union regiments pursuing him, and there were approximately 60 military engagements from 1863-64. The Rangers suffered a total of 85 killed in action and 200 prisoners at war's end. By contrast, historians generally estimate Union losses at around 2900 killed, wounded and captured and a total of 3500 horses and mules stolen.

OLLI provides first-rate educational, social, and cultural opportunities for citizens of Northern Virginia. More information about its program and events can be found at olli.gmu.edu

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

"Thrifty Thursdays" Basic Budgeting Classes in Annandale, Chantilly and Alexandria 7-9 p.m. Heritage Building 7611 Little River Turnpike, East Wing 1st Floor Conference Room D Annandale. Thursday, January 19, 2017 & Thursday, April 20, 2017.

South County Government Center 7-9 p.m. 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Thursday, February 16, 2017 (Room 220) & Thursday, May 18, 2017 (Room 220) Chantilly High School 7-9 p.m. 4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Thursday, March 16, 2017 (Room 253) & Thursday, June 15, 2017 (Room 253) For All Sessions, RSVP to: Carole Rogers at crogers@britepaths.org or 703-273-8829 Register Now for Free Parenting Classes — Sessions Begin Jan. 23, 2017

The Fairfax County Department of Family Services' Parenting Education Programs is enrolling families for several upcoming parenting classes. These programs are special in that both parents and children attend the classes together but are taught in separate classrooms. Classes are free for Fairfax County residents. Depending on the curriculum, classes meet once a week from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. for 12, 13, 18, or 24 weeks. Free childcare and dinner are provided each night. There are a variety of classes available throughout the year, but the following three

- classes will start this month:
- ♦ January 23, 2017 through June 26, 2017 – Ages 0 to 4 – Curriculum taught in Spanish. Mondays, 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Main Street Development Center in Fairfax.
 - ♦ January 23, 2017 through May 1, 2017 – Ages 5 to 11 – Curriculum taught in English. Mondays, 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Fairfax Church of Christ.
 - ♦ January 31, 2017 through May 9, 2017 – Ages 5 to 11 – Curriculum taught in Spanish. Tuesdays, 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Springfield.
- Registration is required, so please register as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Raiza Barraza by phone at (703) 324-7745, or by email at raycelly.barraza@fairfaxcounty.gov. You may also contact Natalie Bailey by phone at (703) 324-3617 or via email at natalie.bailey@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Reminder Crime Prevention – Please contact the Fairfax County Police Department at 703-691-2131 (non-emergency) to report ANY suspicious activity, no matter how small or insignificant it may seem at the time. It is better if police reports can be called in while the suspicious activity is in progress to the extent possible.



More than 100 Fairfax County Police officers were part of the security detail as Donald Trump is sworn in Jan. 20 as 45th president of the United States.



PHOTOS BY MARK MOGLE/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County police officers, in foreground, provide security to President Donald Trump's limousine as it makes its way through the streets of Washington during the Inauguration Day parade Jan. 20. More than 3,000 officers from across the country were sworn in to assist with Inauguration activities, including 105 officers from the Fairfax County Police Department.

Inauguration Day

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE CONNECTION

Local officers provide security for inaugural events.

More than 100 officers from the Fairfax County Police Department assisted in security during Inauguration Day activities Jan. 20 in Washington, D.C. as Donald Trump was sworn in as 45th Presi-

dent of the United States. The 105 FPD officers were among the more than 3,000 local law enforcement officials sworn in to help with security

throughout the day. FPD officers began arriving in DC around 2:30 a.m. and worked throughout the day, ending their shift around 10 p.m. that night.

"Although it was a long day, we are proud of the exemplary professionalism displayed by each one of them," posted the FPD on its Facebook page.



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