

Inside

PET CONNECTION



Chantilly CONNECTION

Fair Oaks ❖ Fair Lakes

Jax, our 8-year-old Miniature Pinscher, is playing with his birthday froggy, which is one of his favorite toys.

— MARY AND LASZLO BALAZS

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Behind the Badge

Police offer members of the media insight on a “Day in The Life” of local law enforcement providers.

BY ANDREA WORKER

Think you know what you would do if you were dispatched to handle a domestic dispute? Or if you were handling a “routine” traffic violation and the driver, sitting behind darkly-tinted windows wouldn’t obey your instructions? Or you were called to the scene of a horrific accident where lives have been lost? With the exception of those who officially work these situations, members of the press probably get a closer look at these events than the average citizen, but a group of area media personnel were put to the test by several Fairfax County’s police officers who gave them a glimpse of life behind the badge at the inaugural Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) Media Police Academy.

“It’s our first-ever academy for the media,” said Julie Parker, FCPD Media Relations director, who came to her position from a background in journalism. The department currently runs a Citizens’ Academy and a Teen version, but as Parker said, it’s the media that “cover us ... we felt that there isn’t enough education ... for reporters covering very serious topics.” Parker also said that the FCPD was looking for feedback from the media.

THE BRAINCHILD of 2nd Lt. Dan Pang, who served as co-host, instructor, mentor and supervisor of the media rookies, the July 20 all-day session was held at the Fairfax County Criminal Justice Academy in Chantilly — the same facility where police recruits start their training in hopes of passing muster and eventually hitting the streets to “serve and protect.”

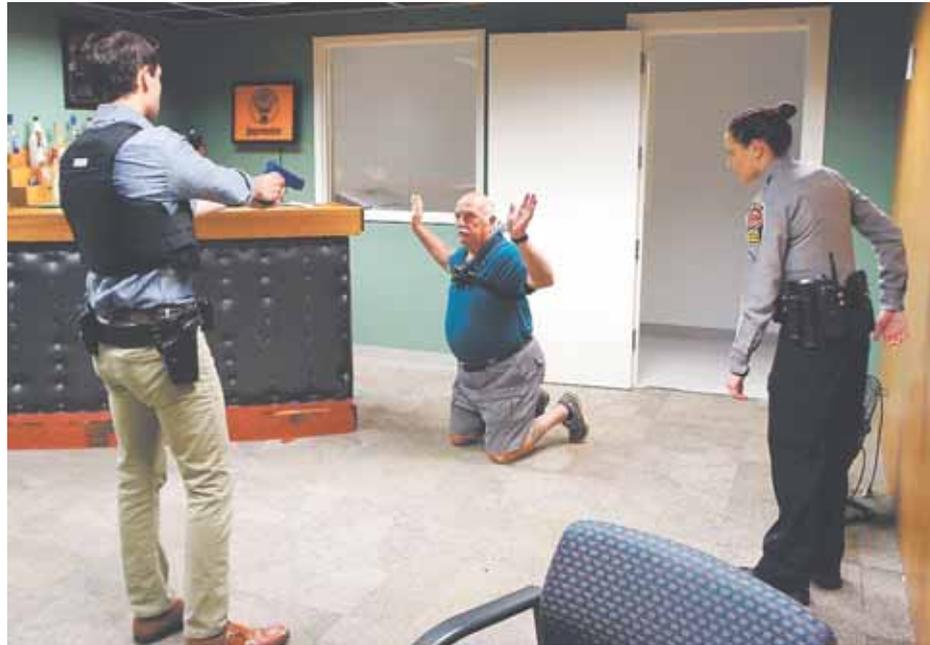
Making it into those ranks in Fairfax County requires eight hours of psychological testing, extensive background checks, and six months of Academy training comprising lectures, practicals and skills training in defense, driving and firearms training. “You have to get each skill right, respond appropriately in each scenario,” said Pang. There’s coaching and counselling to correct mistakes, but the newbies are subject to a “three strikes and you’re out” rule.

If the recruits make it that far, they move on to 90 days in the real world, with a field officer partner. Pass that test, and the recruit is now a rookie and it’s time to do the job solo, or as a partner.

Pang took his “students” into the emotional life of a police officer. “It’s a roller coaster,” he said. “You try to turn it off and on, but it’s not always so easy to do. We are in a constant state of elevated alertness. Failure to do so could kill us.”

Pang used the terms “hypervigilance” and “stimulus habituation” and referenced the book “Emotional Survival for Law Enforcement, A Guide for Officers and their Families,” by Kevin Gilmartin, Ph.D. to describe what life is like for himself and his fellow officers.

According to Gilmartin and other re-



Despite his best efforts, NBC4’s David Culver eventually had to pull his “weapon” to bring the angry bar patron under control with the aid of his partner Officer Reem Awad in the de-escalation exercise.

search, when law enforcement personnel get home, they may actually experience a “chemical dump” of the adrenaline and other chemicals that have kept them in this state. It can be such an overpowering relief to the brain and body that the officer almost literally shuts down. Pang and several of his colleagues who participated in the session spoke about times when they have come home and “just hit the couch and went out like a light.”

There are other effects on a police officer’s personal life that have been noted. “Cops tend to like toys,” said Pang. Things like boats, ATVs and electronic gadgets “can compensate for the high when you’re not on duty. Cops can become impulse buyers.” He acknowledged that it’s a trait that is not always conducive to a harmonious family life.

There are also societal effects resulting from a police officer’s daily lifestyle. Alienation from friends and family can occur as some law enforcement personnel feel only their fellow officers can really relate to them. Amp that feeling up over time and that alienation can cause some officers to see everyone around them as untrustworthy.

With all that they see and that they do, and with the personal toll that their work can take on them, it’s probably no wonder that 85 percent of law enforcement personnel have experienced some kind of negative mental health symptoms. Almost 84 percent have been witness to, or involved in a traumatic event. More than 20 percent have suffered from some level of Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome and 27 percent have admitted to depression. The suicide rate for those working in law enforcement is three times the rate of the general population.

A veteran officer agreed to share a personal story with the attendees, having been involved in more than one fatal shooting



Kathy Stewart from News Radio WTOP gets some pointers from 2nd Lt. Dan Pang in how to conduct a traffic stop.

encounter during [his/her] career. The condition for opening up in this way was a request for anonymity. No recording. No note-taking. “As you can perhaps understand,” said the officer, “these were difficult situations and experiences – for me, my family and for the families of the victims.” The officer did not wish to bring new attention to these events and cause additional pain or concern for anyone involved.

Both events were ultimately declared as justified uses of force, and, in fact, in one case the officer’s actions saved further loss of life or injury to other officers and members of the public. But the scrutiny, the investigations, the sudden removal from the job and the familiar surroundings and support from fellow officers, as well as the fear of retaliation against the officer or family members, made for “the most difficult time of my life” — and through it all you have to deal with the gravity of your own actions.

TO ILLUSTRATE HOW QUICKLY a situation can turn deadly — regardless of training or preparedness — the class reviewed some bodycam videos that also highlighted the “power of perspective.” Watching real-life scenes of traffic stops and one of an

eviction from different angles and sources, and in one case, with and without sound, gave everyone pause for thought. Viewed from just one perspective, or in silence, judgments were quickly made as to who was responsible for the violent outcomes. As more sources were layered in, or sound introduced, that certainty quickly faded, or positions even reversed.

“I think you get the point,” said Pang.

Kathy Stewart, an attendee from WTOP, agreed, saying the video exercise just emphasized the importance of “getting the whole story” and of the power that lies in the hands of those reporting.

Next on the agenda was strapping on 30-plus pounds of gear (holster, “gun,” handcuffs, etc.) to perform some “traffic stops” in the back parking lot, after some tips on where to stop a vehicle, how to approach it, what to look for, how to address the driver and other occupants, and how to stay as safe as possible.

PFC Mark Pollard of the Motor Squad, who helped run the exercise, was an approachable and thorough instructor, but hadn’t much sympathy for complaints about heat. “We’re out here, no matter what. Sun, snow, rain. That’s our job.”

“Driver” Fred Sanborn of Springfield has attended the Citizens Police Academy and seemed to relish his role as one of the difficult citizens being stopped. Waving-off the “officers” who approached, Sanborn just kept on with his cell phone conversation and then argued every step of the way.

Pollard was pretty matter-of-fact when some of his media students looked back in hesitation at Sanborn’s failure to cooperate. “Deal with it if they don’t listen to you,” was his response. “Stay polite,” he added, “and use your ‘command control’ voice.”

The debrief from this exercise showed that in their anxiety to do things right and not miss a step, everyone overlooked something potentially deadly — like a knife on the dashboard, or a small handgun hidden alongside a driver.

OTHER HANDS-ON EXERCISES had the faux-recruits responding to a call of a domestic dispute, or being dispatched to calm an increasingly violent individual. “These are very much every-day occurrences,” said Pang, “and the often the most dangerous.”

Even in these controlled circumstances, with cameras recording and at least a few of their peers silently watching, many of the participants admitted that the situations still had a physical effect.

David Culver, an anchor and reporter with Washington’s NBC News 4, was one of the media students who successfully diffused an escalating situation without injury or worse, but when he felt forced to draw his “weapon” to control the “suspect” he said that during the “encounter” he still felt his heart racing.

In between stepping in and out of the role

County Pursuing Environmental Goals

Bulova hosts County Environmental Showcase.

BY ANDREA WORKER

Part exhibition, part symposium, and part networking opportunity — there was something for everyone even vaguely interested in environmental issues at the Environmental Showcase, hosted by Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova on Saturday, July 22 at the county’s Government Center.

The Fairfax County Environmental Vision was first adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2004, when U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) was the board’s chair. Working with then-Supervisor Bulova and others like Supervisor Penny Gross (Mason District), an environmental advisory committee was established to help develop and direct the region’s environmental agenda.

The board recently updated the Vision document, so the event provided the community with some insight into the revisions. It also acknowledged the achievements of local government departments and non-profit organizations and civic groups, while recommitting to the task of protecting the local environment and developing models of sustainability as the county continues to grow.

There were kudos enough to go around. Bulova noted Fairfax County reduced its per capita emissions by 10 percent from 2005 to 2012 and reduced greenhouse gas emissions from public buildings by 21 percent from 2006 to 2015 — at the same time that county properties have grown in square footage.

More than 60 percent of the county’s Fairfax Connector buses are “mini-hybrids” which utilize engine cooling systems to reduce emissions and save on fuel bills.

BOTH BULOVA AND CONNOLLY noted the county’s goal to increase tree cover in Fairfax County by 45 percent by 2037 has already been met — and exceeded. In addition, according to the Park Authority, said Connolly, the goal of preserving 10 percent of all land in the county is well within reach. “9.26 percent there,” said Connolly. “Only 1,864 acres more to go.”

Connolly also praised the board for “once again taking a leadership role” and adopting a resolution to sign on to the National Climate Action Agenda to uphold the standards agreed upon by 195 nations at the Paris Climate Summit. “President Trump has withdrawn us from the agreement,” said Connolly. “Congratulations. We’ve joined the ranks of Nicaragua and Syria, the only two other countries who refused to sign ... and Nicaragua only declined because they thought it didn’t go far enough.”

Much of Connolly’s remarks centered on the redevelopment of Tysons Corner.



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER

The panel at the Showcase symposium and Q&A. From left: James Hart, Fairfax County Planning Commissioner; Tom Fleury, executive vice president, Bowman Consulting; Steve Smith, principal, Cooper Carry; Susan Hafeli, Fairfax County Senior Utility Analyst; and Dr. Dann Sklarew, George Mason University professor and Sustainability Initiatives coordinator. Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County Environmental Coordinator, also joined in.

“Consider the revolutionary provisions developed by the citizens Tysons Task Force. America’s Next Great City is being built in a transit-oriented manner ... ensuring for the first time in Fairfax County that transit, biking and walking will be the safest, most convenient modes of transportation.”

Connolly listed a number of additional achievements that had been made, and pointed out that all had been accomplished in partnership with the business community. He also paid tribute to the “unsung heroes in much of our environmental progress,” referring to the hundreds of individuals and civic groups who have not only advocated in support of environmental protection, but also put in the hours and added their expertise for the good of the whole community, today and for the future.

A diverse panel of government employees and business leaders made presentations highlighting the partnership that Connolly spoke of. Kambiz Agazi, who Bulova introduced as the “Environmental Orchestra Conductor,” is the county’s environmental coordinator. Agazi mentioned some of the changes in “Vision 2.0” and also informed the audience that a new “environmental inventory” measuring environmental impact and improvements would be soon forthcoming.

Also present from Fairfax County government were James Hart, planning commissioner, and Susan Hafeli, senior utility analyst.

Tom Fleury, executive vice president of Bowman Consulting; Dr. Dann Sklarew, Ph.D. from George Mason University; and

Steve Smith, principal with Cooper Carry architects, all spoke of innovations within their various disciplines that were aimed at marrying profitability with efficiency and environmental stewardship.

Smith had the assembly particularly interested in the description of his company’s pilot project, re-designing a test floor in a hotel to align with “wellness building concepts.” “In these rooms, even the shower is thinking about your health” with a Vitamin C infused water flow, he said.

Before and after the speakers’ presentations and questions for the panel, an estimated crowd of about 200 visited booths set up in the conference center lobby and in the main forum.

SEE ENVIRONMENTAL, PAGE 8



Raea Jean Leinster was in attendance to talk about paint-cycling company “Yuck Old Paint, LLC.” She didn’t have to convince client Patrick Keenan with B. F. Saul Company, Hospitality Group.



Sophia Applegate of Oakton, Archana Nakkara and Kathryn Hammond, both of Vienna, attended the Showcase representing the Eco-Schools Leadership Initiative. “We’re all about spreading the word, doing instructional programs for kids. It’s important work.”

'You Have to Choose to Succeed'

FACETS honors students' academic achievements.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

To inspire young people to stay focused on academics as a means to break the cycle of poverty, FACETS runs a year-round, youth program in certain low-income areas where the average income for a family of four is about \$18,000 a year. At Robinson Square in Fairfax, Ragan Oaks in Fair Oaks and Barros Circle in Centreville, staff and volunteers provide an array of educational, preventative and enrichment opportunities.

They offer one-on-one mentoring and tutoring, homework help, plus classes including literacy, art, computers, and substance-abuse and dating-violence prevention. And before school ended, they honored graduating seniors – plus more than 60 Honor Roll students who earned A's and B's on their report cards – with an Academic Achievement party at Centerpointe Church in Fair Oaks.

Some 35 students in grades K-12 go to the FACETS center in Ragan Oaks, every day after school, for homework help, plus various activities and field trips. For example, they went to GMU for International Week, celebrating the university's diversity.

"I took the kids there to see different cultures, and we also saw a dance competition there," said Tijani Musa, FACETS community development advocate at Ragan Oaks. "I want to encourage them to go to college, and they got to see that it's not all studying – it can be fun, too. We also went to Wolf Trap to see a show, and the kids saw and participated in a CYA summer wrestling program. During spring break, they took a field trip to Van Dyck Park [in Fairfax] and played games, and they also swam in a pool in Ashburn."

The students learn life skills, too. "Currently, I'm working to establish a Girl Scouts group at Ragan Oaks for grades two through six," said Musa. "And for the boys, volunteers come on Fridays, hang out with them and teach them about taking initiative at home – for example, cleaning up after themselves and looking after younger siblings."

They also learn conflict resolution. If someone's bullying them, they're taught to tell Musa, a teacher, parent or other trusted adult. "We also teach 11th- and 12th-graders what a healthy, dating relationship looks like, plus how to recognize a bad relationship," said Musa. "We use a curriculum about safe dates from Partners in Prevention."

Volunteers talk with both high-school boys and girls about self-esteem, and GMU students speak with the girls about their image. In addition, boys are taught responsibility.

During the summer, the students spend



The Ragan Oaks students and FACETS staff members celebrate.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH D'ANTONIO

From left are three Ragan Oaks attendees, Shahid Latif, Stephen Tatem and Mohammed Froukh with their academic achievement certificates.

PHOTO BY
BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION



more time playing outside; the boys play soccer and football, and the girls play with chalk and hula hoops. And they all participate in Passport to Fun, learning fun facts about different countries and what they'd need to know before traveling there.

"Once they learn about a country, we stamp their 'passports,'" said Musa. "This way, when they return to school, they can engage with their friends in conversations about what they did during the summer, too. Instead of just listening to their counterparts, they also have fun experiences they can share."

"I was born in Sierra Leone, so I see myself in a lot of these kids," he said. "I came here when I was 12 or 13. My parents didn't have anything and didn't speak English, so I faced a lot of cultural challenges. But I

knew that opportunities were here, so I applied for scholarships, got several and went to Mason."

Musa majored in Global Affairs, with concentration in International Development, and he works for FACETS full-time. He does case management for the Ragan Oaks parents while their children are in school. And he says FACETS's work with the students is critically important.

"We're trying to end homelessness and break the cycle of poverty in Fairfax County," said Musa. "My team tries to empower the kids to go to college and come back and help their families. Or we'll direct them to figure out what they want to do. We also connect the parents to county resources for things like financial assistance, food, referrals to job training or even help

with depression. I'm there to help provide these connections, while putting smiles on the faces of their kids daily."

One of those smiling children is Eagle View Elementary fifth-grader Shahid Latif. He likes the FACETS program because "There are a lot of kids to play basketball, football and tag with," he said. "The people are nice and I get homework help in math and science."

Agreeing, classmate Stephen Tatem said he looks forward to going there because "They help us with our homework and I play tag, skateboard and chill."

Centerpointe's pastor, the Rev. Brandon Horst, said his church hosts most of the Ragan Oaks special events, such as summer kickoff, National Night Out and a holiday meal where

children pick out Christmas gifts for their parents. The boys group plays games on church property, and Centerpointe also lets FACETS use its vans to transport the students to and from activities.

"When there are needs in the community, you need people to meet them, and that's what FACETS does," said Horst. "The average income in the communities they serve is under \$20,000 a year, so that's why it's a joy for us to help them."

Pleased to host the Academic Achievement party, he told the students there to look around at all the adults present. "These people care about you and want you to succeed," said Horst. "But they can't make you [do it]. You have to decide not to let things around you determine what happens to you. You have to choose to succeed."

About 150 people attended the event – students, parents, FACETS staff and community partners, such as the Neighborhood and Community Service Unit, which helps nonprofit FACETS obtain grants. Also there was another partner, Fairfax County Housing and Development, which provides the spaces for the centers.

"They're places to go after school," said FACETS Executive Director Joe Fay. "They're staffed, safe places where students work with caring adults, plus volunteer mentors, who get to know the kids over a long period of time."

They're role models and coaches and, by their commitment, they show the importance of what they do."

"Tonight, we're celebrating academic achievement," he continued. "It sets the kids up for success and lets them know that what they've done is valuable and worth celebrating. And last year, all the graduating seniors in our programs went on to higher education afterward."

ROUNDUPS

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Aug. 3, from 5-8:30 p.m., at the station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. No appointment is necessary. But residents should install the child safety seats themselves so technicians may properly inspect and adjust them, as needed. Because of time constraints, only the first 35 vehicles arriving on each date will be inspected. That way, inspectors may have enough time to properly instruct the caregiver on the correct use of the child seat. Call 703-814-7000, ext. 5140, to confirm dates and times.

'Beauty and the Beast'

Westfield Summer Stage's musical is "Beauty and the Beast." It'll be presented at Westfield High, Friday-Saturday, July 28-29, at 7 p.m., with matinee Saturday, July 29, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12 via www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com and \$15

Arrest Made in Gang-Related Stabbing

Detectives have charged 21-year-old, Franklyn Isaac Cruz Flores, of Icelandic Place in Chantilly, with abduction, malicious wounding, and gang participation in connection with a stabbing that took place July 20.

Officers were called to a home in the 14600 block of Pan Am Drive in Chantilly around 11:30 p.m., for an alleged gang fight that ended in one man being stabbed. The victim, thought to be an 18-20-year-old man, was taken to a local hospital with life-

threatening-injuries. Detectives launched an investigation that resulted in arrest warrants being obtained for Flores.

Health Department Needs Volunteers

The Health Department is seeking volunteers to participate in its upcoming Point of Dispensing (POD) exercise on Saturday, July 29. From 9-11 a.m. a simulated POD will be operated at Centreville High School, 6001 Union Mill Road, Clifton.

Trained Health Department staff and volunteers will assist actors — POD clients — with filling out a screening form, dispensing faux-medications and answering questions.

This exercise is intended to evaluate the Health Department's ability to provide critical services during a disaster, specifically dispensing medication quickly to residents.

Register to participate as an actor by going to www.eventbrite.com/e/fairfax-county-health-department-point-of-dispensing-exercise-tickets-33333277731.

For more information, contact Liz Sullivan, training and exercise coordinator, at 703-246-8703.

Around 1:30 a.m., July 24, a patrol officer noticed the driver of a van acting suspiciously on George Carter Way near Lee Road. The officer stopped the van and found Flores to be the driver. Flores was arrested and taken to the Adult Detention Center where the three warrants were served. The victim's condition is no longer considered to be life-threatening.

A video game system was reported missing.

CRIME REPORT

The following incidents were reported by the Fairfax District Police Station.

BURGLARY/MALICIOUS WOUNDING/ROBBERY: 13800 block of Jefferson Park Drive, July 20 around 11 p.m. The victim was in his apartment when he heard a banging on the front door. When he answered, a group of suspects pushed their way in, some of which had their faces covered. The suspects assaulted the victim, and demanded money and a cell phone. They took an undisclosed amount of money, and a cell phone then ran off. The victim and a roommate ran after the suspects, caught one of them and a physical struggle occurred. They held the suspect until officers arrived. A 22-year-old man from Sterling was taken to the Adult Detention Center and charged with robbery, burglary and malicious wounding. The victim was taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The investigation continues. There does not appear to be any threat to public safety.

ROBBERY: 2500 block of Glengyle Drive, July 20 around 6:50 a.m. The victim was approached by two men, who demanded property from him. When the victim refused, one of the suspects produced a hand gun. The victim gave the suspects his property, then the suspects left on foot. Both suspects were described as black. One was 17 to 18 years old, with a thin build, wearing a black hooded sweatshirt. The second suspect was described as about 19 or 20 years old, also with a thin build, wearing a green and black hooded sweatshirt.

BURGLARY: 13800 block Sangiovese Street, July 12 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. A home was ransacked and items were taken. Detectives are investigating.

BURGLARY: 13200 block of Hughsmith Way, between 8 p.m. July 3, and 5:53 p.m. July 4. An investigation determined entry was forced into a

home. A video game system was reported missing.

JULY 24 LARCENIES
4200 block of Fairfax Corner Avenue, purse from vehicle

12200 block of Fairfax Towne Center, groceries from business

11200 block of James Swart Circle, wallet from vehicle

11200 block of James Swarts Circle, personal documents from vehicle

11200 block of James Swart Circle, merchandise from business

12300 block of Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, wallet from business

3000 block of Regents Tower Street, personal documents from residence

3300 block of Willow Crescent Drive, cell phone from business

STOLEN VEHICLES
9500 block of Lindenbrook Street, 2017 Subaru Outback

JULY 21 LARCENIES
4400 block of Marsala Glen Way, merchandise from business

2900 block of Oakborough Square, jewelry from residence

JULY 19 LARCENIES

11700 block of Fair Oaks Shopping Center, cell phone from person

11900 block of Fair Oaks Shopping Center, merchandise from business

JULY 17 LARCENIES

13000 block of Dulles Technology Drive, bicycle from residence

13000 block of Fair Lakes Shopping Center, merchandise from business



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Help End Domestic Violence

There were 1,483 calls to the domestic violence hotline in 2016, averaging 124 calls per month.

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

Strong families are held together by love, support, and commitment. They are the very foundation of a strong society. If the core of the family is replaced by violence, then all of society is weakened.

Domestic violence affects one in four Fairfax families and causes nearly 1,600 arrests in Fairfax every year. It is almost guaranteed that anyone reading this knows a victim of domestic violence, even if they are unaware of it. These statistics alone paint a dire picture. However, there is a way you can make a positive difference.

Fairfax County's Domestic Violence Prevention Council, which I chair, rolled out the "Make the Call" campaign earlier this year. Its purpose is to encourage victims and witnesses of domestic violence to call Fairfax County's 24-hour domestic and sexual violence hotline at 703-360-7273. This number is completely safe and confidential. The hotline is staffed by experts always ready to offer information, counsel, and resources to victims and concerned citizens. Callers can receive vital information on where

GUEST
EDITORIAL

Fairfax County's Domestic Violence Prevention Council, which I chair, rolled out the "Make the Call" campaign earlier this year. Its purpose is to encourage victims and witnesses of domestic violence to call Fairfax County's 24-hour domestic and sexual violence hotline at 703-360-7273. This number is completely safe and confidential. The hotline is staffed by experts always ready to offer information, counsel, and resources to victims and concerned citizens. Callers can receive vital information on where

to find shelter, legal resources, financial aid, and even a safe haven for their animals. Anyone can call to learn about the signs of domestic violence and even confirm possible incidents.



The hotline is proving to be highly effective and even lifesaving. The Fairfax County Office for Women received 1,483 hotline calls with an average of 124 calls per month in 2016. At least 98 percent of those who called for services said the hotline better prepared them to make a safety plan. This call can mean the difference between life and death for those escaping abuse.

Domestic violence is sometimes difficult to identify for bystanders, as well as victims.

Domestic violence is sometimes difficult to identify for bystanders, as well as victims.

Victims and witnesses of domestic violence can call Fairfax County's 24-hour domestic and sexual violence hotline at 703-360-7273.

Abusers will often convince their victims that they deserve the abuse, which shames victims into hiding the problem instead of speaking out. Many abusers threaten their victims with harsher, deadlier punishments if they look for help. These and other factors make domestic violence more difficult to recognize without the help of a seasoned professional. This is why we need more people to make the call when they have that gut feeling that something is amiss.

For bystanders, it could be a black eye, a passing reference, or even a loud argument overheard next door. You do not have to be sure. If you think domestic violence maybe happening, make the call and let professionals help.

For victims, the hotline is available whenever you need it. If you feel threatened, alone, or unsafe in your own home, please make the call. You do not have to go through this difficult time alone. The staff at the hotline is here for you at any hour of the day and will do everything they can to help secure you and your family's safety.

Again, the number is 703-360-7273. Please, make the call, it could save a life.

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

BULLETIN BOARD

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers needed at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Museum offers a variety of exciting volunteer opportunities in Museum events, programs and administration. Contact volunteers@fairfax-station.org or 703-945-7483 to explore services that will fit your schedule and interests. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, or call 703-425-9225 for more.

SATURDAY/JULY 29

Volunteers Needed. 9-11 a.m. at Centreville High School, 6001 Union Mill Road, Clifton. The Fairfax County Health Department is seeking volunteers for

an emergency response drill. For questions, contact Training and Exercise Coordinator Elizabeth Sullivan at Elizabeth.Sullivan@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-246-8703.

TUESDAY/AUG. 1

Weekly Luncheon. 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. at Eggspectation Restaurant, 5009 Westone Plaza. Chantilly, Centreville/Chantilly Rotary Club is a service club actively involved in the community, luncheon every Tuesday. Email boss12@cox.net or call 703-543-8386.

Sully District Democratic Committee. 7:30-9 p.m. at Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Meet like-minded neighbors and learn how to become involved in our political process - all politics are local. Free. Visit sullydemocrats.org for more.

THROUGH AUG. 25

Summer Lunches. The Fairfax County Public Schools

Office of Food and Nutrition Services will be hosting the FEEDS (Food for Every Child to Eat During Summer) BBQ program, a USDA-funded program is free to all children 18 years and under and \$2 for adults. There is no registration involved, and open to everyone. Meal service will be provided at the following sites Monday-Friday, 11:30-1 p.m. No service on July 3 and 4. In the Centreville area, FEEDS is offered at London Towne Elementary School, 6100 Stone Road.

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

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

DONATIONS

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

Cell Phones for Soldiers is accepting donations of old cellphones so that troops can call home. Patrons may drop off donations at 14215E Centreville Square, Centreville.

SUPPORT GROUP

Support Groups. Jubilee Christian Center of Fairfax is having its "Living Free" support groups for the spring on Wednesdays, 7:15 p.m. The support

Teacher Arrested for Child Pornography

Holmes Middle School teacher Christopher Jordan was arrested Thursday, July 20, and charged with six counts of possession of child pornography. Twenty-four-year-old Jordan, of Centreville, has been employed by Fairfax County Public Schools since 2016. He taught eighth grade English, but FCPS says he will not be



Jordan

returning in the fall.

This remains an active investigation by the Child Exploitation Unit. Anyone with information is asked to call Detective Romanoff with the Major Crimes Division at 703-246-7800. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by visiting www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org, or text-a-tip by texting "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES(274637). Anonymous tipsters are eligible for cash rewards of \$100 to \$1,000 if their information leads to an arrest.

PET CONNECTION



My name is John Casper and I am part of a therapy team with my dog, Daphne, an adopted mixed breed female. We are members of Manassas Therapy Dogs and Alliance of Therapy Dogs. As a therapy team, we have visited universities, county libraries, middle schools, elementary schools and retirement homes but our main assignments involve working with Mullen elementary school in a PAWs for Reading program and a wellness program with the officers of the Falls Church Police Department. The photo is from when we assisted the students at Franklin Middle School with a "Stress Less Laugh More Week" in preparation for their Standards of Learning tests. The individuals in the photo are Daphne, Amy Parmentier (assistant principal at Franklin) and some of her students.



Lexi and Utley, brother and sister, having fun in the mud. It is funny now ... not so much when it happened.

— RON CORI



Dr. Paul Curcio of Centreville with his pet kitten Mitzi on a "relaxing summer's day."

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Cub Scouts Thrive at Twi-Light Summer Camp

Sully District, of the National Capital Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, held a Twi-Light Summer Camp for the Cub Scouts at the Arlington Fairfax Chapter Inc. of the Izaak Walton League of America. The camp was attended by 41 Cub Scouts from several Packs of Sully District and staffed by 24 youth and adult volunteers. More than half the staff came from volunteers from Troop 1137. Held Monday through Friday (June 26-30), the camp started each night at 6 p.m. and went until 9 p.m.

Several activities were offered: the yearly favorite BB guns led by John Arpin and Jake Marshak, followed by archery led by Jake Marshak and Rebecca Shen, crafts led by Tyler Schroder and Dan Palenscar, a newer program called STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) led by Jim Mata and Jenni Davids, Nature / Outdoor Ethics led by Amy Coots and Josiah Daniel, and new for this year – fishing – led by Christa Daniel and Tad Daniel. The fishing was catch and release.

Health and safety was coordinated by Jeff Hogan who was kept busy handing out the Band Aids.

Leading the campers and staff this year was Chris Davids from Pack 1860, as camp director; and co-

program directors Rebecca Shen from Troop 1137 and Jim Mata from Pack 146. The directors are National Camping School trained, a three-day course. At the Closing Ceremony, Rebecca Shen was announced as next year's camp director.



Cub Scouts working in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) to see how many pennies their boats can hold.



Cub Scouts take aim at the BB gun range.

Police Host Media Academy

FROM PAGE 2

of law enforcers, there were portions of the program designed specifically for those in attendance. Police Chief Ed Roessler joined the group for a working lunch and answered questions about increasing efforts to infuse the department with transparency, the recent formation of the Citizen's Police Review Board, the effect of social media on policing, and other issues.

Transparency and an additional outlet for citizens to turn to are the right way forward, according to Roessler, who acknowledged that the changes are difficult for many. "There is a certain level of fear and anxiety among the troops," he said. So many recent deadly incidents that have occurred in police departments around the country are not only tragic for the victims, but they add another level of stress and difficulty for the officers who are just trying to do the right thing and protect, even to the extent of putting their own lives on the line.

Despite the obstacles, Roessler remains committed to supporting changes in training, departmental policies and furthering community engagement. The chief pointed to the department's strong relationship with the All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS) Center that straddles the line between Fairfax and Loudoun counties.

"That's a relationship that both parties have been building since the '90s" and has served the community well many times since then, most recently during the investigation into the murder of 17-year-old Nabra Hassanen of Reston, who was a member of the mosque. While many were immediately categorizing Hassanen's death as a hate crime, even in the midst of their shock and grief, ADAMS Center released a statement thanking FCPD and the Loudoun County Sheriff's department for their "diligent efforts in investigating and apprehending a suspect."

Major Christian Quinn, Commander Division III, Patrol Bureau and Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Casey Langan, joined Parker in a further Q&A session. The timing and the amount of information

being released to reporters was the predominant issue.

Human nature may make some hesitant to speak to media outlets. "No one likes to be humiliated. There is definitely a growing sense that people are looking for that 'gotcha' moment," said Quinn.

Parker said that the Media Relations Bureau was dedicated to making accurate information available as quickly as possible. All three gave examples where information had to be held for legal reasons, or should be held to protect the investigation or the rights of those involved.

ABC7 newsman Sam Sweeney questioned circumstances where reporters are "pushed back from a scene" while neighbourhood residents were allowed to move more freely around the area. The trainers answered that there could be legitimate reasons for holding back reporters and others — particularly in scenes where the presence of more people might make it even more difficult for the police to keep an eye on all activities — but Parker reminded that the police information officer on scene is available. "And if you think you are having a problem, you can always call our office. We will do our best to get you information and access."

Media Police Academy ended with a "Shoot-Don't Shoot" simulation. In the controlled exercise, Peggy Fox with WUSA9 and John Aaron with WTOP "saved the day" even though in the stress of the situation, they failed to notice innocent bystanders walking in the background. "It's a real eye-opening experience," said Aaron.

The Police Department plans to make the Media Police Academy an annual event to keep the dialogue open between law enforcement and the people who bring their stories to the public.

Citizens interested in getting a more in-depth look at policing in the community may consider applying for the Citizens Police Academy at www.CPA@fairfaxcounty.gov. The department also has a Facebook page with information about current police actions and tips for safety.

Environmental Showcase

FROM PAGE 3

In the week ahead Reston Association will be reviewing its first major "RASER" – Reston Association State of the Environment Report. The work for the 190-page document was conducted over the last year by Doug Britt and a nine-person volunteer army who donated more than 1,000 hours to the task of unbundling information from a variety of sources and physically viewing, monitoring, testing and observing the natural environment in the area. The Reston booth drew quite a crowd, including Joan Kaspowicz of Vienna ("just over the Reston line") who was impressed by the quantity of information being gathered and the work planned to restore and protect those resources.

Patrick Keenan, hotel operations project manager with Maryland-based B. F. Saul Company, Hospitality Group, stopped by to visit with Raea Jean Leinster, self-described "Chief Yuck Officer," of Yuck Old Paint recycling company. B. F. Saul is a client of Yuck. "Everybody can do their part," said Keenan.

THE YOUNGER GENERATION made its presence felt at the Showcase, as well. Members of ESLI – Eco-Schools

Leadership Initiative – were also on hand.

Sophia Applegate, a rising senior at Oakton High School, joined Madison High School rising junior Kathryn Hammond and VCU freshman Archana Nakkara of Vienna to talk about the program that helps other youths learn about environmental issues and start their own environmental initiatives. The three met at an ESLI Conference, and their mutual interest in environmental protection has brought them together to help spread the word.

"We love to do the programs especially in the middle schools and even younger. It's great to get kids started early, knowing how important it is to protect the Earth we live on and the community we live in," said Applegate.

There was no disagreement among those gathered. The work needed to be done on environmental issues and on combining the goals of growth and sustainability will probably never be done. "Things keep changing. People, technologies, the world around us, and we need to keep looking ahead to be ready," said Bulova.

The Fairfax County Environmental Vision can be reviewed at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/environment/sustainability/.

NEWS



PHOTOS BY WILL PALENSCAR

A group bonds together listening to Elvis tribute artist Randoll Rivers at the Treasure Hound.



Marilyn Edwards enjoys a moment on her 65th birthday with Elvis tribute artist Randoll Rivers.



Elvis tribute artist Randoll Rivers poses with Nancy Korink of Centreville at the Treasure Hound in Chantilly.

Elvis Tribute Artist Entertains

Elvis tribute artist Randoll Rivers made a visit to the Treasure Hound in Chantilly on June 26. Staff, volunteers and visitors at the Treasure Hound were treated to a performance as Marilyn Edwards, one of Treasure Hounds staff, celebrated her 65th birthday in style.

The Treasure Hound is located at 14508 D Lee Road in Chantilly. All proceeds go solely to Friends of Homeless Animals, www.foha.org. The shop sells furniture, clothing, home goods, art jewelry as well as many other items, both new and used.

Rivers' upcoming shows include:

- ❖ Wednesday, Aug. 16, 7 p.m., Jammin Java, 227 Maple Avenue East, Vienna
- ❖ Saturday, Sept. 16, 5:30 p.m. Marymount University, 2807 N Glebe Road, Arlington.

For booking Rivers, call 703-675-7299. For more information on the Treasure Hound and how you can volunteer call 703-263-9073.

— WILL PALENSCAR

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 6
groups are free, and will cover "Stepping into Freedom," "Concerned Persons Group" (for family and friends of addicts), "The Image of God in You," and "Handling Loss and Grief." There are also support groups on Sundays, 10:10 a.m. 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. For information or to register, call 703-383-1170, email livingfree@jccag.org or see www.jccag.org.

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

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Volunteers Needed as Bird Counters. Volunteers are needed in the field and as feeder watchers. The count circle includes Manassas National Battlefield, Bull Run Regional Park, undeveloped areas south of Dulles Airport, and many other locations. 703-438-6008 info@audubonva.org

STEM VOLUNTEERS. The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) needs scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and physicians to assist K-12 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) teachers in Northern Virginia during the 2016-17 school year. Details of the collaboration are worked out between the teacher and the volunteer, and may involve giving demonstrations, assisting in lab experiments, lecturing on special topics, assisting with homework, etc. Hours are flexible, and volunteers attend a one-day training in September before being assigned to schools. To see how volunteers are assisting their teachers, view the video clips at www.seniorscientist.org. To volunteer, contact donaldrea@aol.com.

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Gatorade Honors Brandon McGorty \$1,000 award goes to CYA Track.

Brandon McGorty of Chantilly High School has been named 2016-17 Gatorade Virginia Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. McGorty is the first Gatorade Virginia Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Chantilly High School. Brandon's older brother Sean won the 2012-2013 Gatorade Virginia Boys Cross Country Player of the Year, making Chantilly High School one of the few high schools in the country to have multiple athletes win this award.

The award recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the track.

The 6-foot-6, 170-pound senior won the 800-meter run and 1,600 at the Group 6A state meet for a second straight year this spring, leading the Chargers to a 10th-place finish as a team. McGorty's top 800 time of 1:48.71 at the Group 6A North Region meet ranked as the nation's No. 2 performance among prep competitors



Brandon McGorty with CYA Track Director Ed Lull

in 2017 at the time of his selection. In March, he set a state record in the 800 at New Balance Nationals Indoor with a time of 1:50.29, which ranks No. 6 in prep history. The 2017 Washington Post All-Met Indoor and Outdoor Runner of the Year, he concluded his high school running career with 12

state titles. As part of this honor, McGorty was awarded a \$1,000 grant which he could choose to donate to any desired charity.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Harry Wolin will transfer from director of Student Services, Westfield High School, to director of Student Services, Centreville High School effective July 1. Wolin started his career in education as a counselor at Mt. Vernon High School. He has worked as a counselor, lead counselor, and director of Student Services at Key Middle School, Herndon Middle School, and Irving Middle School, respectively. Wolin has been director of Student Services at Westfield High School for the past eight years.

As a leader, Wolin was instrumental in building Westfield's Master Schedule, coordinating and promoting support services for students, and leading the counseling staff. He will also be remembered for his participation in Westfield's annual Student-Faculty Basketball game and as an avid supporter of our extra-curricular programs.

Jeffrey Wang, of Chantilly High School, was awarded a National Merit Rockwell Collins Scholarship. He plans to study computer science.

Hany Wahba, of Centreville, a senior business administration major, was named to the spring 2017 dean's list at Bob Jones University (Greenville, S.C.).

Kevin Choi, of Chantilly High School, was one of 22 students from 10 Fairfax County high schools have been named winners of \$2,500 scholarships from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Scholarship winners are part of a group of approximately 2,500 National Merit finalists chosen to receive scholarships primarily financed by the NMSC.

Jonathan Bading, son of David and Leslie Bading of Chantilly, was named to the dean's list at Hope College (Holland, Mich.) for the spring semester of the 2016-17 school year.



Brandon McGorty

McGorty chose CYA Track, where has volunteered locally as a youth track coach for the past four years and participated as an athlete from

K-8th grade. CYA Track Director Ed Lull said, "Brandon McGorty is a quality athlete who strives to win in every competition he enters and his love of competition was apparent since his earliest days in the program. It has been an honor to watch him develop into the amazing young man he has become."

McGorty has maintained a 3.82 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Stanford University beginning this fall.

CYA Track celebrated its 15th year last spring and is a non-profit youth track and field program that serves 300 families each year. Its athletes have gone on to achieve at the highest level, including individual state champions at six local high schools, as well as several HS All-Americans. The program focuses on basic fitness, technique and love of the sport. See www.cyatrack.org.

her personal journey as a Kurdish American, the plight of the Syrian people, the refugees in our communities, and the value of mentoring in a school community. She also created a documentary on American Thanksgiving traditions after she interviewed three generations of a family.

In addition to her work as the school photographer and for the school newspaper, Al-Barznji works as a special occasion photographer and volunteers at a local food bank. She is also recognized for her determination and work ethic.

Mark McClendon Jr., who attends Westfield High School, was awarded an Esther Peterson Memorial Grant by Giant Food of Landover, Md.

Allie Bush, of Westfield High School, was awarded a scholarship by The Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative (NOVEC) and the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDAEC). **Arjun Deopujari** and **Daniel Park**, also of Westfield High School, were awarded scholarships by the VMDAEC Educational Scholarship Foundation.

Olivia Markert and **Abby Smith**, both Westfield class of 2017 graduates, were named to the First Team 6A Girls All State Lacrosse Team.

Peter Kownacki will be joining the Rocky Run Middle School staff as assistant principal. Kownacki is replacing Joseph Graczyk who has been promoted to principal at Benton Middle School in Prince William County.

Kownacki is a product of Fairfax County Public Schools, graduating from Centreville High School in 2000. After earning a bachelor's degree in history and master's degree in teaching from the University of Virginia, Kownacki began teaching social studies at Robinson Secondary School in January 2005. During his first year at Robinson, Kownacki met his wife Katy (another

SEE SCHOOL NOTES, PAGE 11
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Supporting Education
 Adalene "Nene" Spivy (left), executive director of the Children's Science Center, accepts \$10,000 check from the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation presented by Deborah Johnson, Regional Policy Director for State & Local Affairs. Funds will be allocated to support several environmental education programs that center is coordinating over the coming months. See www.childsci.org.

SCHOOL NOTES

FROM PAGE 10
 first year teacher), and the two married in April 2008. The couple have three children (Aidan, Ryan, and Cooper) and currently reside in Clifton. In August 2012, Kownacki accepted the position of assistant principal at South Lakes High School. While at South Lakes, he worked with the graduating Class of 2015, as well as the math, social studies, and health and PE Departments. In addition, Kownacki supervised the International Baccalaureate Programs. In October 2015, he accepted the position of assistant administrative hearing officer for Fairfax County Public Schools. In his free time, Kownacki enjoys cooking, gardening, going to the gym and biking, as well as suffering through the trials of being a D.C. sports fan. Most weekends he can found spending time with his family, supporting the various athletic endeavors of his children.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

At International Pageant

Chantilly Hooters Girl Rachel Swartz was third runner up at the 21th Anniversary Hooters International Swimsuit Pageant on July 14 in Las Vegas. Swartz was selected from a group of 80 Hooters Girls from the U.S. and around the world. Contestants were evaluated by a six-person judging panel, based on responses to interview questions, personality and overall contribution to the Hooters brand, as well as swimsuit attire. Chelsea Morgensen, of Hollywood, Calif. won first place in the contest.

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Taking Care Of Business



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

The cats. The car. The dentist. The pancreatic enzymes. It was a week that typically isn't. As often as my credit card was swiped these past few days, I'm amazed its magnetic strip is still magnetized. To quote my deceased mother, Celia: "It's enough already."

Oh well, what's done is done, though it definitely needed doing. And aside from the fact that I didn't have the actual money, fortunately I had the available credit, which I was grateful to have had. I mean, how long can you put off necessary evils/expenditures before they rear their ugly consequences? And though money doesn't grow on trees (linen actually), credit seems to, and so the to-do list now has some cross-outs/"has-dones" finally.

Now the anxiety about neglecting the "to-dos" is replaced by the worry about the cost/need-to-pay the "having-dones." Nevertheless, the cats have had their vaccinations shot current.

The car now has a passenger window that goes down - and back up, a check-engine light that no longer illuminates, a blower that will now provide heat in the winter and a defogger when needed, and as it turns out a bit of unexpected air conditioning.

The dentist has referred me to an oral surgeon (since the teeth were both "unrestorable"/not root canal candidates) who will extract two teeth from my mouth and hundreds more from my bank account/probably credit card - again, but no doubt get me back on a course of dental correction.

The pancreatic enzymes, the most expensive bottle of pills I buy (I consume upwards of 55 pills per day) is an expense I incur every three months and does something to help my immune system keep the lung cancer in-check, a priority if there ever was one.

Paying to keep on playing (so to speak), by maintaining this kind of normalcy enhances the feeling that life is indeed still being played. And not that my attitude/philosophy in such responsibilities is totally affected by yours truly having been diagnosed with a "terminal" form of cancer: non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV, to be specific, but as the old punchline says: "It doesn't hurt." And avoiding hurt is definitely part of the fighting-cancer strategy; along with avoiding stress, eating healthy, exercising and boosting one's immune system.

I guess what I'm realizing that I have two lives, sort of, the usual and customary life: work, play, day-to-day stuff and the cancer life: lab work, chemotherapy, scans, oncologist, pills, lifestyle changes, etc. On some days, they are parallel. On other days, they intersect. And though they may be separate, they are inter-related. What benefits one is likely to positively affect the other.

Additionally, a negative in one life will likewise have an adverse consequence in the other. However, the requirements to maintain their respective lives is different. Yet balance/co-existence must be maintained in order for one to remain "together."

Two separate halves will not make for a responsible whole, but rather lead to an emotional one. And if there's one attribute that a cancer patient/survivor must have, it is emotional wherewithal. Failure to do so in one's cancer life will likely spill over into the non-cancer life (and vice-versa) and cause a kind of an adult version of failure to thrive.

Cancer might win the battle in the end but you can't let it win the battle in the interim. Fulfilling your every-day responsibilities helps give that life the kind of accomplishment that aids and abets in your fight against your cancer life. Moreover, handling your cancer life gives you the confidence and optimism to live your non-cancer life.

Granted, the two lives might not exactly be the best of friends, but they must be partners of a sort. The sort that is independent, appreciative, respectful and considerate.

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

ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ONGOING

Art Guild of Clifton Exhibit. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. at Clifton Wine Shop, 7145 Main St., Clifton. Includes oil paintings of European settings; doors, windows, and flower shops. Free. Call 703-409-0919 for more.

Carolina Shag Dance. Wednesdays, 6:30-10 p.m. at Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m.; no partners needed; dinner menu at 6:45 p.m. Tickets are \$8. Visit www.nvshag.org for more.

Open Rehearsal. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. at Lord of Life church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Centreville. The Fairfax Jubil-Aires barbershop chorus invites men of all ages who enjoy singing. Free. Visit www.fairfaxjubilaire.org for more.

Toddlin' Twos. Tuesdays, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Early literacy storytime with songs and activities included. Age 2 with caregiver, free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Storytime for Three to Fives. Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Stories and activities for children age 3-5 with caregiver. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

English Conversation Group. Thursdays, 7 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with a group of students and adults. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

English Conversation Group.

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with a group of students and adults. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

Practice English Conversation Group. Saturdays, 3-5 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Drop in and enjoy casual conversation and learning for adult learners of English. Volunteer led program. Call 703-830-2223.

English as Second Language Book Club. Mondays, 7-9 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Adults learning English meet to discuss a book chosen by the group. Call the library 703-830-2223 for book title.

Advanced English Conversation Group. Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Drop-in conversation group for adult English as Second Language speakers who want to improve their skills. Call 703-830-2223 for more.

Plant Clinic. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. A neighborhood plant clinic with horticultural tips, information, techniques, and advice. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

ESL Book Club. Mondays, 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Meet and discuss a book chosen by group. Free. Call 703-830-2223 with questions and to reserve a spot.

ESL Book Club. Every other Saturday, 11 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults learning English are welcome to meet and discuss a book chosen by the group. To find out book title, call 703-502-3883.

Lego Block Party. Every other



Collage Making

Art at the library on Wednesday, July 26, 7-8:30 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. A lesson about different approaches to making a collage. Magazines, gluesticks and paper provided. Bring scissors. Teens and adults. Call 703-831-2223 for more.

Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Legos will be provided for an afternoon of building. Grades 3-6. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Duplo Storytime. Every other Wednesday, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Develop and reinforce early literacy skills for reading success. Ages 1-3 with adult. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Live After Five. Fridays at 5:30 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway. Every Friday night a band

plays on the patio of the winery. Free to attend. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com for a full schedule.

Legos Kids Club. Every other Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Thousands of Legos for children to play with. Ages 6-12. Free. Call 703-830-2223 to reserve a space.

Starlight Storytime. Every other Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Stories under the stars for ages 4-8. Wear pajamas and bring stuffed friends. Free. Call 703-830-2223 to

reserve a space.

One-on-One English Conversation. Various times at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Spend an hour with a volunteer tutor to practice conversing in English. Various times and days. Reservations are required. Call the library at 703-830-2223 to make a reservation.

PET ADOPTIONS

Adopt a Dog. Fridays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Visit www.lostdogrescue.org for more.

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY/JULY 26

Art at the Library. 7-8:30 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. A lesson about different approaches to making a collage. Magazines, gluesticks and paper provided. Bring scissors. Teens and adults. Call 703-831-2223.

SATURDAY/JULY 29

Arts in the Parks. 10-11 a.m. at E.C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Mad Science preschool science show. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/arts-in-the-parks or call 703-631-0013 for more.

Live Music by Buddy Cosmo. 1-5 p.m. at the Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com for more.

SUNDAY/JULY 30

Sipping and Painting. 11:30-1:30 p.m. at the Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. \$45 Ticket price includes painting supplies and instruction. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com for more.

SATURDAY/AUG. 5

Clothing Drive. 8-10 a.m. at Chantilly Bible Church, 4390 Pleasant Valley Road. Free Clothing for all sizes and ages, household items, toys, games will be available at no cost. Bags are provided for shopping. Take as much as you need. No resellers please. There will be translators available for Spanish, Mandarin and Hindi. Call 703-263-1188 or visit chantillybible.org.

Arts in the Parks. 10-11 a.m. at E.C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Blue Sky Puppet Theater. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/arts-in-the-parks or call 703-631-0013 for more.

SATURDAY/AUG. 12

Arts in the Parks. 10-11 a.m. at E.C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Musicians "The Grandsons, jr." performing children's songs. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/arts-in-the-parks or call 703-631-0013 for more.

SUNDAY/AUG. 13

Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold an N gauge T-TRAK model train show. Museum members, free; adults 16 and over, \$4; children 5-15, \$2; under 4, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

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