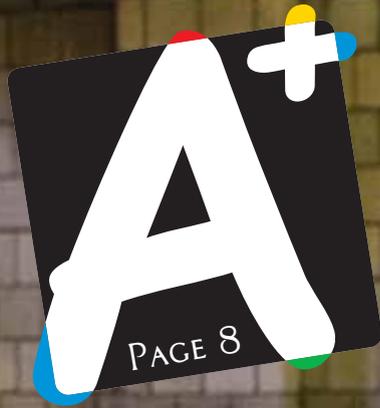


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Fairfax Station

CONNECTION Clifton & Lorton



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(Right) Lake Braddock Secondary School junior Jennifer Yan delivers completed food packages to be boxed for shipment



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Supervisors Approve Independent Police Auditor

Unanimous vote follows Ad Hoc Commission recommendations for more transparency and oversight of Fairfax County police.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

With a unanimous vote on Tuesday, Sept. 20, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved the creation of an independent police auditor office, following recommendations from the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission.

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), chairman of the board's Public Safety Committee, said the proposal for auditor was true to the essence and "basic philosophical approach" of the commission in calling for an impartial civilian who would review police investigations as they're occurring and report directly to the Board of Supervisors.

"The auditor would be involved in monitoring and making recommendations in the course of the police investigations, a lot more efficient than waiting until the end," Cook said. "Police would receive real time comment back from the auditor's office to help strengthen those investigations."

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova established the 32-member commission following public outcry over the August 2013 death of John Geer, 46. Geer was unarmed and standing in the doorway of his Springfield home when he was shot and killed by FCPD officer Adam Torres. The police and county refused to release information on the case for more than a year, and then after court orders.

Torres, who was fired in July 2015 and indicted by a grand jury for murder in August 2015, was the first Fairfax County Police officer in the history of the department to be charged in such a death. Torres entered a guilty plea to involuntary manslaughter, received credit for time served for his 12 month sentence and was released in June.

THE AD HOC COMMISSION and its five subcommittees met intensively beginning in March 2015, reporting to the Board of Supervisors in October, 2015, with 142 recommendations, including the recommendations to establish the Office of Independent Auditor.

"This has not been easy, that is an understatement," Bulova said. "It's the first time we've established a position such as this."

It is the first independent, civilian oversight of the Fairfax County Police.

The scope of the independent auditor's work will include reviewing all cases in which police use of force result in serious injury or death, Cook said. The auditor



Recent data released by Chief Roessler, front row - right, shows that 40 percent of Fairfax County Police use of force incidents involved African Americans while only 8 percent of county residents are African American. John Cook (R) offered this as an example of broader policy issues that the auditor could study.



With a unanimous vote on Tuesday Sept. 20, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved the creation of an independent police auditor office, following recommendations from the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission.

would also review any citizen complaint about police use of force even if it does not involve serious injury or death.

Cook said the auditor would issue an an-



Supervisor Pat Herrity (center) expressed concern that an independent auditor position would increase the police department's administrative workload. He proposed funding two additional positions in FCPD's internal affairs bureau immediately, but those positions will wait until 2018.

nual report, and that the auditor would also be available to engage in policy and practice analysis regarding use of force, as sug-

gested by the Board of Supervisors, County Executive or Chief of Police.

For example, the auditor could study and make recommendations concerning recent data released by Chief Edwin Roessler about demographics of police use of force, Cook said. There were 539 use-of-force incidents in 2015 and data show that 40 percent of those incidents involved African Americans while only 8 percent of county residents are African American.

Cook also pointed out that, unlike an ordinance or land use case, the board may make changes to the independent auditor position in the future.

"If we pass this," he said, "It would not be shocking at all that auditor could come back and recommend we look at a few adjustments" in the future."

Commission member and Use of Force subcommittee chair Phil Niedzielski-Eichner called today's action "a remarkable achievement for the commission's work." He acknowledged the vision of the auditor was for a position that would be independent, but not separate, from the police work.

"This gives the public a real feeling of comfort," said Randy Sayles of Oak Hill, a member of Use of Force subcommittee, looking forward to use of force investigations with the auditor on board, "of the integrity and transparency of the process."

Commission member Adrian Steel of McLean called the unanimous vote "quite affirming." He also appreciated the auditor being able to be involved in identifying trends and reviewing policy, again getting back to the disproportionate percentage of African Americans impacted by use of force incidents.

"The whole thought was for the auditor to become involved in picking up these types of things," he said.

Reston resident John Lovaas, an alternate on the commission for Nicholas Beltrante with the Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability, said he wasn't happy with the way he believed the supervisors deviated from the commission's version of the position.

"They eviscerated the independence of the independent auditor," Lovaas said, citing the auditor's dependence on cooperation from the police.

Other commission recommendations that have already been approved include the establishment of the Diversion First program providing treatment rather than jail for people in mental health crisis and more transparency in police communications.

THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE will discuss the creation of a Civilian Review Panel, a complementary oversight entity to the auditor as proposed by the Ad Hoc Commission, at its next meeting, scheduled for Oct. 25 at 1 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center.



Dozens of volunteers, both from the church and the community, manually measuring out and filling food packets of a fortified rice-soy meal to be delivered to a yet to be announced poverty-stricken city elsewhere in the world.



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

(Top right) Amy Upgren and her young son (bottom right) Max Luther of Burke measure food material into one of the Stop Hunger Now bags in the Burke Presbyterian Church sanctuary on Sept. 18.

Feeding Mouths, Feeding Souls

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

As Nancy Rosene of Fairfax screeched clear packing tape across the top of a cardboard box filled with dozens of meals worth of dried and dehydrated food, she was highly conscious of where she was and what she was doing.

On the other end of the sanctuary at Burke Presbyterian Church on Sunday, Sept. 18, dozens of volunteers, both from the church and the community, were manually measuring out and filling food packets of a fortified rice-soy meal to be delivered to a yet to be announced poverty-stricken city elsewhere in the world.

"I'm taking the effort of all of these people and putting it into this small box," Rosene said. "And thinking of where this box is going, what's waiting on the other end?"

"From this little suburban place in Burke," she continued, "where sometimes life is a little too easy, maybe we can make it easier for just a small time for someone else."

Burke Presbyterian called the event "Food Truck Ruckus: Make Some Noise About World Hunger." True to the name, three food trucks were set up in the church parking lot, along with games for children and adults, a wacky photo booth, and then tents with information on some of the church's other food-related ministry.

For example, there was a collection being taken up for the church's Kibwezi partnership with an orphanage in Kenya.

Jeffrey Willard of Lorton is a member of the church's "Fun Team" committee that helped organize the event.

"It's all about supplying food to the hungry," he said. "We want to feed them, but feed ourselves too."

Carol Ann Cunningham is a community life elder with the Fun Team and coordinated the Ruckus. She said a major part of the afternoon was meant to be intergenerational.



(Top right) Amy Upgren and her young son (bottom right) Max Luther of Burke measure food material into one of the Stop Hunger Now bags in the Burke Presbyterian Church sanctuary on Sept. 18.

"We have people from ages two to 85," Cunningham said. "They're teaching and learning about service."

Amy Upgren and her young son Max Luther of Burke measured material into one of the bags together in the sanctuary.

"It feels good to make the food packets," Luther said. "I like to help hungry people so they won't starve."

The group providing all the materials is national non-profit Stop Hunger Now, which acts as an intermediary between churches,

schools and corporate groups of volunteers and then humanitarian organizations on the ground that make sure the meals get delivered and not resold or discarded.

The church pays all the costs to volunteer through Stop Hunger Now, who could just as well package all the food using an automated system in a warehouse.

"But the goal is for volunteers to do it themselves, be part of the process," said Joe Gautier, program manager with Stop Hunger Now. "Fifty percent of the job is awareness."

Volunteers pack 10,000 meals at Burke Presbyterian Church.



Burke Presbyterian Church co-pastor Jarrett McLaughlin (left) gets a wrap from Springfield resident Sabrina Maheu of Springfield and Springfield-based food truck Doug the Food Dude at the Food Truck Ruckus: Make Some Noise About World Hunger event held at the church on Sept. 18.

Every time the packaging group — which turned over with new volunteers every half hour, three times — reached another 1,000 meals, one volunteer got to take a turn banging a large gong.

On the day, the group packaged 10,000 meals.

"Church is all about doing what you can with the people you've got, when you can," Burke Presbyterian co-pastor Jarrett McLaughlin said. "It's as much about what you believe as what you do."

AREA ROUNDUPS

Celebrating National Public Lands Day at Meadowood

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Eastern States invites volunteers to help construct a fence to protect the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area wetland area, Sept. 24, as part of the National Public Lands Day (NPLD) annual celebration.

The event will take place at the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA), 10406 Gunston Road, in Lorton, from 9 a.m. – Noon.

Meadowood SRMA will join hundreds of thousands of fellow Americans at public land sites across the country to give back to the lands where we play, learn, exercise, and relax in celebration of the 23rd annual National Public Lands Day (NPLD) – the nation's largest, single-day volunteer effort for public lands. Each year, NPLD volunteers provide tens of millions of dollars' worth of services in one day that would otherwise take limited park staff months to accomplish. Last year, more than 200,000 Americans participated in NPLD events at more than 2,500 sites in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and Washington, D.C.

For additional information regarding the NPLD, visit the volunteer.gov website/

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OPINION

Epidemic Is Here, Recovery Is Possible

Prescription opioid and heroin epidemic awareness week is Sept. 18-24.

BY TISHA DEEGHAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FAIRFAX/FALLS CHURCH COMMUNITY SERVICES
BOARD

Opioid use disorder and addiction to heroin is a disease that is devastating families across the United States, and Fairfax County is not immune. Fairfax County police report that in 2015 there were 77 heroin overdoses in the county, 12 of which were fatal. As of May 2016, Fairfax County's Emergency Medical Services was reporting an average of 10.17 patient contacts per month that were suspected overdoses of heroin or other opioids.

In recognition of Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week, and in collaboration with state and federal partners, the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) joins the community in recognizing and remembering those lost due to opioid use disorder and in encouraging strength and courage for those who are seeking help.

The CSB is here to help; resources are avail-

able to treat opioid addiction, and recovery is possible. See www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/heroin-opiates/opioid-treatment-options.htm

Many people, including drug users themselves, have mistaken beliefs about drug addiction and recovery. These ideas stem in part from notions that continued drug use is voluntary and that a person's inability to overcome addiction stems solely from character flaws or a lack of willpower.

Substance abuse treatment comes in a variety of forms. For people who seek help for opioid addiction, treatment should start with a thorough assessment of their history of opioid use, prior treatment history, if any, and existence of any co-occurring mental illness. The treatment plan would be based on this assessment and could include medication-assisted treatment along with other services designed to support their recovery, such as cognitive behavioral therapy, education about addiction, engagement of family and friends, and building a recovery-based support system.

If you or someone you love needs help to

GUEST EDITORIAL

overcome drug dependence, call the CSB at 703-383-8500. CSB staff will help you find appropriate treatment and recovery resources. Anyone seeking help can also come to the Merrifield Center for a walk-in screening, with or without an appointment, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

You can help, too. Enroll in CSB's REVIVE! program, a free course that teaches non-medical personnel to administer the life-saving opioid-reversal medication naloxone. CSB staff has trained more than 640 people so far this year and classes are scheduled throughout the fall. Participants report that the training has saved lives. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/revive

Learn more about substance use prevention at these upcoming events, sponsored by CSB partners:

❖ Attend one of the Chris Atwood Foundation's presentations entitled "Addiction: The Taboo Subject," scheduled for Sept. 24, 9-11 a.m. and Oct. 3, 7-9 p.m. Hear personal stories of addiction and recovery and learn how to recognize and respond to substance misuse at Lord of Life Lutheran, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Clifton, VA 20124.

❖ Parents who want to be more involved in youth substance use prevention and education can attend Fairfax County's Unified Prevention Coalition's Sept. 26 "Taste of UPC" Fall Kick-Off event. See www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Opposing Meals Tax

To the Editor:

I am strongly advocating against the proposed meal tax to be on the Fairfax County ballot Nov. 8. If approved, an additional 4-percent tax would be added to every prepared-food and restaurant meal across the county, in addition to the existing 6-percent sales tax.

Proponents claim that most of the tax burden will be carried by visitors to the county. Nothing could be further from the truth. The tax will unfairly impact those who can least afford to pay it such as the most vulnerable segments of our society including low-income and fixed-income residents (senior citizens, young people, students, single moms and busy families where both parents work).

The proponents have indicated that a portion of the additional tax revenue is designated for Fairfax County Public Schools. This is just more of the usual smoke and mirror deception from the Fairfax County School Board and the Board of Supervisors as they have avoided providing any specifics as to where and how this estimated \$100 million in new tax revenue will be spent. Does anyone tracking this issue really wonder why this is the case?

Plain and simple the proposed meals tax is a regressive sales tax

that hits low- and middle-income working individuals and families the hardest, targeting a single industry. With 40,000 food workers in Fairfax County alone, this will impact the small, family restaurants much harder than the large chains.

Informed voters should oppose the meals tax and demand more accountability from those entrusted with billions in tax revenue annually.

Thomas Bognanno
Springfield

Deceptive Question

To the Editor:

I decided to study the Fairfax County Meals Tax Referendum and was shocked to see how biased the question is worded.

The ballot question begins: "For the purpose of reducing dependence on real estate taxes..." This is bound to cause confusion. Many voters will read that phrase to mean if they vote for the meals tax, real estate taxes will be reduced.

This is a crafty deception by the Board of Supervisors.

The truth is that if the Meals Tax passes, it will lessen the proportion of tax revenue that comes from property taxes because you have more tax revenue coming from somewhere else — the Meals Tax. That's how it allegedly less-

ens the "dependence."

If the Board wanted to be transparent, they'd write the question to say: "For the purpose of establishing a new tax on top of all the other taxes you already pay..." Further, they could disclose that they've raised property taxes by 26 percent over the last four years, and that the 4 percent Meals Tax would come on top of the state's 6 percent sales tax for a whopping 10 percent total tax. Don't fall for the deception. Vote against the Meals Tax this November.

Billy Valentine
Fairfax

Meals Tax: Vote 'No'

To the Editor:

I write today to ask for support for working families in Fairfax County by recommending against the proposed increase in the Meal Tax. This tax increase will impact the hard working parents in the Fairfax County who often eat out to spend quality time with their children and will also greatly impact the low income residents in our county.

Please let your readers across the county know to vote against this additional tax on Nov. 8.

Renate Eschmann
Fairfax

Veterans ID Card: Long Overdue

To the Editor:

Our veterans have sacrificed much to protect us. It is only fitting that we help protect them as best we can on the home front. That is why I write today about a bill that was signed into law and was co-sponsored in the House by Congresswoman Barbara Comstock: the Veterans ID Card Act. This legislation allows for a universal ID card that proves military service, allowing veterans easier access to the services and resources they need after leaving the military. We owe them that much.

One of the most important goals of the bill is a reduction in identity theft for veterans. Our vets will no longer have to carry around multiple documents and forms of identification to verify their veteran status which can often subject those documents to duplication, misplacement or theft. Identity theft is a problem all too many of us face these days, but before this legislation our veterans were placed unnecessarily at higher risk.

My father was a veteran, of World War II and of Korea. His

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PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

From left, Fairfax County Board of Elections chairman Stephen Hunt, BOE secretary Kate Hanley, BOE vice chairman Seth Stark and general registrar Cameron Sasnett explain some of the changes voters can expect in the November 2016 general election.

Changes in Voting from 2012

Electoral board highlights key dates and procedure updates.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Clinton or Trump? Meals Tax or no Meals Tax? These are just a two of the weighty decisions on the ballot for this fall's election. To help people prepare for this cycle, leaders of the Fairfax County electoral board held a meeting with media to highlight some changes from the 2012 Presidential election.

As with most Presidential years, the board is expecting high voter turnout, but no higher than the 80 percent that was seen in 2012. The roughly half a million voters that made it through 243 precincts (the most in the Commonwealth of Virginia by more than 150) in 13 is a strong showing they think will repeat itself.

The board reports 650,846 active voters out of a total of 728,086 registered voters. To date, 15,654 absentee voting mail-in ballot applications have been approved. It's estimated there will be more than 100,000 absentee voters.

Mail-in and in-person absentee ballot voting begins with a ceremonial opening of the polls at the Fairfax County Government Center Friday Sept. 23 at 8 a.m.

BOE secretary and former Board of Supervisors chairman Kate Hanley reminded voters that, "Absentee votes do count," and encouraged people to mail their ballots early. The mail-in absentee return deadline is 7 p.m. on Nov. 8, while the final day for in-person absentee voting is Nov. 5.

The board members addressed concerns over the election somehow being rigged or tampered with by outside forces.

"It's a completely paper-based system," explained general registrar

Additional Key Dates and Deadlines

- Oct. 1: In-person absentee voting begins at ten satellite locations around Fairfax County
- Oct. 17: Voter registration deadline
- Nov. 1: Deadline to apply for absentee ballot by mail
- Nov. 8: Election Day and mail-in absentee ballot return deadline
- Nov. 14: Provisional ballot deadline (extended due to Veterans Day holiday Nov. 11)

trar Cameron Sasnett. From the check-in I pads to the ballots to the electronic counting machines, "it's never connected to the internet, a completely secure system. At the end of the day, it's still a paper ballot with a pen."

The county purchased a new integrated voting system in 2014 and first used the machines countywide for the Nov. 4, 2014 election. They scan the paper ballots, count and save them, but also save the ballots themselves in case they're needed again.

"We'll have a paper trail, a big paper trail," Hanley said, "that speeds up the process at the polls."

Speeding up the voting precinct rooms in general are still a goal of the board's.

After piloting I pads with electronic poll books to more rapidly check in voters in the presidential primary, those devices will now be in every precinct.

In addition, there will be slightly more heavy staffing across the county.

"We'll be staffed to make election day as efficient, effective and fair as possible," Hanley said.

They also said there will be ongoing communication with precinct captains so they can respond in real-time to any voting or security issues.

For more information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm.

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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.

Jonathan Whittington, Kathryn Her-ring, Emma Zettlemoyer, of Springfield; **Bridget Ray and Kirsten Chase**, of Burke; received \$2,000 scholarships from the Scholarship for Military Children Program in July 2016.

Jane Gibbins-Harding, of Springfield, was named to the dean's list at Bethany College for spring 2016.

U.S. Air Force Airman Brian A. Zamfino graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Zamfino is the son of Joanne and Joseph

Zamfino of Springfield. He is a 2015 graduate of West Springfield High School.

Thomas Miskimins, of Fairfax, graduated with a master of arts, in Spring 2016 from the University of New Haven.

Jordan Ecker, of Fairfax, is on the spring 2016 dean's list at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

Caroline Dickson, of Fairfax, is on the spring 2016 dean's list at the University of Maine-Orono.

Allison Righter Moore, and **Sarah Ann Hughes Cushing-Spiller**, of Springfield, is on the dean's list at Hollins University, for the 2016 spring semester.

James Butler, a Lake Braddock Secondary School graduate, was inducted into the Naval Academy Class of 2020 on June 30, 2016.

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Homework Overload

Some educators say less can be more, stress balance when it comes to homework.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Paula DeMarco dreads one time of day the most: weekday evenings at 5:30. It's the time she has set aside for her children begin their homework. That means no screen time, music or other distractions.

"When my son entered fifth grade last year it was like running into a brick wall," she said. "We were in shock by how much more homework he had than when he was in the lower grades. It was stressful and there were a lot of tears shed — both mine and his."

For many parents and students, homework can be anxiety inducing, especially when there's a lot of it, when it's intense, when there's pressure to succeed and when it's used as a measure of accomplishment.

In fact, a study published in the Journal of Experimental Education in 2014 found that students in high-achieving communities who spend excessive amounts of time on homework are more prone to more stress, physical health problems and a lack of balance than students who have moderate amounts of homework. Researchers found that students felt obligated to choose homework over other interests. As a result, they didn't know how to find balance in their lives.

Homework in a competitive environment that doesn't leave time for hobbies or sports can also put a strain on family relationships. "Homework becomes stressful because parents take on the role of homework police," said Ann Dolin, president, Educational Connections Tutoring in Fairfax and Bethesda. "It's a role they never envisioned and they don't want, but before they know it, their relationships with their children become defined by academics."

Dolin points to the "Ten-Minute Homework Rule," guidelines approved by the National Education Association, which recommend 10 minutes of homework per grade level. A first grade student, for example, would have 10 minutes of homework each night, while a fourth grade student would have 40. Any more than this would be counterproductive.

"I have known first graders who've had an hour or and hour-and-a-half of homework," said Dolin. "That is unrealistic."

Locally, Margaret Andreadis, lower school principal at Bullis School in Potomac, Md., says administrators and teachers at her school have restructured the way they assign homework to focus on quality over quantity.

"We've scaled back to emphasize our purpose for homework: teaching students goal setting and time management," she said. "We're not using homework as busy work.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BULLIS SCHOOL

Faculty and staff at the Bullis School have restructured the way they assign homework to foster a feeling of success, confidence and independence.

Our philosophy has been to create a balance between academics, life at home with family and activities like sports."

Students at Bullis often have choices over their homework assignments, and their tasks are designed to foster a feeling of success, confidence and independence.

"The emphasis is on small successes. We want students to feel good about themselves," said Andreadis. "If a parent is having to interact with their child over homework, it's not an independent assignment."

This homework structure can actually create balance in the lives of students, she said. "I think the stress comes from kids wanting to get things perfect and parents wanting their children to be successful," said Andreadis. "Kids need time that is unscheduled so that they can be creative, find new passions and be kids."

Researchers say unstructured play, reading, and other child-initiated activities have as many benefits for children as academics. "Children learn conflict management skills, develop imagination and creativity, self-regulation of time and interest, and independence," said Shannon N. Davis, associate professor of sociology at George Mason University in Fairfax. "Research has shown that children who are given time to play in an unstructured manner, read or otherwise determine how they spend their time are much less likely to say, 'I'm bored' when they have free time. They know how to entertain themselves rather than needing an adult to structure their time for them."

Navigating that course, deciding how much independence to give children when it comes to managing free time and their

catators agree.

"I don't think these two areas are mutually exclusive. We want our kids to take ownership of their priorities, but they need some foundational knowledge in order to make these choices from an informed perspective," said Sean Aiken, head of school at BASIS Independent in McLean. "We need to empower our students to make some of these decisions early on and then allow them to experience the consequences."

Parents' roles should be setting students up for success, recommends Andreadis: "Giving them a quiet place to study, checking in with them, asking, 'What's your plan for homework tonight?' Helping the child make the decision but letting the child actually make it. Be hands off as much as possible."

Some educators acknowledge that a relaxed approach might push parents, particularly those in high-achieving communities, outside their comfort zones. "This involves some risk taking on the part of us as parents and educators, but I think the benefits are worth it," said Aiken. "We need to pair that with a lot of support and discussion about why academic achievement matters, specifically that we are learning things in order to make connections and ask questions about the world around us."

homework, while at the same time making sure they have the support they need to succeed can be challenging, parents and edu-

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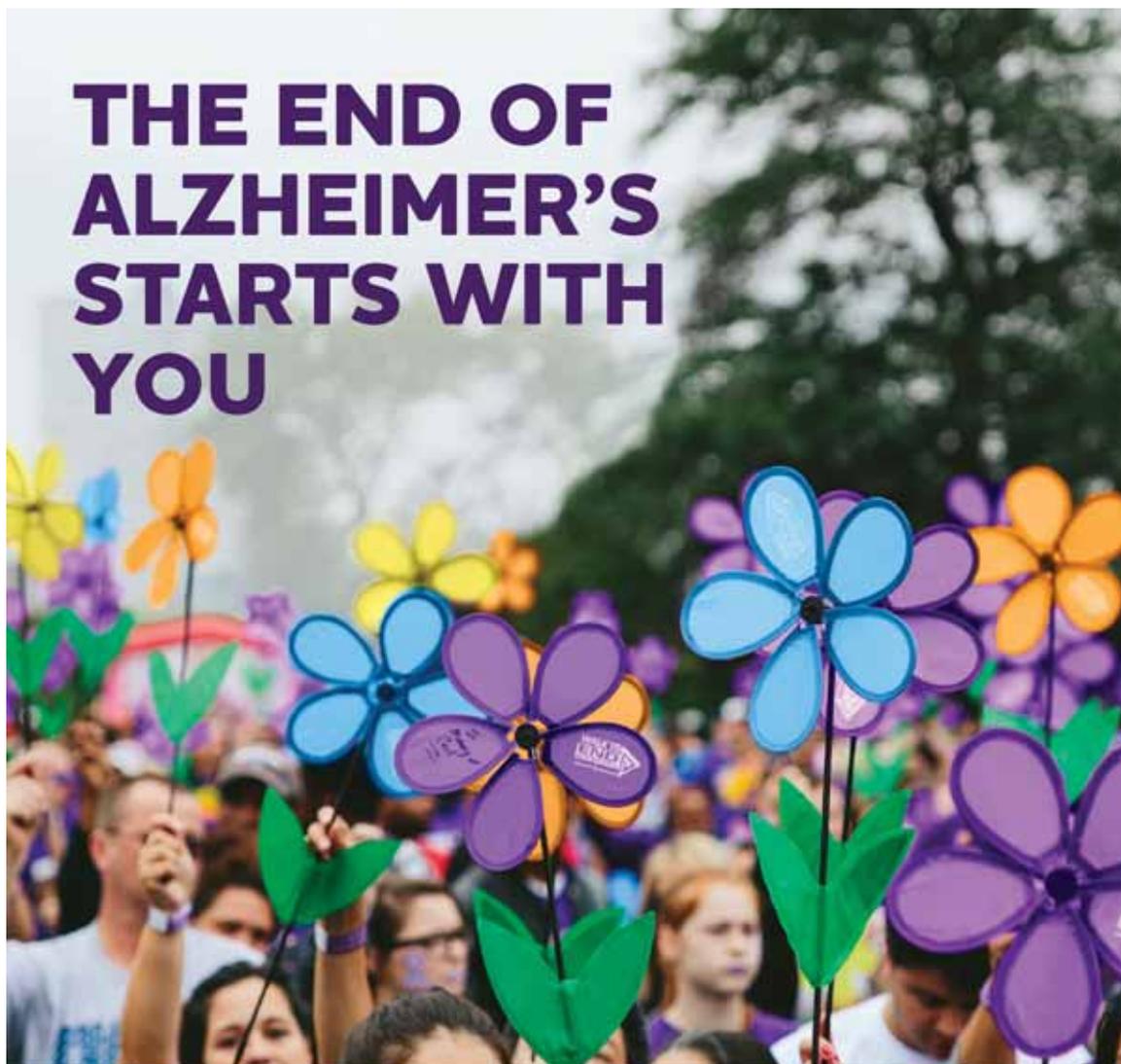
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PHOTOS BY KARINA VERLAN/THE CONNECTION

From left: Maddie Powell (guitar), Anderson Bonanno (vocals), Christian Moreno (drums) and Ryan Bonanno (guitar) sit down for a few slow tempo songs during the concert.



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'Magnetic' and 'Toxic' Band Holds Benefit Concert

Young rock stars raise money for the Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC).

BY KARINA VERLAN
 THE CONNECTION

A group of young rock stars, The Magnetic Toxins, performed on Saturday, Sept., 17 at The Laurel Hill Community Pool in an effort to raise money for the Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC).

The Magnetic Toxins are a five-piece ensemble that includes Hunter Malecki (keyboard, vocals), Ryan Bonanno (lead guitar, vocals), Anderson Bonanno (lead vocals, drums), Christian Moreno (bass guitar, vocals), and Maddie Powell (guitar, vocals). The group formed about a year ago right on the playground of Laurel Hill Elementary School.

"One day after school, I told my parents that I want to be in a band," said lead singer, Anderson. "They thought it would just be for a few days, but now a year later,

here we are."

The band's only girl, Maddie, joined the group four months ago. The boys decided that they wanted to add another guitar to make the band more dynamic, and that they wanted it to be a girl. Maddie was perfect for the job.

"We think it's really cool," said Katy Powell, Maddie's mother. "I wasn't surprised, because she's always had that rock vibe." In the Powell household, rock and classics are more common than anything pop, and Maddie learned how to play guitar from her father.

LCAC was founded in 1975 as an independent non-profit that aims to help "low-income individuals, seniors and families in Ft. Belvoir, Lorton, Newington and southeast Fairfax County with access to basic needs and the opportunity to empower themselves through LCAC's self-sufficiency

SEE CONCERT, PAGE 12



The Magnetic Toxins perform at the Laurel Hill Community Pool: Maddie Powell (guitar), Hunter Malecki (keyboard), Anderson Bonanno (vocals), Ryan Bonanno (lead guitar), Christian Moreno (drums — not pictured).

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Batting Cage Occoquan Regional Park 9751 Ox Road Lorton. Open through Oct. 30 Occoquan offers a baseball/softball batting cage, for hitters of all levels. Pitching machines offer other pitches like curveballs. Cost: 14 balls \$1.50 Team Rentals Per Cage: 30 min. \$18 60 min. \$34 <https://www.novaparks.com/parks/occoquan-regional-park/things-to-do/batting-cage>

Kayak Rental Occoquan Regional Park 9 - 6 p.m. daily through Sept. 30 This park offers hourly and daily kayak rentals for those interested in exploring the river. Kayaks are launched from shore and are available in one or two seat configurations.

Farmers Market & Food Trucks: 3-7 p.m. Thursdays through Oct. 27 at the Fairfax County Government Center front parking lot.

Rock the Block! 6:30 p.m. Every fourth Friday through Oct. 28. Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Concert series. Food is available for sale. Bring chairs or blankets to sit on. Kids - wear swim suits and bring towels. Enjoy the new spray pad. No Pets allowed except service animals. fairfaxva.gov.

The Farmer's Market at Springfield Town Center. May 7-Nov. 19, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Through November. Corner of Spring Mall and Loisdale roads, Springfield. Enjoy fresh baked goods, produce, vegetables & fruits, meats & cheeses, and a host of other vendors. springfieldtowncenter.com.

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

Plant Clinic. 9 a.m.-noon. Sundays Sept. 30 Lorton Farmers Market, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton. Conducted by Master Gardeners. Answer gardening question, identify plants and insects, soil tests, etc. fairfaxgardening.org.

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

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

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

Cafe Ivrit (Hebrew Cafe). Wednesdays. 8:15-9:15 a.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Shalom (hello) Did you always want to converse in Hebrew? Join Na'ama each week for conversational Hebrew. You will learn and practice Hebrew in a fun and interactive way while learning more about Israel. Free, however we



Laura Ellen Scott, author of "The Juliet"



J.K. Daniels, author of "The Wedding Pulls"

'Fall for the Book' Returns to Mason, Area

"Fall for the Book" annual festival will be held at George Mason University's Fairfax Campus, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, and venues throughout the region Sept. 25-30, 2016. Tickets are free except for several special events. For detailed information about the schedule and various venues visit www.fallforthebook.org/ or call 703-993-3986. Note: there is a "Fall for the Book" app at: <http://fallforthebook.org/2014/08/04/festival-launches-smartphone-app/>



Art Taylor, moderator, "Fall for the Book"



Garrett Peck author of "Walt Whitman in Washington, D.C. The Civil War and America's Great Poet"

ask that you try to attend regularly. RSVP Naama.Gold@jccnv.org.

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

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

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

Stories From Strawberry Park 10 - 11 a.m. Tuesdays in **Mosaic - Strawberry Park** 2910 District Avenue, Fairfax. Enjoy a live interactive performance each week taught by a group of unique storytellers. For ages 10 and under. Held outside in Strawberry Park. In inclement weather and October through April, storytime will be held in Angelika Film Center. Recurring weekly on Tuesday. Visit: <http://www.fxva.com/listing/mosaic-district/2326/>

Singers wanted for the Celebration Singers. A women's show choir performing at various community sites in Northern Virginia. Do you love to sing? Make new friends? Bring joy to others through music? Come join us. Practice is held 10:30 am - 2:30 pm, starting again in September on Wednesdays in Burke. Contact: Barb Male, 703-250-5294, email barbdmale@yahoo.com or Gayle Parsons, 703-644-4485, email gparsons3@cox.net.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 23

Fall Used Book Sale 10 - 5 p.m. Fairfax Regional Library 10360 North St. Thousands of gently read books in all categories. Big selection of DVDs, CDs, and audiobooks. 703-644-4870

Motivation Meltdown Family Workshop 10 - 11:30 a.m. 2334 Gallows Road Dunn Loring, VA Entrance 1 - Room 100. Start the school year off right with great strategies to help prevent motivation meltdowns at home and in school! Join Ann Dolin, M.Ed., education expert and award winning author for this insightful workshop. Cost: Free. www.fcps.edu/dss/osp/prc/index.shtml or 703-204-3941.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 24

Junior/Parent Tournament. 8 a.m. Burke Lake Golf Course, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Teams of 2 players compete in an 18-hole scramble format. \$65. Roberta.Korzen@fairfaxcounty.gov.

BIKES FOR THE WORLD 9 - 12 p.m. Saint Mary of Sorrows Church, 5222 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Bring your usable/repairable bikes and spare parts to the Farrell Hall parking lot for shipment to poverty stricken areas of the world. Donations to offset shipping costs gratefully accepted. Make checks payable to Saint Mary of Sorrows Church. Contact: Cathy at 703-307-5512, cat.gaiser@gmail.com

The Kids Ultimate Fitness Challenge 10 - 6 p.m. George Mason University - 4400 University Dr. Fairfax. Kids Ultimate Fitness Challenge is the nation's largest mobile fitness event travelling from coast-to-coast dedicated to helping keep kids healthy and active. Kids of all ages will get the opportunity to participate in a time-based obstacle course. Visit: <http://allstaractive.com/video.html>

THE CONNECTION

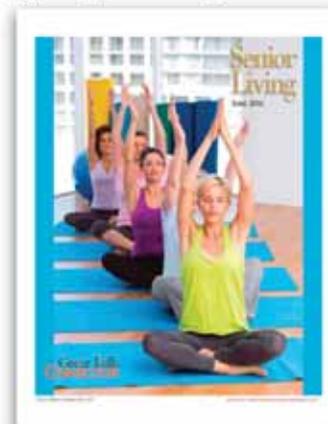
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NEWS

Giles Overlook Developing

75 percent of land to remain open space.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Lorton Valley III calls its development Giles Overlook: 52 single family detached dwellings on 38.37 acres on Sanger Street in Mount Vernon.

Fairfax County Planning Commission voted Wednesday, Sept. 14, to recommend approval of plans that will permit development less than 200 feet from the required distance between residential buildings and I-95 and to allow for increased height of a noise barrier to be located 15 feet from I-95 right-of-way.

Although the property will be rezoned from R-1 (one dwelling unit per acre) to R-5, which permits five dwelling units per acre, Lorton Valley's proposed density will be 1.36 dwelling units per acre, according to Planning Commission documents. The developer will dedicate 20 acres along Giles Run to the county and 75 percent of the land will remain open space.

"Due to the long, narrow configuration of the developable portion of the property, the proposed layout is limited to a single street with dwellings on both sides," according to planning documents.

"The property contains wetlands, floodplains, resource protection area and even environmental quality corridor areas association with Giles Run, and the applicant has proposed to dedicate most of this area to the county," according to planning staff.

Access will be from an extension of Sanger Street that will be realigned and extended southward to terminate in a cul-de-sac near a county pump station.

Giles Overlook, currently vacant and wooded except for a county-operated pump station, is located west of I-95, north of a landfill, at the end of Sanger Street in the Lorton area. The western property line is along Giles Run.

"The site benefits from its proximity to Inova Lorton Healthplex," according to agent David R. Gill of McGuire Woods. "The Healthplex, along with the continued maturation of the Lorton area, will derive demand for additional high-quality residential opportunities such as this proposed community."

Lots will range in size from 5,000 to 8,049 square feet, according to Planning Commission documents, and will typically include 20-foot front yards, 8-foot side yards, and 25-foot backyards.

Plans call for planting of evergreen and deciduous trees in front of the sound wall, which will range in height from six to 32 feet.

A tot lot is proposed on Sanger Street.

"The applicant has committed to preparing an additional noise study prior to subdivision plan approval and that the sound wall will be designed to reduce noise exposure for the yards of the lots and the tot lot to 65 decibels or less. This may require a higher noise wall in this location," according to planning staff analysis.

Proffers specify the front facades of the dwellings will consist of 50 percent stone or brick and raised panel shutters.

The application was initially accepted in December 2011 with a proposal for 40 dwelling units.

The proposed application "has been through many iterations since 2011," said Mount Vernon District Commissioner Earl Flanagan, "but David Gill, the agent, kept doggedly improving it until I am pleased to report that the South County Federation and its land use committee unanimously recommended adoption."

Concert

FROM PAGE 10
programs."

Those who attended the benefit concert on Saturday contributed cereal, canned goods and money, which the LCAC will pass on to families in need. The benefit raised a grand total of \$1,050 in monetary donations, 61 cereal boxes and 2 paper grocery bags of canned goods.

Mrs. Powell said they considered other organizations, but that "it seemed to make sense" to donate to LCAC because it is local, they wanted to make a big impact and

because "LCAC does a lot of great service for the community."

Asked how they came up with the name of their band, the young philanthropists said that they are "magnetic to people who like rock, and toxic to people who don't have fun."

In addition to covers, the band is now working on some original tracks. They have lyrics in the works already.

The Magnetic Toxins hope that they can make their benefit concert for LCAC an annual event, so that they can continue to help families in need.

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Send cover letter, resume, three clips or work examples and a several story ideas to Mary Kimm, Publisher and Editor, Local Media Connection/ Connection Newspapers at resumes@connectionnewspapers.com. Positions available immediately.
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Police Investigating Graffiti at Robinson

On Friday, Sept. 16, Robinson Secondary School staff reported graffiti on the side of a trailer to Fairfax County Police.

The report came the same day Robinson had an evening varsity football game scheduled against Lake Braddock Secondary School.

"The graffiti was generally vulgar and racist in nature and has been eradicated," police spokesperson Don Gotthardt said in an email.

Gotthardt said one juvenile suspect was identified by patrol from the West Springfield District station and "counseled," but not technically arrested. He didn't comment on whether or where the individual is a student.

Police continue to investigate the incident and no charges have been filed.

—TIM PETERSON

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY, SEPT. 29

Domestic Violence Response Workshop 8 - 1 p.m. 9301 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Topic: "First Steps for Clergy & Faith Leaders." Please join us to learn how to recognize domestic violence, understand challenges, and identify and access victim resources. This workshop will be presented by Fairfax County's Department of Neighborhood and Community Services and the FCIA Interfaith Domestic Violence Prevention Committee. Register at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hrcode/ereg/registration.aspx?groupid=26 or call 703-324-3453

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

veterans' benefits were important to him and to my mother. And I have to report, there were on occasion problems with arranging for the benefits. The problems eventually were resolved, but through a lot of trouble and hassle. This ID Card can help make access to earned benefits easier. This ID Card is especially important to veterans because they are sometimes denied benefits because carrying around complete military records and paperwork is no simple task. This law streamlines the process of receiving what our honorable veterans have earned.

This veteran ID card is long overdue. The benefits rightfully provided to veterans are numerous, but unfortunately many have a difficult time getting access to them. This card streamlines these processes, reducing the hassle and difficulties many veterans face in their daily lives. Congresswoman Comstock's co-sponsorship of this legislation is yet another example of our results oriented Congresswoman doing her job, as was her support of the National Defense Authorization Act. These common sense solutions are proof that Barbara Comstock works for us.

Wayne Abernathy
Fairfax

3 RE for Rent 3 RE for Rent 21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements

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Pursuant to Section 55-33, 50-35 and 50-36 of the Code of the City of Fairfax, the City of Fairfax Police Department will be disposing of the below listed unclaimed property, by public auction conducted by an independent auction service, converted to department use or generally disposed of. Any person who feels they have a legal claim, with reasonable proof of ownership, should contact MPO Lynn Coulter of the City of Fairfax Police Department at 703-385-7829 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. weekdays until close of business Friday, October 21, 2016.

Below is a summary list of all items. For a complete list, please go to the City of Fairfax website: <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/unclaimedproperty>

36 - Assorted Cell Phones

8 - Assorted Electronics

23 - Miscellaneous items

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements

TAX NOTICE
CITY OF FAIRFAX

PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS ARE DUE

Real Estate tax bills have been mailed and are due
October 5, 2016

LATE PAYMENT PENALTY

To avoid a 10% late payment penalty and interest charges, payment in full must be made in person or postmarked by close of business on
October 5, 2016

Taxes may be paid in person Monday – Friday
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Treasurer's Office, Room 234, City Hall

IMPORTANT

Even if you do not receive a bill, you are responsible for paying real estate taxes by **October 5, 2016** to avoid late payment penalties

For Additional Information, please check the website www.fairfaxva.gov call 703-385-7900



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