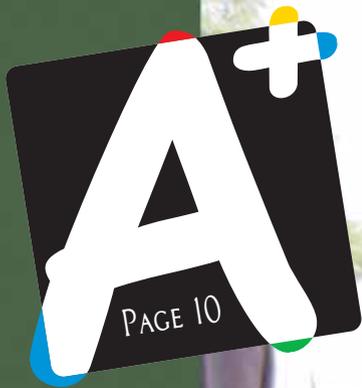


Burke CONNECTION

The GMU Patriot mascot greets Samar Zewari, of Burke, during the Burke Centre Festival on Sunday.

Huge Turnout at Burke Centre Festival

NEWS, PAGE 13



‘On the Road,’
On the Shelves

NEWS, PAGE 14

‘Reports and Tears
Are Not Enough’

NEWS, PAGE 3

FOLLOW ON TWITTER: @BURKECONNECTION

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 14 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 16 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 18

PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

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COURTESY OF CORAZON FOLEY

Candidates Corazon Foley (center), running for Springfield District supervisor, and Elizabeth Schultz (right), running for re-election to the Fairfax County School Board, attended a meet and greet event at the West Springfield government center.

League of Women Voters Hosts Springfield Candidates

Dozens of Springfield district constituents came out to the West Springfield Government Center to hear from candidates running for supervisor and school board positions. The Sept. 9 event was the first in a series of meet-and-greets for the different Fairfax County magisterial districts, hosted by the League of Women Voters.

Corazon Foley, of Burke, is running as an independent against incumbent Pat Herryty (R). Elizabeth Schultz is the unopposed incumbent for school board representative. Herryty did not attend the event, due to a prior commitment recognizing the 50th anniversary of Northern Virginia Community College.

During her remarks, Foley summarized her advocacy for increased facilities for local seniors as founder of the Burke-West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls. Foley said she is opposed to a proposed meals tax and called for greater budget discipline.

Though Herryty was not able to attend the event, the League of Women Voters has published both his and Foley's responses to a number of questions as part of a voter's guide. That guide is available online at onyourballot.vote411.org/race-detail.do?id=13600317#.VfiMQ9Jikq.

— TIM PETERSON

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PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Members of the Fairfax County ad hoc police policies review commission and Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova (center) hold a public forum at Walt Whitman Middle School on Sept. 14.

‘Reports and Tears Are Not Enough’

Protesters demonstrate for Natasha McKenna, social justice and improved mental health services at ad hoc police review commission public hearing.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Cayce Utley of Centreville said Natasha McKenna, the 37-year-old African American woman with mental illness who died in the Sheriff’s Office custody in February, must be “more than just a mistake, more than an accident. Black women aren’t your ‘Oops,’ they aren’t your teachable moments.”

Utley was one of nearly 30 individuals and organization representatives who spoke at the Sept. 14 public forum for the Fairfax County ad hoc commission to review police policies.

Though the work of the commission is focused mainly on the Police Department and came about largely as a result of the way the county handled the 2013 officer-involved shooting death of Springfield man John Geer, the forum provided residents with an opportunity to both hear the final recommendation report from the commission’s Use of Force subcommittee and voice their frustration about McKenna’s death and the lack of services for individuals with mental illness.

When Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kincaid released footage last week of McKenna being forced to the ground outside her cell in the Adult Detention Center by six male deputies, then restrained, shocked with an electricity conduction de-

vice or “taser,” and later losing consciousness and a heartbeat, it sparked outrage in the community.

RESIDENTS from all over Fairfax County, as well as Maryland and Washington, DC, filled the auditorium at Walt Whitman Middle School to capacity. Many were holding signs they had brought to demonstrate for McKenna in front of the school prior to the meeting.

Throughout the forum, several demonstrators cried out “Say Her Name!” (“Natasha McKenna!”) and other exclamations condemning the graphic scenes from the video, continued violent treatment of people of color by law enforcement and asking what was being done about it.

Erika Totten of Alexandria compared McKenna’s death to the “casual slave killing” act in the Virginia code from 1669. “This is what we’re dealing with today,” she said. “Her death was ruled as an accident. I have a problem with that. Natasha is me. Your reports and tears are not enough.”

“Their anger is understandable,” said Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon) who attended the meeting but did not speak publicly. “You can’t look at the video without saying this could have, should have been avoided.”

“The fact they’re here, expressing angst over the case and how we deal with mental illness, is something the community needed

SEE PROTEST, PAGE 19



Members of the audience at the Fairfax County police policies review commission public forum raise signs protesting in the name of Natasha McKenna, who died while in the custody of the Fairfax County Sheriff’s Office.

Video of McKenna Incident Released

Three days after Commonwealth’s Attorney Raymond F. Morrow announced he had concluded his investigation of Natasha McKenna’s death while in the custody of the Fairfax County Sheriff’s Office, Sheriff Stacey Kincaid released the video of the incident. Her justification for not releasing it sooner was that it had previously been evidence in an ongoing investigation.

The 48-minute video, available to stream on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=jVs8B2Nmo5k&feature=youtu.be, begins with a message from the Sheriff: “I

want all of you to know this tragic incident has been ingrained in my mind from the day that it occurred. There is no better way for me to share what actually occurred than to make this video available for the community to review it in its entirety.”

As of publication, the video had over 400,000 views.

The graphic footage shows McKenna being removed from her cell and forced to the ground as she struggles against six Sheriff’s deputies who are telling her, “Stop resisting,” and “Ma’am, if you do not stop resisting, you will be tased, do you understand?”

While being moved from the ground to a chair and restrained, McKenna received four shocks from an electricity conducting device or “taser” wielded by one of the deputies. He applied the taser twice in her lower body, twice her upper body, one of the deputies explains on the tape.

A medical team was called to check McKenna’s vital signs. In the hallway outside her cell, she was deemed stable enough to transport. When the team that was moving her reached the van waiting to take her to Alexandria, another check showed she no longer had a pulse. Deputies began performing CPR on her and were eventually relieved by Fairfax County Fire & Rescue.

McKenna’s body was put on a gurney and taken away in an ambulance, at which point the video ends.

— TIM PETERSON

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE



Fairfax County Sheriff’s deputies, wearing protective suits, can be seen forcing Natasha McKenna to the ground outside her cell at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center in the video released by Sheriff Stacey Kincaid.



After being restrained with upper and lower body cuffs, and a spit hood, and receiving shock from four applications of a conducted electricity weapon or “taser,” a medical team checked Natasha McKenna’s (center, seated) vital signs prior to her being taken from her cell to a van bound for Alexandria.



Before being loaded onto a van to be transported to the Alexandria Sheriff’s Office, medical officials determined Natasha McKenna no longer had a pulse. Sheriff’s Office deputies began performing CPR and were replaced by Fairfax County Fire & Rescue, who then took McKenna to the hospital.

'Hidden Fairfax' Needs Urgent Attention

Elected officials discuss ways to support county's residents in need.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

“We can't do enough to spread the word that in the midst of affluent Fairfax County there is another, 'hidden Fairfax' that needs our urgent attention.” That was her response when Margery Leveen Sher, executive director of the Medical Care for Children Partnership (MCCP) Foundation, was asked what was the organization's goal for the Business Leaders' Breakfast hosted by MCCP on Tuesday, Sept. 15. Held in the offices of McGuireWoods Consulting in Tysons, the “Hidden Fairfax” gathering featured discussions on the topic by elected officials U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) and State Sen. George Barker (D-39). MCCP board member, and president of Madison Services Group Ann Sullivan, served as MC and moderator.

After welcoming remarks by MCCP Board of Directors president Penny Bladich and an introduction by Sher, Sullivan prompted the panelists to start with their views on the needs in the community and to talk of past and current efforts to provide services, particularly health-related, to the children of the region. Rep. Connolly went straight to the heart of the matter as the opening panelist speaker.

“When I was elected to Congress in 2008...Fairfax was the wealthiest county in the country as defined by median household income,” said Connolly. “Today, Fairfax is number three or four, with a median income of \$110,000. Poverty for a family of three is defined at about \$25,000. Guess what? About 6 percent of our population meets that criterion. That may not seem like a high percentage, but when you take the base, about 1.1 million, that's a lot of people.”

ACCORDING TO CONNOLLY, another indicator that there are Fairfax residents in need “below the surface and often out of sight” is the fact that 29 percent of the county's school children are availing of free or reduced-cost school lunches. “The need is real,” added Connolly, “and sometimes masked by low percentages.”

Connolly praised the work of MCCP in spearheading a public-private partnership to bring medical and dental assistance to the children of those families struggling in our midst, and paid tribute to the medical institutions and the individual physicians and dentists and other medical profession-

als who provided their services for free or at greatly reduced prices.

As for current efforts to alleviate these needs, “Let me put in one plug for the federal level,” Connolly requested. “Passing the Affordable Health Care Act was one of the most significant things Congress has ever done in terms of health care.” What he believes is critical to effect a better health care outcome for the citizens of Virginia and a financial advantage to the taxpayers is to implement the expansion of Medicaid as available under the Act. Connolly says that key element is being stalled by partisanship and “a political problem in Richmond. Four hundred thousand of our fellow citizens would benefit...68,000 of them right here in Northern Virginia.” Under the rules, 100 percent of the monies spent under the expansion in the first three years would be federal dollars, and 90 percent thereafter. Connolly also reminded the attendees that if the federal government doesn't keep up its end of the bargain, “we are not committed, we can get out at any time.”



From left — Moderator Ann Sullivan, MCCP board member, with elected officials and event panelists Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) and state Sen. George Barker (D-39).



Margery Leveen Sher, executive director of MCCP, welcomes the gathering to the “Hidden Fairfax” discussion.



Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova was last up on the agenda, citing statistics about the county's residents in need and efforts to address those needs through public-private partnerships.

Rep. Comstock also acknowledged the needs of “Hidden Fairfax.” The congresswoman appreciates the MCCP model because “it is a great community solution, incorporating all aspects of the community...doing what the government alone cannot.”

Comstock also supports the 21st Century Cures Act, passed this summer by the House. She sees the bill, which promises significant additional funding for the National Institutes of Health and the FDA and reform to bring treatments to market more quickly, as a way of ultimately freeing up more funds to apply to other healthcare issues. Calling on her experiences as Chair of the subcommittee on Research and Technology and past work on technology issues as a delegate in the Virginia Legislature, Comstock also places a lot of faith in technological solutions that would bring more health care options more quickly to more

people in “our on-demand demand society.”

The third panelist, Virginia Senator George Barker, pointed out that the “Hidden Fairfax” residents are not just those below the designated poverty line. “There are many others [15 percent of the population, 172,000 people] in the category of 200 percent above the line who still qualify for some assistance in some cases, and are definitely struggling.”

Barker has degrees in Economics and Public Health from Harvard. He also earned a master's in Health Policy and Management and worked for three decades for the Health Systems Agency of Northern Virginia. In his expert opinion, people need a medical “home” versus the emergency waystation. The current situation of medically underserved county residents “has real implications. People suffer in two ways: their health status is generally much worse than what you and I enjoy, and their life expectancies are much shorter.” Barker supports further integrating Medicaid and Medicare as “good for people and for taxpayers.”

Moderator Sullivan next steered the conversation toward what she called “the elephant in the room.” Should medical and dental assistance such as provided through MCCP include undocumented children?

“These are innocent kids. Health needs to be addressed, period,” replied Connolly. “And remember, disease doesn't check your status. It's to everyone's benefit to help keep people healthy.” Barker, also supporting assistance regardless of immigration status, shared statistics showing that 18 percent of immigrants fall below the poverty line for the first three years of their

residency. By 10 years, the numbers show that they have “caught up with the rest of us.” After 20 years, the majority have improved their status to be “better than the people born here – mostly hard-working people who deserve good health and a chance at the same life expectancy that we have.”

Rep. Comstock sees the “faith-based community, the entire community” as important to bringing aid to this sector of our population, without having to question status or “fill out forms.” She also cited a program in the Loudoun County portions of her district that sends mobile health vans into the community, “bringing medical services to the people who need it most.” Comstock acknowledged that these solutions don't address the underlying problem, but suggested that a Medicaid overhaul similar to Welfare

SEE FOCUS, PAGE 5

Focus on 'Hidden Fairfax'

FROM PAGE 4

reform might be a longer-term solution, giving money to the states in "block grants" and to let them decide how to use the funds to address the issues. Channeling funds in this manner would encourage more creative public-private solutions, "more targeted resources, versus a one-size-fits-all solution," in Comstock's opinion.

Connolly, who feels that when block grants go directly to Richmond, Northern Virginia cannot be sure to receive its fair share, met this idea with skepticism. "I can tell you from my time on the Board of Supervisors, as can Sharon Bulova (Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors) time after time when this was the case." Referring back to his earlier remarks,

"Poverty for a family of three is defined at about \$25,000. Guess what? About 6 percent of our population meets that criterion. That may not seem like a high percentage, but when you take the base, about 1.1 million, that's a lot of people."

— U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11)

Connolly responded that the real elephant in the room was the Commonwealth's failure to enact Medicaid expansion to bring needed funds to bear on the situation.

IN THEIR CLOSING REMARKS, the panelists were more aligned, each expressing their belief that that the Northern Virginia business community was instrumental in addressing the problems to date, and that their continued support and creative problem-solving would be required going forward to leave no child in the "Hidden Fairfax" zone.

MCCP began as a project of the Fairfax County government. By 2007 the organization had proven a successful public-private partnership model and plans to become a separate, 501(c)(3) nonprofit.



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

From left — Ian Thomas with Cardinal Bank, Penny Bladich, president of the MCCP Board of Directors and SVP with Cardinal Bank, and Patricia Stevens with the Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships, do a bit of catching up before the start of the agenda at the Medical Care for Children Partnership Foundation leadership breakfast.

Margery Sher came onboard at the start of the new organization in 2009, and continues to direct its efforts with her staff of two — that includes herself. Current website im-

provements works may cause some inconvenience, but for more information on MCCP visit www.mccpfoundation.org. or call 703-286-0881/0882.

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CENTRE VIEW



Fairfax Ballet Celebrates 50 Years of Training Dancers

Celebrating its 50th year of performances, the Fairfax Ballet Company is one of the longest-running ballet companies in Northern Virginia. Over the years, The Fairfax Ballet has trained exceptional dancers, who have gone on to study and perform at some of the finest ballet companies, including the New York City Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Boston Ballet, Basel Ballet, and Monte Carlo Ballet.



The Fairfax Ballet has trained exceptional dancers, who have gone on to study and perform at some of the finest ballet companies.

"The Fairfax Ballet considers itself very fortunate to have contributed to the cultural enrichment of our community for more than four decades," said Fairfax Ballet artistic director, Margaret Virkus. "We are proud of the wonderful reputation we've built for the quality of our performances, as well as our performers."

working on Broadway in New York City, and without those things, I know I wouldn't be here," said Khori Michelle (Rogers) Petinaud, an alumna of Fairfax Ballet and cast member of Aladdin, the hit Broadway musical. "Also, because of my love for dance and my training at the Fairfax Ballet Company, it doesn't feel like a chore."

Notable alumni include: Teresa Reichlen (New York City Ballet principal), Carrie Ellmore-Tallitsch (Martha Graham Dance Company principal), and Ian Thatcher (formerly with San Francisco Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet and Monte Carlo Ballet).

The Fairfax Ballet, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit performing arts organization, was founded by Ilona and Thomas Russell, who served as artistic directors from 1971-2011.

"Discipline, drive and focus are the biggest things I was able to bring from the classroom into the working world. I'm currently

The Fairfax Ballet's next scheduled performance is The Nutcracker, Nov. 28-29, 2015, at WT Woodson High School, Fairfax. For more information, visit www.fairfaxballet.com

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McLean District Station; 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean, 22101

Sully District Station; 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly, 20151

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Mount Vernon District Station; 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria, 22306

Learn more at <http://unifiedpreventioncoalition.org/>.

FAITH NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

In September 2004 **The Church of the Good Shepherd (Episcopal)**, 9350 Braddock Rd., began offering an ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) program to serve members of our community who wish to improve their English skills. Since then, hundreds of students from 5 continents and more than 25 countries have attended morning and evening classes at Good Shepherd. For more information or to volunteer call the church office at 703-323-5400. Leave your name and contact information and someone will get back to you.

The Church of the Good Shepherd ESOL Fall classes will be held Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:30 – noon and 7-9 p.m., Sept. 22 through Dec. 10.

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Treatment Denied Syndrome

Natasha McKenna's blood is on all of our hands.

BY PETE EARLEY

Natasha McKenna did not die from excited delirium. She died from Treatment Denied Syndrome.* Commonwealth Attorney Raymond F. Morrogh's 51-page investigative report about the death of the 37-year-old woman contains a horrifying litany of attempts by McKenna to seek help for her mental illness only to be met with ineptness and indifference.

Rather than being welcomed when she appeared in area emergency rooms, she either was shown the door without receiving help or was discharged before being stabilized. In one instance, she was stuffed into a cab less than four days after being so violent that she needed to be restrained to prevent her from harming herself or others. In another, a police officer and magistrate overruled a doctor who twice tried to get McKenna hospitalized. In a third, she was discharged from one INOVA hospital at 12:30 p.m., only to reappear at another INOVA emergency room at 10 p.m. on the same day. The medical personnel's solution was not to help her but to call the police and have her arrested. Taken to jail, she was stripped naked, held in solitary and stuck in bureaucratic limbo for several days. When it came time to move her, she was stunned with a taser four

times and died.

If the lack of treatment McKenna received while she was alive was not enough, she was further abused in death. Relying on "junk science," Medical Examiner Dr. Jocelyn Posthumus declared the cause of McKenna's death to be excited delirium — a make-believe syndrome not recognized as real by the American Psychiatric Association, American Medical Association or the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-9) of the World Health Organization.

No matter, that diagnosis allowed Fairfax Prosecutor Morrogh to drive in the final nail. Declaring at a press conference that McKenna possessed super-human strength and quoting a deputy who described McKenna as being demonically possessed, the Commonwealth Attorney stripped away what little dignity was left for this woman whose only real crime was that she got sick.

The release of a sheriff's video of McKenna being removed from her cell — naked and afraid — visually disputed Morrogh's characterizations. McKenna walked from her cell in handcuffs and was knocked to the floor by a squad of men who never showed any signs of losing control of her or of having their lives threatened.

This week, two important meetings could help set the agenda for change. On Monday Sept. 14, the Ad Hoc Police Practices Commission was scheduled to discuss the use of force by law enforcement in Fairfax. On Tuesday night, Sept. 15, community leaders planned to meet to discuss how to create a jail diversion system to keep individuals such as

McKenna from being incarcerated. Nearly 50 community leaders attended the inaugural Diversion First meeting last month. (Morrogh did not.)

The ideas being suggested by Diversion First are not new. They were first brought to the attention of Fairfax officials more than a decade ago but were never implemented because of a lack of funding, a lack of interest and a lack of leadership.

Natasha McKenna paid with her life because of that. Who's to blame?

Like the biblical Pontius Pilate washing his hands of Christ's blood, nearly everyone who crossed paths with McKenna during the last month of her life can claim blamelessness. Thanks to Dr. Posthumus and Prosecutor Morrogh, McKenna is not only the victim but perpetrator of her own death.

The unanswered question is whether Fairfax County — its leaders and its citizens — have learned anything from this tragedy or if they will continue washing their hands and reassuring themselves that there was nothing any of them could do — after all, Natasha McKenna was mentally ill.

* Treatment Denied Syndrome is a term first used by a long time National Alliance on Mental Illness advocate to describe our nation's lack of mental health services and callous disregard for persons with mental disorders.

Pete Earley is author of 13 books including the New York Times bestseller "The Hot House" and the 2007 Pulitzer Prize finalist "Crazy: A Father's Search Through America's Mental Health Madness;" former Washington Post reporter, a resident of Fairfax, and a member of the Fairfax County Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission.

COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

Helping Create Safe School Environment

BY JOHN C. COOK
SUPERVISOR (R-BRADDOCK DISTRICT)



Back to school month is a great time to talk with children about important issues that develop during a typical school year. Of the many issues that students will face, bullying is a topic that warrants a serious discussion. While bullying may be viewed as merely a childhood issue, it can have lasting effects on children long after the bullying subsides. Child victims of chronic bullying are at increased risk for both poor physical and mental health, as well as poor academic success, which may continue as they grow and develop into young adults.

Bullying can take many forms, but Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) defines bullying as any unwanted or aggressive behavior that is intended to harm, intimidate, or humiliate another student. This includes actions such as

threats, rumors, physical or verbal abuse, and purposeful exclusion.

Recent studies have found bullying to be an increasingly larger issue faced by more students than ever before. A recent survey of our own FCPS students found that over 50 percent of students in grades 8-12 reported being bullied by someone at some point during the school year, and nearly 45 percent of students reported being the aggressor in a bullying situation.

Bullying doesn't simply involve

a bully and victim. Kids may play multiple roles in bullying such as assisting in bullying by encouraging the behavior or reinforcing the bullying by acting as an audience. Some children may act as onlookers by neither reinforcing the bullying behavior nor defending it, while others may come to another child's defense when bullying occurs. Any one of these roles can negatively affect a child.

Many children simply don't know how to handle a bullying situation, and FCPS is committed to fostering a safe school environment to prevent and address bullying for all students. To accomplish this, FCPS has developed a county-wide positive behavior approach to teach children how to respect one another and to resolve conflicts in positive ways. The goal is to enhance the FCPS capacity to educate children by developing research-based, school-wide, and classroom discipline systems. This will also include the development of school-wide procedures for all

students and staff, and will cover all settings both inside and outside of the classroom.

Students are also taught about bullying through the health and counseling curriculum. The curriculum focuses on teaching students how to recognize bullying and harassment, as well as teaching students how to report these behaviors. The lessons are tailored to the age of the students, and the curriculum expands as children grow and mature.

When it comes to bullying, creating a safe school and neighborhood community is the first priority. It begins by talking with our children, and helping them to understand appropriate behavior. It also includes teaching them what to do when they are a victim of or witness to bullying. Practicing what to do in different scenarios helps students become more confident in these intimidating situations. To learn about other resources, please visit <http://www.stopbullying.gov>.



More Open Space

Survey about parks shows more households using the parks, lower satisfaction.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County residents say preservation of open space is the most important service that the Park Authority can provide.

“Parks are more important than anytime in the history of the system. Parks are used more today than anytime in the last 15 years,” said Ron Vine, a member of the consultant team who administered the survey.

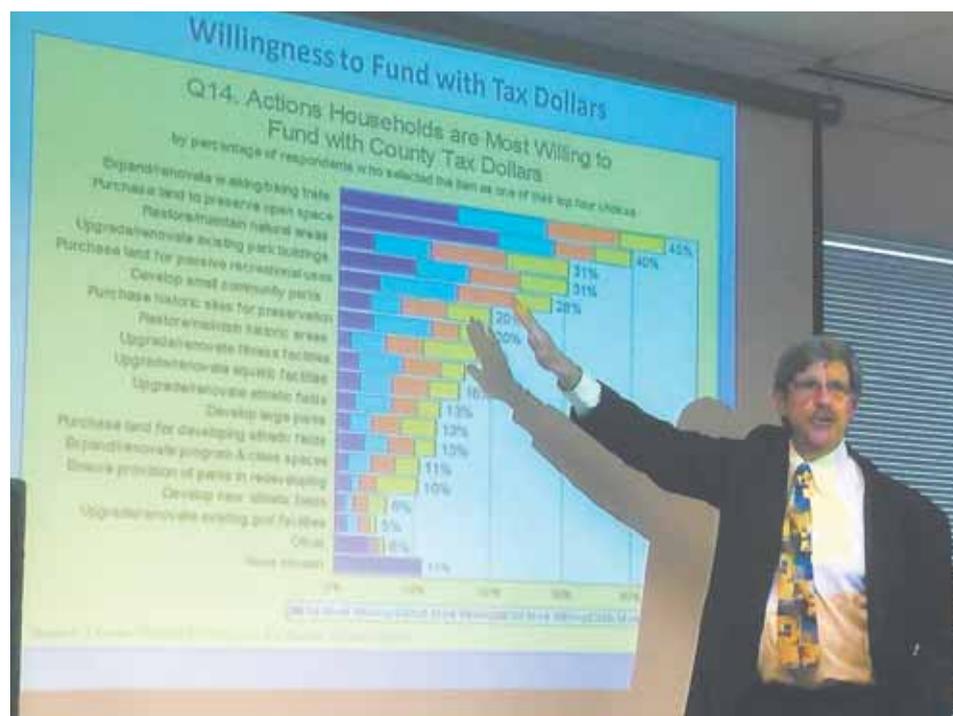
The percent of Fairfax County households that have used the parks in the past year increased to 87 percent, up from 76 percent in 2004 and 82 percent in 2000. The national benchmark is 79 percent, said Vine.

Vine, project manager with consultant Leisure Vision/ETC Institute, helped Fairfax County conduct a parks needs survey to “provide statistically valid, objective and quantitative data reflecting public input relating to park and recreation needs.”

Preservation of open space and providing opportunities to improve physical health and fitness are the two most important services the Park Authority can provide, according to survey results.

This past March, 4,665 Fairfax County residents returned a survey sent to 15,000 randomly selected households. The completed surveys yield a 95 percent confidence level with a margin of error of 1.4 percent.

County residents say they are most willing to fund expansion and renovation of



Ron Vine presents results from a large survey concerning Fairfax County parks. County residents say top priorities for funding are expansion and renovation of walking and biking trails, and the purchase of land to preserve open space and restoration of natural areas.

walking and biking trails, the purchase of land to preserve open space, restoration of natural areas, and upgrading and renovation of existing park buildings.

Vine, who conducts surveys across the states, called the Fairfax County survey the

second largest in the nation.

“Larger than Los Angeles and Atlanta,” he said.

Fairfax County parks are rated as excellent or good by 91 percent of households.

Overall satisfaction with county parks has

declined, the survey showed. This year’s satisfaction rating was 57 percent, down from 74 percent in 2007.

“You are considered one of the top rated systems in the country,” said Vine. But, “Your public is saying, ‘Good is not good enough.’ You want to stay on top of this.”

“Your public is saying, ‘Good is not good enough.’ You want to stay on top of this.”

— Ron Vine, parks consultant

Needs change rapidly because people recreate differently said Bill Bouie, chair of the Park Authority Board. He called the authority a \$83 million business.

The three most important activities and programs are biking, hiking, walking, exercise/fitness, and special events and concerts, according to the survey. The three most important facilities are swimming pools, exercise and fitness facilities and gyms.

“We will continue to do more analysis,” said Judy Pederson, spokesperson for the Fairfax County Park Authority.

Later to Rise

School Board reflects on first day of later high school start times.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

James Madison High School senior Ben Press provided firsthand testimony for the positive effect of new later start times for Fairfax County high school students.

“Your investment in our health paid off, as can be seen in the better-rested faces of thousands of high school students across the county,” said Press, addressing the Fairfax County School Board in his new role as student representative at their Sept. 10 meeting.

“But our work isn’t done yet,” Press continued, “with middle school starting so early, we still have a ways to go until we get this absolutely right.”

When schools re-opened the previous Tuesday, high schools started around eight o’clock rather than seven o’clock, the result of advocacy, community engagement and planning going back several years.

Phyllis Payne of advocacy group Start Later for Excellence in Education Proposal spoke during the citizen participation portion of the meeting, thanking the board members for their work in getting the change accomplished.

“It’s just been great,” Payne said, “hearing all kinds of wonderful things from

Phyllis Payne of the advocacy group Start Later for Excellence in Education Proposal applauds School Board members for helping bring about later start times for high school students.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FCPS

people I don’t know, people I do know.” She went on to read a handful of glowing comments from parents who said the extra hour in the morning allowed them and their students to be feel better rested, have time to prepare and eat a more nutritious breakfast, and just feel less stressed in the morning.

Steven Greenburg, president of the Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, added that group’s perspective: “The transition to later high school start times went very smoothly,” he said. “Our students will know our focus is our on their care and education — an investment in the future leaders of this community, what’s that worth?”

“We had a community that recognized ultimately that this was important,” said Mount Vernon School Board member Dan Storck. “It really came to light in the last

School Board student representative Ben Press, a senior at James Madison High School, called the later high school start times “an investment in our health.”

election: Voters spoke and elected School Board members who felt this was an important thing to do. As a result we were able to bring this home.”

For its first meeting of the new school year, the board had no action items on which to vote. However, its new business included introducing appointments for individuals to serve a one-year term on the Challenged Materials Interdepartmental Review Committee. The materials are library or instructional media at elementary, middle and high school about which residents may choose to file complaints.

In her superintendent’s remarks, Dr. Karen Garza praised the school system for a first day that went smoothly and successfully in her view, including the new start times. “I could not be more pleased nor more proud of our wonderful FCPS employees,” Garza said. “We posed this challenge,

did it for all the right reasons, and it was a great start.”

For helping pull off the major change, Garza recognized the task force that worked on the project, county agencies and assistant superintendent for facilities and transportation services Jeffrey Platenberg.

“The Police Department stepped up too, set up flashing signs,” Garza continued. “And all the supervisors assigned to schools, greeting kids, it was certainly a goodwill gesture.”

Garza closed by referencing the community engagement meeting being held to discuss the projected \$100 million budget shortfall facing the county for Fiscal Year 2017. This week, an online tool went live that allows residents to draft their own budget and submit it for school board members and the budget task force to review.

“We’re all very interested in what the community has to say,” said Garza. “That’s what this entire exercise is about, just allowing the community to have a voice, what they want us to take into consideration as we make these important decisions.”

More information on the Budget Proposal Tool is available online at www.fcps.edu/news/fy2017/budget-tool.shtml.

Ending Bullying

Back to School: Local educators offer advice for parents on how to deal with bullying as school resumes.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When Carol Baker cried, no one heard her. She and a classmate were alone in the girls locker room, and as Baker, then an eighth grade student, tried to leave, her classmate grabbed her gym shirt and pushed her into a locker. They weren't fighting over anything in particular and Baker didn't sustain any physical injuries.

"I was awkward and easily intimidated," said Baker. "I was an easy target for someone who got pleasure out of scaring other people."

As she describes her pubescent encounter, Baker is still visibly shaken, even though the encounter happened more than 30 years ago. It could just as easily happen to her two children — a daughter in fifth grade and son in eighth grade — today. Bullying remains a real issue in schools, and from

smart phone apps to in-school programs, there are a plethora of initiatives to address and prevent it.

"Most researchers agree that bullying is an intent to cause harm," said Michele Garofalo, Ed.D., chair of the Department of Counseling and school counseling program director at Marymount University in Arlington. She is an expert in bullying, adolescent stress and character education.

Educators describe bullying as unwanted, aggressive behavior that is repeated and occurs where there is an imbalance of power, either real or perceived.

However, it's important to know the difference between teasing, exchanges between two people who simply don't like each other, and outright bullying.

"Teasing can be hurtful, but the intention may not be to cause harm and an imbalance of power might not be there," said Garofalo, who also has a private therapy practice.

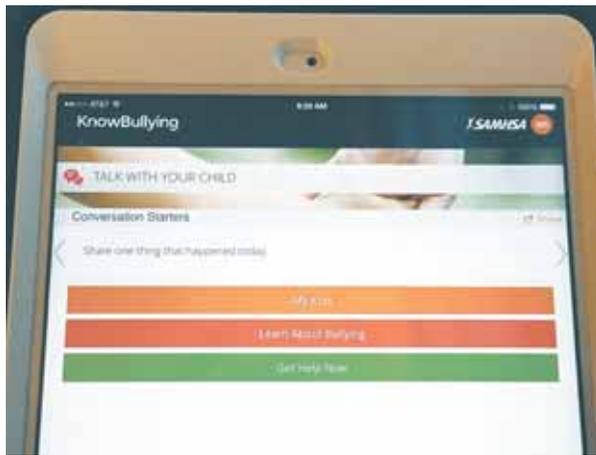


PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL/THE CONNECTION

A new phone app called Know Bullying offers prompts for starting conversations about bullying, as well as warning signs and tips on dealing with the issue.

When offering in-the-moment strategies for addressing bullies, Garofalo says children's well-being comes first. "Most importantly, students should consider their safety," she said. "If they feel they are in danger, they should quickly leave the area and go to a safe place and tell an adult — school counselor, teacher, administrator, parent. Students should not stay and fight back."

Bullying is most likely to peak in sixth through ninth grades. "The early teen years is when it emerges, when there is a lot of identity development," said Amy Best, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Sociol-

ogy and Anthropology at George Mason University in Fairfax. Her research focuses on the study of youth identity formation, youth well-being and social inequalities. "Peer groups assume much greater importance for kids and kids are more self aware than they had been previously."

There's not a lot of cross-gender or cross-race bullying."

If parents suspect a child has fallen victim to bullying, it helps if they already have open lines of communication and their kids feel comfortable talking to them. An effective dialogue is crucial when it comes to addressing the problem.

"If parents suspect a child has fallen victim to bullying, it helps if they already have open lines of communication and their kids feel comfortable talking to them."

— Amy Best, chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, George Mason University



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Bullying Resources

Know Bullying phone app:

<http://store.samhsa.gov/apps/knownbullying/index.html>

<http://www.stopbullying.gov/>

<http://www.stopcyberbullying.org/>

<http://www.tolerance.org/>

<http://character.org/key-topics/bullying-prevention/>

Fairfax County Public Schools:

<http://www.fcps.edu/dss/ips/ssaw/violenceprevention/bullyinginfo/definition.shtml>

Virginia Department of Education:

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/prevention/bullying/>

“The hard part is when kids don’t want to talk about it, but parents should have on-going conversations with their kids,” said Best. “It’s useful to be able to create spaces where kids feel comfortable sharing.”

ONE ROADBLOCK to assessing a potential bullying situation is when a child is reluctant to share or talk. Unfortunately, this is particularly common among the same age group most susceptible to bullying. “Yes and no questions won’t glean the best information,” said Lauren Keller, Lower and Middle School counselor at Bullis School in Potomac, Md. “Instead, parents should ask questions about relationships and times of day, such as: ‘Who did you sit with at lunch? What did you do during recess and who were you with? Is there anyone you would like to make plans with for this weekend?’”

A new phone app comes to the aid of parents who might find initiating a conversation with their children daunting. It’s called Know Bullying, and it offers conversation

prompts, tips for preventing bullying and warning signs that a child might be a victim or a bully.

Local school districts and private schools have anti-bullying policies and plans in place. St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School in Alexandria hosts groups such as Lunch Bunch and Courageous Conversations, which are forums where “students can talk candidly ... about their daily hopes and challenges,” said Linda Stratton, director of communications at the school. “These groups also take leadership in fostering a community of respect.”

Experts also urge parents to contact school counselors, administrators and classroom teachers to report bullying and to obtain more information. “If parents believe their child is a victim, they should consult the school counselor or mental health professional who can work with the child to examine feelings and come up with strategies to help the child cope,” said Garofalo,

SEE ENDING BULLYING. PAGE 12

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FROM PAGE II

who also advises parents to be vigilant for signs of depression, anxiety and suicidal ideation.

If any of those danger signs appear, they should immediately contact a mental health professional for assessment and counseling.

If parents find it necessary to contact their child's school, the approach is important, and experts suggest sticking with specifics. "Labels are often unhealthy in some cases. Parents and other adults would do well to address the behavior in front of them," said Peter Braverman, founder of the education group ARC Professional Development in Bethesda, Md.

"As a teacher or administrator, if you say, 'Josh is a bully,' I can't do anything about it, but if you say, 'Every time my son walks into Spanish class, Josh dumps his notebook on the floor,'" then I can address it."

AVOIDING LABELS also helps when confronting the child who is suspected of bullying. "One of the first things we hear from students is that they shut off when they hear the word 'bully,'" said Erin O'Malley, dean of student services at Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington. "And we want the students to listen to us."

"Most kids don't want to be bullies," added Braverman. "Addressing specific actions and behaviors allows the kid to think, 'I'm a good person and I can modify these behaviors.' As an administrator, I have no problem calling your parents at work and telling them to come and pick you up. I'll help you change your behavior in any way I can, but if you do it again, you're going home."

Additionally, it is good for adults to focus on all parties involved in bullying. "There are three actors: the bully, the victim and the bystanders," Braverman continued. "The great irony is the bystanders are the ones who hold all the power."

Braverman knows this from experience. "The best class I ever graduated in 8th grade was the worst class I had in 6th grade. There were two boys in the class and for years one bullied the other, and one day one it stopped when [the victim] stood up to [the bully]. He got other kids to stand with him while he did it. If a powerful bystander stands next to the victim, the problem would stop immediately."

Garofalo is about to embark on a research project to study the role of bystanders in bullying situations.

Parents can also turn bullying situations into teaching opportunities, says Best. "Learning to deal with conflict and confronting problems are important life skills. Listen to kids first and then map out a plan of action."

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SCHOOL NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

William Douglas Krawczak of Springfield has been recognized by George Mason University on the school's dean's list for his academic achievement during the spring semester. William graduated from West Springfield High School and is double majoring in English and Economics at George Mason University. Recognition on the George Mason University dean's list is reserved for students who were registered for 12 or more semester hours and received a grade point average of 3.2 or higher with no grade below a C for the previous semester's work.

Katie Bershadsky, born and raised in Burke, has been selected to the Delta Epsilon Iota Academic Honor Society in the local chapter at Kennesaw State University. Delta Epsilon Iota was established to recognize and encourage academic excellence in all fields of study. Bershadsky is expected to graduate in 2018 with a major in public relations. Her parents are Scott and Kim Bershadsky. Her grandparents Malcolm and Marcia have lived in Burke for more than 30 years.

Jacob M. Sage, of Burke, Junior, Pre-Construction Engr Mgt. has made the Scholastic Honor Roll Fall term at the Oregon State University. A total of 861 students earned straight-A (4.0). Another 3,598 earned a B-plus (3.5) or better to make the listing. To be on the Honor Roll, students must carry at least 12 graded hours of coursework.

George Mason University has recognized **William Douglas Krawczak** of Springfield on the school's dean's list for his academic achievement during the spring semester. William graduated from West Springfield High School and is double majoring in English and Economics at George Mason University. Recognition on the George Mason University dean's list is reserved for students who were registered for 12 or more semester hours and received a grade point average of 3.2 or higher with no grade below a C for the previous semester's work.

The Fairfax County Band Directors Association has recognized 16 Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students for excellence in solo instrumental music performance as part of the 2015 Fairfax County Band Directors Association

Solo Competition. A total of 33 schools were represented; 66 students competed in the event.

The following students were named winners in the elementary school division: **Third place: Maia Trafton (trumpet), Keene Mill Elementary School.**

The following students were named winners in the high school division: First place: **Hunter Lorelli (bassoon), West Springfield High School.**

Alyssa M. Clark, Caitlyn M. Clark, and Amanda R. Harvey of Fairfax; **Steven D. Peterson, Richard D. Grant, and Emma L. Gray** of Fairfax Station; **Lauren L. Thomas** of Burke; **Sean K. Troutman** and **Michael R. Deets** of Springfield received scholarships on July 22 from the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation at the Truman Crawford Hall at the Marine Barracks Washington in Washington, D.C. The foundation awarded more than \$7 million in scholarship funding to a 2,300 Marine children for the 2015-16 academic year. Of those, 170-plus recipients are from Washington, D.C., Maryland or Virginia.



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Diners relax under the tent during the Burke Centre Festival.

Huge Turnout at Burke Centre Festival

Because of the heavy rains on Saturday, the 38th Annual Burke Centre Festival had a huge turnout on Sunday, Sept. 13. The festival is Burke Centre's signature event, and celebrates the spirit of the community each year with amusement rides, games, live entertainment, and

vendor's booths. This year's entertainment included roving characters, the Hidden Pond Interactive Wildlife Show, the Hypnotic Experience, Karaoke Korner and the Magical Puppet Theater.

— STEVE HIBBARD



Walking across the Monkey Bridge is Jean Pierre Portillo of Alexandria. The bridge was constructed by members of Boy Scout Troop 1345 of the Burke Centre Conservancy.



Ed Robertson prepares Bratwursts for the Burke Rotary Club.



PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

The Kings Park German Band performs during the Oktoberfest Volksmarch.

Burke Church Hosts Oktoberfest

About 50 people took part in the sixth-annual Oktoberfest Volksmarch despite the pouring rain on Saturday, Sept. 12, at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church in Burke. Presented by the Northern Virginia Volksmarchers, the event included a 5K or 10K walk (three or six miles) and 24-mile Biketoferfest bike ride around Burke Lake (with 14 cyclists participating), music by the Kings Park German Band and German bratwurst.

As part of the Northern Virginia Volksmarchers (NVV), the club hosts nine year-round walks in the area, including Burke, Fairfax, Alexandria, Reston and Dykes Marsh, among others. A volksmarch, literally translated means "people's walk," and is a leisurely walk through a scenic, historic, interesting area over a pre-determined route.

"We've been doing this for six years," said organizer Steve Brown, who led the bike ride. "We were hoping for 150 people but it all depends on the rain." He called the day a unique event that brings together four organizations — members of the church, bicycle club, Volksmarchers and the band. With his wife Susan, the couple has done Volksmarches on all seven continents.

He added: "It encourages folks to increase their fitness year-round. I think it helps connect people with the church, the bike club and the Volksmarches."



Susan Brown, past president of Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, with husband Steve Brown, who organized the Oktoberfest and led the bike ride.

"I think the main thrust is meeting people with an interest in health and friendship," said Peter Shaulis, NVV member. He added: "The 10K can be pretty strenuous; there's no time-keeping with these walks. It is not a race; you do it at your own pace."

"It's a social organization where you can keep track of your walks, where you've done them, and the distances — in booklets that keep your records," said his wife Pat Shaulis, a member of NVV.

The next Volksmarch 10K and 5K Walks will be held Oct. 3-4 at Fort Belvoir, Va. For details, visit www.ava.org or contact Kristin Mayer at kristin.b.mayer.naf@mail.mil.

— STEVE HIBBARD



Kathleen Britts of Owl's Eye Nature Photography of Fairfax Station.

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

“On the Road,” On the Shelves

Burke-based author and professor launches first book.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

When Burke resident and George Mason University English professor Art Taylor set out to enter *The Washington Post* short story cover contest, he never expected it would lead to his first book.

Inspired by the visual prompt of a woman's body with feet sticking out of a convertible, conceivably on a road trip, and his own trip with his wife Tara Laskowski to New Mexico, Taylor began crafting a story of two small-time crooks and lovers on an emotional journey around the United States.

Taylor and Laskowski are both writers and decided to each enter the competition. “The story he wrote ended up taking off,” said Laskowski. “His ended up being over 10,000 words; he was excited by the characters.”

TAYLOR'S PIECE far exceeded the *Post's* word limit, but he was able to have it published in Ellery Queen's *Mystery Magazine*.

“Do these folks have more journey in them?” Taylor remembered asking himself after the first piece. “They did.” Taylor completed the draft of the first story in 2008, the second plot for the same characters came in 2011.

At a conference Taylor was attending, he was approached by a publisher who had looked at the two stories and asked him about doing a book with them. To fill out the novel, Taylor wrote four more stories that collectively follow the twists and turns of main characters Del and Louise. The struggling criminals make stops in the American southwest, California, Las Vegas and Taylor's native North Carolina, which form the basis for the story.

Taylor describes the six pieces in “On the Road with Del & Louise” as “self-contained, beginning to end, stepping stones to something else, a push deeper, with more to know, more troubles they can get into.” As a whole, it can be “the search for one another, for home,” he said.

Prior to writing the novel, Taylor has written numerous short works of crime fiction and received Agatha Awards, the Macavity award and Derringer Award. He also teaches crime fiction literature, in addition to advanced composition for business majors and creative nonfiction and fiction workshops, in the English department at George Mason's Fairfax campus.

“He's very particular about showcasing characters, relationships, people in his work,” said Laskowski. “It's not all about



COURTESY OF ART TAYLOR

Art Taylor is an English professor at George Mason University and releasing his first book: “On the Road with Del & Louise: A Novel in Stories” this month.

the crazy plot twists and murders, but getting at the core of something else, something deeper, what it all means. That's what's made him stand out as a writer in the mystery community — something else there underneath the surface that resonates with people.”

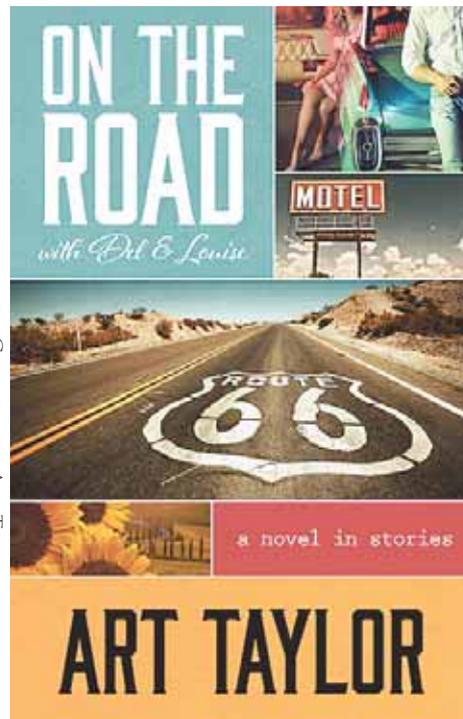
William Miller, director of the creative writing program and English department professor, met Taylor when he was pursuing a creative writing Master of Fine Arts at George Mason in 2003. From reading an advance copy of “On the Road,” Miller agrees Taylor's “reliance on character” is striking. “The first-person narrative technique he uses in the book is just really great,” Miller said. “It's a solid voice, consistent, artful, and an engaging story that has conflict from the very beginning, but not overpoweringly so.”

Miller believes that artfulness in conveying conflict is a valuable skill Taylor is bringing to the classroom, teaching students “to put air into their work, layer it, so it's like onion skin where each layer has a different facet, taste, aspect to it.”

Miller is also executive director of the Fall for the Book week-long literary festival, for which Taylor also contributes as a marketing and outreach consultant, bringing in big names such as author Tim O'Brien to accept the festival's Fairfax Prize.

Though he's never worked as a police officer, crime scene investigator or detective, crime and mystery have appealed to him since he started reading the “Encyclopedia Brown” and “Nancy Drew” series. He eventually moved on to adult mystery, relishing John D. MacDonald's Travis McGee, Agatha Christie and Raymond Chandler.

“At the core, these stuck with me the most,” said Taylor. When settling into a genre as a teacher and author, “I went back to the stories I most enjoyed reading and



In addition to the Sept. 19 launch of his first book, Burke-based author Art Taylor will also be appearing at two events for the Fall for the Book festival on George Mason's campus.

writing.”

Taylor isn't as interested in police processes and forensics as relationships and betrayal, being more “attuned to the idea of clues, psychology.”

Taking his 3-year-old son Dashiell to a Gymboree class fills Taylor with ideas, ominous possibilities. “There could be conflict between parents in the class,” he said. “A little weather, vulnerability, mother and child, misunderstanding,” are simple elements that can create tension.

BALANCING a baby with writing professionally was a challenge Taylor and Laskowski faced together, cutting out other activities, using even short periods of time to work on parts of scenes and reading aloud together, including “The Black Lizard Big Book of Locked-Room Mysteries.”

“He's a very hardworking writer, teacher and individual,” Miller said. “He just balances, as writers must these days, to get writing done and at the same time be prepared to teach a diversified portfolio. He's very even-tempered, pulls it off and maintains good humor. He's one of those remarkable people.”

“On the Road with Del & Louise: A Novel in Stories” was released Sept. 15 from Henry Press. A launch party is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 19 at One More Page Books in Arlington, 2200 N Westmoreland St #101. Taylor will also be appearing at two events for the Fall for the Book festival on George Mason's campus. For more information about the Fall for the Book festival, visit www.fallforthebook.org.

CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/SEPT. 17

Magic Tree House Club. 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Read and talk about *Tigers at Twilight*, number 19 in the series. Having used their magic tree house to travel to India, where they must get a gift to help free the dog Teddy from a spell.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 18

Movie Night in the Campground. 7-9 p.m. Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Join in the fun of Movie Night by watching *The Goonies* at the Campground at Burke Lake Park this fall.

Alphabet Soup. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Join for stories and activities about letters in the alphabet. Ages 3-5 with adult.

Reinventing Your Home. 1 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn how assistive technology, adaptive devices, easy home modifications, and design features can create an environment for senior homes where everyone is comfortable and safe.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 19

Beethoven's 5th with Alon Goldstein. 8 p.m. GMU Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets: www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

Fairfax County NAACP Freedom Fund Awards Banquet. 1-5 p.m. Waterford Springfield, 6715 Commerce Street, Springfield. Eric Broyles, co-author of “Encounters with the Police: A Black Man's Guide to Survival” will be the event speaker. There will be book signing and books available for purchase. See the author discussing his book in a TV interview. www.fairfaxnaacp.org.

Potomac Jazz Club Picnic. 12-6 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Join the Potomac River Jazz Club for an afternoon of jazz music. Three bands will be featured during this event: The Jefferson Street Strutters, The Capital Focus Jazz Band and The Conservatory Classic Jazz Band. Tickets \$25.

MONDAY/SEPT. 21

Let's Hear it for the Girls. 7 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. All girls book discussion group. Water Street by Patricia Reilly Giff. Age 9-12 with adult female.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 22

Tai Chi. 10 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Come experience the benefits of Tai Chi led by Dante Gilmer of Still Water Tai Chi Center. Wear comfortable clothes that allow movement. Adult.

Legos in the Library. 4:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Use your imagination and make friends with LEGO bricks free build.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 26

Fighting Chance 8K Run/Walk. 8 a.m. Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Burke. Run to give an orphaned child a fighting chance for a future free from poverty, disease and violence. Register for the 8K run/walk at www.2540.org

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 26-27

Workhouse Fall Arts Festival 2015. Saturday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sunday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Over 100 of the nation's best artists will exhibit their original fine art and crafts. The two-

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CALENDAR

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day outdoor festival will include work by artists from across the Mid-Atlantic region, showcasing paintings, photography, ceramics, sculpture, jewelry, handcrafted furniture and much more.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 27

The Best Roses for Your Garden.
2-4 p.m. Merrifield Garden Center, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Learn new roses and the best sources for ordering roses that are hard to find, full of form or fragrant.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 27 - SATURDAY/OCT. 3

Annual Fall for the Book Festival.
George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. A week-long, multiple-venue, regional festival that brings together people of all ages and interests. Featured authors are National Book Award winner Tim O'Brien and "Outlander" author Diana Gabaldon. Visit www.fallforthebook.org.

MONDAY/SEPT. 28

Animal Decomposers. 4:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn about the hidden insects that can be found in decomposing logs that you dissect yourself with the help of staff from Hidden Pond Nature Center.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 29

Tai Chi. 10 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Come experience the benefits of Tai Chi led by Dante Gilmer of Still Water Tai Chi Center. Wear comfortable clothes



Learn about new roses and the best sources for ordering roses that are hard to find, full of form or fragrant at Merrifield Garden Center in Fairfax on Sept. 27.

that allow movement. Adult.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 30

Celebrate Calm Workshop. 9:30-11:30 a.m. St. Andrew's Episcopal Preschool, 6509 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Ten ways to stop defiance, disrespect and yelling with America's Calm Coach Kirk Martin and his son, Casey.

Chess Club. 4 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn openings, strategies, tactics, and more. Players paired with others of similar skill.

Used Book Sale to Benefit Cambodian Students

Teenager Melissa Toler, of Burke, is trying to give new life to old books and new hope to young students in Cambodia. Toler, a freshman at Robinson Secondary School, has organized a book sale to satisfy requirements for the Girl Scouts Silver Award, but the greater goal of the event is helping aspiring Cambodian scholars who are still struggling in the wake of the country's mid-1970s genocide.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATIE WEBSTER

Girl Scout Melissa Toler, of Burke, is fundraising for scholarships for Cambodian students with a used book sale at Burke United Methodist Church.

"The money will be used to send children to school who could not go to school otherwise," Toler said in a press release. "Here in America, we are promised an education; the children in Cambodia don't have that privilege."

Children's author Natalie Lorenzi will be at the fair to sign and sell her book "Flying the Dragon."

The book sale is scheduled to take place on Sept. 19 at Burke

United Methodist Church, 6200 Burke Centre Parkway, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. For more information, visit www.burkeumc.org.

—TIM PETERSON

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Sophomore outside hitter Katie Hibner led Lake Braddock with 13 kills during the Bruins' match against Chantilly on Sept. 10.



Lake Braddock senior Faith Briden looks for a kill against two Chantilly blockers.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock Volleyball Falls Short Against Chantilly

Sophomore Hibner leads Bruins with 13 kills.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

After falling behind multiple times in the first set, the Chantilly volleyball team scored five of the final six points to win the opener against Lake Braddock on Sept. 10.

With Chantilly having grabbed momentum, junior Julia Recto did her part to ensure the Chargers remained undefeated.

Chantilly won the first two sets, Recto totaled 21 kills and the Chargers cruised to a 3-1 (25-23, 25-14, 18-25, 25-16) victory at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

BOTH TEAMS entered Thursday's action unbeaten in best-of-five matches. It was Chantilly that emerged with a 4-0 record, thanks in part to the performance of Recto, who put away eight kills in the fourth and final set.

"Julia is one of our go-to players," Chantilly head coach Charles Ezigbo said. "She's one of those quiet people who just does what you tell her all the time. As a player, she's really good, the girls respond to her and [she is] very coachable. I'm really happy to have her."

Lake Braddock fell to 3-1.

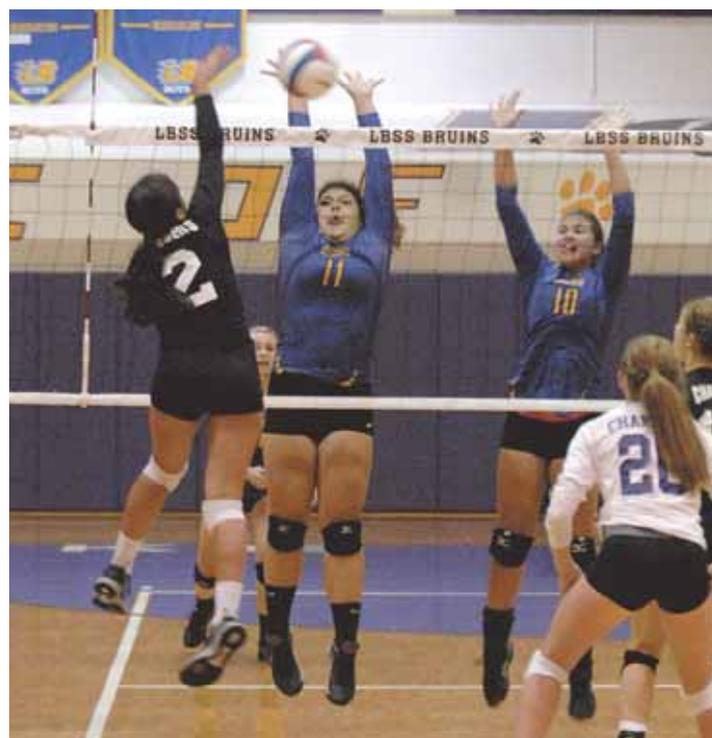
Standing 5 feet 9, Recto is not exceptionally tall, but Ezigbo said her timing and fast arm swing help her to be a dangerous hitter.

"It's more technique than anything," he said.

With Chantilly leading 14-13 in the fourth set, Recto put down three consecutive kills to help the Chargers pull away.

"I really make sure that I get my timing right," said Recto, a third-year varsity player, "and I do a lot of conditioning to make sure that I can out-jump the other blockers and make sure I can get there fast enough and beat them to the net."

Chantilly junior Milleysha Molina finished with seven kills and junior Brynn Feighery



Lake Braddock's Miranda Cortez Verano (11) and Hannah Arthur (10) attempt to block Chantilly's Milleysha Molina.

had four. Sophomores Alexa Carlisle and Katerina Bagatska each had two blocks, and Feighery and Recto each had one. Senior Emily Sciorra had three aces, and Molina, Recto and junior Julia Kim each had one.

"I think we're doing really well," Recto said about Chantilly's 4-0 start. "We still have a lot of work to do but we have a lot of potential to be even better than we were tonight."

Thursday's match might have had a different outcome if Lake Braddock was able to close out the opening set. The Bruins led 22-20, but scored just one of the final six points.

After a Lake Braddock attack error brought Chantilly within one, Bagatska produced a kill and a block to give the Chargers a 23-22 lead. A Chantilly service error tied the score at 23, but the Chargers secured the set with a kill by Feighery and an ace from Molina.

"This game is all about momentum and when that happened I think we started feel-

ing a little bit more within our game," Ezigbo said. "We just weren't playing really well earlier. ... They basically took us out of our game so we had to get back into the game and I think that run kind of gave us our confidence back a little bit."

Lake Braddock head coach Aubrey Eaton said the Bruins' miscues played a significant role in the outcome.

"I don't think Chantilly did anything, I think we did it to ourselves," Eaton said. "Give them all the credit, of course, because they won that set, but I really believe that was on us, that we just basically allowed Chantilly to get back in the match. Maybe it did swing momentum that way, but I felt like we had control and then we let them get control again."

Katie Hibner, a 5-foot-8 sophomore outside hitter, led Lake Braddock with 13 kills, including 10 in the third and fourth sets.

"Katie Hibner was excellent tonight," Eaton said. "She always takes a little while



Chantilly junior Julia Recto tallied 21 kills during the Chargers' 3-1 victory over Lake Braddock on Sept. 10.

"Katie Hibner was excellent tonight. She always takes a little while to warm up to the game and you just have to go through that ... but once she gets going, she really does get going."

— Lake Braddock volleyball coach Aubrey Eaton

to warm up to the game and you just have to go through that ... but once she gets going, she really does get going."

Senior middle blocker Faith Briden had five kills, two blocks, one block assist and two aces. Senior right side Miranda Cortez Verano had five kills, one solo block and one block assist. Junior defensive specialist Danielle Beirman had two aces.

Eaton said senior libero Tara Wulf, and junior setters Grace Bergan and Maddy Sita played well for the Bruins.

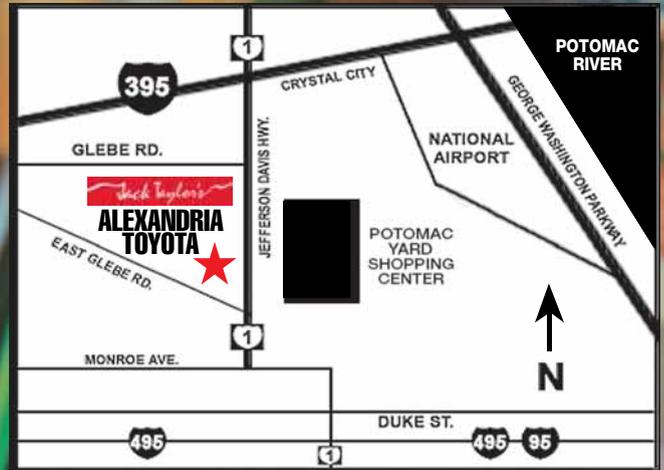
Chantilly will travel to face defending 6A North region champion Madison at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 17.

LAKE BRADDOCK will travel to face Fairfax at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 21.

"I think that what we showed today was that we could play with the big girls and I'm looking forward to more of that," Eaton said. "I think we'll be real contenders in our conference and then also in the region, as well."

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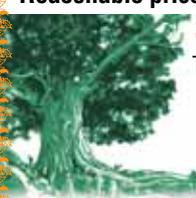
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Investigation Continues for Dead Body in Fairfax Station

Early on Sept. 9, Fairfax County Police announced through Twitter that officers had responded to the report of a dead body on the 9500 block of Crosspointe Drive.

A 60-year-old dead man was located and an investigation started.

In their statement, police said that while the investigation is continuing, they haven't seen anything suspicious about the incident or have to think there's a public safety threat.

— TIM PETERSON

A dead man was found early in the morning on Crosspointe Drive in Fairfax Station on Sept. 9.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT



BULLETIN BOARD

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

FRIDAY/SEPT. 18

Prospective Members Meeting. 7 p.m. GlowGolf, 8430 Old Keene Mill Court, Springfield. All members of the community age 18 or older are invited to attend these events; children are also welcome when accompanied by a parent or guardian. Kiwanis International is a global organization of members dedicated to serving the children of the world. Kiwanis and its family of clubs at all age levels—nearly 600,000 members strong—annually raise more than \$100 million and dedicate more than 18 million volunteer hours to strengthen communities and serve children.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 19

Homicidal Holidays. 2 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Ever feel homicidal at the holidays? Several authors from the multiple award-nominated mystery anthology Chesapeake Crimes: Homicidal

Protest

FROM PAGE 3

to hear, they needed to be listened to," Hyland continued.

Before beginning the forum, commission chairman Michael Hershman called on Use of Force subcommittee chairman Phil Niedzielski-Eichner to review the group's final recommendations to the full commission.

Niedzielski-Eichner explained that the subcommittee's work was "substantially augmented and facilitated" by a June 2015 report from the Police Executive Research Forum that included 71 recommendations for policy changes.

Among its 40 recommendations, the subcommittee called for a more clear and concise use of force policy, the collection and maintenance of "robust demographic data on all detentions and use of force," limiting the use of SWAT "and other advanced tactics," the employment of body cameras to

Holidays will appear on a panel to discuss the craft of writing crime short stories and how they use holidays in their writing.

Saturday Morning Coffee with Del. David Bulova. 8:30-10 a.m. Main Street Bagel, 10268 Main Street, Fairfax. Constituents are invited to talk about issues of interest and to ask questions about legislation affecting our community. The format is casual and no appointment is needed.

EKG Screenings. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Free EKG screenings to area teens at the Recreation and Athletic Complex (RAC). These screenings are a vital and free precaution that can help protect Fairfax's students and athletes.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 20

The 32nd Annual Infant Toddler Family Day Care Provider Appreciation Celebration. 1-3 p.m. PJ Skidoos Restaurant, 9908 Fairfax Blvd., Fairfax. Infant Toddler Family Day Care (ITFDC), a non-profit organization providing child care resource and referral services in Northern Virginia, will celebrate its 32nd anniversary. ITFDC services and supports early child care educators who provide high quality child care throughout Northern Virginia.

record interactions with the public and establishing independent oversight of the police department.

Another recommendation proposed that Mobile Crisis Units for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis be expanded with three additional units.

SPEAKERS at the public forum who addressed the report were generally supportive of its recommendations, with the exception of its additional item that all police officers carry tasers on their person while on duty.

More information and materials from the police practices review commission are available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission.

The next meeting will be held Oct. 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax.

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16 RE Services

21 Announcements

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Joseph Belcher, President.
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE
Complaint For Absolute Divorce of Willie Gray Ward and Qwendolyn Branch Ward Issued at the State Of North Carolina In The General Court Of Justice District Court Division File No. 12CVD1715 10/24/12. Address and Phone number as followed.

21 Announcements

Willie Gray Ward
3009B Buckingham Road NW
Wilson, NC 27896

Main Contact Phone Number 252-373-3341

28 Yard Sales

The Middleridge Community (in Fairfax, VA) will be having multiple yard sales throughout the community on Saturday, Sep 19th, from 9am until 1pm. More info can be found on the MCA website <http://www.middleridgecivicassociation.org/>

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-William Van Horne

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21 Announcements

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