

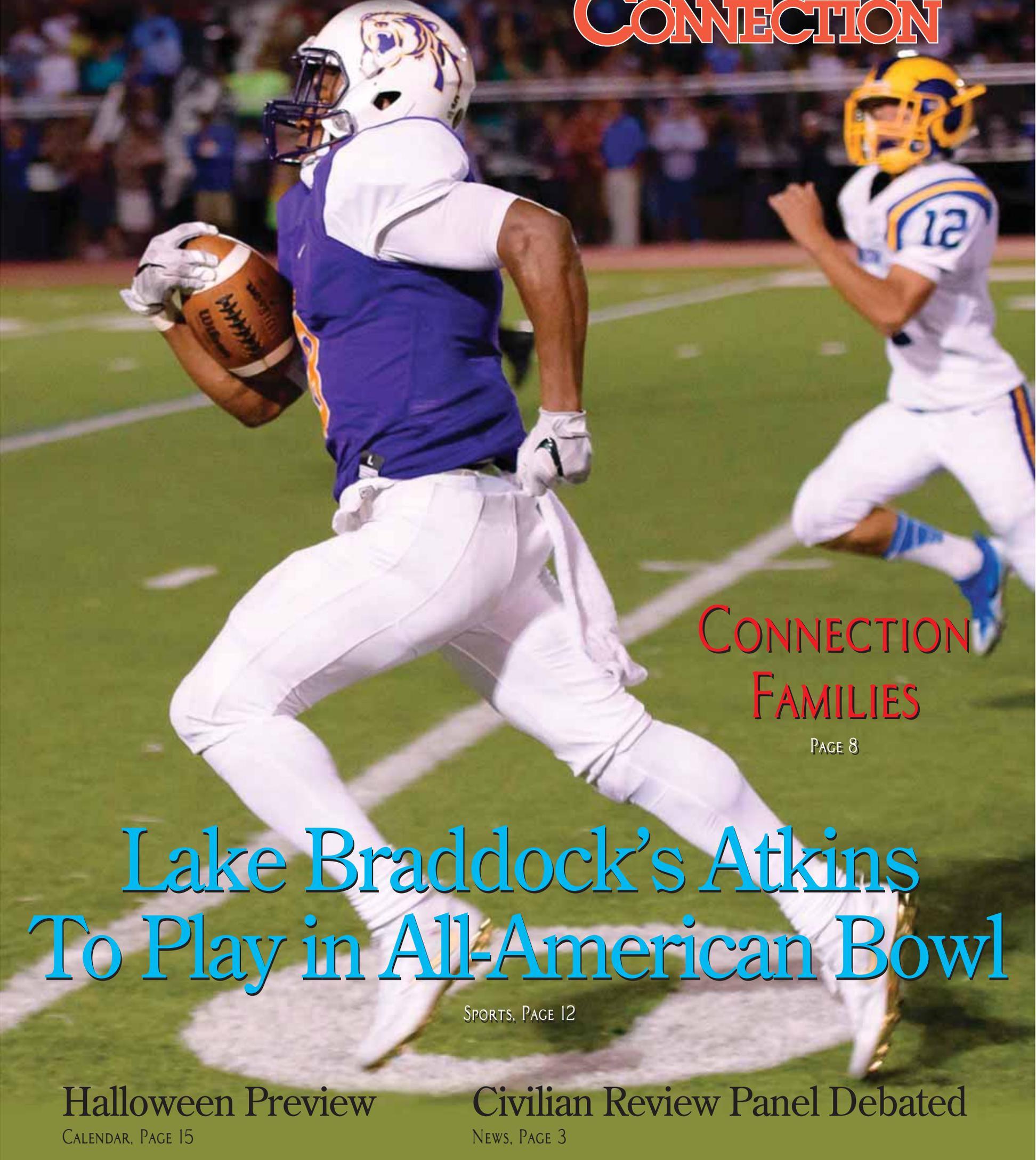
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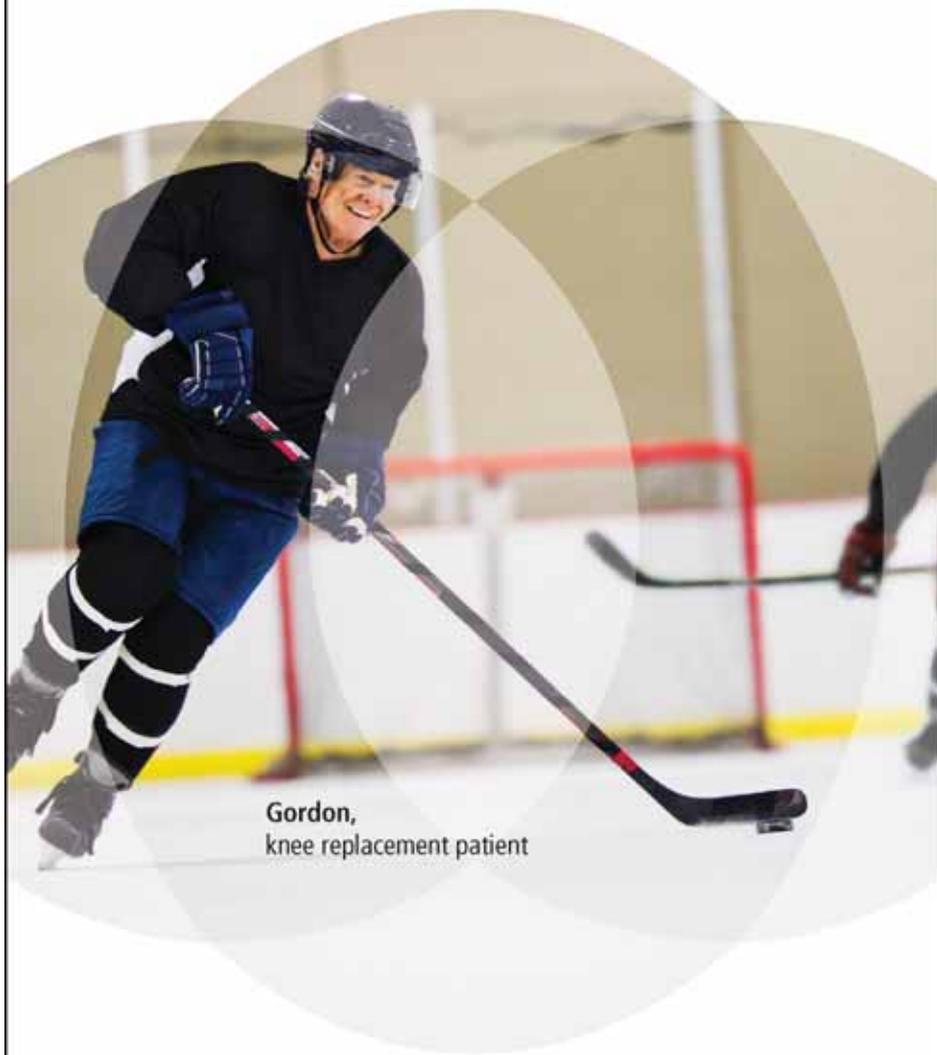
# Lake Braddock's Atkins To Play in All-American Bowl

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From left, Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission and subcommittee members Randy Sayles, John Lovaas, Phil Niedzielski-Eichner and George Becerra attend the Board of Supervisors public safety committee meeting on Oct. 25.



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

(Center) Adrian Steel, a member of the Ad Hoc Commission, said the goal of the civilian review panel's public meeting would be to provide a "full and fair presentation" of a police investigation.

## Supervisors to Vote on Civilian Review Panel Dec. 6.

### Draft item discussed at Oct. 25 Public Safety Committee.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**B**y their Dec. 6 meeting, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors should have the opportunity to vote on creating a Civilian Review Panel for police oversight, a first in Fairfax.

That's the goal of supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), who chairs the board's public safety committee. The committee met Tuesday, Oct. 25 to consider a draft of the action item that would establish the review panel.

The independent panel was one of the more controversial of the 142 recommendations from the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission created by board chairman Sharon Bulova in 2015.

The commission, with representatives from law enforcement, the media and community at large, was set up in response to a lack of transparency and accountability surrounding the 2013 shooting death of unarmed Springfield man John Geer by Fairfax County Police officer Adam Torres.

Fairfax County Police and the supervisors didn't release information about the case for more than a year after Geer's death, even to his family. It took a wrongful death civil suit filed by the family and a court order to finally get investigation files and Torres' name released.

Torres was fired in July 2015 and indicted by a grand jury for murder in August 2015, a first charge of that kind for any officer in the history of Fairfax County Police.

The former police officer pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter and was released in June, after receiving credit for time served for a 12-month sentence.

On Sept. 20, the supervisors unanimously approved another recommendation from the commission: creating an office of the independent police auditor.

The auditor will review all use of force incidents that result in serious injury or death, as well as other citizen complaints about police use of force not resulting in serious injury or death.

In addition, the auditor could engage in policy and practice analysis, as suggested by the Board of Supervisors, County Executive or Chief of Police.

**BY CONTRAST**, the civilian review panel would "review completed police internal administrative investigations of civilian complaints concerning allegations of abuse of authority and serious misconduct," according to the draft action item.

At the Oct. 25 meeting, Cook specified the civilian review panel would not conduct investigations. Rather, the panel would review investigation files and decide whether the police's own review was "well done, not well done or needs more work," Cook said.

If they determine more work is required, the panel would be able to send the issue back to the police.

Citizens could initiate that process in two ways, Cook explained: If they file a complaint with the police department but are unsatisfied with the results of an investigation, they can bring the matter to the civilian review panel. Or they could submit a complaint to the panel directly, which could request an investigation be conducted by police, that could then be reviewed by the panel.

Review of the investigations would happen at public meetings held by the panel. Fairfax County Chief of Police Edwin Roessler and an officer from the Internal Affairs Bureau would attend these hearings to offer additional explanation, but involved officers can't be required to come before the panel or answer questions, under the Code of Virginia.

Adrian Steel, a member of the Ad Hoc Commission, said the goal of the meeting was to provide the public with a "full and fair presentation" of an investigation review.

The meeting before the panel would provide a place for the complainant to appear "and have his or her day," Steel said. But Cook raised questions about whether the complainant should speak at the meeting, and if so, what limits might be in place.

Cook and Deputy county executive Dave Rohrer said the complainant could state the reasons he or she asked for a review. Rohrer said that since police investigators will appear before the panel to answer questions, it would be fair to allow the complainant to speak as well.

The board will also need to finalize criteria for who would be eligible to serve on the nine-person panel. All panel members would be appointed by the supervisors, but they would encourage communities and organizations to nominate candidates. Other potential criteria would exclude current and former Fairfax County employees, as well as current law enforcement officers and anyone holding public office.

Panel access to sensitive documents that would be part of the investigation files created another area of controversy.

Police Officer 1st Class Richard Barron said members of the department are "very concerned" with the fact that volunteer civilians would have that type of access.

Det. Sean Corcoran, President of the Fairfax Coalition of Police Local 5000 and a member of the Ad Hoc Commission, said it's about "who has access to what, and when, and why."

Corcoran echoed a suggestion made by supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) and separately by Kathy Smith (D-Sully) that the board could wait to establish the civilian review panel until after the independent auditor office is up and running.

Barron challenged the need for a Civilian Review Panel and said the reviews the police conduct on themselves are ad-

equated. "I don't see a legitimate need for it," he said.

"I don't think there's any purpose" for another level of review, Barron said, adding that officers feel this panel is being "rammed down their throats."

**BOARD CHAIRMAN** Sharon Bulova asked Corcoran, who voted in favor of the Ad Hoc commission's final list of recommendations, if he'd changed his mind since then. Corcoran responded he had lobbied against the panel prior to the final vote, but was outnumbered.

Herrity said he supports independent oversight, but is concerned that the fiscal impact of the panel is unknown.

"In the face of a \$200 million shortfall," he said, referring to budget projections, "we're creating a huge workload for the police department with no gain."

The draft item states, the civilian review panel would be created "for the purpose of building and maintaining public trust and police legitimacy."

John Foust (D-Dranesville) asked that staff begin to develop a significant education and training program for panel members on topics including FOIA, handling of sensitive information and other topics.

Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) spoke of the importance of forming the panel. "This is the best for you," she told the police organization representatives, noting that the community must be able to see the process. "I don't think we have an alternative."

The Board of Supervisors expects to vote on the proposal for Civilian Review Panel at its Dec. 6 regular meeting, with documents posted the week before. The next public safety committee meeting is scheduled for Dec. 13 at 1 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax. More information is available at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/board-committees/meetings](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/board-committees/meetings).

## NEWS

# Garza Departure Impacts Stuart Name Change Working Group

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**R**esponding to a student-led group petitioning to change the name of J.E.B. Stuart High School in Falls Church, the Fairfax County Public Schools board voted over the summer to create a working group that would consider the community concerns and look into the logistics of a potential name change.

Since school system superintendent Dr. Karen Garza recently announced her resignation, she informed the Stuart pyramid community that working group is being reevaluated.

The students involved have said they don't want to continue attending a school named for a leader in the Confederate Army cavalry. In addition to partnering with the NAACP, they gathered community signatures for a petition to change the name of the school.

Other alumni have spoken up at school board meetings opposing a name change. They dispute the research of the students and say it doesn't tell the whole story of who Stuart was.

"While we are still committed to addressing the concerns of the Stuart community," Garza wrote in an Oct. 12 letter, "I believe that since I am leaving my position, it would only be fair to allow the Interim Superintendent to take over the necessary steps in forming this working group."

Current deputy superintendent Dr. Steve Lockard

was named as interim for Garza's position, which she's said she will leave by Dec. 16 this year.

Garza said the timeline for the working group is being extended "in order to transition the decisions to Dr. Lockard as well as to provide more clarity on the process, to carefully consider the makeup of the committee and to choose a facilitator."

A decision had been made to hire a facilitator that would "bring independence to the project" Garza said, as well as keep the group on task with regards to demands from the school board.

Garza said in her letter the expectation was the cost for that facilitator would not exceed \$20,000.

Such a person has not been hired yet, however, and with Garza's departure, she said the decision to move forward with a facilitator has been put on hold.

Though Garza and the school board maintain no decision has been made to change Stuart's name, the board has directed the eventual work group to do significant hypothetical research.

"The working group will weigh the pros and cons of a name change," Garza said, "continue to ensure public engagement and determine the extent of support for change; explore public-private partnerships to finance any name change; examine ways to prevent added burdens on the school's booster clubs, PTSA, and Stuart school administration; decide the best method for transitioning from an old name to a new one; ensure proper record retention; and set the best timing for such a change, if approved by the Board."

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# SCHOOLS

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

**Jonathan Whittington, Kathryn Herring, 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.

**Kyle Austin Walsh,** of Fairfax, and **Abigail Lynn Lackey,** of Springfield, were named to the honors list for the 2016 spring 2016 semester at Averett University in Danville.

**Katherine Marie Hough,** of Fairfax Station, is on the dean's list at George Mason University for spring 2016.

**Anna Kormis,** of Springfield, graduated from Emory and Henry College in spring 2016.

**Kyle Austin Walsh,** of Fairfax, graduated from Averett University in June 2016. was among the 261 students to receive diplomas during Averett University's May 7 Commencement.

**Megan R. Seymour, Megan F. Cummins, Thomas S. Cohen,** of Fairfax, **Joshua D. Harlowe, Samantha E. Kinde, Melissa A. Schwartz,** of Springfield; **Sean C. Baird,** of Fairfax Station; graduated from Boston University in spring 2016.

**Helene J. Decosse, Alexis J. Fahrney, Jessica M. Ochoa,** of Fairfax, are on the dean's list at Boston University for spring 2016.

**Seth Lehman, Thet San,** of Fairfax, graduated from Furman University in spring 2016.

**Luke Hartman, Natalie Heinitz,** of Springfield, graduated from Manhattan College in spring 2016.

**Maria Larrazabal Carrillo,** of Fairfax is on the dean's list for May 2016 at Iowa State.

**Kayse McGough** of Fairfax is on the dean's list for May 2016 at St. Mary's College.

**Jared Rondeau** of Clifton, graduated May 2016 Triple Major in Physics, Mathematics, and Chemistry from Emory and Henry College.

**Moriah Dreisbach,** of Fairfax, is on Union University's president's list for spring 2016.

**Irene Martinko,** of Springfield, is on the spring 2016 dean's list at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

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## Bulova: Vote Yes

A legally binding commitment that 70 percent would go to the Fairfax County Public Schools.

BY SHARON BULOVA  
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF SUPERVISOR

I was elected chairman in 2009, just as the Great Recession settled over this country like a stubborn storm cloud. The market value of property in Fairfax County plummeted, resulting in historic reductions in both residential and commercial tax revenues. At the same time, more people than ever turned to the county for assistance. Former County Executive Tony Griffin's prediction, in the throes of the Recession years, that "this will be our new normal" has proven prescient.

Recovery from the recession has been sluggish, exacerbated by the effects of sequestration and cut-backs in our commercial sector's bread and butter, federal contracting. To maintain fiscal equilibrium; real estate tax rates were raised, hundreds of millions of dollars were eliminated from the budget, salaries were frozen and reductions-in-force require our

### COMMENTARY

workforce to do more with less. County cost-cutting measures that were accepted as necessary when the Recession first materialized eventually have caused some "fraying around the edges," per The Washington Post, (April 2, 2016). I am providing this backdrop to lend some context to our board's decision to put the question of a meals tax to the voters.

In Virginia, towns and cities are allowed a greater array of revenue tools, including the right to adopt a meals tax. Most cities and towns within and around us have a meals tax: Alexandria, Arlington, Herndon, Vienna, Falls Church, Fairfax City, Leesburg, and Manassas. Counties on the other hand must rely primarily (almost 80 percent of our budget) on real estate and property taxes to provide local services. Other revenues are capped or controlled by the state.

Counties in Virginia (which were rural farmland when early tax authorities were allocated) are only able to implement a meals tax fol-

lowing a successful voter referendum. This question will be put to Fairfax County voters on Nov. 8.

If the referendum is successful, and a 4 percent tax on restaurant meals and prepared foods is adopted, it would raise almost \$100 million, equivalent to over 4 cents on the Real Estate tax rate. The language on the ballot question becomes law and revenue from the meals tax must be used per the ballot language.

If authorized by the voters, the Board of Supervisors would hold a public hearing to adopt an ordinance defining specifics of the tax. Already we have made the legally binding commitment that 70 percent would go to the Fairfax County Public Schools. The School Board has committed that its share, estimated to be about \$70 million in new funding, would be used primarily to address teachers' salaries, which have lagged behind those in neighboring jurisdictions. Fairfax County today is spending \$800 less per pupil than in 2008. The remaining 30 percent would go toward other county

needs, including public safety, parks, libraries, and mental health. The meals tax is intended to diversify and enhance county revenue — to supplement and not supplant — support for school and county services. While our county continues to work hard to identify efficiencies and to stimulate our commercial tax base, we are also hoping to diversify the local revenue available to provide the quality services our residents value and rely upon — top notch schools, safe communities, and compassionate human services.

I am proud to lead Fairfax County, one of the best-managed, safest and well-educated jurisdictions in the country. Residents love Fairfax because of our great schools and because we are a safe and welcoming community. Maintaining that quality is a top priority for the Board of Supervisors and our partners on the School Board. It isn't, however, a simple or easy job given constraints under state law.

I hope you will vote "yes" on the meals tax referendum on Nov. 8.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Four Cents Make Sense for the Future of Fairfax

To the Editor:

On November 8, Fairfax County residents will have an opportunity to vote on a meals tax that may add nearly \$100 million into our county budget. This issue has come up before and it didn't pass. This time, it's critical that we vote yes because it is doubtful that we'll have another opportunity to diversify our tax revenue stream again.

Beautiful parks, resource-packed libraries, and other services are part of why I moved back here when I had children. But by far the biggest reason was that I wanted them to get the great (if not better) education that I did when I went to school here.

But let's just take a step back — certainly, not everyone feels the

way I do about schools. Many people hate, even detest the idea of additional taxes — even if a significant portion of those taxes will be paid by other people. With 28 percent of the added revenue coming from commuters and tourists, I would think that help adding to our budget would be a welcome solution. Voting no on the meals tax is a no vote to Fairfax getting funds from anywhere but the state and property taxes. I don't know about you, but if someone else's lunch tab, or just four pennies on the dollar can lessen the blow to my October tax bill and help our schools, why would I say no to that?

The School Board has made it clear that the increased school

budget will go towards giving our teachers a much-needed raise. These raises will keep more great teachers from going just a few miles to Arlington or Alexandria, where they can earn as much as an additional \$10K per year.

Some restaurants (many of which I used to patronize frequently) claim that this tax will hurt their business and employees. Really? If that was the case, why open "any" restaurant in a county with an existing meals tax? If it was that damaging to businesses, you'd think that those jurisdictions (nearly all in Northern Virginia) would have significantly fewer dining options — just to avoid the meals tax.

People that go out to eat simply

don't base their decisions on a local meals tax. It's about the quality of food, service, location, and now, at least in my case, how they support the community.

Less than stellar schools lead to dropping property values. As school Superintendent Karen Garza said, "We can't cut our way to excellence."

Pennies invested now will help preserve a great education system, as well as the safety, resources, enrichment, and support that are found in our schools and county services. But we can't begin to invest those pennies unless you vote yes to the meals tax. Learn more at [yesmealstax.org](http://yesmealstax.org)

**Esther Rege Berg**  
Springfield

## Supporting Meals Tax

To the Editor:

I'm writing to encourage Fairfax County voters to support the county meals tax referendum on the ballot in November. The proposal would impose a 4-percent tax on ready-to-eat prepared food and beverages at restaurants and stores. Seventy percent of the money raised would support the

Fairfax County Public Schools; the remainder would cover other expenses like police, fire, rescue, and human services. Supporting our schools is essential to maintaining our quality of life in Fairfax County. Good schools make Fairfax County a desirable place to live and do business and they raise the values of our homes. More specifi-

cally, the meals tax would allow the county to make teacher salaries competitive with those in neighboring jurisdictions. It would also allow the county to address increasing school class sizes, which make teaching less effective and which make our schools less attractive to prospective teachers.

The meals tax is also an alter-

native to a further increase in Fairfax County property taxes. The \$100 million per year it would raise would more than cover the increase in real estate taxes from 2015 to 2016 (caused by increasing property assessments). According to the county budget summary,

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15



# Breaking Down the Bonds

## What are the bonds for?

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County will try to make the most of voters' time on election day Nov. 8, having them weigh in on the Presidential and Congressional elections, and proposed Constitutional amendments, and a referendum and bond questions.

The so-called "Meals Tax" referendum is a proposal for voters to allow the Board of Supervisors to levy up to a four percent tax on prepared foods and beverages. That would include restaurant food, as well as ready-made meals at grocery and convenience stores.

The referendum specifies 70 percent of the annual revenue generated by the meals tax, an estimated \$70 million, would be designated for Fairfax County Public Schools. The remaining 30 percent would go to a combination of county services and capital improvements.

Opponents of the meals tax have argued it's a regressive move that will unfairly eat away at the restaurant and catering industry in Fairfax County by making it more difficult for smaller businesses to survive. Also they've said there will be an unnecessary extra financial burden on low income parents to feed their families.

Supporters of the tax point to surrounding areas including Vienna and Alexandria that already have meals taxes, saying they haven't suffered the way opponents predict. And at a recent joint budget meeting with the supervisors and Fairfax County School Board, supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) observed that without the boost from the meals tax, the school system won't be able to raise teachers' salaries enough in the next year to make them more competitive in the market.

**THE BONDS**, which is a way for the county to finance public facilities and infrastructure through long-term borrowing over several years, fall into three categories: transportation, parks, and human services and community development facilities.

For the first category, citizens are asked if Fairfax County may issue up to \$120 million in bonds to fund road improvements and a share of the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority Capital Improvement Program.

The Metro CIP covers eight categories over six years: vehicles and vehicle parts, rail system infrastructure rehabilitation, maintenance facilities, rail power systems and technology, track and structure, passenger facilities, maintenance equipment, and other transit-related facilities.

Fairfax County spokesperson Brian Worthy said that it isn't known until all the projects on a given list are completed whether there are remaining funds from a bond.

"By law we may only spend bond funds for the purposes stated in the ballot question—not for any other purpose," Worthy said in an email.

Worthy gave the example of the 2004 library bond, when voters approved the county to issue \$52.5 million in general obligation bonds. The money was spent to renovate the Thomas Jefferson, Richard Byrd, Dolley Madison and Martha Washington libraries, he said.

When these were all completed in 2012, there was 9.38 million in unspent funds still available.

Worthy attributed the leftover funds to "prudent contract management and a favorable construction market resulting in lower than anticipated bid awards." They were then re-allocated to renovating the Woodrow Wilson library, per the Board of Supervisors' approval.

"In the case of Woodrow Wilson, this project was picked because it was identified as the next library branch up for funding in our CIP," Worthy said.

\$107 million in parks bonds includes \$94.7 million for the Fairfax County Park Authority's capital needs — such as park renovations and upgrades, stewardship of cultural and natural resources, land acquisition and new park development — plus \$12.3 million in capital contribution to the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority.

If the parks referendum passes, there will be funding for general park improvements at Burke Lake and Lake Accotink, system-wide renovation and renewal and replacement at the Mount Vernon RECenter.

**AMONG NUMEROUS PLANS** for the bond program, the county would add a new athletic field on leased property in the Mount Vernon-Lee area, develop a park in Laurel Hill Park in Lorton and add picnic shelters at the Lee District family recreation area in Alexandria.

For human services and community development, Fairfax County is seeking authorization to issue \$85 million in bonds, \$48 million of which would be used to renovate, expand or replace bonds four shelters operating at capacity that aren't able to meet crisis or emergency needs of homeless individuals.

The remaining \$37 million of bonds, if the referendum passes, would be used to replace the Sully Senior Center in Centreville and build a new Lorton Community Center, which also provides space and programming for seniors and is currently housed in a leased space that expires in two years.

For more information from Fairfax County on the upcoming Nov. 8 election, including sample ballots, candidate information and ballot questions, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm). Additional descriptions of the bond items are available at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bond/2016-bond-referendum-pamphlet-web.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bond/2016-bond-referendum-pamphlet-web.pdf). More detail on the specific park bonds is available at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/2016bond.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/2016bond.htm).

## Serial Armed Robber from Burke Convicted

Burke resident Larry Pyos, Jr was convicted Thursday, Oct. 20 on charges linked to several armed robberies that took place around Fairfax County, a release from the U.S. Attorney's office said.

Pyos was indicted in August of this year for conspiracy, armed robbery, using firearms in committing robberies and being a felon in possession of firearms. He fired a weapon at employees in two of the robberies.

On Christmas Eve in 2015, Pyos started the spree robbing Good Fortune Supermarket in Falls Church.

He followed that by hitting Springfield businesses Shri Krishna grocery store, Dollar Power and Ding How Carryout.

April 26, 2016, Pyos robbed Hong Kong Palace restaurant in Falls Church.

Finally on May 9, he robbed a Subway sandwich stop in McLean.

Pyos has been in custody since his arrest on May 11. He was convicted Thursday by a federal jury and is scheduled to be sentenced Jan. 13, 2017.

BY TIM PETERSON

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# CONNECTION FAMILIES

## Teaching Gratitude and Charitable Giving

Experts offer suggestions for instilling these practices in children.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

As the holiday season approaches, many begin to think about expressing thankfulness and giving to those who are less fortunate. Teaching gratitude and establishing a sense of charity in children also becomes a priority for many parents.

Those lessons should begin long before it's time to put the turkey in the oven or trim the tree, however. Experts say practicing gratitude and demonstrating charitable giving year-round in age-appropriate ways are keys to raising compassionate children.

In fact, regular conversations between parents and children about charitable giving and gratitude increase the chances that youngsters will be willing to give to charity, according to a recent study. Research from the Women's Philanthropy Institute at Indiana University's Lilly Family School of Philanthropy showed that children whose parents spoke to them about the importance of giving to those in need were 20 percent more likely to give than those who parents did have such conversations.

"The conversations don't need to be formal or contrived," said Marcia Rosen, a marriage and family therapist in Bethesda, Md. "They can be as simple as sharing an experience about helping a friend who might need help running an errand, so we change our plans so that we can give the gift of our time to a friend. There are plenty of examples all around us everyday."

"The ability to empathize and take another's perspective increases as a child gets older and less egocentric," said Dr. Linda Gulyn, a professor of psychology at

**Local charities such as Interfaith Works offer families a variety of opportunities for benevolence this holiday season.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF  
INTERFAITH WORKS



Marymount University in Arlington. "For example, make a thank you note to grandma for the birthday gift. With little kids, there might be a positive consequence for writing a note, for example [saying] 'After you write the note, we can watch the video.' As kids get older, have them take Grandma's perspective: 'You know how it feels to be appreciated, don't you?'"

Encourage children to find their own ways to express gratitude and give charitably. "For example, when thanking their soccer coach for helping them all season, have them come up with ways to thank him, even if it's clumsy or kid-like," said Gulyn. "[Parents] often do it for them. For example, parents take up a collection of money from other parents and then they buy and present a fancy gift to the coach, and the kids are not that involved."

"Gratitude often relates to expectations

and entitlements," said Amy L. Best, chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, George Mason University. "It is important that young people develop some sense of entitlement. They are entitled to dignity and have rights of care. Without a sense of entitlement, claims to care, recognition, justice and dignity are more difficult to articulate. But too much entitlement can elevate expectations to too high a level so that disappointment prevails and gratitude is difficult to muster."

Children must learn to be in the moment to take those chances, however. "Dwelling too much in the past, through endless rumination for instance, or always looking to the future undermines our ability to just be, to soak in and soak up a moment," said Best. "Consideration of past, present and future should be in healthy balance. Young people are often pressured to focus on the future,

**"It is important to understand the suffering of others and to feel a sense of empathy toward the struggles of others to feel gratitude."**

— Professor Amy L. Best, chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, George Mason University

and some feel a sense of hopelessness toward the future. Both make it difficult to be in the moment.

"Cultivating mindfulness of self and your connection to others and the world is important," she added. "It is important to understand the suffering of others and to feel a sense of empathy toward the struggles of others to feel gratitude. Too much ambivalence toward others, or too focused on the self, makes it difficult to cultivate a disposition of gratitude."

Local charities offer a variety of options for families interested in giving this holiday season and throughout the year. Interfaith Works, a Montgomery County, Md. nonprofit organization with a goal of meeting the needs of the poor and homeless, holds annual drives for coat and cold-weather gear including mittens, scarves and hats. The organization is opening a new women's homeless shelter and is in need of supplies. "We need things like sheets, blankets and pillows to make the women feel at home and welcomed when they move into their new residence," said Charlotte Garvey of Interfaith Works "So families can shop online for the ladies."

For more information, visit [www.iworksmc.org](http://www.iworksmc.org).

### VOLUNTEER EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Fairfax County's free **Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group** meets by phone on **Tuesday, Nov. 8, 7-8 p.m.** Share your experiences, gain support and get important information without having to travel. Register beforehand at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Telephone Caregiver Support Group. Call 703-324-5484, TTY 711.

**30th Annual Northern Virginia Dementia Care Consortium Caregivers Conference, Friday, Nov. 11, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.** The conference "Gems: A Treasure Chest of Ideas" will have speakers and resources on topics important to caregivers. The \$30 fee includes continental breakfast, lunch, materials, and certificate

of attendance. First Baptist Church of Alexandria, 2932 King St., Alexandria. Find out more at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Caregivers Conference.

The **Fairfax Commission on Aging** meets on **Wednesday, Nov. 16, at noon** at the Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Rd., Burke. The public is welcome to attend and join in the comment period that begins each session. Find out more at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/coa.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/coa.htm). Call 703-324-5403, TTY 711 for meeting access needs.

**Fairfax County's free Caregiver Seminar/Webinar Series** features experts in Medicare, dementia care, mental health and wellness, nutrition and elder law. **Register online at**

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Caregiver Support and Respite Programs or call 703-324-5205, TTY 711.

**10 Legal Issues Caregivers Should Know About, Thursday, Nov. 3, 7-8:30 p.m.** Caregivers often make health and financial decisions for loved ones. Learn what documents loved ones need in place, if the document age matters, and what happens if the documents fail or can't be drafted. George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale.

**When is it More Than Just a Bad Day? — webinar, Wednesday, Nov. 9, Noon-1 p.m.** Learn how to identify, cope, and find partnerships to support your family if depressive symptoms hit you or your loved one.

**Simple Meals for Healthy Eating — webinar, Wednesday, Nov. 16, Noon-1 p.m.** Learn tips to simplify meal preparation and eat healthy during the holidays and beyond.

**Improving Family Conversations About Aging Issues, Wednesday, November 16, 7-8:30 p.m.** It's difficult for many families to talk about topics related to aging like help at home and driving. Learn easy-to-use tips for starting the conversation and keeping it going in a positive direction. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Rd., Chantilly.

Fairfax County is offering free **Medicare 101 and Enrollment Events**. Find out more at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on **Medicare 101**.

**Medicare Enrollment Event, Tuesday, Nov. 1, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.** Lewinsville Senior Center, 1515 Great Falls St., McLean.

**Medicare Enrollment Event, Friday, Nov. 4, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.** Lorton Senior Center, 7722 Gunston Plz., Lorton.

**Medicare Enrollment Event, Saturday, Nov. 5, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.** Korean Community Service Center of Greater Washington, Ste. 406, 7700 Little River Turnpike, Annandale

**Medicare 101, Wednesday, Nov. 9, Noon-1:30 p.m.** St. Luke Parish, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean.

# Lost Treasure Returned

BY FCPD PUBLIC AFFAIRS BUREAU

**H**ave you ever lost something sentimental? It might not have much monetary value, but to you, it holds a priceless memory and now it's gone. In 1987, Greg McCarthy graduated from Bartlesville High School, in Oklahoma. He left with his memories and his high school ring.

In 2014, McCarthy was living in Burke. One day he discovered some money and his ring was missing from his home. Someone had stolen it, but McCarthy didn't report it. The ring was gone forever, or was it?

On March 11, 2016, Officer Nicholas Cosmo responded to a report of a vehicle break-in in Burke. Neither the officer nor the 55-year-old victim knew anything about a man named Greg McCarthy. Officer Cosmo discovered a ring inside a glove found in the car, which the victim had never seen before. Officer Cosmo packaged the items as evidence and sent them to the Evidence and Property Section.

Months later, Evidence and Property Tech-

nician David Patterson was sorting through his daily list of property, which is about 300 pieces a day. He picked up a small plastic bag, containing a ring, and something about the ring caught his attention. It appeared to be a class ring, as it was inscribed with the year 1987 and the name "Greg." Patterson decided to try and track down its owner.

He learned that the ring was associated with a high school in Oklahoma. He contacted the school and obtained a phone number for a student named "Greg." It seemed like a long shot, but the man who answered was Greg McCarthy's father. Greg was now a Colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps and stationed in Africa. He contacted his son, who confirmed the ring was, in fact, his and that he had lost it in 2014.

McCarthy could not believe his ring had resurfaced after all that time. What are the odds that one Property Technician, who went above and beyond his regular duties, would be a part of a reunification of a ring and its rightful owner? That's what makes this ring so special to Greg McCarthy.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE

**First responders were able to douse the flames fast enough on Oct. 22 to limit damage to the attached trailer, preventing the fire from spreading to the building.**

## Firefighters Extinguish Burning Tractor Trailer

Firefighters from Battalions 7, 5 and 4 helped extinguish a burning tractor trailer in the 8900 block of Burke Lake Road on Saturday, Oct. 22, a release from Fairfax County Fire & Rescue said.

The truck was behind a building, where firefighters found it with the fire underway.

First responders were able to douse the flames fast enough to limit damage to

the attached trailer, preventing the fire from spreading to the building.

As of going to print, Fairfax County Fire & Rescue did not respond to questions of whether a source or cause of the fire has been determined, or whether there were any injuries related to the fire.

—TIM PETERSON

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# ENTERTAINMENT

**American Festival Pops Orchestra, Anthony Maiello conducting.**



PHOTO BY STAN ENGLEBRETSON/  
COURTESY OF GEORGE MASON  
UNIVERSITY

## Patriotic Musical Salutes to America's Veterans

### Veterans Day weekend at Center for the Arts.

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

Veterans Day weekend will bring two musical concerts to honor veterans of military service and America's "greatest generation" at the Center for the Arts. The two separate performances will span patriotic favorites, American musical standards and swinging jazz along with signature vocals to honor those who have served America.

The shows include Jazz 4 Justice's "Tribute to the Greatest Generation" and the American Festival Pops Orchestra's "A Salute to Our Veterans."

Under the musical direction of Jim Carroll, Jazz 4 Justice's "Tribute to the Greatest Generation" will feature music running the gamut from Duke Ellington, Billy Strayhorn, Toots Thielemann, to Louis Prima and more. "What better way to pay tribute to our brave men and women of the armed forces with the music that marched us through World War II," said Darden Purcell, Director of Jazz Studies, George Mason University

The concert will "not only pay tribute to our heroes; the men and women of the United States military, but also showcase the work of our wonderful students," said Purcell.

"Many young adults now do not grow up with the music of Duke Ellington so it is incredibly gratifying to watch them develop, both musically and emotionally, when they make a connection with 'Jazz' and its significance within American history."

Celebrating jazz, "the music is going to be great! You will leave 'fingers snappin' and toes tappin'!" added Purcell.

Under the baton of Anthony Maiello, Professor of Music at Mason, the 60-member American Festival Pops Orchestra will "Salute" veterans with musical numbers from the likes of Glenn Miller, John Philips Sousa, along with the vocal quartet, "The Side Boys" of the United States Navy Band. There will also be an emotional rendition of "The Stars and Stripes Forever."

"Our audiences come to be engaged. Patrons can expect to be part of the concert, to be involved from the very first note," said Maiello. "I can promise them that they will feel better when they walk out of the concert hall than when they entered it."

Maiello added, "I believe American music is essential to our existence as a nation. Everything we

**Jim Carroll, Professor of Music, George Mason University, Music Director of Jazz 4 Justice**



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY



**Darden Purcell, Director Jazz Studies, George Mason University**

#### WHERE AND WHEN

\* **Jazz 4 Justice:** "A Tribute to the Greatest Generation" at George Mason University, Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performance on Nov. 12, 2016 at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$20 adults, \$15 for students and seniors. Tickets are available online at [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu) or by phone at 888-945-2468. NOTE: There will be a reception and jam session hosted by the Mason student group, "The Voyage" immediately following.

\* **American Festival Pops Orchestra:** "A Salute to our Veterans" at George Mason University, Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performance Nov. 13, 2016 at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$50, \$43, \$30 with Youth Discount. Tickets (half price tickets for youth through grade 12) are available for this event. Tickets are available by phone at 888-945-2468 or online at [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu). Note: There will be a pre-performance discussion with big-band arranger Bryan Kidd, who is in Residence with AFPO.

do involves music in some way or another. Holidays, ceremonies, events, personal and public gatherings are just a few examples of how music plays a role in our daily lives, whether we are making it or listening to it."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Shenandoah Run in Concert — Folk Music with a Kick! on Saturday, Oct. 29, at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., concert starts at 8 p.m. Ticket price - \$15. A family-friendly event. Adult refreshments and soft drinks served. For more information: [www.accontinuu.org/concerts-at-accotink](http://www.accontinuu.org/concerts-at-accotink); 703-503-4579; [administrator@accotinkuu.org](mailto:administrator@accotinkuu.org)**

#### CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at [connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://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

**The Pumpkin Patch** will be open October 2 through 31, Sunday through Friday, from noon until 7 pm daily, and Saturdays from 10 am until 7 pm. Located at St. George's United Methodist Church, 4910 Ox Road, near George Mason University at the crossroads of Rt 123 and Braddock Road and across from the University Mall. A large variety of pumpkins and decorative gourds of all shapes and sizes will be for sale. [www.pumpkinsusa.com](http://www.pumpkinsusa.com)

**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>

**Adventures in Learning Shepherd's Center of Fairfax** 8:30 a.m. - 2:45 p.m. every Monday for 6 weeks, Oct. 3, 2016 - Nov. 7 these events take place at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Rd. Fairfax. start with gentle exercise, followed by speakers on topics such as health, history, community, personal development, finance, and more. Afternoon breakouts are book club, bridge, canasta, and mind games. Bring a brown bag lunch. Cost: \$30 for 6 weeks (Mondays). To register: call 703-426-2824 [www.scfbva.org](http://www.scfbva.org).

**Senior Line Dancing** 1 - 2 p.m. Little River Glen Senior Center 4001 Barker Ct, Fairfax. Line Dancing is a gentle, social form of aerobic activity. Studies have shown it aids in warding off Alzheimer's disease. No previous experience needed. Cost: \$5.00 per 8 week session. [barbriba@hotmail.com](mailto:barbriba@hotmail.com) 703-524-3739

**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 and 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](http://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](http://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](http://fairfaxrotary.org).

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

SEE CALENDAR. PAGE 11

# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 10

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

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

**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/>

**TUESDAY/OCT.25 & OCT. 26**

**INOVA Fair Oaks Hospital Auxiliary Handbag and Luggage Sale** 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hospital Atrium 3600 Joseph Siewick Dr, Fairfax, VA 22033 Karen Almquist, IFOH Auxiliary Publicity Chair

**THURSDAY/ OCT. 27 - OCT. 30**

**Mason Musical "The Threepenny Opera"** at George Mason University's Center for the Arts in Fairfax. October 27, 2016 - Oct. 29 at 8:00 p.m. October 29 at 2:00 p.m. Oct. 30 at 4:00 p.m. Who can get ahead? Those with money do in Brecht and Weill's landmark twentieth century musical, The Threepenny Opera. Set in gritty 1920's New York City, where prohibition is in effect but speakeasies are open and corruption abounds, the story follows the charismatic antihero Macheath and his exploits for power and wealth.

**THURSDAY/OCT. 27**

**Special Blood Fairfax Screening** 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Rave Motion Pictures Fairfax Corner 14 11900 Palace Way, Fairfax. Tickets Available: [www.tugg.com/events/](http://www.tugg.com/events/)

special-blood-80-v

**FRIDAY/OCT. 28**

**Alan Jackson Concert** 7:30 p.m. EagleBank Arena 4400 University Dr. Fairfax. Alan Jackson is coming to Fairfax on his "Keepin it Country Tour." Cost: \$55

**SATURDAY/OCT. 29**

**FCPS Mental Health & Wellness Conference** 8 - 1:30 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Fairfax County Public Schools will present a workshop featuring training in the areas of executive functioning, stress management, healthy coping skills, managing academics and homework, understanding depression and anxiety, school avoidance, the effects of trauma, substance abuse prevention, cyber safety, and much more. More than 50 different breakout sessions will be offered by staff from local school divisions, Fairfax County government and community agencies, and local mental health providers. Speakers will include Dena Simmons, Ed.D. (Director of Implementation, Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence) and Gloria Addo-Ayensu, M.D. (Fairfax County Director of Health). To register, please visit: [www.fcps.edu/event/mental-health-and-wellness-conference](http://www.fcps.edu/event/mental-health-and-wellness-conference)

**Fall Yard + Bake Sale to Benefit Sydenstricker Schoolhouse** 8 - 12 p.m. 8511 Hooes Road, Springfield. Annual Yard + Bake Sale, to benefit the Historic Sydenstricker Schoolhouse. [www.sydenstrickerschoolhouse.org](http://www.sydenstrickerschoolhouse.org)

**Dr. Seuss Art Exhibition** 3 - 7 p.m. at P&C Art 2813 Dorr Avenue, Fairfax. The beloved Dr. Seuss Art Exhibition and Children's Hour. <http://www.pcart.com/703-698-8452> [dennymazz@gmail.com](mailto:dennymazz@gmail.com)

**Clifton Haunted Trail** 7 - 10 p.m. in the historic town of Clifton. Admission: Ages 13+ \$15 Ages 12 and under \$10. [www.cliftonhauntedtrail.com/](http://www.cliftonhauntedtrail.com/)

**Shenandoah Run Folk Concert** 8 - 10 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m. at Accotink UU Church 10125 Lakehaven Court Burke. Shenandoah Run folk music, like a spirited family reunion, this nine-piece band will pay tribute to both vintage Americana and contemporary folk. <http://accotinkuu.org/concerts-at-accotink/>

**SATURDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 29-30**

**9th Annual South Run Art and Craft Show** at the South Run RECenter in Springfield. Experience the world of original art and craft created by artisans of the Northern Virginia Handcrafters Guild (NVHG) at the South Run RECenter,

7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield, Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. More than 50 artisans will tempt shoppers with everything from beautiful jewelry to intricate woodworking. Gift certificates will be awarded during the show. Admission is \$3, and free for children 12 and under. For more information go to [www.NVHG.org](http://www.NVHG.org).

**SUNDAY/OCT. 30**

**HO Gauge Model Train Event** at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum 1 - 4 p.m. 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. The event will include the building of an HO scale train module for use in future displays. Historic artifacts will be displayed and discussed. Admission: \$4 for adults 16 and over \$2 for children 5-15 free for Museum members and children under 5. Recommended age is 8 and older, no registration is needed.

**TUESDAY/ NOV. 1**

**Introduction to Archaeology** 7 - 8 p.m. Burke Centre Library 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Learn about professional archaeologists' work and how to handle backyard finds. Presenter: Liz Crowell. Cost: Free. Registration available [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/)

**WEDNESDAY/NOV. 2**

**Jeff Dunham "Perfectly Unbalanced"** 8 - 10 p.m. EagleBank Arena 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Jeff has performed in front of sold out audiences worldwide and is known for his cast of puppets who aren't afraid to speak their mind. [www.jeffdunham.com](http://www.jeffdunham.com)

**Chronology of the Civil War in Fairfax County, Part I (1859-part of 1863)**. Preservationist and former Topographer, Ed Wenzel, will discuss his recent book at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Doors open at 7 p.m. Forum begins at 7:30. Copies of Wenzel's book will be available for purchase and signing. The Forum is free and open to the public. [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR). 703-425-9225.

**SATURDAY/NOV. 5**

**FACETS' A Taste of Fall** 7 p.m. Sherwood Community Center 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. FACETS is hosting its 17th Annual Taste of Fall with FACETS, food, fun, entertainment, and a live and silent auction to raise funds to help families

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15



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# SPORTS

Lamont Atkins has been invited to play in the 2017 Blue-Grey All-American Bowl in Jacksonville, Fla. on Jan. 14, 2017.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

## Lake Braddock's Atkins to Play in All-American Bowl

Lake Braddock's star running back, Lamont Atkins, has been invited to play in the 2017 Blue-Grey All-American Bowl in Jacksonville, Fla. on Jan. 14, 2017. The Blue-Grey All-American Bowl features top seniors from around the country selected from more than 6,750 players who competed at regional combines or were nominated by the Blue-Grey All-American Bowl staff comprising 31 NFL veterans. The game will be played at EverBank Field, home to the Jacksonville Jaguars, and will be aired live on the ESPN network.

Lamont Atkins and the Lake

Braddock Bruins are off to a scorching start this season. Under the leadership of head coach James Poythress, the team is 7-1 and ranked #2 in the state per the Virginia High School League.

In only eight games this season, Atkins has amassed 1,323 rushing yards and 20 TDs from only 101 rushes. In a historical senior campaign, he's averaging 13 yards per carry and scores a TD every 5 times he touches the ball. Ranked the #14 all-purpose running back in the nation, by 247sports.com, Atkins has committed to the University of Virginia and will join the team in January as a mid-year enrollee.



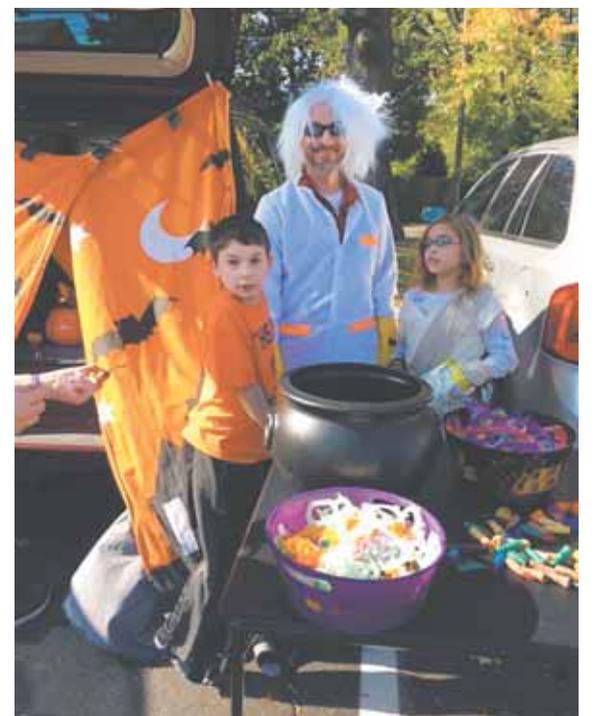
Lake Braddock's star running back, Lamont Atkins, has committed to the University of Virginia and will join the team in January as a mid-year enrollee.

Lake Braddock's senior Lamont Atkins has amassed 1,323 rushing yards and 20 TDs in eight games this season.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

On Oct. 23, Frankenstein's monster stepped up to the plate in Fairfax.



In the American Legion post parking lot adjacent to the field, there were 42 cars decorated for Halloween, where players celebrated the spooky holiday between games.

## Fairfax Challenger Little League Celebrates Trunk-r-Treat

On Oct. 23, Frankenstein's monster stepped up to the plate in Fairfax. Around 125 players, siblings and player buddies in costume participated in two baseball games as part of the Fairfax Challenger League's Trunk-r-Treat event at Chilcot Field in Fairfax.

The Challenger league is a division of Fairfax Little League specifically for children with disabilities in Fairfax County. There are six teams and more than 60 players in the league.

In the American Legion post parking lot adjacent to the field, there were 42 cars decorated for Halloween, where players celebrated the spooky holiday between games.

The American Legion Post sponsors one of the teams and hosts events for the league throughout the year.

—TIM PETERSON



Around 125 players, siblings and player buddies in costume participated in two baseball games as part of the Fairfax Challenger League's Trunk-r-Treat event at Chilcot Field in Fairfax.

## Woodson Cavaliers on Parade

Woodson High's Homecoming Parade was Friday, Oct. 7.

A cheerleader group with pom-poms.



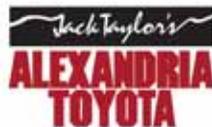
PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

11

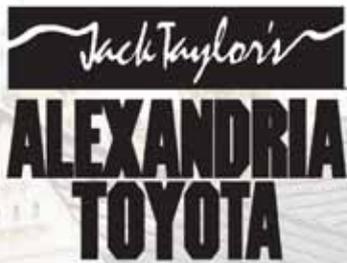
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## HALLOWEEN 2016 PREVIEW



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Thrill-seeking souls enter the eight-acre Clifton Haunted Trail on Oct. 24, 2015

### FRIDAY/OCT. 28, 2016

**Spooktacular.** 6:30-8 p.m. Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Enjoy ghoulish games, a spooky craft and a children's show. Fee: \$10/child in advance or \$15/child on day of event. [www.herndon-va.gov](http://www.herndon-va.gov).

**Bradley Farm Haunted House** Friday & Saturday 6 - 10 p.m. 13159 New Parkland Drive, Herndon. The guided tours are \$5 [www.BFHauntedHouse.com](http://www.BFHauntedHouse.com).

### SATURDAY/OCT. 29

**Clifton Haunted Trail** 7 - 10 p.m. in the historic town of Clifton. Admission: Ages 13+ \$15 Ages 12 and under \$10. [www.cliftonhauntedtrail.com/](http://www.cliftonhauntedtrail.com/)

### SATURDAY/OCT. 29 - OCT 31

**Roer's Zoofari Trick-Or-Treat 5 - 7 p.m.** 1228 Hunter Mill Rd. Vienna. Roer's Zoofari welcomes families from all areas to a new way of trick-or-treating this year. Kids can trick-or-treat for candy and treats, bounce around in our kids zone, and meet bugs at our creepy crawly station. Admission: \$10 per child, free for adults.

[www.roerszoofari.com/](http://www.roerszoofari.com/)

### SATURDAY/OCT. 29

**Howl-O-Ween at Lake Anne, 1-3 p.m.** Plaza Activities. Free. Join us on the Plaza dressed in Halloween flair (adults + pets) for a Howling good time! Dogs, cats, and all types of furry friends are welcome to participate. Pet Costume Contest starts at 1:30 p.m.: Pet Parade, Live DJ, Pet Friendly Beer Garden, Window Decorating Contest, Yappy Hour Specials from 1-5 p.m., Treats, Tricks & More From Local Merchants. [www.lakeanneplaza.com](http://www.lakeanneplaza.com)

### MONDAY/OCT. 31

**Halloween Spooktacular** at Great Falls Village Green and Great Falls Center, 5-7 p.m., with Pet Parade at 4 p.m. (all dogs must vacate the green by 4:50 p.m.) Boy Scout Troop 55 will create some spooky fun for everyone in the Haunted House; The Langley Marching Band performs in the Wells Fargo parking lot; Linda Waitkus of Great Dogs of Great Falls is leading the Pet Parade starting at the Gazebo. Look out for the Great Falls Volunteer Firefighters in the Safeway parking lot.

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| <b>Zone 3:</b> The Alexandria Gazette Packet<br>The Mount Vernon Gazette   | <b>Zone 6:</b> The McLean Connection<br>The Great Falls Connection                             |

## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

and individuals in Fairfax County and City who are suffering the effects of poverty and homelessness. Attendees at the Nov. 5 fundraiser can sample food and drink from a variety of Fairfax-area restaurants, wineries and breweries. Cost \$50 [www.FacetsCares.org](http://www.FacetsCares.org)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 6

that increase cost the typical homeowner \$184.81. Such a further increase could be staved off by shifting a small portion of the tax obligation from property owners to other taxpayers (including those from outside Fairfax County).

Finally, the meals tax would be a small burden. It would amount to 20 cents on a \$5 meal and \$2 on a \$50 meal. Most of the

### SATURDAY/NOV. 5-6

**Cox Farms Pumpkin Madness.** 10 - 5 p.m. Cox Farms, 15621 Braddock Road, Centreville. Come out and smash, throw, and launch those old pumpkins. Bring back your used Jack-o-lantern...We'll help you recycle it. Last admission 4 p.m. Visit: <http://www.coxfarms.com/fallfestival.aspx>.

other jurisdictions neighboring Fairfax County have a similar meals tax: Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax City, and the Towns of Vienna and Herndon. Yet most of us patronize restaurants there. Thus, the meals tax would not threaten the businesses of the restaurants in Fairfax County. That's why I support the proposal.

**Sean Barnett**  
Annandale



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**Fairfax Station - \$919,900**

Gorgeous Sacre Oasis! Must see Kitchen/Family Room Remodel! Beautiful flat yard in great neighborhood!

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**Fairfax Station - \$1,399,900**

This one has it all! Pool, Barn, Car-lover's garage, Office space, Sports Court, and Gorgeous Estate Home!

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**McLean \$369,900**  
End unit condo with wrap around balcony  
Beautiful views from this 12th floor unit. Two bedrooms, two baths, 1300+ sq ft and garage parking!  
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**Woodbridge Cardinal Grove \$599,850**  
GOURMET KITCHEN AND DELUXE MASTER SUITE!  
BETTER THAN NEW - less than 2 years old! 3 level Colonial in

Sought-after Cardinal Grove at Eagles Pointe! Many Extras/Upgrades to include: Gas fireplace insert, underground sprinkler system w/ rain sensor, surveillance system w/ cameras, Smart house control panel, granite counters, S/C convection double oven, Morning Rm, Gourmet Island Kitchen, Luxury MBR Suite w/ tray ceiling & 2 walkin closets! MORE!!! Call STEVE CHILDRESS NOW for private showing... 703-981-3277 or come to OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 1-5PM... 3333 Soaring Circle, Woodbridge, VA



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**Fairfax \$627,900**  
Beautiful Middleridge - Quiet Cul-de-sac location  
Lots of TLC - New Kitchen - Newer Baths  
Hardwood Floors - New Carpet UL  
Lovely Porch/SunRoom w/Sliders to Deck  
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## Jim Fox

703.503.1800  
[jim.fox@LNF.com](mailto:jim.fox@LNF.com)  
L&F "Top 20" 2012-2014  
Washingtonian Magazine's "Top Team" 2015  
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**Arlington \$267,400**  
Cambridge Courts  
Turn-key condition\*Shows like a model\*Nothing left to do but unpack\*  
Secluded end-unit\*Prime location

tucked away in back of neighborhood\*Wood-burning frpl in LR\*Sep DR\*Large BR w/walk-in closet\*Multiple recent improvements to incl remodeled bathroom, windows, appliances, granite counters, hardwood floors, fresh paint & more\*Low condo fee\*1.2 mi to Clarendon Metro\*This is a "10." Call Jim Fox @ 703.755.0296



## Judy McGuire

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**Lorton \$285,000**  
Lovely 3-level townhouse with two master bedrooms w/bath on upper level.  
Hardwood floors in foyer and dining room.  
Newer carpet & paint.  
Lower level rec room W/O to landscaped fenced treed backyard.  
Close to Metro, 495, Ft. Belvoir, Fairfax County Parkway.



## AMANDA SCOTT

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**Gainesville Heritage Hunt 55+ (age 50+ ok) \$379,900**  
Beautiful 2 level end-unit - wide lot backs to common area! 4BR (2 m/l), 3BA, Kit, Din, Brkfst, Fam rm w Gas Fpl, Sunroom, Loft, Irrig system, 2 car Gar.



**Manassas Blooms Mill \$319,900**  
COMMUTERS DREAM! BEAUTIFUL 3-LVL TOWNHOUSE CLOSE TO VRE!  
3 BR, 3 BA, Grmt Kit w isln, Din, huge Liv rm. Large MBR, Laundry on up/level, fin walkout LL with Rec rm & BA 3. Fenced Yd w patio. 2 car Gar.



## John & Jennifer Boyce

703-425-JOHN (5646)  
[jennifer.boyce@longandfoster.com](mailto:jennifer.boyce@longandfoster.com)  
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**Woodbridge \$1,250,000**  
Gorgeous custom build - all-brick Mike Garcia home on a 5 acre private waterfront peninsula. 6 BRs & 7.5 Baths. Spectacular wide water views from three sides. Huge gourmet kitchen. Newly renovated spa-inspired master bath. 2 tiered 700 SF entertainment-ready deck. Private boat dock & gazebo. Fire pit. Gated circular driveway w/pond & fountain. Super efficient geothermal HVAC system. Nanny suite over garage.

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Open Sunday 1-4



**Burke Dunleigh Dr. \$639,900**



**Fairfax Vail Ridge Ln. \$549,900**



**Broadlands Cedar Springs Ct. \$595,000**



**Springfield Wren Dr. \$565,000**

For more information, go to [www.JAHomes4u.com](http://www.JAHomes4u.com) or [John.Astorino@LNF.com](mailto:John.Astorino@LNF.com)



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**Dumfries \$225,000**  
Fantastic Starter Home  
This 3 BR, 3 1/2 BA, 3 Lvl Townhouse features gourmet w/Granite Counters, upgraded baths & new laminate wood flooring. It's move-in ready!



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Life Member, NVAR Million Dollar Sales Club  
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**Fairfax \$499,900**  
Beautiful 5 acre building lot in Woodson Frost school district. Public water available, excellent location within minutes of GMU, shopping, restaurants, and major roads.

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