

Sophomore Megha Kalyan called her project, "Toot that Flute," at the Centreville High Science Fair.

Chantilly CONNECTION

Fair Oaks ♦ Fair Lakes

Fun with Science

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'A Way for Something Good' Emotional beginning for Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

While several other members of the recently created Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission stated their general intent to listen and learn and help, Salvatore Culosi had a more specific request.

"My son would still be alive today," Culosi said, "but for 2006 Fairfax County policies to routinely use SWAT and aggressive procedures against citizens certified to be low risk."

Culosi's son Dr. Salvatore "Sal" Culosi Jr. was killed by a Fairfax County Police officer Jan. 24, 2006 outside his Fair Oaks townhouse. Culosi Sr. told other members of the commission that he was told by then-Fairfax County Police Chief and current deputy county executive David M. Rohrer that use of force policy changes had been made since his son's shooting. But Rohrer declined to give him copies of the changes or tell him exactly what changes were made.

During his introduction at the commission's first meeting on March 23 at the Fairfax County Government Center, Culosi said he has yet to receive a list of the changes. But, he said, the members of the commission, created by Board of Supervi-

sors Chairman Sharon Bulova and endorsed by the rest of the board, should have that list as they proceed with developing recommendations for further policy changes.

"I want to assuage the public this commission is not a political cover," Culosi said.

Bulova later responded that the information Culosi referred to would be provided to the commission.

With more than 35 members, comprised of citizens, legal experts, academics and representatives from the media and law enforcement, the commission is approaching the size of the Virginia Senate, which has 40. Bulova compared the "not too large" size to previous commissions created to review redistricting and a meals tax.

While members repeatedly commented on the "diversity" of the commission in terms of experience and expertise, Great Falls resident Jerry Santos was critical of other imbalances. "The optics are bad," he said, observing that of the 30-plus members, less than a third are female and the majority are middle-aged Caucasian men. "I'm the only Hispanic in the room," he said. "It's outrageous, them throwing out the word diversity."

The commission was created amid a swell of media and public attention to the case of John Geer, a Springfield man who was shot dead by Fairfax County Police Officer Adam



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission held its first meeting March 23 at the county government center.

Torres on Aug. 29, 2013. Details of the shooting, including the name of the officer, were kept hidden from the public and the Geer family, until Jan. 30, 2015.

The commission, Bulova reiterated, was set up to review the police department's policies for use of force and release of information compared with best practices in other jurisdictions, and to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for potential changes.

"We are not investigators," Bulova reminded the commission members. But hopefully, she said, "this is a way for something good to come out of something tragic."

Jeff Stewart, a close friend of Geer's who witnessed the shooting and said he was contacted by Bulova for the commission at the beginning of the selection process, said he is hoping for a "positive and constructive" process. Stewart added he would "like to see independent oversight" of the police department by citizens "at the very least. I hope that can come about in a timely manner."

Bulova set a deadline for handing over recommendations for policy changes to the Board of Supervisors by Oct. 1 of this year. "We have a lot of work in front of us," said commission chairman Michael Hershman.

In response to Culosi's comment that the commission might be some kind of cover in light of upcoming elections in Fairfax County, Hershman said, "There will be no obstacles placed in our way by the county.

I've been assured of that."

Hershman explained the commission would designate themed subcommittees to tackle its review mission, focusing on the use of force, communication and cooperation policies, recruitment and vetting of officers and the Crisis Intervention Team. Chairs of the subcommittees will have the authority to appoint additional citizens to be part of those groups, and their meetings will also be open to the public.

The next public meeting of the commission will be April 27 in rooms 9 and 10 of the Fairfax County Government Center, beginning at 7:30, and is open to the public. The April meeting will be "foundational" with regards to establishing the subcommittees and their objectives, and answering the question "Why we've found ourselves in this position."

Commission member Lt. Col. Tom Ryan, deputy chief of police for police administration, said, "Our organization is a learning organization. There's still room to be better and learn where we've gone wrong. I come here with an open mind."

For more information on the commission and to find a full list of commissioners and meeting schedule, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission. Questions for the commission chair Michael Hershman or requests to be involved with the work of the subcommittees can be directed through Bulova's office, by calling 703-324-2321 (TTY 711) or emailing chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov.



Commission members Sal Culosi (left), father of Dr. Salvatore "Sal" Culosi Jr., who was killed by a Fairfax County Police officer, and Nicholas Beltrante (right), executive director of the Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability attend the first meeting of the Fairfax County Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission.



Commission chair Michael Hershman, right, Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova and former Commonwealth's Attorney Robert Horan.



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To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Connection will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to:

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Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable.

ROUNDUPS

Discussing Immigration Plan

The Centreville Immigration Forum is presenting an informational session on the President's deferred action plan for families (DAPA) and for students (DACA), on Thursday, March 26, 6:30-9 p.m., at the Centreville Regional Library. Attorneys from the Virginia Legal Aid Justice Center will present the facts on these programs, and everyone is welcome. The program will be in Spanish and English.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, March 26, from 5 - 8:30 p.m., at the station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. No appointment is necessary. But residents should install the child safety seats themselves so technicians may properly inspect and adjust them, as needed.

Because of time constraints, only the first 35 vehicles arriving on each date will be inspected. That way, inspectors may have enough time to properly instruct the caregiver on the correct use of the child seat. (The inspection may be cancelled in the event of inclement weather). Call 703-814-7000, ext. 5140, to confirm dates and times.

CAC Drug Meeting for Adults

The Sully District Police Station and the Citizens Advisory Committee will host an adults-only look into organized crime and narcotics. It's set for Wednesday, April 8, from 7:30-9 p.m., at the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Gain insight into how drugs are acquired, manufactured, concealed and sold. Learn about drugs in Fairfax County and what police are doing to prevent them. RSVP to Tara.Gerhard@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Learn about Police Department

Throughout the year, the Fairfax County Police Department will host a series of lectures as part of its 75th anniversary.

- ♦ April 20 – Public Safety Communications – Call taking, Dispatching, and Technology, 2 p.m. at MPSTOC community room <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/public-safety-communications-call-taking-dispatching-and-technology-tickets-15373766349>

- ♦ May 22 – The Police Canine (K-9) Team, 1 p.m. at OSB <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-fcpd-canine-k-9-team-tickets-15373824523>

- ♦ May 25 - The Development of the FCPD Badge, noon at the Massey Building A Level small conference room <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-development-of-the-fcpd-badge-tickets-15373875676>

Food Donations For WFCM

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' food pantry needs donations of canned fruit (all types), fruit juices, cooking oil, sugar, canned meats (tuna, chicken), hot cereals, pasta sauce, flour, canned or dry beans, and small bottles dish soap. Also needed are toiletries, which WFCM clients cannot purchase with food stamps. Especially needed are shampoo and solid deodorant.

Bring all items to WFCM'S food pantry, weekdays, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at 13888 Metrotech Drive, near Papa John's Pizza and Kumon Learning Center, in Chantilly's Sully Place Shopping Center. A volunteer stocker/bagger is needed Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m. Contact Annette Bosley at 703-988-9656, ext. 110, or abosley@wfcma.org.

How to Hire CLRC Workers

The Centreville Labor Resource Center (CLRC) serves businesses and homeowners needing help with just about any home

SEE ROUNDUPS, PAGE 8

NEWS

A Safety Snapshot of Area

Residents receive statistics and information at "State of the Station" meeting.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Residents at a recent meeting of the Sully District Police Station and its Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) learned about crime and policing efforts in the Sully District. They also received information about last year's crime trends and the ways local police here are serving the community.

To start, Crime Prevention Specialist Tara Gerhard listed some of the crime-prevention initiatives the station held during 2014. They included Lock It or Lose It, in which officers tried door handles and discovered 14 percent of vehicles in Centreville's Union Mill Community were unlocked. They left notes inside these vehicles, advising their owners to lock them.

The station also did car VIN-number etching, Refuse to be a Victim and Senior Safety seminars, Neighborhood Watch training and a Realtor-safety presentation. In addition, it hosted CAC meetings and displayed a special police car covered with safety and DUI-prevention messages.

Community outreach efforts featured Scout safety talks, a Safetypalooza, Eagle Scout projects, visits to daycare centers and preschools, child car seat checks, properly fitting senior citizens in their cars and a food drive for local needy families. Officers also did a bike rodeo for children, participated in National Night Out and put on a Touch-a-Truck event attracting nearly 3,000 people.

Lt. Tim Burgess supervises the station's six-person Traffic Safety unit. "We ramped up our traffic-enforcement efforts, especially the DWI/alcohol checkpoints," he said. "We arrested eight people in June [2014] for DWI, four in August and one in December."

The station also collaborates with Fairfax County's United Prevention Coalition. "They make coasters encouraging people not to drive and drive," said Burgess. "And we handed out hundreds of them to restaurants serving alcohol."

Furthermore, he said, "This station made 247 DUI arrests between June 2013 and June 2014. And [police] cadets under 21 made alcohol stings, trying to buy alcohol, and officers arrested [the sellers]. So by doing education, enforcement and prevention, we diversified our efforts."

Police also put up sign boards saying "Watch out for pedestrians in crosswalk" and "Drive like you want your teen to drive." And they partnered with Wal-Mart, NOVA and local Boy Scouts to provide bike helmets to children and promote bicycle safety.

"This past summer, we had lots of complaints about [the lack of] crosswalks in Virginia Run — especially in the pool area," said



Lt. Tim Burgess focuses on traffic safety in the local area.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Burgess. "So we put up big, orange sign boards to prevent fatalities, issued summonses and educated people about stopping for pedestrians."

Regarding trail safety, he said police will put bike patrols on trails this year to prevent criminal activity in parks and other recreational areas. He also noted an increased effort to slow down drivers in residential neighborhoods via radar trailers and sign boards. And he said police will introduce a new program to help communities control their traffic, plus the parking of boats, trailers and commercial trucks.

"Our main focus isn't just catching the bad guys, but also engaging the community and

providing solutions to problems," said Capt. Bob Blakley, the station commander. He then presented a Sully District 2014 crime overview.

The report wasn't yet finished, he said, but he was able to give some preliminary statistics. Last year's calls for service totaled 79,000. "That's up 7 percent, but we're down the number of officers we have," said Blakley. "We're one of the slowest districts in the county; the Fair Oaks District had 106,000 calls for service."

The Sully District Station has 140 people, including 10 auxiliary officers. Of the 107 sworn police officers, some 90 are road officers. And when it comes to crashes, Sully had 1,297 – the county's third-largest amount with damage in excess of \$1,500 and/or with injuries.

"That's because the Sully District has some major roadways," said Blakley. "In 2012, we had three accidents with fatalities, four in 2013 and two in 2014 – at Route 29 and Trinity Centre, and at the Fairfax County Parkway and the ramp to Braddock Road. We average about 30 in the county." He also noted that Sully's number of alcohol-related crashes decreased 28 percent in the last three years.

Sully officers wrote 6,275 incident reports – the least of all the stations. "Mount Vernon, the busiest station, wrote 10,000," said Blakley. "But it has more staffing in a smaller area than we do."

"We made 3,809 arrests and are in the middle of the stations in this number," he continued. "In Sully, there was a 9.2-percent increase in 'Group A' offenses – arson, assault, drug, homicide and embezzlement. We also saw offenses involving BB guns, destruction of property and larceny – especially in thefts of auto parts [and other items] from unlocked cars. The county as a whole had a 2.5-increase [in major crimes]."

Blakley said counterfeiting and forgery cases are slightly up, and financial and computer crimes are especially on the rise in Fairfax County. "The police are working

SEE STATE, PAGE 8



Capt. Bob Blakley is the Sully District Station commander.

'Homework Helpers' Expands, Serving Four Schools

Parent-led program matches middle school tutors with elementary students.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON
THE CONNECTION

For two years now, a group of seventh and eighth grade students at Rocky Run Middle School have been working with local elementary school students every Tuesday and Wednesday night to tackle different academic obstacles.

The 2014-2015 school year marks the second year of the Homework Helper program, and is its first full academic year running. This school year, the program has grown exponentially. Where it once served just one elementary school in the Rocky Run Middle School pyramid, now the Rocky Run Homework Helpers mentor and tutor students from four elementary schools in the area. Forty-six seventh and eighth grade "helpers" this year work with about 60 local elementary school children on math homework, spelling test prep, and more. And, this time of year, when SOL tests loom in local classrooms, the middle school tutors focus on preparing their students for these standardized tests.

The idea for the program was born more than two years ago, as the brainchild of a group of parents of sixth grade students about to enter seventh grade at Rocky Run Middle School. Under the umbrella of the Rocky Run Parent Teacher Association (PTA), the same parent volunteers have developed and supervised the Rocky Run Homework Helpers since its first session in January 2014.

"A bunch of parents got together when our children were going into middle school, and it was daunting to think of the changes they would go through in those next two years," Meera Krishnan, co-founder of the program, said. "There is a lot of segmentation in the neighborhoods that feed into Rocky Run and this service program bridges those gaps and adds to self-esteem."

Krishnan and a number of other parent volunteers have been facilitating the program since its inception when their children were seventh grade tutors with the program.

"We started thinking about this program when these kids were in sixth grade," Vikas Khator, a parent of a current eighth grader and one of the volunteers. "We tell them it's time for them to focus on the kids they are tutoring."

Khator said that as the program has grown, it has become a well-oiled machine. When they first started, though, they were concerned whether they had the resources it would take to keep the program going strong. They are all working parents so they do not have unlimited hours to plan.

"At the first meeting, we thought we were biting off more than we could chew," Khator



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Homework Helpers include Abby Heimbach, Anna Xu, Anvita Anumolu, Asha Maran, Bharathi Mathivanan, Dylan Bui, Erica Wu, Jackie Kim, Joshita Gullanki, Kim Cao, Khan Mazhar, Manu Veeraraghavan, Meriel Chang, Nicholas Myers, Parthiv Chigurupati, Priya Viswanathan, Riley Fiening, Rohan Voddhi, Sahithi Mankala, Sameer Khan, Shawin Vitsupakorn, Vasanth Mathivanan, Ansh Gandhi, Aayushma Bastola, Adityasai Koneru, Calvin Kuo, Catherine Nicholson, Charlie Gunn, Cindy Tran, Kayla Kim, Kevin Phillips, Kiran Ganeshan, Maajid Husain, Mey Seen, Nasma Hassen, Neil Dolan, Nikitha Seri, Paolo Vicencio, Pranav Karthikeyan, Prithvi Kinariwala, Raghav Kannan, Raghav Khator, Rahul Rampuria, Ravi Dudhagra, Rishabh Krishnan and Sindhuri Ivaturi.

said. "The first year, to get started, it took us awhile to get everything in place — securing the facility, sponsors and getting the word out to guidance counselors."

As it has grown, another parent volunteer and eighth grade parent, David Phillips noticed that Homework Helpers has just gotten better. He said the program benefits both the elementary school children who get the free academic help as well as the middle school tutors, and he couldn't be happier about how it has turned out.

"The second year, the program is not only bigger but it is running more smoothly," Phillips said. "Meera really took the initiative to run and start the program and I am so happy to be a part of it because it has made the kids more confident and made them appreciate teachers more."

The students too have delighted in the growth of Homework Helpers, and enjoy spending at least one night a week in the library helping younger children work through problems that they not so long ago learned to solve for the first time.

"I was in the program last year and we have expanded," eighth grade Homework Helper Raghav Khator said. "My two tutees are best friends and they learn best together. I love that I get to teach kids. If you have knowledge and can't share it, then what's the point of having knowledge?"

Raghav noted that fractions, decimals and algebra are the biggest subjects he addresses.

The program caught the attention of FCPS MentorWorks, who awarded the Rocky Run Homework Helpers as this year's "March Program of the Month."

Eighth grade tutor Ravi Dudhagra said he has not only enjoyed helping younger students, but has also relished in the bonding experience with his fellow Homework Helpers. They are all there to help each other out and reach a common goal.

"I just like to see the tutees learn," Dudhagra said. "If we ever have a question, I can always ask other helpers as well. We are a community."

Eighth grader Ansh Gandhi said in just two years he has noticed that the Homework Helpers has changed his life as the program itself has gone through changes.

"I was in the program last year and there has been a huge change," Gandhi said. "Last year it wasn't such a big program. Now, with the additional elementary schools that have kids here, we have increased our range. The change is welcome. This program helped the tutees learn and grow intellectually and mentally and it also helped me grow as a person. It helped me become a life teacher and develop my character."

Eighth grader Kevin Phillips said the program gave him something he always felt he was missing.

"I love helping the younger kids learn, of course, but also, I am an only child so having a younger student to help mostly makes me feel great," Kevin said. "At 13, it is great

to get in on that thing most of my friends get to do."

Eric Jackson, whose fourth grade son Anthony attends Homework Helper sessions on Wednesday nights, said he is so grateful to the students and their parents who have made this program happen.

"Anthony loves learning here, and not as much at home," Jackson said. "He doesn't listen to me, because to him, I learned this stuff eons ago. Most of his homework is math, and he can learn the techniques and tricks from these other kids that learned it just a few years ago."

Homework Helpers has also provided a lot of stress relief to parents who not only learned different learning strategies and techniques, not also who learned these elementary school concepts in a different language.

"I am originally from Japan but my kids are American," said Mikiko Tanaka, mother of a fifth grader and a third grader who are both tutees. "I want to help them but it is difficult for me to help them with their homework in English. It is a big help for me because the helpers work with them the exact way they need. Everything in the classroom, the

way of teaching, is so different in Japan. This is a great opportunity for my kids to get the help they need."

The Rocky Run Homework Helpers will continue next year, but under the leadership of a new set of parents. Krishnan was able to recruit four parents of current seventh graders to keep the program going as her own son will move on to high school. She said she encourages parents at other schools to pursue similar programs if they are interested.

"We first engaged counselors at Brookfield Elementary School in discussions, and using their help, created a flyer to circulate in that school," Krishnan said. "A good friend of mine who happens to be the Spanish teacher at Brookfield helped translate the flyers into Spanish since a large portion of the population does not speak English. The Brookfield counselors also met with teachers and explained about this program and asked them to request parents of students who would stand to benefit from these services to bring their children to Rocky Run."

All the while, two high school students worked with the middle school volunteers to get them tutor ready.

"When we started, we had no idea what we were doing," Krishnan said. "We reached out to parents of high schoolers and brought them into mentor the middle school students. We had them role play with poten

SEE HELPERS, PAGE 15

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NEWS

Housing Expo Draws Crowds

Home-ownership, rental opportunities and related services dominate event.

By ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Those most in need of these services and resources benefit the most when we can bring so many providers and organizations together in this one-stop shop format." In that one sentence, Laura Nickle, owner of Communi-k, Inc. and the organizer – for the fourth time – of the Northern Virginia Housing Expo, summed up the event being held at Herndon High School on Saturday, March 21. "There is still a great need for affordable housing throughout our entire region," she added, "and this is a great partnership of related services that can bring the information and assistance to the largest audience."

In its fifth year, the Expo was hosted by Fairfax-based AHOME Foundation in cooperation with the Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) and representation from the counties of Fairfax, Prince William, Arlington and Loudoun, the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church, and the town of Herndon. AHOME Foundation is a nonprofit collaboration of charitable organizations, businesses, developers, real estate professionals and community groups that advocates for housing opportunity. Sponsors like Capital One Bank, VHDA, Citibank, the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors, Veterans United Home Loans and Wells Fargo Home Mortgage were just a few who supported the Expo that was expecting more than 1,000 area residents to attend. "And participation keeps growing," added Nickle. "We have six more sponsors this year, and 12 more exhibitors."

MORE THAN 70 exhibitors filled the school's cafeteria. The first row was dedicated to representatives from the covered jurisdictions with the host locale Town of Herndon's Department of Community Development holding pole position. Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority, the City of Alexandria Office of Housing, the City of Falls Church Housing and Human Services, Loudoun County Department of Family Services, Housing and Community Development, Prince William County Office of Housing and Community Development and Arlington County Department of Housing



Laura Nickle checks in with Terry Beltz from sponsor Virginia Housing Development Authority. Nickle owns public relations, marketing and event planning company Communi-k, Inc., and is not only the organizer of the Expo, but also a firm proponent of affordable housing and community support for everyone. "Your zip code should not predict how you turn out in life," she said.

followed in the front row. Their booths were stocked with literature, forms, resources and some fun goodies, and manned by welcoming and knowledgeable staff. Armed with an Expo Guide, attendees could choose to either wander the aisles, or take a more direct route to the booths from the jurisdictions and service providers of particular interest to them, like May Nguyen from Falls Church. Nguyen brought her sister and a nephew to the Expo "to see if we can maybe get our own home someday," and was planning on visiting the Falls Church representative, as well as the banks and mortgage companies among the exhibitors, with a stop at the Asian-American Homeownership Counseling booth.

The County of Fairfax Homeownership Resource Center booth was drawing an interested

crowd as representative Gail Lee explained that there are tiered housing assistance programs available through the County. If a family's income is too high to qualify under the rules of one program, they may still qualify through other programs.

There were a number of banks and mortgage and financial services companies represented, but there was also a strong presence by nonprofits like Reston-based Cornerstones, Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia, Our Daily Bread of Fairfax, AHOME of Arlington (a different entity from host organization AHOME Foundation) that offers free homeownership education classes and pre-purchase and foreclosure prevention counseling and Wesley Housing Development Corporation, whose mission is "to develop,

SEE VIRGINIA, PAGE 7

We cordially invite you to join us for the following
Holy Week and Easter services at
St. John's Episcopal Church

Palm Sunday, March 29 – Holy Eucharist at 9:30 AM

Wednesday, April 1 – Holy Eucharist at 9:15 AM and 6:00 PM

Maundy Thursday, April 2 – 7:30 PM. Service of Holy Eucharist, Foot Washing, and Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, April 3 – 12:00 noon and 7:30 PM, Good Friday Liturgy

Saturday, Easter Vigil, April 4 – 8:00 PM, Lighting of the New Fire, Holy Baptism and the first Eucharist of Easter

Easter Day, April 5 – 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM, both with Holy Eucharist, sermon and music

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OPINION

Housing and Health So much depends on having a home.

BY DAVID LEVINE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GOOD SHEPHERD
HOUSING AND FAMILY SERVICES, INC.

Many homeless people experience an episode of homelessness because of a chronic physical or mental illness, a disabling injury, or other health issues. Several years ago, the National Alliance to End Homelessness estimated that people living in homeless shelters were more than twice as likely to suffer from an acute medical condition. Many have fallen into homelessness because of repeated failures in their health. The medical bills mount, they can't pay rent, and they end up evicted from their housing.

The link between health and homelessness is no mystery. Recognizing that link, the 100,000 Homes Campaign was a national movement to focus on permanently housing those homeless Americans who face the highest risk of death from living homeless on the streets. In June 2014, the four-year 100,000

Homes Campaign had successfully moved 101,628 homeless individuals into permanent housing. As the Campaign reported: "That number represents an estimated annual taxpayer savings of \$1.3 billion and reflects the collective work of 238 U.S. communities who have joined the Campaign"

The Campaign proved that homelessness can be ended. But it also showed that housing is itself a life-saving tool.

Housing provides the supports that many chronically ill and disabled homeless people require for their conditions. With a stable address these homeless people can call home, they can plan their treatments and doctor visits. They can transit from home to treatment centers and back home again without any fear. The neighbor next door will be there to drive them. Their prescription medicines will be available to them in a medicine cabinet in their bathrooms. They have a bed where they can rest after a painful treatment or hospital stay.

The other link between housing and health

comes from the housing itself. According to the Environmental Health Watch (EHW), nearly six million households "live with moderate to severe home health and safety hazards." People living in such housing may experience higher risks of illnesses and injuries from greater exposure to asthma triggers, lead hazards, excess moisture, pest infestations, and toxins.

The financial savings are significant from a basic healthy home.

In other words, these savings come from homes that are dry, well-ventilated, pest- and contaminant-free. Healthy homes lead to improved health results. Asthma-related healthcare costs are lower and labor force productivity is greater from such homes. According to EHW estimates, billions are saved from healthy homes in reduced healthcare expenditures.

When anyone considers the link between housing and health, it really comes down to this idea: housing matters for life. It is that critical.

COMMENTARY

Investing in Families Strengthens Communities

BY MARY AGEE
PRESIDENT AND CEO
NORTHERN VIRGINIA FAMILY SERVICE
AND NICHELLE A. MITCHEM, JD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
UNITED COMMUNITY MINISTRIES
AND KERRIE WILSON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CORNERSTONES

The Fairfax County proposed \$7.13 billion budget for fiscal year 2016 comes at devastating cost for the most vulnerable families in our community. Included in the budget is the complete elimination of Healthy Families, a nationally recognized, evidence-based child abuse and neglect prevention program that serves hundreds of at-risk families. By eliminating this program, the total "savings" to the county would equal approximately \$1.6 million now, but could amount to unforeseen future costs for schools, human services, public safety and more.

Established in 1991, the Healthy Families Fairfax program provides comprehensive and intensive home visiting services to expectant and new parents whose children may be at risk

for poor childhood outcomes. As an accredited affiliate of the national Healthy Families America network, the program promotes positive parenting skills and optimal child health and development as a means of preventing child abuse and neglect among fragile families living in Fairfax County.

In Healthy Families, home visits allow Family Support Workers to establish a trusting relationship with young parents, with the goal of helping the family move toward greater self-reliance. Along the way, staff ensures that the child's medical needs and developmental benchmarks are being met, and that parents are learning age-appropriate activities to encourage learning and growth. Many Family Support Workers are also able to identify other needed services for their families, and are able to leverage additional community resources that parents might not be able to obtain otherwise.

For the past 23 years, Healthy Families Fairfax has proven to be a wise investment of taxpayer's money. Since its inception, the program has met or exceeded all state mandated goals, an excellent return on an investment of

COMMENTARY

only \$3,473 per family per year. Last year, Healthy Families Fairfax served 613 at-risk Fairfax County families. Of these 613 at-risk families:

- ❖ 97 percent of the children were born at normal birth weight. Healthy Families services provide better birth outcomes including a 50 percent reduction in the number of babies born at low birth weight, saving an average of \$15,000 in hospitalization costs for each preterm/low birth weight baby.

- ❖ 82 percent of the children were up to date on immunizations, a higher rate than both state (70.4 percent) and national (69.2 percent) levels. Healthy Families services ensure children are connected with a regular medical provider and support families in their efforts to maintain a healthy lifestyle which, in turn, helps prevent chronic problems and keeps health care costs in check.

- ❖ 100 percent of children with suspected developmental delays were referred to therapeutic early intervention services. Healthy Families services provide early detection of developmental delays, helping to decrease the number of children in need of special education services — a savings of \$12,900 a year per child.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors faces many difficult decisions when deciding upon budget priorities in the coming year, but we urge our legislators not to make budget reductions at the expense of our most vulnerable families and children. As University of Chicago Professor and Nobel Laureate in economics James Heckman said in regard to early childhood, "The question is not where to cut. The question is where to invest, and in what." We believe that it is in all of our best interests to continue investing in Healthy Families Fairfax.

The writers are three executive directors of the nonprofits that administer Healthy Families in Fairfax County.

Saira Bhatti
Centreville

LETTER

Persecution By Faith

To the Editor:

In Pakistan, twin bombings in the city of Lahore attacked two Christian churches during their Sunday service. What horror. I could not imagine being attacked in such a way at my place of worship. But I can relate. I am an Ahmadi Muslim of Pakistani heritage born and raised in America. Ahmadis are a persecuted community just like Christians and Hindus in Pakistan, and also face state sanctioned discrimination by the Pakistani government to the

extent where they are forbidden to call themselves Muslims. Just five years ago, terrorists attacked two Ahmadi mosques in Lahore during their Friday prayers. It was a devastating time. But I am not trying to compete here with Christian life over Muslim life. Life is life no matter what. Whether it is three Muslim college students murdered at Chapel Hill in America, or Christians being slaughtered in Pakistan, we all should feel pain and shame that humanity can stoop so low to destroy one another.

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
chantilly@connectionnewspapers.com

Steven Mauren
Editor, 703-778-9415
smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

Bonnie Hobbs
Community Reporter, 703-778-9438
bhobbs@connectionnewspapers.com

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor, 703-752-4013
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com
@jonroetman

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

Karen Washburn
Display Advertising, 703-778-9422
kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith
Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411
asmith@connectionnewspapers.com

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

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Photography:
Deb Cobb, Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

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

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



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NEWS

Virginia Housing Expo Draws Crowds

FROM PAGE 5

own, operate, preserve and maintain affordable housing and sustain quality communities for low and moderate income families and individuals in Virginia." There were also 16 workshops on offer with topics like "Are You Ready to Rent or Buy," "The ABC's of Credit Scores," "Tenant Rights and Responsibilities," and "Home Maintenance 101." In addition to the group sessions, Our Daily Bread offered one-on-one free financial counseling sessions of about 30 minutes that kept the volunteer certified financial planners busy reviewing documents, providing expert advice and steering the attendees to additional resources.

THE COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS of the partners in the Northern Virginia Housing Expo don't end when the doors close on this edition of the event. Their website www.novahousingexpo.org is up and running year round and provides links to resources in all of the covered jurisdictions including government agencies, advocacy groups and nonprofits. The site also includes a list of the exhibitors.



Terry Beltz speaks with Expo attendees. Beltz manned the Virginia Housing Development Authority and provided information from a statewide perspective.

BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

BULLETIN BOARD

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Residents Can "E-cycle" at the I-66 transfer station. It is free but residents may be asked to show proof of residency. Personal waste only. The I-66 station is located at 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax and open from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. from Monday-Saturday and from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sundays. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/electric-sunday.htm for more.

DONATIONS

The **student Auto Sales Program** operating from Centreville High School works in conjunction with the CVHS automotive technology classes to bring in donated automobiles, boats and motorcycles for students to work on. Some refurbished vehicles are sold, with 75 percent of the proceeds going back to the auto tech program. The program is in need of cars, trucks or motorcycles, which are fully tax deductible, for student training. Contact Lyman Rose at 703-802-5588 or by e-mail lyman.rose@fcps.edu for more.

SUPPORT GROUP

Telephone Support Group for Family Caregivers of Older Adults. 7 p.m. every second Tuesday of the month. This telephone support group is designed to help caregivers of older adults share experiences, gain support and get important information without having to travel. These are one-hour free sessions. Find out more and register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ and click on Caregiver Telephone Support Group.

Fair Oaks Parkinson's Support

Group for people living with Parkinson's disease, caregivers and family, meets on the fourth Saturday monthly, 10 a.m.-noon at Sunrise at Fair Oaks, 3750 Joseph Siewick Drive, Fairfax. Call 703-378-7221 or visit www.fairoaksparkinsons.com.

ONGOING

Book Sale. Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Ongoing book sale at the library. All ages. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ce/ or call 703-830-2223.

Book Sale. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Ongoing book sale at the library. All

ages. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ce/ or call 703-502-3883.

Partnership Starter Tool. Fairfax County Public Schools is encouraging local businesses and community groups to express their interest in partnering with the school system by using the FCPS Partnership Starter at http://commweb.fcps.edu/partnership_matching/public. The online tool matches potential partners with schools or an FCPS office or program. Visit www.fcps.edu/news for more.

Book-A-Librarian. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Reserve a free 30-minute session with a professional librarian for personalized research help. Call 703-502-3883.

Easter Celebration He Has Risen!

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11am Easter Egg Hunt

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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

APRIL

Easter Sunday is April 5

4/8/2015.....HomeLifeStyle

4/15/2015.....A+ Camps & Schools

4/22/2015.....Real Estate Pullout – New Homes

4/29/2015.....A+ Camps & Schools Pullout

4/29/2015.....Mother's Day Celebrations, Dining & Gifts I

4/29/2015.....Spring Outlook 2015

MAY

5/6/2015.....McLean Day Pullout

5/6/2015.....Mother's Day Dining & Gifts II

5/6/2015.....Wellbeing

Mother's Day is May 10

5/13/2015.....HomeLifeStyle

5/20/2015.....A+ Camps & Schools, Proms, Summer Planning

Memorial Day is May 25

5/27/2015.....Summer Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment

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Police Commander: 'Everyone Is Here to Help'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Basically, the officers of the Sully District Police Station are successful at what they do and things should only get better from here. That was the message presented during February's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting.

For example, Todd Kinhead, Sully's Criminal Investigations Section supervisor, explained what his unit does — and how well it does it. "I have four detectives total," he said. "And we had 425 assigned cases last year and helped other offices with their cases, too."

All burglaries receive a detective. And of last year's 111 burglaries, Sully's closure rate was 21 percent, compared to the national average of just 12.4 percent solved.

"We also investigate the serious grand

larcenies, and we have domestic-violence and crime-scene detectives, too," said Kinhead. "And it takes a lot of time to do these investigations." So, he told the residents at the meeting, "If you see something, say something; that's the biggest solvability factor. For example, when car windows here were getting shot out last year with BB guns, someone caught the people in the act [and contacted us], and that led to our solving 168 cases."

He said the vast majority of burglaries here are by teens, ages 14 and 15. "We have a very small staff to deal with a large caseload," said Kinhead. "But we take all these cases seriously and want to do the best we can for you all."

"We live in one of the safest communities in Fairfax County," said Capt. Bob Blakley, the station commander. "And I've maintained an effective dialogue with the various neighborhoods to help them solve their

problems."

Discussing the station's 2015 plans and initiatives, he said, "We want to revitalize our community engagement through CAC. We want to grow the CAC so we'll be even more effective in the district."

He also plans to increase squad-level preparedness through station and division training. And along with it, he intends to reduce local crime via squad-initiated activities.

"Each squad will propose, develop and implement its own enforcement initiative supporting the overall mission of the station," said Blakley. "We'll be tapping into each squad's exper-



Lt. Todd Kinhead heads the station's Criminal Investigations Section.

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

tise to better address crime. We also hope to increase the officers' morale by affording them a greater say in the decision-making process."

He also assured the residents that "Everyone is here to help" and asked them to "please reach out to us."

"I'm very proud of this police department," continued Blakley. "It's an agency with high integrity and character and officers who can be trusted and who will police your community

honestly. We set the bar high to keep your community safe."

'State of the Station' Meeting Reviews Statistics

FROM PAGE 3

6,000 [of these] cases a year," he said. "And they're difficult to solve and make an arrest if they're done by someone in another country."

He said Sully burglaries were up 52 percent. "We had 111 incidents in 2014, but our closure rate is above the national average," said Blakley. "So we're planning to deploy our crime-scene detectives to follow

up more aggressively. We very rarely see nighttime burglaries — they're mainly in the daytime while people are at work. Or they'll work in pairs, with one person distracting an elderly person, while someone else breaks into their home or garage."

Vandalism in Sully rose from 698 offenses in 2013 to 780 in 2014. "But this was because of the 168 windows that got shot out by BBs," said Blakley. "It was juveniles and

we caught them."

Embezzlement and fraud cases increased from 248 to 331, and larceny and theft jumped from 977 cases to 1,126. "It was mainly larceny from unlocked vehicles, which is our number-one problem," said Blakley. "Vehicle thefts were also slightly up."

Robberies — stealing from people — rose 45 percent, going from 20 cases in 2013 to

29 in 2014. Blakley attributed it to street crimes involving 15- and 16-year-olds stealing each other's shoes and cell phones."

Weapons violations — everything from BB guns to concealed weapons — increased from 38 to 55. "All in all, we had 3,500 'Group A' offenses; only the Reston station had less," said Blakley. "So we're still a safe community and we can account for the crime increases we did have."

ROUNDUPS

FROM PAGE 3

remodeling or maintenance project. And local residents who'd like to hire a worker from the CLRC may do so easily. Either call 703-543-6272 or go to www.centrevilleLRC.org and click on the "How to Hire" link. Tell what kind of work is required, how many workers are needed and when.

The CLRC will match the needs to its registered workers' skills and set up the job. The price for work will be negotiated. After the job is completed, employers are encouraged to provide the CLRC with feedback to ensure that the work was done well and to their satisfaction and to make sure the workers are fairly paid.

Long-Term Care Advocates

The Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in assisted living and nursing facilities. Training is provided in March. Call 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Give Caregivers a Break

Fairfax County needs Respite Care volun-

teers throughout the county to give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Volunteers are matched with families in or near their own neighborhoods. Support and training is provided. Contact Kristin Martin at 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

How to Help The CLRC

The Centreville Labor Resource Center (CLRC) needs volunteers to lead vocational training workshops to increase the workers' job skills. A Wednesday morning ESOL instructor is also needed; contact Molly Maddra at coordinator@centrevilleLRC.org for more information.

In addition, contributions to CLRC may be made at www.centrevilleimmigrationforum.org. The organization is supported totally by grants and donations; it receives no government funding.

Drive Seniors To Appointments

Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive

older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. Call 703-324-5406, TTY 711, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults or email VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Personal Trainer Is Needed

The Sully Senior Center, at 5690 Sully Road in Centreville, needs a certified personal trainer — preferably, one with experience working with older adults — for one hour, two days a week. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Women's Self Defense Program

The Fairfax County Law Enforcement Foundation is partnering with the Fairfax County Police Department to offer the Women's Self Defense Training program. It's based on the SAFE program formerly provided by the Police Department, but now being taught by C&J Security Corp.

The program is a two-day class that will meet on consecutive Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:15-9:30 p.m. It's currently offered free and all class materials are in-

cluded. Funding is provided by the Fairfax County Law Enforcement Foundation.

The course is offered to females, age 13 and older. A female guardian must accompany girls 13-18. No men other than the instructors are permitted to be present during a class. Call 703-246-7806, e-mail WSD@fairfaxfoundation.org or go to www.fairfaxfoundation.org.

Police, Fire Games Help Needed

The 2015 World Police and Fire Games will need upwards of 3,000 people to take on a variety of roles across the National Capital Region. These include welcoming visitors, transporting athletes, joining the medical team, assisting sports coordinators, helping out behind the scenes on the technology team. Visit <http://fairfax2015.com/volunteer>.

Meals on Wheels Volunteers

Fairfax County needs Meals on Wheels drivers in Chantilly and group Meals on Wheels coordinators in both Chantilly and Fairfax. Contact Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov.

SCHOOLS

Students Shine at Centreville Science Fair

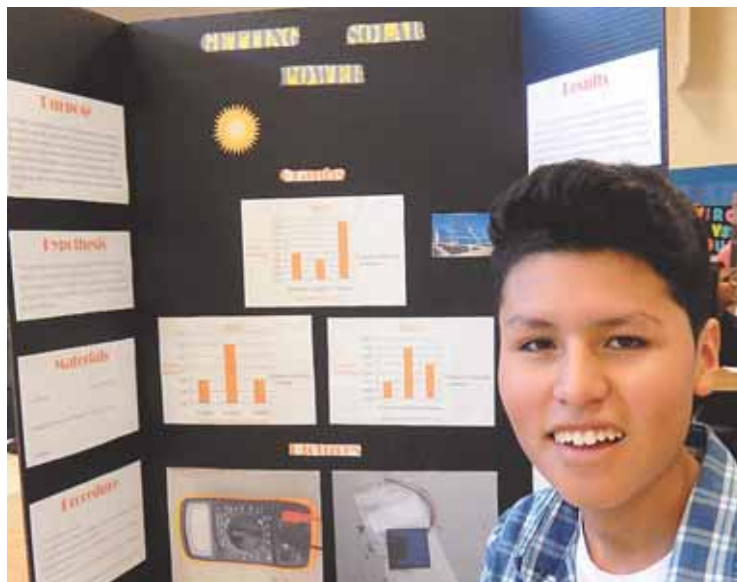
Projects included music, sports, energy, hearing and plant growth.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

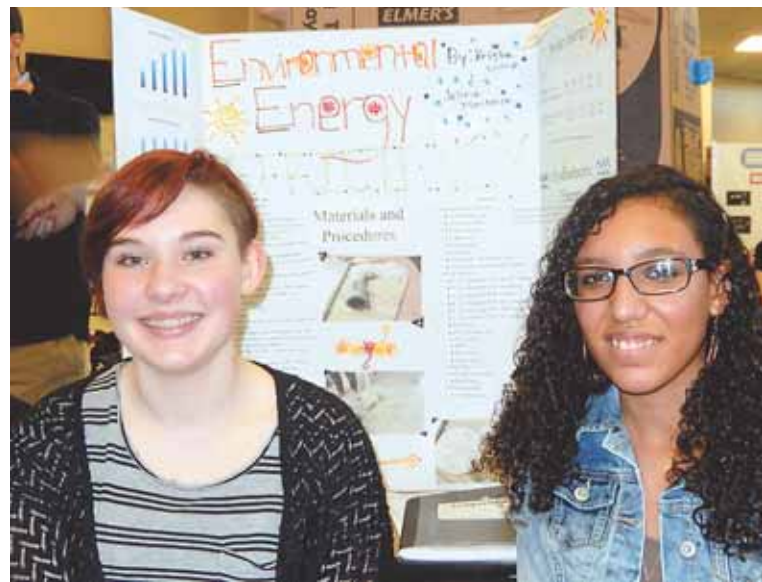
At Centreville Hig's recent Science Fair, students displayed their projects in the school cafeteria for judging; below are details about a few of them.

Solar Power

Junior Richard Perez investigating how to obtain the greatest amount of solar power. "I wanted to find the position, or angle from the ground, for a small solar panel to get the most sunlight," he said. "I set it outside at 30, 60 and 90 degrees at 3:30 p.m. and recorded the amount of electricity it received in voltage. I determined that 60 degrees was the best angle to use for solar energy because it caught the sun directly and gave off the most sunlight."



Junior Richard Perez examined the best angle for solar energy.



Krista Wink (left) and Jalina Montoya investigated environmental energy efficiency.

Environmental Energy Efficiency

Freshmen Krista Wink and Jalina Montoya examined environmental energy efficiency. "We were trying to prove which energy source would be best for our environment," said Montoya. "We tested, wind, solar and hydroelectric power."

Wink said solar energy worked best in their experiment. "But in real life, hydroelectric works best, and then come wind and solar energy," she said. "Hydroelectric power transfers a higher percentage of its energy than the other sources do."

Learning about Hearing

Sophomore Marissa Lawrence and junior Jessica Mabanglo called their project, "It Sounded Better in My Head." That's because, sometimes, we hear more sound from one headphone than another, and we wanted to know why," said Lawrence.

"So we used microphones and speakers

to mimic how human ears hear," added Mabanglo.

Lawrence said people are able to hear "depth, elevation, loudness, movement over time, location and direction" of sound. So, said Mabanglo, "We recorded different sounds happening around us and played them back."

They then compared 2D (dimension), 3D and 4D sound and discovered that they had too many variables in their experiment. Said Lawrence: "We found out that, no matter how advanced technology gets, it can't work as well as the human brain can to interpret the noise to the ears."

'Toot that Flute'

A flute player for almost 11 years, sophomore Megha Kalyan fittingly called her science project, "Toot that Flute." She decided to use different materials to create a flute so she could see if a material other than bamboo — which is used in the Eastern Hemisphere — could be used to make good-

sounding flutes.

"I used bamboo as the control, and then red wood, green wood, plastic and ceramic and made the flutes," she said. "But bamboo had the best tone and pitch."

Location Equals Distance

Baseball player David Campbell, a freshman, did a baseball-themed project. Naming it "Batter Up," he looked at the effect of where on the bat a ball is hit on how far the ball travels.

"To swing a wooden bat consistently, I built a machine out of two-by-fours, nails and clamps to secure it," he said. "And I used a spring to make the bat swing forward."

I set up the tee so the bat would strike the ball at 1-inch increments, and I did it 10 times."

"I thought 5 inches from the end of the bat would be best because that's where the 'sweet spot' is on my metal bat," continued Campbell. "But it turned out to be 8 inches from the end because it's different with

wood."

Vitamin D and Plants

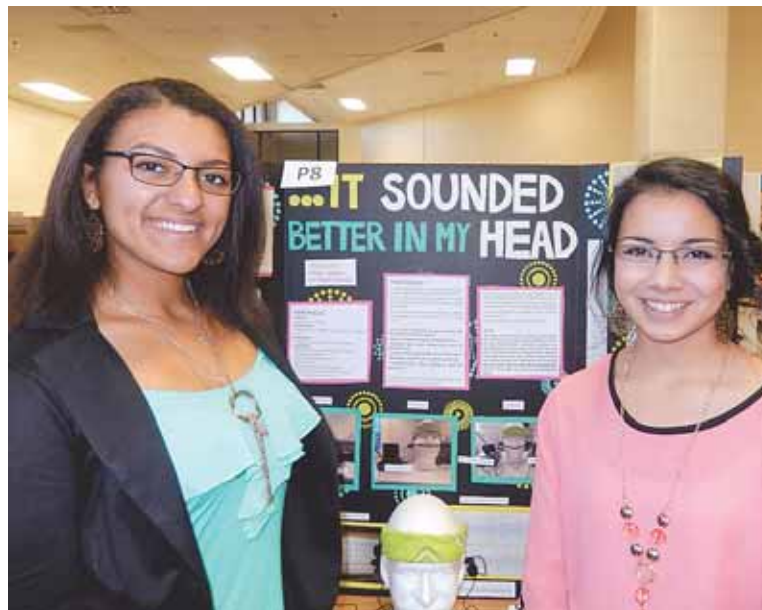
Sophomores Peter Varghese, Ryan Schneider and Ishmail Nabie examined the effect of vitamin D on plant growth. They wanted to see whether daily, multivitamin supplements really help plants grow faster.

"We figured, if we gave a moong plant more vitamin tablets, it would grow more," said Schneider. "But the tablets overpowered the water and didn't allow the plant to gain the nutrients."

Varghese said gardeners and farmers use these plants. "We gave the plants different amounts of vitamins each day," he said. "We crushed up the tablets."

"And we put two tablespoons of water into each one," added Nabie.

So what was their conclusion? Said Varghese: "Even though more wasn't better, we learned that, ideally, it takes one vitamin D supplement per day for the plant to grow well."



Investigating how ears hear were Marissa Lawrence (left) and Jessica Mabanglo.



Freshman David Campbell with his baseball-themed project.



Examining the effect of vitamin D on plant growth were (from left) Peter Varghese, Ryan Schneider and Ishmail Nabie.

PHOTOS BY
BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Fashions, Music and Silent Auction

Fairfax Salvation Army fundraiser set for the Waterford.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

The 35th annual Fashion Show, Luncheon, and Silent Auction sponsored by the Salvation Army Women's Auxilliary Fairfax County Corps will be held on Friday, April 17 at 10:30 a.m. at the Waterford at Fair Oaks (across from Fair Oaks Mall). Fashions will be presented by Lord & Taylor.

The event features a social and silent auction preview at 10:30 a.m.; a welcome at 11:15 a.m.; entertainment provided by singer Elisabeth Turchi, who will sing Broadway tunes, opera and jazz at 11:30 a.m.; a luncheon catered by the Waterford consist-

ing of American garden salad, chicken Wellington, medley of fresh vegetables, and chocolate mousse dessert at 12 p.m.; and the fashion show at 12:50 p.m. About 350 people are expected to attend.

"This is my fifth year of doing it and each year we are growing," said Master of Ceremonies Angela Ganey. "This is the biggest fundraiser of the year; the same people are coming back and everything we do is for the people of Fairfax who are needy."

"With the theme, 'Step Into Spring and Do the Most Good,' it's a lovely gathering and a chance to contribute and have an enjoyable time and be with friends and see the Spring fashions from Lord & Taylor," said Meg McLane, co-president of the

Women's Auxilliary of the Fairfax Corps who's in charge of the models.

Chris Polito of Lord and Taylor is supplying the fashion-show commentary. "He's the general manager of Lord & Taylor at Fair Oaks and he does a fabulous job," said Ganey.

There will be both male and female models offering spring daytime casual, afternoon and evening wear. Some of the models will include: Sharon Gottlieb of Fairfax Station, Randy Jennings of Fairfax Station, Mary Lou Glover of Clifton, Christina O'Connell of Fairfax, Carolina Hurtado of Argentina, and Bridget Sampson of Baltimore.

The Silent Auction is being headed up by

Connie Lauther and Clara Richcreek, both of Fairfax. It will include a weekend getaway to the Red Fox Inn in Middleburg, restaurant gift cards, jewelry, kitchen appliances, paintings, gift baskets and plants. Money will be donated to the Fairfax Headquarters of the Salvation Army.

Last year, money was used in the after-school program to help children with homework, as well as providing hot meals and computer skills.

Tickets are \$40 (\$10 is tax-deductible). To purchase them or donate gift certificates and merchandise for the silent auction, contact event coordinator Angela Ganey at angelaganey@verizon.net or 703-250-5809.

At 10, YouTube as Marketing Tool Comes of Age

Site serves variety of business needs.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Listing a pool table in a real estate ad is one way to market a property, but watching the cue ball break the rack, via a YouTube video "shows the excitement," said local real estate agent Ann Duff, who incorporates video as a big part of her marketing plan. In its 10th year of existence, using YouTube is apparent throughout "new media" marketing plans in Northern Virginia.

"I have my own channel," said Duff, of McEneaney & Associates. "A video reinforces the sense of the house."

Ten years ago when the first YouTube video showed one of the founders, Jawed Karim, at the zoo, there was no sign that YouTube would get so big. In a recently released montage by YouTube editor "Zapatu" everything from a Brittany Spears fan going into hysterics, to the talking orange shows the spectrum it's reached after 10 years. During that time, a variety of subjects have hit it big or gone "viral" in YouTube terms.

"Businesses must be strategic about where they place their brand on social media. If a company has the means to be on YouTube, they have meaningful content, and their research shows that their audience is active on YouTube, then I definitely think it would make sense for them to be there," said Alex Chagouris, director of communications and marketing at the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce.

"At the chamber, there are members who use YouTube for human resources and talent recruitment videos, as well as other consultants or educators use YouTube for best practice or 'how to' videos. I've also seen members use video for events and conferences," Chagouris added.



A screen shot of the YouTube site of Ann Duff, Realtor with McEneaney & Associates.

Steve Gladis of Steve Gladis Leadership Partners is a Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce member whose YouTube videos are a part of his business plan that saves time. "It's a way for me to help clients 'see' some of the services I offer. Often, clients will ask what executive coaching is all about, so I suggest they watch four to five videos and then we can chat," he said. His videos are only about four minutes long, a little outside the industry standard of two minutes but explain more than entertain.

To Gladis, putting an exact profit figure derived from his YouTube videos is hard, but YouTube is part of his "new media," platform earning him about \$100,000. To make the videos, Gladis invested about \$500-700 for a good camera and tripod, another \$200-300 for lighting, assistance with camera work and editing, and time. "There's real money to be made here," he said.

The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce has a channel, but with "the chamber's channel, the biggest challenge is the time it takes to prepare the video, properly. I think that holds for many of our members, primarily because most are small businesses with few staff," said chamber execu-

tive director Nancy-jo Manney.

Alejo Media is a member of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce that specializes in video production. Before starting production on a marketing video at Alejo, "we sit down with the client, go over their objectives, get to know them and understand what they want this video to do, and what message they want to get to their audience," said Alejo owner Anna Davalos. "Our job is to help them tell it well." Most of the videos they produce for the various company's YouTube channels are about two to three minutes in length.

Inside YouTube

- ❖ YouTube has more than 1 billion users
 - ❖ Every day people watch hundreds of millions of hours on YouTube and generate billions of views
 - ❖ The number of hours people are watching on YouTube each month is up 50 percent year over year
 - ❖ 300 hours of video are uploaded to YouTube every minute
 - ❖ YouTube is localized in 75 countries and available in 61 languages
 - ❖ Half of YouTube views are on mobile devices
 - ❖ Mobile revenue on YouTube is up over 100% year to year
- Source: YouTube.com

One video produced at Alejo, for example, was a lawyer describing what set his firm apart from others, with no music, and just his words. It was very effective, Davalos said. "He had a serious message to deliver and the end product worked well for him."

Another was a quicker, lighter video for the American Diabetes Association for their biggest fundraiser, the Tour de Cure, a bike ride to raise money and awareness for diabetes. This was meant to show how good helping others can make you feel, how you can have a great time and see the people you're affecting. The video was around two minutes, featuring all music and some natural sound, Davalos said. Back at the real estate business, Ann Duff stars in many of her real estate videos, even drinking a fake glass of wine from the breakfast bar to show the convenience of the room set up. "I do enjoy it," she said of her acting.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Shepherd's Center of Fairfax Burke serves those 50+ and who no longer drive. Volunteer drivers are needed for trips (Monday-Friday) to medical appointments and companion shopping within the Fairfax/Burke area. Contact Barry Wickersham at 703-359-2918 or aowbrw@verizon.net or contact John Taylor at 703-239-2898 or jajt7@verizon.net.

For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions:

- ❖ **The Sully Senior Center** in Centreville needs a certified personal trainer, preferably with experience working with older adults.
 - ❖ **Meals on Wheels** needs drivers in Chantilly and McLean. Substitute drivers needed throughout the county.
 - ❖ **Korean Meals on Wheels** needs Korean-speaking volunteers to deliver meals in Centreville, Annandale and Falls Church.
- The Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program** needs volunteer advocates for residents in assisted living and
- SEE VOLUNTEER, PAGE 15

SPRING FUN

Email announcements to chantilly@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

PET ADOPTIONS

Adopt a Dog. Fridays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. at PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Adopt a puppy or dog. Visit www.lostdogrescue.org for more.

Adopt a Dog. Saturdays, 12-3 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Highway. Visit hart90.org for more.

Adopt a Dog. Sundays, 1-4 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy. Adopt a puppy or dog. Visit aforeverhome.org for more.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 27-28

Jazz Festival. Friday, 3-10 p.m.; Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m. at Chantilly High School, 4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Watch as jazz bands and combos from area middle schools and high schools compete for bragging rights and learn about jazz. Featured artists this year include the Alan Baylock Jazz Orchestra and the George Mason University Jazz Ensemble. Exhibition performances by Chantilly High School's own Workshop Jazz and Chantilly Jazz groups. Free, open to the public. Visit www.chantillyband.org for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 28

Growing Herbs. 10 a.m. at Merrifield Garden Center, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Bring out the best in recipes with home-grown herbs. Learn how to plan, plant and harvest an herb garden that will look as good as it tastes. Visit www.merrifieldgardencenter.com or call 703-968-9600.

Easter Egg Hunt. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Ticonderoga's Amazing Farm Fun, 26496 Ticonderoga Road, Chantilly. \$12.95 per person. Visit www.ticonderoga.com.

Festival of Colors and Kites. noon-6 p.m. at Bull Run Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. Presented by IntenseDMV, thousands of people from all walks of life are invited to come together for a day of peaceful celebration with dancing, live performances, a variety of food, kite flying and color throwing. \$5 per person. Visit intensedmv.com for more.

Children's Gardening Workshops. 2 p.m. at Merrifield Garden Center, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. These seminars are ideal for parents and grandparents who want to introduce children, ages 6-12, to gardening. Children will work on a garden project to invite nature into their homes. An adult must be present. Space is limited, so please sign up online here. Visit www.merrifieldgardencenter.com or call 703-968-9600.

SUNDAY/MARCH 29

Easter Egg Hunt. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Ticonderoga's Amazing Farm Fun, 26496 Ticonderoga Road, Chantilly. \$12.95 per person. Visit www.ticonderoga.com.

MONDAY/MARCH 30

Story Time and Egg Hunt. 10 a.m. at Pender United Methodist Church, 12401 Alder Woods Drive, Fairfax. Pender United Methodist is once again hosting an Easter Story time and egg hunt. There will be crafts, story, a snack and egg hunt. Bring a camera for photos with the Easter bunny. For children 12 and younger. Rain or shine. Free. RSVP at www.penderumc.org/easter-event.

Museum Meeting and Presentation. 7:30 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax. The Friends of the Fairfax Station will hold its annual meeting, followed by local resident Lee Hubbard presenting four long lost plaques from a 1903 commemorative monument at Sangster's Station to the Museum. The meeting is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. Doors open at 7 p.m. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

SATURDAY/APRIL 4

Amazing Container Gardens. 10 a.m. at Merrifield Garden Center, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Discover the rewards of gardening in containers. Learn how to combine plants for



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Fun Farm's Grand Opening Easter Egg Hunt at Ticonderoga

The newly-opened Ticonderoga's Amazing Farm Fun will host an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Ticonderoga's Amazing Farm Fun, 26496 Ticonderoga Road, Chantilly. \$12.95 per person. Visit www.ticonderoga.com.

intense, striking displays of color and review soil mixtures, planting and care instructions to make sure plants stay beautiful throughout the season. Visit www.merrifieldgardencenter.com or call 703-968-9600.

Easter Egg Hunt. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Ticonderoga's Amazing Farm Fun, 26496 Ticonderoga Road, Chantilly. \$12.95 per person. Visit www.ticonderoga.com.

SUNDAY/APRIL 5

Easter Egg Hunt. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Ticonderoga's Amazing Farm Fun, 26496 Ticonderoga Road, Chantilly. \$12.95 per person. Visit www.ticonderoga.com.

THURSDAY/APRIL 9

Kid's Korner. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Preschool-aged kids will learn about Bluebells. Admission is \$5 per child. Call 703-631-0013.

FRIDAY/APRIL 10

Wagon Ride and Campfire. 6:30 p.m. at Cabell's Mill, 5235 Walney Road, Centreville. Take a wagon ride, enjoy a campfire and make s'mores. There is a \$6 fee. Call 703-631-0013.

SATURDAY/APRIL 11

Animal Search. 8-9 a.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Naturalist Jim Dewing will lead a trek to discover the animals that inhabit the park. The fee is \$5. Call 703-631-0013.

Build Your Own Birdhouse. 2-3 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Learn to build a nest box for your backyard. Kits are \$15 each. Bring your own hammer. Call 703-631-0013.

Pink Floyd Tribute. 9 p.m. at The Bungalow, 13891 Metrotech Drive, Chantilly. Hear local musicians Nikhel Susm, Jon Brady, Brian Zupruk, Jeff Hunter and Brian Paubacher give a tribute to Pink Floyd. Free. Visit www.headyentertainment.com.

SUNDAY/APRIL 12

A Touch of Japan. 3-5 p.m. at 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Experience traditional Japanese teas, treats and trinkets. Tickets are \$27. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov

SEE SPRING FUN PAGE 16

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Senior midfielder Justin Mundt, left, is a captain for the Chantilly boys' lacrosse team.



Chantilly junior Colin Zimmerman scored two goals against Herndon on Monday.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Chantilly Boys' Lax to Face Robinson in Battle of State Powers

Chargers beat Herndon 10-1 Monday.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Chantilly boys' lacrosse team spent the first half of Monday's game at Herndon playing like a group potentially looking ahead to Thursday's matchup with defending state champion Robinson.

The Chargers' second-half performance assured any slip-ups would not result in defeat.

Chantilly doubled its lead in the third quarter and did not allow a goal until the game's final minutes en route to a 10-1 Conference 5 victory over the Hornets.

The Chargers led 4-0 at halftime and

pulled away in the third quarter. After a goal by senior midfielder Justin Mundt padded Chantilly's lead to 5-0, senior attackman Ryan Rizzo scored back-to-back goals to extend the Chargers' advantage to seven.

Junior attackman Ethan Malo gave Chantilly an 8-0 lead with a third-quarter goal, and the Chargers led 10-0 in the fourth before surrendering a goal to Herndon's Ryan McLaughlin with 2:28 left in the contest.

"I didn't think we played particularly well," Chantilly head coach Kevin Broderick said. "I don't know if it was a Monday or what but we just came out a little lackadaisical and we didn't catch and throw very well at all. It was just a matter of them coming together and I think in the third quarter ... we started to play a little more Chantilly ball."

Was it hard not to look ahead to Robinson?

"You think we were looking ahead?" Broderick asked. "We were trying not to,

for sure."

Rizzo led Chantilly with three goals. Senior attackman Jack Kiewel and junior attackman Colin Zimmerman each scored two, and senior midfielder Sean Comerford, Mundt and Malo each had one.

The victory improved Chantilly's record to 2-0 and set the stage for a matchup of undefeated state powers. The Chargers will travel to face Conference 5 foe Robinson at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, March 26. The Rams (3-0) return much of their 2014 6A state championship team. Chantilly has reached the state championship game in five of the last seven seasons, winning titles in 2008 and 2013.

"Because it's a conference game, it's always a good challenge," Broderick said. "They're the defending state champions and they're playing very well — they're undefeated — so it's going to be a real test for us. They're stacked and so it will be fun to watch."

Senior defenseman Brendan Wallace,

who is committed to Ohio State, warned his teammates about overlooking Herndon. Now that Chantilly took care of business, the Chargers' focus is on the Rams.

"In the grand scheme of things, win or lose [against Robinson], we'll come back, we'll keep working, we'll do the same thing no matter what," Wallace said. "But it's a big confidence booster and it's really good, it tells us how we'll stack up. Robinson, we have a lot of respect for them. They're a good team — they're one of the best teams in the area — but we think we have a pretty good club too."

Wallace, senior defenseman Javin Re, and Mundt are team captains.

"We're lucky," Broderick said. "We've got 15 seniors and some good juniors, so we should be good."

Chantilly will compete in three games during the Robinson spring break tournament, taking on Battlefield (March 28), Langley (March 30) and Williamsburg LC (April 1).

MILITARY NOTES

Email announcements to chantilly@connectionnewspapers.com.

Army Pvt. **William J. Banks** has graduated from Basic Combat Training at Fort Benning, Ga. Banks is the son of Kimberly and Edger Banks of Herndon. He is a 2013 graduate of Westfield High School.

Air Force Airman 1st Class **Jackson O. Sullivan** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. Sullivan is the son of Charles R. Repogle of Chantilly and Laurie J. Sullivan of Fairfax and grandson of Timothy and Marjorie Sullivan of Santa Barbara, Calif. He is a 2014 graduate of Oakton High School.

Vagif A. Seidov, an Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) cadet

at Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tenn., has graduated from the Leader Development and Assessment Course at Fort Knox, Ky. Seidov enrolled in Army ROTC through the Green to Gold program. In addition to completing LDAC, he deployed on a cultural immersion tour to the Republic of Georgia, where he completed Mountain Warfare College. Seidov is the son of Arif Seidov of Fairfax and Lala Mollayeva of Brooklyn, N.Y., husband of Tera Seidov and father of Madison. He is a 2006 graduate of Westfield HS.

Air Force Airman **Zaccai D. Weems** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Weems is a 2013 graduate of Westfield High School.

Air Force Airman **Luke M. Robinson** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Robinson is the son of Brian and Diana Robinson of Chantilly.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Helping Special Olympics

Participants, friends and long-time supporters of Fairfax Adult Softball, Inc. united together in January for the 15th Annual Benefit Bowling Tournament to raise funds for Northern Virginia Special Olympics and Fairfax County Park Authority field improvements. More than 250 players and volunteers came out to the Bowl America in Falls Church, and participated in the event which raises over \$15,000 each year. Above, Northern Virginia Special Olympians after receiving their medals: Shannon McAvoy, Michael Barber, Alexis Gillette, Kevin Leddy and Kyle Leddy.

SCHOOLS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

States of Matter

Scientists and engineers from Micron Technology Inc. visited Poplar Tree Elementary School to conduct experiments relating to states of matter. Poplar Tree is the first school where the Explore Science! Lessons are given in Fairfax County by SySTEMic Solutions and sponsored by the Micron Foundation.

SCHOOL NOTES

Email announcements to chantilly@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos are welcome.

John Goins and **Steven Rutledge** earned dean's list recognition for the fall 2014 semester at The Citadel (S.C.).

The following students have been named to the 2015 Virginia All-State Honors Choir: **Michael Mason** and alternates **Kayla Blatman** and **Rebecca Gustafson**, of Chantilly High School; and **Abigail Martin** and alternate **Nathan Robl** of Westfield High School.

The following students have been named to the 2015 Middle School Honors Chorus: **Liam Bloom**, **Julie Ablimit**, **Angela Giaconia**, **Hope Kim**, and **Joanne Moon** of Franklin Middle School; **Aidan LeBlanc**, **Kaitlyn Gorodnick**, **Rocio Hernandez**, **Bianca Mellard**, **Colin Brown**, **Stephen Everard**, **Nathaniel Fitzgibbons**, **Suryanshu Kommoju**, **Christina Hoang**, **Madeleine LeBeau**, **Kavya Shankar**, **Haoan Zhang**, **Meghana Kamineni**, and alternate **Angela Wharton** of Rocky Run Middle School.

Middle and high school students enrolled in Fairfax County Public Schools have won a total of 524 awards in the Regional Scholastic Art Awards program sponsored by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers.

From more than 2,400 entries from FCPS students, 158 Gold Keys, 164 Silver Keys, and 202 Honorable Mentions were awarded for outstanding drawings, paintings, prints, photographs, ceramics, sculptures, digital art, design, architecture, jewelry, fashion, film and animation, mixed media artworks, and portfolios.

Gold Key award-winning entries will be submitted to the national Scholastic Art Awards competition. National awards will be announced in April.

Students from Chantilly High School include:

Bryan Dreyfus, Honorable Mention in photography for "Hyperion"

Amanda Filipek, Honorable Mention in photography for "Perception"

Jason Fischetti, Gold Key for "The Graffiti" photo portfolio

JaiVon Frederick, Gold Key in drawing and illustration for "Intensity of Disappointment"

Kevin Hacker, Honorable Mention in photography for "Blue," Silver Key for

"Chains" photo portfolio and Honorable Mention in photography for "Disconnect"

Tara Hackett, Gold Key in photography for "Vienna Rose"

Angelica Kim, Silver Key in drawing and illustration for "Back" and for "Inside"

Irene Lee, Gold Key in Mixed Media for "Allergy" and for "Submerged"

Kendra Maynard, Silver Key for "Military" art portfolio and Honorable Mention for "Upcycled Wearable" art portfolio

Frances Meador, Honorable Mention in photography for "Maureen"

Amaryllis Medero-Vargas, Silver Key for "Who We Are" photo portfolio

Michael Nelson, Honorable Mention for "Childhood Fun" art portfolio

Paige Ngo, Honorable Mention for drawing and illustration for "Girl Holding Bottle"

Elizabeth Oswalt, Honorable Mention in photography for "The Unknown Souls"

Kelly Schuberg, Gold Key for "3 Generations" photo portfolio

Shijia Zhao, Honorable Mention in painting for "Paint Dripping Paint" and Honorable Mention for "Friendship" art portfolio

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Health Matters More

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



I realize money doesn't buy happiness, although I wouldn't mind renting it. Still, having money rather than not having it can't be all bad. And I can definitely appreciate how not worrying about it can contribute to a potentially less stressful, above-average quality of life, generally speaking (I'm well aware that if you don't have your health, you don't have nearly as much; don't I know it!). And though there are no guarantees in life, other than death and taxes, as the old saying goes; being able to say "yes" should be easier than saying "no" when all is said and done. And when all is not yet "said and done," and there are health issues which intersect with dollars and sense, the conflict can exacerbate an already difficult situation. Unfortunately, the two are not mutually exclusive, and one can experience both - simultaneously.

Being a "terminal" cancer patient hardly improves this situation, regardless of what is said or done. Somehow, somewhere, one has to find stress-relievers and mind-occupiers. If that release involves money, I'll just have to live with the consequences of my inaction. Although having rather than having not is a much better alternative, navigating without has not been an impossible task. Hopefully, I'm mature enough to take the good and dispose of the bad and use it to strengthen my resolve, not weaken it. Because no one, as my mother was fond of saying, "gets out of this life alive," and leaving a path of inappropriate behavior in your wake is likely not the road to find out (Cat Stevens).

But I'm not, necessarily, as I live and breathe, on any sort OF road to find out. I'm more on a path of least resistance. I'm trying to accentuate the positive and minimize the negative and put stress in my rear view window (yes, I still drive; I'm fine, mostly). However, there are impediments and obstacles to such blissful ignorance; I mean, happiness. Regular appointments with an oncologist and visits (I use that word loosely) to the Infusion Center every three weeks for chemotherapy tend to muddle that happiness, naive or otherwise. In addition, when nos get in the way of yeses, the benefits are less obvious. As much as I'd like to be a sport, I have less recourse now than I ever have and fewer alternatives to compensate for a potentially abbreviated pursuit of life, liberty and happiness. It's not as if I'm unable to provide for myself and my family, however; it's more that in so doing, I feel as if I'm inadvertently giving in to the pressure and making worse an already difficult-to-mange situation: stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer, which my oncologist originally characterized as "treatable but not curable;" try processing that when you're age 54 and you've just buried your widowed mother. Still, six-plus years post-diagnosis, maybe I'm here to stay?

Who knows, really? If I had fewer "normal" things on my mind, perhaps cancer and its devastating effect would be more on my mind? Which I wouldn't see as a positive. Actually, I would: I'm positive the effect would be negative. Maybe the fact that I've tried to maintain my status quo and not impose a "bucket list"/artificial deadline on myself has enabled me to stay in the game longer than was initially "prognosed." And I am extraordinarily lucky; I just wish that sometimes, the game came with fewer expenses.

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

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**PUBLIC HEARING FOR TOWN OF CLIFTON
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SPECIAL USE PERMIT
PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF CLIFTON
PLANNING COMMISSION
March 31, 2015**
Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Planning
Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 31,
2015 at 7:30 P.M. at the Acacia Lodge Hall, 7135 Main Street,
Clifton, VA 20124 to consider the amendment of the special
use permit of Clifton General Store / Main Street Pub, located
at 7140 Main Street, to include and authorize an increase in
number of seats, an increase in parking onsite and off-site for
the public and employees. The application for the proposed
amendment to Clifton General Store / Main Street Pub's special
use permit, is available for review and downloading on the
Town's website at www.clifton-va.com and a hard copy may be
examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road,
Clifton VA, 20124. All interested parties are invited to attend
and express their views with respect to the requested amend-
ment to the Clifton General Store / Main Street Pub's special
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SCHOOLS

Helpers

FROM PAGE 4
tial problem cases"

Krishnan said she used Google forms to register both tutors and tutees, and made sure to monitor how each pair worked together and adjusted as necessary once the program kicked off that January.

"Every week I would touch base with the teachers of the tutees to keep them posted that their student is attended and also let them aware that they could send extra practice work, or whatever, that they would like the tutor to work on with the tutee."

Each school year, the program is intended to run through the end of April, after the SOL tests are taken and the academic term is coming to a close.

Krishnan said the hard work and figuring out the logistics has been worth it.

"I really enjoy it," she said. "I enjoy seeing these kids do what they do, serving the community."

Her son, eighth grade Rishabh Krishnan, said being a tutor with Homework Helpers has certainly been a highlight of his middle school career.

"My favorite part is at the end of the session, when you see the accomplishment of the tutee," Rishabh said. "Seeing what other people can do is almost better than seeing what you can do on your own."

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

FROM PAGE 10

nursing facilities. Training is provided in March.

Call 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/lte for me.

Homeless Animals Rescue Team is looking for volunteers to hold dogs at adoption events, Saturdays noon-3 p.m. Volunteers must be 18 or older. Events will be held at Petsmart, 13866 Metrotech Drive, Chantilly. Call 703-691-HART or visit www.hart90.org for more.

Sully Historic Site needs volunteers to help plan and present programs. Volunteers who enjoy gardening, working with children, learning new recipes and cooking methods, or just like to be around interesting people are needed both weekdays and weekends. Volunteers at Sully can choose an aspect of historic interpretation, event support or any other area to make a difference for visitors. Call 703-437-1794 for an interview. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site.

The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum needs volunteer docents on Sunday afternoons from 1-4 p.m. Greet museum visitors and tell them about the exhibits, the Museum and the its railroad and Civil War history. Docents should possess good people skills. Opportunity for those interested in railroads, the Civil War and Northern Virginia history. Training and orientation provided. The Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Call 703-945-7483 or visit Fairfaxstation.org

Northern Virginia Family Service is seeking volunteers to organize collection drives of toiletries products for clients in need. Requested items include such things as shampoo, soap, lotion, deodorant, hand sanitizer, toothbrushes and toothpaste. Learn more about Northern Virginia Family Service at www.nvfs.org or contact Colleen Ross cross@nvfs.org.

The **Stuart-Mosby Civil War Cavalry Museum** needs volunteers to work on Sundays at 13938 Braddock Road, Centreville. The museum is open from 1-4 p.m. on Sundays, when volunteer help is needed the most. Civil War buffs who want something worthwhile to do on Sundays are perfect candidates. Generally at least two volunteers are on duty for each day of coverage at the museum. The museum is also open on Saturdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Mondays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 703-785-5294 or visit www.stuart-mosby.com.

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to chantilly@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

THROUGH APRIL

Kindergarten Registration.

Greenbriar West Elementary School, 13300 Poplar Tree Road, Fairfax, is now accepting information for next year's Kindergarten classes. Parents of students within Greenbriar West's boundaries, who will turn 5 years of age by Sept. 30, 2015, should call the school office at 703-633-6700.

MULCH SALES

Westfield High School. Mulch delivery is scheduled for April 10-11. Order early to guarantee driveway delivery. Delivery limited to the WHS boundary area only. High-quality, double shredded mulch, \$4.95 per bag, \$2.65 of that amount is tax-deductible. Minimum order for delivery is 15 bags. Visit <http://ptsa.westfieldhs.org/parents/mulch-order-form.html> to order online. Mulch spreading service available for \$2 per bag, limited availability. Volunteers needed. Email bulldogmulch@westfieldhs.org for more.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 25

Budget Town Hall Meeting. 7 p.m. at Rocky Run Middle School, 4400 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. The session will include a presentation of the County Budget and Fairfax County Public Schools' (FCPS) FY

2016 budget. Contact Kathy Smith at smmontano@fcps.edu.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 27-28

Genealogy Conference. Friday, 2-8:15 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-3:45 p.m. at the Fairfax Marriott Hotel, 11787 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. "Tips and Tricks for Researching the Mid-Atlantic and European Connections" is open to the public and includes nationally known genealogy researchers. Registration cost ranges from \$55 (for FxGS members for one day) to \$95 (for nonmembers for both days). Dining options are available in the hotel. Visit <http://fxgs2015springconference.eventbrite.com> or www.Fxgs.org for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 28

Yard Sale. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Liberty Republican Women's Club's host their annual yard sale. Rain or shine.

TUESDAY/MARCH 31

Candidate Panel. 7 p.m. at the Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. The Liberty Republican Women's Club hosts a Sully Supervisor Candidates Panel Discussion, moderated by John T. Frey. Free, open to all. For reservations contact Janet Haley-Varre, 703-378-2519.

SATURDAY/APRIL 4

Community Passover Seder. 6:30 p.m. at Temple Beth Torah, 4212-C Technology Court, Chantilly. Temple

Beth Torah celebrates their 16th Annual Community Passover Seder. Menu includes ritual Seder items, gefilte fish, matzoh ball soup, roast chicken, vegetables, kosher wine/juice and Passover desserts. \$20, adults, children 13 and older; \$10, 12 and younger; free, 3 and younger. Call 703-217-8938 or visit www.BethTorah.net for more.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 8

Kindergarten Registration. 5-7 p.m. at Colin Powell Elementary School cafeteria, 13340 Leland Road, Centreville. Forms and other information are available on line at: <http://www.fcps.edu/start/kindergarten.htm>. Due to the time required, parents only should come to school for registration. Call 571-522-6000 for more.

FRIDAY/APRIL 10

Writing Conference. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at NOVA-Manassas, 6901 Sudley Road., Manassas. Paul Rogers and Donald Gallehr will host workshops designed for educators on how to incorporate writing into the classroom setting. Free. Visit www.novamawritingconference2015.eventbrite.com to register.

TUESDAY/APRIL 14

Ladies' Book Club. 7:30 p.m. at Temple Beth Torah, 4212-C Technology Court, Chantilly. Join this synagogue-sponsored "pot-luck" style book club that meets every other month on the second Tuesday at Temple Beth Torah. This club is open to all women. Bring a drink or appetizer to share. April book is "The

Boston Girl" by Anita Diamant. Call 703-217-8938 or visit www.BethTorah.net for more.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 15

Classes for Caregivers. 1:30-3 p.m. at Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. "Dementia and Legal Concerns: Capacity, Guardianship & Healthcare Decision Making." Free. RSVP to Christi Clark at 703-204-4664 or christi.clark@insightmcc.org.

Seminars for Family Caregivers. 7-8:30 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Learn strategies about how to help your aging family member adjust to life as a senior. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults.

THURSDAY/APRIL 16

Kindergarten Registration/Orientation. 2:30 p.m. at Greenbriar East Elementary School, 13006 Point Pleasant Drive, Fairfax. Contact the school office at 703-633-6400.

Kindergarten Orientation. 3 p.m. at Colin Powell Elementary School cafeteria, 13340 Leland Road, Centreville. Call 571-522-6000 for more.

THURSDAY/APRIL 23

"Sacred Search." 7-9:30 p.m. at Centreville Baptist Church, 15100 Lee Highway. "Scared Marriage" author Gary Thomas will host two sessions: "What if Being in Love Isn't a Good Enough Reason to Get Married" and "Eight Essential Traits." Tickets are \$10 before April 13, \$15 after. Visit www.cbcva.org/sacredsearch.

SPRING FUN

FROM PAGE 11

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 15

Nature Tots. 10:15-11 a.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Toddlers may explore the park through sight, sound, smell and touch. Cost is \$4 per child. Call 703-631-0013.

SATURDAY/APRIL 18

Tree Trek. 9:30-11 a.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Jim Dewing will lead a tour of the biggest, oldest and rarest trees in the park. Tickets are \$6. Call 703-631-0013.

Earth Day. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Learn about the changing environment and how to recycle household items. Tickets are \$5. Call 703-631-0013.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 24-25

"Shrek: The Musical." 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10690 George Mason Circle. Pied Piper Theatre presents the familiar Shrek Tale set to music. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for children. Visit www.hyltoncenter.org.

Centreville International Showcase. 6-9:30 p.m. at Centreville United Methodist Church, 6400 Old Centreville Road, Centreville. Find international food, music and dancing from around the world. Admission is free. Visit www.centrevilleinternationalshowcase.org.

USO of Metropolitan Washington-Baltimore's fundraiser. 6 p.m. at Marriott Dulles Airport Hotel, 5020 Aviation Drive, Sterling. This annual event raises funds to support the USO Lounge which supports military families as they travel. Find a full course dinner, cash bar, silent auction, raffles, dancing and more. Individual tickets are \$45, tables are \$400. Visit www.uso.org

"Curtains." 7:30 p.m. at Mountain View High School, 5775 Spindle Court, Centreville. The Alliance Theatre presents "Curtains." It's the promising year of 1959. Boston's Colonial Theatre is host to the opening night performance of a new musical. When the leading lady mysteriously dies on stage the entire cast and crew are suspects. Visit www.thealliancetheatre.org for more.

SUNDAY/APRIL 26

"Images of Rails." 1-4 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Visit a photo exhibit of Virginia railroad sites. Museum members and children 4 and under, free; children 5-15, \$2; adults 16 and older, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org.

"Shrek: The Musical." 3 p.m. at the Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10690 George Mason Circle. Pied Piper Theatre presents the familiar Shrek Tale set to music. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for children. Visit www.hyltoncenter.org.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 1-3

"Curtains." Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, 2 p.m. matinee at Mountain View High School, 5775 Spindle Court, Centreville. The Alliance Theatre presents "Curtains." It's the promising year of 1959. Boston's Colonial Theatre is host to the opening night performance of a new musical. When the leading lady mysteriously dies on stage the entire cast and crew are suspects. Visit www.thealliancetheatre.org for more.

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