



Calvin Follin and Sara Hilgartner conduct the reading of the honor roll and bell ringing to remember the 25 Great Falls residents who died in military service or during the 9/11 attacks in 2001 when American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon.

Great Falls Honors Fallen Heroes

NEWS, PAGE 3

Car Lovers Gather
At Katie's Coffee House

NEWS, PAGE 11

Safety of Nike Field
Renovation Questioned

NEWS, PAGE 12

**Public Hearing Notice
Fairfax County
Secondary Six Year Plan**

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and The Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County, in accordance with Section 33.2-331 of the Code of Virginia, will conduct a joint public hearing in the Board Auditorium, Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035 at 3 p.m. on June 20, 2017.

The purpose of this public hearing is to receive public comment on the Secondary Six Year Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2018 through 2023. Copies of the proposed plan may be reviewed at the VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Civil Rights at 703-259-1775 or TTY/TDD 711.

Persons wishing to speak at this public hearing should contact the Office of the Clerk to the County Board of Supervisors at 703-324-3151.

NEWS

Community Pays Tribute to Marge Toni Gersic

Great Falls residents and county leaders gathered at the Great Falls Library on May 6 to pay tribute to Marge Toni Gersic who fought valiantly 25 years ago and against many obstacles to obtain a library for Great Falls.

Marge Gersic passed away last fall; naming the large meeting room for her is seen as a way to mark the many contributions she made to her community. She later became the Dranesville representative to the Fairfax County Library Board and was a president of the Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA). The dedication program was organized by the Friends of the Great Falls Library, GFCA, and the Great Falls Library.

The ribbon cutting on May 6. From left: Sally Burns (representing her daughter, U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock); former Dranesville Supervisor Lilla Richards; current Supervisor John Foust; Marge's son, John Gersic; and former GFCA president Eric Knudsen.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



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Great Falls Honors Fallen Heroes

Vietnam Veteran speaks at Freedom Memorial.

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

A bell tolled 25 times as names of Great Falls residents who died in military service or in the 9/11 Pentagon attack were read aloud at the somber gathering on Memorial Day. Six of the names spoken at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial on Monday, May 29, were of those who perished when American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon.

For the occasion, Robert Vickers Jr., who is known in the community as the Great Falls arborist and chairman of the Fairfax County Tree Commission, was invited to speak about another aspect of his life.

“Quite frankly, for many years I have not been able to discuss my service,” Vickers, a retired Army 2nd Lieutenant, said during the ceremony.

He spoke about his time in the military during the Vietnam War, but his difficulty with the subject wasn’t because of his experience in Vietnam.

“It was a very difficult period,” Vickers said. “Not because I had a bad experience there. I had a wonderful experience.”

It was because of the anti-war sentiment he experienced after the war in the ‘70s.

“It’s hard to talk about a conflict that you’ve fought in but also lost,” he said.

In August 1966, he was sent to Vietnam as a member of the 82nd Airborne Division based out of Fort Bragg in North Carolina.

Vickers was “chair-borne,” he joked with the crowd, and was assigned to the Combined Intelligence Command Vietnam (CICV) unit in Saigon that commissioned special studies, he said.

“I never saw combat,” he said. “I got shot at once in a helicopter, but it didn’t come anywhere near us.”

The relationships and cultural exchange he experienced during his time at war made it wonderful for him.

“I got to know the Vietnamese people pretty well ... we got to work with the Vietnamese intelligence officers and I got invited to their homes and met their families,” he said.

Vickers was given several military honors, including the Joint Service Commendation Medal, which is awarded to service members who distinguish themselves by meritorious achievement or service.

“I have to confess, this is the first time I’ve worn it,” he said.

He experienced conflict as soon as he returned to U.S. soil and arranging to fly to his home, which was in New York at the time. Wearing his uniform so he could get free air fare, the airline employee at the ticket counter ignored him.

“Finally, I got his attention and I said, ‘I’d like space available to fly to New York,’” Vickers told the crowd. “He said, ‘I’ll give you space available to fly to hell.’ That was my welcome home.”

Vickers began to realize how powerful the anti-war movement had become, a move-



A Marine Corps Color Guard from Navy Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, D.C., carried the national colors for the Memorial Day ceremony at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial on Monday, May 29. Marines, from left: Lance Cpl. Jonathan Alvarez, Cpl. Jason Stolecki, Cpl. Xavier Beleon and Sgt. Ronald Williams.



Andy Wilson, veteran and president of the Friends of the Great Falls Freedom Memorial, makes closing remarks after Boy Scouts from Troop 55 laid a wreath in front of the memorial.



Army Veteran Robert Vickers Jr. and Rev. Hank Langknecht of Christ the King Lutheran Church stand in silence during the wreath laying ceremony.



Boy Scouts Troop 55 of Great Falls lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

PHOTOS BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

ment he could understand.

“There’s no such thing as a good war,” he said. “People die on both sides. It’s kill or be killed.”

His time in the military was not something he felt comfortable discussing.

“I didn’t talk about it,” he said. “It was too controversial.”

That changed for Vickers when the Vietnam Veterans Memorial opened in 1982. At first, he did not visit for months. Then a

friend convinced him to go and see it.

“I don’t know about you, but having been there, seeing all of those names on that black wall,” he said. “It’s very moving.”

Later, he and his wife decided to visit Vietnam.

“I found Vietnamese people as wonderful as I had remembered them,” he said. “They were very pro-American.”

At the end of his speech, the crowd applauded.

The Great Falls Freedom Memorial

The Freedom Memorial behind the Great Falls Library was inspired by a candlelight vigil that was held on Sept. 11, 2002. Six cherry trees located at the gateway to the plaza serve to honor the memory of the Great Falls residents who perished in the 9/11 attacks in 2001 when American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon.

The memorial was dedicated on Nov. 13, 2004, and has been the location of memorial services on Memorial Day, Sept. 11 and Veterans Day ever since. The centerpiece of the memorial is a rock that symbolizes the “ageless beauty of Great Falls and serves as remembrance of all those who have given themselves in the cause of liberty and freedom,” a plaque reads.

Freedom Honor Roll

**Died during the 9/11 attack*

- ❖ James Ballenger
- ❖ Thomas Coleman
- ❖ Arthur Follin
- ❖ William Follin
- ❖ George Frame
- ❖ Richard Gabriel*
- ❖ Robert Girard, Jr.
- ❖ Joseph Gunnell
- ❖ Samuel Jenkins
- ❖ Ann Judge*
- ❖ Harry Kanmermier
- ❖ Carl Niswander
- ❖ Barbara Olson*
- ❖ Ross Poole
- ❖ Lisa Raines*
- ❖ F. Thomas Reid
- ❖ Steven Sherman
- ❖ Diane Simmons*
- ❖ George Simmons*
- ❖ George Swink
- ❖ James Thrift
- ❖ W.T. Tucker
- ❖ John Walker
- ❖ George Williams
- ❖ James Williams

Police Practices Improve, Citizens Demand More

Board cites progress on Police Practices improvements, but some citizens demand more.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

John Lovaas admitted that he was a bit of a skeptic. Speaking at the May 22 meeting to update Fairfax County residents on the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission's recommendations, the Restonian acknowledged that he hadn't been expecting all that much to come from the 32-member commission established by Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova — in spite of the fact that Lovaas had actually been chosen as an alternate representative.

"But I am more and more impressed by what's coming out of the implementation stage," said Lovaas.

Lovaas may now be cautiously optimistic, but the meeting that highlighted progress, also subjected its panelists to criticism, shouts, protest signs, and a dose of expressed disbelief from many in the small, but vocal audience.

To provide the update and take questions from the audience were Bulova; Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock); Police Chief Edwin Roessler, Jr.; Richard Schott, independent police auditor; Adrian Steel, Ad Hoc Commission vice chair; Shirley Ginwright, Communities of Trust chair; and David Rohrer, deputy county executive for public safety.

Bulova opened the session at the Government Center by announcing that the board had already approved and implemented or put in motion 172 of the 202 recommendations that the commission presented in its final report on Oct. 20, 2016. "I am proud ... that in the first year 88 percent of the recommendations have been approved," said Bulova, stressing that the board had taken the commission's findings seriously, and worked in collaboration with the Sheriff's Office, as well, to ensure the best possible results.

TWO NEW FORMS of independent oversight for the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) were established because of the Ad Hoc Commission. The supervisors recently named nine members — chosen from more than 140 applicants — to the Civilian Review Panel, to be chaired by Steel. In addition to the Review Panel, Schott has been named as the independent police auditor, to report directly to the Board of Supervisors.

The Civilian Panel will have the authority to review completed FCPD internal administrative investigations regarding civilian complaints against an officer. They may hold meetings to inform the public on how investigations were conducted. They may review complaints of harassment or discrimination, reckless endangerment of a detainee, or serious violations of Fairfax County or police procedures, and misuse of



Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), as chair of the board's Public Safety Committee, co-hosted a public forum updating citizens on the recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission.



Caycee Utley of Fairfax stands amid protest signs and fellow members of Showing up for Racial Justice. The group doesn't think any real progress has been made to "end racism and brutality, particularly against minorities" and hold law enforcement accountable for their actions.

authority, as part of their duties.

The independent police auditor will handle the cases of police use-of-force that result in serious injury or death.

The Ad Hoc Commission, made up of private citizens and members of the law enforcement, legal, and academic communities, as well as members of the media and public relations arena, divided their review responsibilities into five categories: Use-of-force, independent oversight, mental health and crisis intervention training (CIT), com-

munications, and diversity and recruiting.

Cook chairs the board's Public Safety Committee, and had the task of bringing the recommendations to the committee and seeing that they were "worked through, not just rubber stamped one way or the other."

The majority of the recommendations — 34 percent — came from the use-of-force sub-committee. Even though review of police practices had been on-going before, the impetus for the establishment of the Ad Hoc Commission itself came after the 2013 fa-

tal shooting of John Geer of Springfield, by then Fairfax County Patrolman Adam Torres, while Geer stood unarmed in his own doorway.

After Geer's death, with no information being made available to the public, several community groups formed and petitioned for reforms and more accountability from county law enforcement agencies. In early 2015 protests demanding "Justice for John Geer" were held outside police headquarters and the county government center.

The public did not learn the name of the officer involved in the shooting, or many of the relevant details until 17 months after the incident, when the information was released by a court order. The demand for more transparency did not fade away. In March of 2015, Bulova received the board's support to create the Ad Hoc Commission with the mission to "review FCPD policies and practices related to critical incidents, use-of-force training policies, threat assessments, as well as those within the Internal Affairs Division."

While insisting that avoiding any loss of life during police-public interaction had always been the guiding standard, at the meeting Cook said that one result of the commission's efforts was a re-commitment to the "Sanctity of Life" philosophy. Cook referenced revisions made to FCPD policies. Last updated in 2013, revised General Order 540 on the subject of the use-of-force by county law enforcement personnel took effect on March 31 of this year. The order will be reviewed again in January of 2019, to determine its effectiveness and make any additional revisions if necessary.

Roessler also made mention of the revised policies, explaining that a number of policies had been consolidated into "one concise document" to clarify the appropriate actions to be taken while carrying out their duties, and the proper reporting required after the use of force by county police officers.

Roessler also praised the establishment of the Diversion First program, which is designed to divert persons with mental health issues and intellectual or developmental disabilities from detention to treatment wherever possible.

Since its launch in January of 2016, Diversion First has seen 375 individuals transferred for appropriate treatment options, instead of being arrested and detained for non-violent offenses.

To make Diversion First truly successful, Roessler said that law enforcement personnel had to be trained to handle citizens with these challenges. To that end, "de-escalation" training was begun for all FCPD officers last year.

WITH 52 ADVISEMENTS, the communications sub-committee of the commission came in second, targeting the transparency complaints and addressing the timeline gap between a use-of-force event and the public's access to the details.

Under Public Scrutiny

FROM PAGE 4

Roessler announced the establishment of a Public Affairs Bureau within the FCPD. The chief also mentioned pages on the FCPD's website where information on use-of-force incidents are made available, including links to press conferences and briefings by Roessler and other officials.

Shirley Ginwright is the chair of the Fairfax County Communities of Trust Committee (COTC), a diverse citizen group "focused on strengthening and building positive relationships between public safety agencies and the communities they serve." Since its inception in December, 2014, COTC has been looking for ways to connect law enforcement with the residents they serve. They have a particular interest in programs that focus on the county's youth, and cutting off the "supply" of youngsters in the school-to-prison pipeline. Ginwright invited the audience to attend the COTC's upcoming "Public Safety Day" on June 3 in Lorton.

Despite the numerous high notes in the one-year Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission's report card, things got heated during the public commentary session.

Caycee Utley, lead organizer with Showing up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Northern Virginia, castigated all of the panelists over the death of 37-year-old Natasha McKenna, diagnosed with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and depression from the age of 14. The 5' 4," 130-pound African-American McKenna, in custody at the Fairfax Adult Detention Center on an outstanding warrant for attacking a police officer, was tasered multiple times when sheriff's deputies tried to put her in a wheeled restraint chair. At the time, McKenna was handcuffed behind her back, shackled around the legs with a bobble strap connecting the restraints, and had a spit mask placed over her face.

McKenna went into cardiac arrest shortly after being tasered. She was revived, but died five days later when it was determined that she had no brain activity, and life support was discontinued.

"Whose side are you on?" shouted several members of the SURJ group, waving their posters and pointing to an empty seat with a sign reading "Natasha McKenna" placed upon it.

"We don't want to be on sides," answered Cook.

The new police internal auditor, Schott, added, "This is what I have been hired to address."

Both Roessler and Bulova tried to explain that the case of McKenna and some of the others being referenced by the SURJ supporters were not within their direct purview, citing that the Sheriff's Office does not report to the Board of Supervisors.

"So nobody protects us from them?" Utley

replied. "What pressures have you put on the sheriff?"

Attendee Jenifer Hitchcock "couldn't understand how they cleared the deputies" involved in McKenna's death.

AT ONE POINT during the public comment phase, Cook refused to respond to "people yelling out of turn" and Bulova threatened to adjourn the meeting.

After Utley said, "There can't be any trust until there is justice," Bulova invited her to "talk personally" after the meeting.

Several of the citizen speakers described the Civilian Review Panel and the police auditor as "toothless" — lacking in the power to do anything. "Smoke and mirrors," said Mary Tracy of Alexandria. "The county has a long way to go on this. What about body cams? The Department of Justice was offering \$1 million grants, but we made no efforts to get them."

Several of the panelists explained that the auditor is prohibited under Virginia Law from investigating or conducting interviews. Citizens responded that they were willing to help the board get those changes made at the General Assembly, "just show us what to do. Support us."

Kofi Annan, president of the Fairfax NAACP, took a more conciliatory approach in his remarks, calling the work done so far "a good start," but he challenged the county to look into the disparity in the treatment of blacks versus whites within the legal system and in detention. Annan called for measures to track such information and make it easily available to the public.

George Becerra of Burke, a community advocate and familiar face at public meetings on diverse issues around the county, asked a different kind of question of the panelists. He glanced around the large auditorium, then, pointing to the small numbers in attendance, Becerra asked "How will you change your outreach efforts?"

In response, Ginwright with Communities of Trust referred again to her organization's Public Safety Days campaigns. After the meeting, Becerra expressed his disappointment with the answer. He acknowledged that citizens were equally responsible for informing themselves and in becoming engaged, but said that the information is often hard to find and overwhelming. With so many media relations personnel and staffers, Becerra thinks just a bit more of the work should fall on the county's side of the fence.

"During campaigns, politicians find a way to bombard your email with information and requests for donations and support." Becerra wants to know why something similar can't be done for these important issues and meetings. "There's maybe 40 people here tonight. Forty people out of a population of 1.1 million. That's a lot of voices going unheard."

"There's maybe 40 people here tonight. Forty people out of a population of 1.1 million. That's a lot of voices going unheard."

George Becerra, of Burke



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Remembering on Memorial Day 2017

On Memorial Day, we remember all of those who have died in military service, more than 400,000 in World War II, more than 30,000 in Korea, more than 50,000 in Vietnam.

As many as 620,000 soldiers died in the Civil War, stunningly about 2 percent of the population at that time. To compare, while more than 2.5 million soldiers have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, that number is still less than one percent of the U.S. population.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 6,880 U.S. military service men and women have died in support of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

On Memorial Day, there are many ways to remember the fallen, including a visit to Arlington National Cemetery, or many other local commemorations. But at a minimum, wherever you are, you can observe a moment of silence at 12:01 p.m. along with Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), or you can set your own moment at some point during the day.

More than 52,000 U.S. military service members have been wounded in action, although that number is likely to be revised upward. In 2013, the military confirmed traumatic brain injury in more than 220,000 of the more than 2.5 million troops who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. The long-term consequences of many of these injuries, including mental health consequences, are unknown, but they will require a national commitment to excellence in health care and services for both active duty military personnel and veterans. Virginia's U.S. Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine continue to advocate for better service from the Veterans Administration.

Cuts proposed to health care, food assistance and other aspects of the social safety net in the proposed budget would disproportionately harm veterans.

EVERY YEAR around Memorial Day, this newspaper names the local men and women who have died in military service since Sept. 11, 2001.

Marcus D. Prince, 22, of Norfolk, Virginia died April 26, 2016 in Juffir, Bahrain. Prince was a U.S. Navy civilian who was supporting Operation Inherent Resolve.

Blane D. Bussell, 60, of Virginia, died Jan. 26, 2016 in Manama, Bahrain; Bussell was a U.S. Navy civilian who was supporting Operation Inherent Resolve.

Sgt. Charles C. Strong, 28, of Suffolk, died Sept. 15, 2014 in Herat Province, Afghanistan while conducting combat operations. Sgt. David H. Stewart, 34, of Stafford, was one of three Marines who died June 20, 2014 while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

Seaman Philip Frazier Manes, 21, of Fairfax, died Sept. 27, in Manama, Bahrain. He was supporting Operation Inherent Resolve.

Army Sgt. Lyle D. Turnbull, 31, of Norfolk, died Oct. 18, 2013 in Kuwait, from a medical emergency. Capt. Brandon L. Cyr, 28, of Woodbridge, was one of four airmen who died April 27, 2013, near Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, in the crash of an MC-12 aircraft.

1st Lt. Robert J. Hess, 26, of the Kings Park West neighborhood of Fairfax, was killed by enemy fire on April 23, 2013, Afghanistan. Hess was known as "RJ" and graduated from Robinson Secondary School in 2005, where he played football, lacrosse and was the captain of the swim team. He was a U.S. Army Blackhawk helicopter pilot who deployed to Afghanis-

stan on April 11, 2013. His family remembers his sense of humor and his natural leadership ability.

Master Sgt. George A. Banner Jr., 37, of Orange, died Aug. 20, 2013, of injuries sustained when enemy forces attacked his unit with small arms fire in Wardak Province, Afghanistan.

Spc. Caryn E. Nouv, 29, of Newport News, was one of two soldiers who died July 27, 2013 in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked their vehicle with an improvised explosive device and small arms fire.

Lance Cpl. Niall W. Coti-Sears, 23, of Arlington, died June 23, 2012, while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. Coti-Sears loved music, played the guitar, composed songs and entertained family and friends at holiday gatherings. Niall was very close to his grandfather, William Coti, who was a Marine. "He was always my protege," William Coti told the Arlington Connection. "He always wanted to be a Marine and he followed my example. It weighs heavily on me that this had to happen."

Chief Warrant Officer Five John C. Pratt, 51, of Springfield, died May 28, 2012 in Kabul, Afghanistan, when his helicopter crashed.

Staff Sgt. Jessica M. Wing, 42, of Alexandria, died Aug. 27, 2012 in Kuwait City, Kuwait.

In February 2012, Brig. Gen. Terence J. Hildner, 49, of Fairfax, was the highest ranking military officer to die in the war. Hildner died Feb. 3, 2012 in Kabul province, Afghanistan.

Sgt. Aaron X. Wittman, 28, of Chester, Virginia, died Jan. 10, 2013 from small arms fire. Sgt. David J. Chambers, 25, of Hampton, Virginia, died Jan. 16, 2013 from a roadside bomb. Sgt. Robert J. Billings, 30, of Clarksville, Virginia, died Oct. 13, 2012 when enemy forces attacked with an improvised explosive device. Staff Sgt. Jonathan P. Schmidt, 28, of Petersburg, Va., died Sept. 1, 2012 from enemy small arms fire. 1st Lt. Stephen C. Prasnicky, 24, of Lexington, Virginia, died June 27, 2012, from a roadside bomb.

Aaron Carson Vaughn, 30, was one of 30 American service members and 22 Navy SEALs killed Aug. 6, 2011 when their Chinook helicopter was shot down in Afghanistan. Vaughn's family has ties to McLean and Burke. He was survived by his wife, Kimberly, and their two children.

Spc. Douglas Jay Green, 23 of Sterling, died Aug. 28, 2011, when insurgents attacked his unit using a roadside bomb in Afghanistan. Green enlisted in 2007, after attending Potomac Falls High School.

Pfc. Benjamin J. Park, 25, of Fairfax Station, died June 18, 2010 at Zhari district, Kandahar, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device.

May 12, 2010, Donald J. Lamar II, 23 of Fredericksburg, was killed in Afghanistan. Christopher D. Worrell, 35 of Virginia Beach, was killed in Iraq on April 22, 2010. Steven J. Bishop, 29 of Christianburg, was killed March 13, 2010 in Iraq. Kielin T. Dunn, 19 of Chesapeake, was killed Feb. 18, 2010 in Afghanistan. Brandon T. Islip, 23 of Richmond, was killed Nov. 29, 2009, in Afghanistan. Stephan L. Mace, 21 of Lovettsville, died Oct. 3, 2009 in Afghanistan.

Bill Cahir, 40 of Alexandria, died Aug. 13, 2009 of a gunshot wound while conducting combat operations in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. After Sept. 11, 2001, Cahir decided to leave his career as a journalist and join the Marine Corps. His application to become a Marine was denied because of his age, but he successfully lobbied members of Congress to get a special exemption.

Lance Cpl. Daniel Ryan Bennett, 23 of Clifton died Jan. 11, 2009, in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. 2nd Lt. Sean P. O'Connor of Burke died Oct. 19, 2008 while stationed at Hunter Army Air Field, Savannah, Georgia. O'Connor was an athlete in soccer, baseball and football who attended Fairfax County Public Schools and was a 1999 graduate of Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School in Arlington.

Pfc. David Sharrett II, 27 of Oakton, died Jan. 16, 2008 in Iraq. On Oct. 24, 2008, his father, David H. Sharrett, was on hand as the Oakton Post Office on White Granite Drive was renamed to honor his son. But the senior Sharrett has battled to learn the truth about his son's death, that he was killed by his lieutenant in a "friendly fire" incident. In April, 2012, Sharrett Sr. obtained documents confirming some of the details of his son's death and a subsequent cover-up.

Army 1st Lt. Thomas J. Brown, 26, a George Mason University graduate and Burke resident, died on Sept.

23, 2008, while serving in Iraq, from small arms fire.

Sgt. Scott Kirkpatrick, 26, died on Aug. 11, 2007, in Arab Jabour, Iraq. Kirkpatrick, who graduated from Park View High School in Sterling, and also considered Herndon and Reston as his hometowns, was a champion slam poet.

Ami Neiberger-Miller lost her brother, U.S. Army Spc. Christopher Neiberger, in August 2007 when he was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq. He was 22.

Staff Sgt. Jesse G. Clowers Jr., 27, of Herndon, died when an improvised bomb exploded near his vehicle in Afghanistan on Aug. 12, 2007. Jonathan D. Winterbottom, 21, of Falls Church, died in Iraq on May 23, 2007, when an IED exploded near his vehicle.

Nicholas Rapavi, 22, of Springfield, died Nov. 24, 2006, during combat in Anbar province in Iraq. Army Cpl. Andy D. Anderson, 24, was killed by enemy fire in Ar Ramadi, Iraq on Tuesday, June 6, 2006.

Spc. Robert Drawl Jr., 21, a 2003 graduate of T.C. Williams High School, was killed by a bomb in Kunar, Afghanistan, on Aug. 19, 2006.

U.S. Army Specialist Felipe J. Garcia Villareal, 26 of Burke, was injured in Iraq and flown to Washington Hospital Center, where he died Feb. 12, 2006. He was a graduate of Herndon High School.

Capt. Shane R. M. Mahaffee, 36, a 1987 graduate of Mount Vernon High School, died May 15, 2006. He was a lawyer, married, with two children.

U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas Kirven, 21, was killed in Afghanistan in 2005 during a firefight in a cave with insurgents. He enlisted while still in high school after Sept. 11, 2001.

Fairfax Station resident Pfc. Dillon Jutras, 20, was killed in combat operations in Al Anbar Province of Iraq on Oct. 29, 2005.

Maj. William F. Hecker III, a 1987 graduate of McLean High School, was killed in action in Iraq, Jan. 5, 2005. Staff Sgt. Ayman Taha, 31, of Vienna, was killed Dec. 30, 2005, when an enemy munitions cache he was prepping for demolition exploded. Army Capt. Chris Petty of Vienna was killed Jan. 5, 2006.

Staff Sgt. George T. Alexander Jr., the 2,000th soldier to be killed in Iraq, was literally born into the Army here in Northern Virginia, at DeWitt Army Hospital at Fort Belvoir. Alexander died at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, Oct. 22, 2005, of injuries sustained in Iraq five days earlier.

Lt. Col. Thomas A. Wren, 44, of Lorton, died in Tallil, Iraq on Nov. 5, 2005. Marine Capt. Michael Martino, 32 of the City of Fairfax, died Nov. 2, 2005, when his helicopter was brought down in Iraq.

1st Lt. Laura M. Walker of Oakton was killed on Aug. 18, 2005, in Kandahar, Afghanistan. CW4 Matthew S. Lourey of Lorton died from injuries sustained on May 26, 2005 in Buhruz, Iraq. Operations Officer Helge Boes of Fairfax was killed on Feb. 5, 2003, while participating in counterterrorism efforts in eastern Afghanistan.

Among other local lives lost: Lance Cpl. Tavon Lee Hubbard, 24, of Reston; 1st Lt. Alexander Wetherbee, 27, of McLean; 1st Lt. Jeff Kaylor, 25, of Clifton; Coast Guard Petty Officer Nathan B. Bruckenthal, 24, of Herndon; Army Chief Warrant Officer Sharon T. Swartworth, 43, of Mount Vernon; Command Sgt. Maj. James D. Blankenbecker, 40, of Mount Vernon; Capt. James F. Adamowski, 29, of Springfield; Sgt. DeForest L. Talbert, 22, of Alexandria; Marine Cpl. Binh N. Le, 20, of Alexandria; Staff Sgt. Russell Verdugo, 34, of Alexandria; Army Capt. Mark N. Stubenhofer, 30, from Springfield; Marine Gunnery Sgt. Javier Obleas-Prado Pena, 36, from Falls Church; Marine Sgt. Krisna Nachampassak, 27, from Burke; Army Staff Sgt. Nathaniel J. Nyren, 31, from Reston; Marine Lance Cpl. Tenzin Dengkhim, 19, from Falls Church, Navy Chief Joel Egan Baldwin, 37, from Arlington; Maj. Joseph McCloud, of Alexandria, and Major Gloria D. Davis, 47 of Lorton.

Capt. Jesse A. Ozbat, 28 of Prince George, Virginia, died on May 20, 2012 in Afghanistan from a roadside bomb. Constructionman Trevor J. Stanley, 22, of Virginia Beach, died April 7, 2012 while deployed to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. Pfc. Michael W. Pyron, 30, of Hopewell, Va., died Jan. 10, 2012 in Afghanistan. Maj. Samuel M. Griffith, 36, of Virginia Beach, died Dec. 14, 2011 in Afghanistan. Staff Sgt. James Ronald Leep Jr., 44 of Richmond, died Oct. 17, 2011 at Forward Operating Base Kalsu in Iraq. Spc. Levi Efrain Nuncio, 24 of Harrisonburg, died June 22, 2011 in Afghanistan. Capt. Michael Wray Newton, 30 of Newport

SEE MEMORIAL DAY, PAGE 15



Senior Center Discussion on Genomics, Health

The Great Falls Senior Center (GFSC) speaker for June is Carla L. Easter, Ph.D., chief of the Education and Community Involvement Branch at the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI). Her topic will be Genomics and Your Health.

Easter played a major role in the development of the NIH/NIH/Smithsonian exhibition, Unlocking Life's Code, and its accompanying website, and serves as a liaison to the K-12 and university community as a speaker on genome science and career preparation and pathways. She also serves as an adjunct faculty member of the University of the District of Columbia Department of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

The June 20 event will be held at the Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, 1-3 p.m. and includes light refreshments. The event sponsor is John Nugent and Sons, nugentsons.com.

Reservations are a must. To reserve, email Karen Emami at karen.emami@globalinfotek.com or call 703-938-6471. Visit gfseniors.org.

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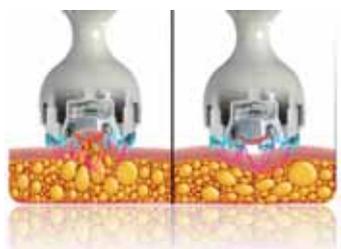


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ENTERTAINMENT

Send entertainment announcements to connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. Deadline is Friday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Artists Show. Various times through May 31 at the Broadway Gallery, 1025-J Seneca Road, Great Falls. "Levels of Abstraction," show featuring the works of Hiromi Ashlin, Genna Gurvich, Sandi Ritchie Miller, and Buck Nelligan. Visit www.broadwaygallery.net or call 703-450-8005 for more.

Artists Show. Various times through May 31 at Katie's Coffee House, Village Center, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Artist Joyce Lee. Call 703-759-2759 for more.

Youth Chorus Auditions. Through June 6 at Vienna Baptist Church, 541 Marshall Road, SW. The Fairfax Choral Society encourages children between the ages of 5-13 to audition for one of three choirs that meet at the Vienna campus. Email dlamberth@fairfaxchoralsociety.org or call 703-642-3277 for more.

Free Tai Chi. Every Saturday, from 7:55-9 a.m., Introduction and Beginners' Practice, meet on the outdoor basketball court located directly behind the Dolley Madison Public Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. in McLean Central Park, McLean. Call 703-759-9141 or visit www.FreeTaiChi.org for more.

The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. Play on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna. Visit www.goldengirls.org.

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 www.fxva.com/listing/bazins-on-church/1686/

The Freeman Store & Museum Wednesday through Sunday noon-4 p.m. 131 Church St. NE, Vienna. The Freeman Store & Museum is dedicated to Preserving and promoting Vienna's heritage through the identification, preservation, and interpretation of history significant places, events, and persons. Historicviennainc.org

Weekly Storytime. Wednesday and Saturday. 11 a.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Themes and titles vary. Free admission.

Bingo Night. Sundays. 4 p.m. Flame Room, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. S, Vienna. \$10. www.vvfd.org/bingo.html.

Gentle Yoga. Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. Emmaus United Church of Christ, 900 E Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Gentle Kundalini Yoga, one free introductory session, senior discounts. Increase flexibility, improve breathing and health, reduce stress. Ravi Kaur has 15 years experience teaching yoga. \$15 per session. www.edimprovement.org. 571-213-3192.

Fishing Rod Rentals 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Rentals available during visitor center hours. Fishing tackle and live bait are available for purchase. Reservations required for group rentals. \$6/rental (2 hour max). Valid driver's license required. Rod/reel combinations are perfect for beginners and children. A Virginia or Maryland freshwater fishing license is required for those 16 years or older. The park does not



Photo Exhibit

PHOTO BY SILVIA GONZALEZ ROMAN

"On the Bay" Photographs, on display June 1-July 1 during normal business hours at Katie's Coffee House, Village Center, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Silvia Gonzalez Roman will exhibit her pictures taken around the Chesapeake Bay. Visit oldbrogue.com/katies-coffee-house/ or call 703-759-2759 for more.

sell fishing licenses. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/

Colvin Run Mill open 11 - 4 p.m. daily, closed Tuesday. 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Fairfax County's operational 19th century water powered gristmill, offers recreational and educational activities for all ages through daily

tours, school programs and special events. Fees: \$7/adult, \$6 students 16+ with ID, \$5 children & seniors. Admission to park is free except for some special events.

Fundamentals of Watercolors. Mondays 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Arts of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Artist Lorrie Herman will help students get comfortable

working with watercolors and understanding this medium. Visit www.greatfallsart.org for more.

Still Life Painting. Tuesdays 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Arts of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Still life provides a great tool to hone skills. Recommended for students of all levels. Visit www.greatfallsart.org for more.



Artist

PHOTO BY ROSEMARIE FORSYTHE

Meet the Artist Saturday, June 10 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Great Falls Studio, 10001 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Meet Rosemarie Forsythe and learn about her exhibit titled "Conceptual Illuminations" which runs through July 1. Visit www.greatfallsstudios.com/ for more.

Evening Painting. Tuesdays 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. at The Arts of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Jill Banks focuses on oil painting fundamentals with two sessions each of still life, landscapes, and portrait/clothed figure from a live model. Visit www.greatfallsart.org for more.

Intro to Jewelry Design. Tuesdays 9 a.m.-noon at The Arts of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. JJ Singh teaches a class for anyone interested in exploring the world of metal clay and its design possibilities. Visit www.greatfallsart.org for more.

JUNE 1-JULY 1

"On the Bay" Photographs. Normal business hours at Katie's Coffee House, Village Center, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Silvia Gonzalez Roman will exhibit her pictures taken around the Chesapeake Bay. Visit oldbrogue.com/katies-coffee-house/ or call 703-759-2759 for more.

JUNE 1-JULY 1

"Slice of Life: Great Falls." Normal business hours at in the TD Bank, 9901 Georgetown Pike. Jill Banks exhibits her oil paintings during bank opening hours seven days a week including "First Friday Art Walk" on June 2 until 7 p.m. Visit www.greatfallsstudios.com.

FRIDAY/JUNE 2

Summer on the Green Concert. 6:30 p.m. at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Featuring the U.S. Navy Commodores. Visit www.viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.

Great Falls Village Centre Open House. 6-8 p.m. at 9901 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Artists on hand and live music at The Old Brogue at 9 p.m. Visit oldbrogue.com for more.

SATURDAY/JUNE 3

Riverbend Park Benefit. 6-9 p.m. at the Riverbend Park Visitors' Center, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Fundraiser for the benefit of Riverbend Park sponsored by the Friends of Riverbend Park. \$50 for adults, \$25 for children, \$125 for families. Register at www.forb.wildapricot.org.

Vienna Lions Club 75th Anniversary. 2-4 p.m. at the Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E. Featuring Nighthawks Swing Band, food, beverages, and a sight and hearing van offering checks for all ages. Go to www.viennava.gov for more.

SUNDAY/JUNE 4

Blessing of the Animals. 2-4 p.m. at the Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road. Bring dogs, cats, or other companion, to the Blessing of the Animals. Visit www.antiochcvienna.org for more.

McLean Symphony. 7 p.m. at the Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. International Treasures, with Spotlight on the Organ, including local organist David Lang. Visit <https://web.ovationtix.com> for more.

TUESDAY/JUNE 6

Mini-Golf for Chari-TEE. 1 p.m. at Oakmarr Recreation Center, 3200 Jermantown Road, Oakton. \$8. Proceeds to benefit the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna. Call 703-281-0538 for more.

THURSDAY/JUNE 8

Griffin House Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna. \$20 or \$25 door. Call 877-

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ENTERTAINMENT



On the Green

Summer on the Green Concert, Friday, June 2 featuring U.S. Navy Commodores. 6:30 p.m. at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Free. Visit www.viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.

987-6487 or visit www.jamminjava.com.

0538 for more.

FRIDAY/JUNE 9

Summer on the Green Concert. 6:30 p.m. at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Featuring the Vienna Idol Finals. Free. Visit www.viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 14 V053117-518 32X22

Summer on the Green Concert. 6:30 p.m. at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Featuring Rocknoceros. Free. Visit www.viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.

SATURDAY/JUNE 10

Meet the Artist. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Great Falls Studio, 10001 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Meet Rosemarie Forsythe and learn about her exhibit titled "Conceptual Illuminations" which runs through July 1. Visit www.greatfallsstudios.com/ for more.

JUNE 14-AUG. 15

"Summer in the City" Art Show. Normal business hours at Brightview, 10200 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Members of Great Falls Studios will exhibit their work in a show. Call 703-759-2513 for more.

MONDAY/JUNE 12

Musician Alex Hassan. noon-3 p.m. at Emmanuel Lutheran Church 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. Hassan will be playing melodies from the era between World War I and World War II. \$10 required by June 6. Call 703-281-

FRIDAY/JUNE 16

Chillin' on Church. 6:30 p.m. at Church St., Vienna. Water games. Visit www.viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.

Casey Abrams Trio. 7:30 p.m. at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna. Call 877-987-6487 or visit www.jamminjava.com for more.

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private setting. Topics to be covered include: How to Visit; Accepting Loss; and Enjoying the Remaining Strengths of Your Loved One. Aleksandra (Anya) Parpura, MD, PhD, an expert in aging and dementia, will lead our Caregiver Connect program. Dr. Parpura is the president of Aging Perspectives, Inc., the Scientific Review Officer with CSRA International, an adjunct professor at The Catholic University of America, and a faculty member at the Washington School of Psychiatry. Dr. Parpura brings to us vast knowledge, helpful tips and a kind heart.

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NEWS

The 1890s Baseball Team Challenge Discoveries

BY KATHLEEN MURPHY
PAST PRESIDENT, GREAT FALLS
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Great Falls Historical Society invited young people throughout our community and beyond to step up to the research challenge: “Who are the ten players on the local 1890s baseball team?” as presented in a historic photo.

Caroline Ralston, a former GFHS Intern and current member of the GFHS Board of Directors, prepared an introductory presentation to identify the scope of the assignment, suggest research sources, and provide software suggestions that would assist with preparing footnotes and bibliography. Her presentation was filmed and her slides were shared on the Society’s website as an orientation for participants who might join in later.

BRIAN LOVE, a senior from Walt Whitman High School in Bethesda, Md., was the first person to sign up. Ansley Bryan, an eighth grader from Flint Hill School in Oakton, was the only other person to complete the challenge all the way to the end. Brian lives in Bethesda, and Ansley, in Great Falls. Seven other young people agreed to participate in the challenge but dropped out along the way, some notifying of their conflict with sports or homework, others just silently becoming incommunicado.

Here is Brian’s interest in the project, in his own words:

“I have several interests in addition to genealogy, these include baseball, politics, and music. I developed an interest in following professional baseball from my Grandma Love who lived in St. Louis. She was a massive Cardinals fan and would buy my brother and I baseball hats when we were much younger. She made me into the massive Cardinals fan I am today, listening to almost every game. I became interested in genealogy when I was in sixth grade when I would ask the questions: ‘Who were my grandparents and great-grandparents?’ This occurred in about 2011, but I did not actively research until a year or two later.

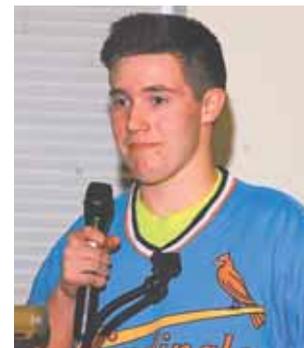
“Each summer I would purchase an Ancestry membership that would last about a month. In those short periods, I devoted all my time to research and added about 2,000 names each time. To this day, I have used Ancestry to trace my family to Medieval kings in England and France such as Charlemagne and Alfred the Great.

“I became interested in the project because it seemed right up my alley so I decided to attend the information session. The experience was quite powerful in allowing me to focus on the stories of indi-



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Ansley Bryan and Brian Love discuss their research research.



Brian Love explains who Howard Cunningham was.

viduals rather than simply dates and locations. The project also allowed me to learn how to use paper-based genealogy sources rather than online sources. In the past, I had stuck strictly to FamilySearch, Ancestry, and Find a Grave. Through this experience, I have learned how to use microfilm and use old newspapers in the Virginia Room. This experience has really helped me to broaden my research ability and use the skills I learned to get beyond my own dead-ends.”

Brian selected Howard Lester Cunningham to research. Virginia

Rita is the manager of the Browns Chapel Methodist Cemetery where Howard is buried. She reported that she had no idea about the connections among the people at the Cemetery until she heard Brian’s presentation, which documents all the family relationships and interconnections. Brian located and interviewed descendants of the Howard and heard family stories about the role of baseball in their family over several generations.

ANSLEY approached this project as a community service volunteer. Flint Hill requires community service hours each semester, but accepts volunteering on a research project in service to a non-profit organization an acceptable initiative.

Ansley completed the genealogical research on one player and said it was so much fun, she wondered if she could take on a second player. She researched both Cornelius Taylor “Neal” Johnson, and Page Sanders. A descendant of the Page Sanders family was present, and was enlightened by Ansley’s excellent research.

Brian will be attending the University of Pittsburgh in the fall and will major in Biology on a pre-medical track. Ansley will continue at Flint Hill School. Both presentations may be viewed at www.gfhs.org in the Gallery section.

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PHOTOS BY MAGGIE GIORDANO/THE CONNECTION

The community enjoying the show.



Mike Gardner of Fair Lakes who works in the Off Roding industry with his Willys Jeep Overland Cj2A.

Car Lovers Gather at Katie's Coffee House

BY MAGGIE GIORDANO
THE CONNECTION

Car enthusiasts gathered on Saturday May, 27 at the weekly Katie's Coffee House hosted event, Cars and Coffee.

Car lovers, photographers, and interested community members were seen outside of The Old Brogue and in front of various businesses to which the popular event expanded because of the large crowd of vehicles. The car show attracts a large crowd every Sat-

urday morning.

"It is a way to connect with other people who are passionate about cars and people who are passionate about photography. You can connect with people with a lot of similar interests," said photographer and car enthusiast, Cecilia Schmitt of Springfield.

The car show not only welcomes Great Falls community members, but also attracts a lot of people from other parts of Northern Virginia. License plates from Colorado, Maryland, and other states could be seen as well showing the large, expansive crowd

that the event attracts.

"This is definitely one of the biggest car shows in the DMV area. A lot of people know about this," said Mustafaa Bachus of Baltimore.

A variety of the newest, shiniest cars took up many spots but the event gave people the opportunity to see a bit of history too. There were cars from past decades, including a 1945 Willys Jeep Overland Cj2A, owned by Mike Gardner from Fair Lakes and a 1981 DeLorean DMC 12, owned by Matt Spinaplice from Herndon.

"I think it brings the community together. It's something early on a Saturday morning and before the day even starts you have something to do. It is a great place for families too," said High School student and Katie's Coffee barista, Joanna Lundquist.

Katie's Coffeehouse sells regular coffee and sweet treats outside the building for patrons. The business is also open inside for specialty coffee and breakfast during the event.

For more information, visit katiecarsandcoffee.com.

Johnathan Berlin from Southern Louisiana who works in IT with his Aston Martin V12 Vantage.



Matt Spinaplice, Systems Engineer, of Herndon with his DeLorean DMC 12.



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Safety of Nike Field Renovation Questioned

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County is moving forward with plans to convert a grass field at the Great Falls Nike Park into a turf field and add lighting, but a handful of concerned citizens have problems with the idea.

During a public information meeting about the \$1.25 million project at the Great Falls Grange on Thursday, May 25, county employees were met with criticism.

Amy Stephan, a Great Falls resident and advocate with the Safe Healthy Playing Fields Coalition, spoke against converting the Bermuda grass of the field to synthetic turf.

The plan is to use a turf that uses a three-layer infill system with a top layer of crumb rubber, according to David Bowden, director of the Fairfax County Park Authority Planning and Development Division.

"These materials that are used in Fairfax County are toxic," Stephan said during the meeting. "This material breaks down into a fine dust ... and creates acute and low-dose exposures [of carcinogens] in every single contact on the field," she added.

Last year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Consumer Product Safety Commission launched a multi-agency "Federal Research Action Plan on Recycled Tire Crumb Used on Playing Fields



PHOTO BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

Amy Stephan, a Great Falls resident and advocate with the Safe Healthy Playing Fields Coalition, spoke against converting the Bermuda grass of the field to synthetic turf.

and Playgrounds" to study environmental and human health concerns around artificial turf.

The agencies have not published any findings yet. However, a status report was released on Dec. 30, 2016, that identified chemicals found in tire crumb.

Chemicals of concern used in tire manufacturing range from polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in carbon black to zinc oxide (ZnO), which is used as a vulcanizing agent and could contain trace amounts of lead and cadmium oxides, according to the status report.

In the meantime, research continues and the agencies are collecting and analyzing

samples of tire crumb material collected from tire recycling plans and synthetic turf fields around the country.

"This is not a joke," Stephan said.

"Our county executives reviewed this with our director of our health department and they made a determination that they are fine with us using crumb rubber on fields in Fairfax County," Bowden said during the meeting.

Stephan then quickly rebutted by saying that the statement was "very different from saying they're safe."

"I didn't say they were safe," Bowden replied. "I said our county executive with review of our health department has made a decision that it's OK for us in Fairfax County to ... proceed using crumb rubber."

"No, what ... you're saying that we're operating without information on the toxicity," she fired back.

"I'm not saying that at all," he said. "You can interpret what I'm saying however you feel."

Bowden also said that the county is participating in the federal artificial turf study.

"They have used our fields for sampling and if you want to follow along, that's the best resource I know," he said.

Though meeting attendees were told that the LED lighting technology for the field would prevent light from spilling 150 feet outside of the property line, lighting and noise was also a concern for several abutting homeowners.

The county could schedule the field until 11 p.m., seven days a week, once the lights are installed. The curfew on some of the other fields in the park that have lights is 9 p.m.

"This is going to be 100 feet from my house and I have two little kids that go to school and you're going to light it up until 11 o'clock at night," Joe Dupelle, who lives next to the field on Utterback Store Road, said during the meeting. "Is there anything you're going to do about noise?"

Dupelle requested that this new field also have a curfew, which county staff said they would look into implementing.

Construction is scheduled to begin on the rectangle field No. 7 in the park in late June and is expected to be complete in early September in time for the fall soccer season.

The Fairfax County Park Authority Board approved a \$20,000 grant for the project that will be combined with an \$855,000 contribution from the Great Falls Soccer Club and \$125,000 from the Neighborhood and Community Services Synthetic Turf Development Mini-Grant Program, and \$250,000 from the 2012 Park Bond.

"I let my kids play on these things a lot before I knew," Stephan said. "Parents have to wake up and say to [Dranesville Fairfax County Board Supervisor] John Foust and say to their sports groups that they care."

Including Stephan, there were only a handful of people at the meeting.

"It looks like they don't care," she said.

Great Falls Historical Society Holds Elections



Incoming President Glen Sjoblom is pictured between Kathleen Murphy and Jackie Olin, also a past President of the Society. The newly elected also include Doug Cobb, Vice President and Treasurer; Betty Swartz, Corresponding Secretary and past Tibbetts Award Winner; Susan Kawmy, Recording Secretary, and Directors John Marciano, Harriett Destler, Karin Grasso, Janice Schar, Sondra Taylor and Katie Whitman.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TR COOK



Karin Grasso, the owner of the historic Jesse Smith house on Seneca Road.



On May 24 the Historical Society elected its Officers and Board of Directors for next year. Outgoing President Kathleen Murphy received two rounds of applause and flowers thanking her for her leadership the past six years.



Around the table are Alex and Spencer Brudno, Caroline Ralston, Kathleen Murphy and her daughter, Mariaka Tsombikos. The Historical Society began 40 years ago. Programs begin in September, and the new Board plans to continue its tradition of inviting history speakers, historical research, preservation and historic tours. Join the Historical Society online at gfhs.org.



Cooper, Langley, and Mclean students walking the track at Cooper.

PHOTO BY WILLIAM PAPPAS/
GRADE 7, COOPER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Relay For Life Held at Cooper Middle

Everyone has a dream. Cooper Middle School gave a lot of those people a chance to fulfill their dream. This year, on May 20, Cooper Middle School hosted a Relay For Life Walk-a-Thon with Langley and Mclean High school to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

Relay For Life is a fundraiser in which members of a team walk around a track for 6-24 hours to support cancer research. The middle schoolers walked around for about six hours while the high schoolers were allowed to stay overnight and walk as long as they could.

"Relay For Life was great! It had lots of fun events and cool food trucks. I really enjoyed it

and it was really good that they were doing this to raise money for cancer research," said William Pappas, grade 7.

Eighth grader, Audrey Wallach, had started making a Cooper Relay For Life junior team. This is the second year in a row that this fundraising event has been held at Cooper and because of Audrey it certainly won't be the last!

Hundreds of dollars were raised through Relay For Life for the American Cancer Society.

For more information about Relay For Life or giving a donation, visit RelayForLife.org.

— NIKHITA RASTOGI
GRADE 7, COOPER MIDDLE SCHOOL

NEWS

How the Railroads Shaped Great Falls

Historian Karen Washburn will speak about “How the Railroads Shaped Great Falls” at a community program on Saturday, June 10 at 9:30 a.m. at Smith Chapel, 11321 Beach Mill Road, near the intersection with Seneca Road.

Washburn will discuss how the electric trolley from Rosslyn to what is now Great Falls National Park — it was a private amuse-

ment park in 1906 when the railroad began service — changed this community by making it easier to ship milk from the surrounding dairy farms into Washington, D.C. Coffee and refreshments will be served; the program is free, but registration is required as space is limited. Register to attend at www.smithchapelumc.com/history-events.html.

The trolley on its route to Great Falls.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday at noon.

Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna, offers a monthly Healing Eucharist with the Laying on of Hands and Anointing for Healing (first Sunday of the month, 5 p.m. at St. Mary's Chapel).

The Healing Ministry is led by the Rev. Valerie Hayes and Alexandra MacCracken and includes a team of lay healers who have gone through intentional training and formation. Contact the Rev. Valerie Hayes at vhayes@holycomforter.com.

Yoga Class with a Christian Focus is held Saturdays, 3-4 p.m., McGill Hall or the Library at the Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna.

This group is suitable for those with beginner and/or intermediate yoga experience. Dress comfortably and bring a mat. Feel free to bring a towel, block(s) or strap. Contact the Church Office at 703-938-6521.

Mom's Group meets second and fourth Thursday of the Month, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna. Join the group for coffee and fellowship. The group meets in the Lillian Croy Room, near the Church Office. Childcare will be available just across the hall in the Childcare Center. If you are interested in joining the group, contact the Church Office at 703-938-6521 so that we can plan appropriately for materials and childcare.

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, has Sunday services at 7:45, 9 and 11 a.m. with nursery care provided. In the summer, they offer musical, educational, outreach and fellowship ministries in addition to worship services, including an 8 a.m. worship service without music and a 10 a.m. worship service with nursery care. 703-759-2082.

The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) offers a wide variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. www.jssa.org/growth-learning.

HAVEN of Northern Virginia offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org.

McLean Bible Church. Fitness Class at Body and Soul Fitness. Gain balance, energy and strength at 10 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Free childcare for registered students. Email bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org.

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Concerts on the Green

Sunday evenings from 6pm to 8pm

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NEWS

Marshall High Junior Receives 2017 STEM Excellence Award

The McLean Area Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) awarded Rose Rasty, a junior at George C. Marshall High School, the 2017 STEM Excellence Award at the AAUW Branch Annual Dinner, May 25. Rasty spoke to the group about her project after receiving a certificate and \$100 award.

This year's award recognized the work done by Rasty on the project, "Optimizing Oil Spill Remediation Using Ferrofluid and Algae." She demonstrated creativity in looking for a solution to cleaning up the environment after an oil spill.

A year ago, Rasty worked with a species of algae responsible for harmful algae blooms and came across recently published articles that described how algae could be used to break down hydrocarbons in oil. She also investigated the properties of ferrofluid that can extract oil with the use of a magnet and was able to devise a method of combining these two extremely different remedies to apply them to cleaning up oil spills. She credits both teachers and her parents for providing guidance and support throughout the course of her project.

Rasty's project finished in first place at Marshall High School's Science Fair, and at the Fairfax County Regional Fair held in March, she was recognized as a Grand Prize nominee. She also took third place in States Science Fair, and her work has been recog-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Rose Rasty, a junior at Marshall High School, was presented with the AAUW McLean Area Branch 2017 STEM Excellence Award at its Annual Dinner on May 25. Shown, from left, are Aroona Borpujari, Branch Co-President; Betsy Schroeder, Branch Co-President; Judy Page, Branch STEM Chair; Rose Rasty; and Marjaneh Javdan, Rose's mother.

nized by the MIT Club of Washington and the Stockholm Water Prize.

For more information on the American Association of University Women and the McLean Area Branch, visit the AAUW McLean Area website at mclean-va.aauw.net.

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OPINION

Memorial Day 2017

FROM PAGE 6

News, died June 11, 2011 in Afghanistan. Capt. Charles A. Ransom, 31, of Midlothian was one of eight airmen who died April 27, 2011, at the Kabul International Airport, Afghanistan, from gunfire. Sgt. Sean T. Callahan, 23, of Warrenton died April 23, 2011 in combat in Afghanistan. Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Venetz Jr., 30, of Prince William died Jan. 28, 2011 in Afghanistan, after being seriously wounded months before. Spc. Sean R. Cutsforth, 22, of Radford, died Dec. 15, 2010 in Afghanistan. Spc. William K. Middleton, 26, of Norfolk died Nov. 22, 2010 in Afghanistan. Staff Sgt. Christopher F. Cabacoy, 30, of Virginia Beach died July 5, 2010, in Afghanistan.

If you know of someone who should be included in this list, or if you would like to share how you are honoring the memory of a family member or friend lost, or about the progress of someone injured, please let us know.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, visit connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline for submissions is noon on Friday.

THURSDAYS/MAY 25-JUNE 29

Chronic Disease Self-Management. 9-11:30 a.m. at Kaiser Permanente - Tysons Corner, 8008 Westpark Drive, McLean. Fairfax County is offering a free Chronic Disease Self-Management program. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/chronic-disease.htm or call 703-324-5489, TTY 711.

SATURDAY/JUNE 3

Flea Market. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Oakton Church of the Brethren, 10025 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Vendors needed. Call 703-281-4411, email office@oaktonbrethren.org or visit www.oaktonbrethren.org.

Quarterly Recycling Days. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Northside Property Yard, 600 Mill St., NE. The Town will accept electronics as well as used motor oil, antifreeze, and batteries. Visit viennava.gov/quarterlyrecycling or call 703-255-6380 for more.

MONDAY/JUNE 12

VDOT I-66 Meeting. 6-8:30 p.m. at Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Road, Vienna. Plans to transform 22.5 miles of I-66 from I-495 to Gainesville will be featured. Visit Transform66.org or email Transform66@VDOT.Virginia.gov for more.

TUESDAY/JUNE 27

Public Meeting. 7 p.m. at the Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The Fairfax County Park Authority has started an update of the Turner Farm Park master plan and would like to gather input on the plan from community residents. Information session and discussion is open to the public. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/turnerfarm.htm, call 703-324-8662 or email Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Shepherd's Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean continues to have an urgent need for new volunteers to help area senior citizens get to and from their medical and therapy appointments. To find out more about the Shepherd's Center and how you can volunteer to provide transportation and other services, call the Center at 703-506-2199 or e-mail the Center at info@scmaf.org. The Center's website is www.scmaf.org.

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Price Points — In the Wrong Direction



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not that I need a pound bag of M&Ms to weigh 16 actual ounces (it's now down to 10.70 oz.) or a half gallon of ice cream to weigh 64 ounces (rather than the 48 oz. it currently is) or the "family" size bag of Utz potato chips to measure more than its current/meager/non-typical-family size of 9.5 ounces (down from 14 ounces that I remember), nevertheless; I do need to feel the love, and right now I don't. I sort of understand price points and the business models ingrained to retain customer loyalty (price matters more than size, generally), but I am hard-pressed to ignore the fact that even though I'm spending the same amount of money as I always have, I'm not getting anywhere near the same amount of product as I always have.

Not that the few items I've listed here are staples (well, maybe not to you they aren't), or the necessary building blocks of a healthy diet, they are pieces to a puzzle which characterizes some of my eating habits — and probably some of yours, too. After all, we are all victims of advertising messages which bombard us 24-7, on television, on radio, in print and on devices. In a way, we're all sitting ducks targeted to quack accordingly because some entity/marketing strategist knows who we are, what we're doing and when we're doing it. It's not exactly "Big Brother," but it's a bit more than "Little Sister."

My brother, Richard and I grew up in the 50s. We ate cookies, candy and snack cakes until the cows came home, and we didn't even live on a farm. Quite the opposite, we lived in suburbia, seven miles from Boston, according to the sign on Rte. 9. We ate dessert after breakfast, lunch and dinner and a few times in between: after school and before bedtime. Why? Because my mother had been non-stop advertised-to about the importance of calcium and the best way for children to get calcium was to drink eight glasses of milk per day to "build strong bones and healthy bodies." And the only way to get us boys to drink that much milk was to feed us something for which milk was a kind of elixir: cookies, cakes, snack cakes, etc. So we ate and drink to our hearts content, but more importantly, we ate and drank to the development of our bones and bodies. And so it continues to this day, sort of, mostly. As my sister-in-law, Vanessa says and then laughs after listening to Richard and I talk about our dessert issues: "Boy, your mother did some job on you two."

I'm exaggerating, a bit, with respect to our current daily consumption. I mean, who could keep up that pace? Moreover, given certain age/weight/cancer realities (particularly concerning yours truly), it would be totally, extraordinarily irresponsible to continue to snack-cake and cookie our way through the day. Still, the urge to splurge seems hard-wired into our brains and when the moment is right, it might not be Cialis that we always think of. (Do you remember the Seinfeld episode when George was determined to combine sex and eating and brought a sandwich to bed? For the record, the thought has never crossed my mind.)

I imagine as you've read this column you've developed a sense that given the Lourie's long-standing — and sitting commitment to such hedonistic pursuits, pennies, nickels, dimes or quarters on the dollar are unlikely to dissuade either one of us from our Santa-like appointed rounds.

Still, we're not idiots. We're aware of the effects on our bodies if we devolve into the snack cake eating machines of our youth/adolescence. We're not getting any younger nor are we likely getting any thinner or healthier. I'd like to think we've gotten smarter and more respectful of what foods go in and by association what money goes out.

But as difficult as it is to turn an ocean liner around after it's headed out to sea, so too is it difficult for yours truly to care less about what I've spent my entire life caring more about: desert/sweets. However, I do anticipate a reaction to this most recent size reduction. As my mother, Celia, used to say: "It's enough already."

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



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