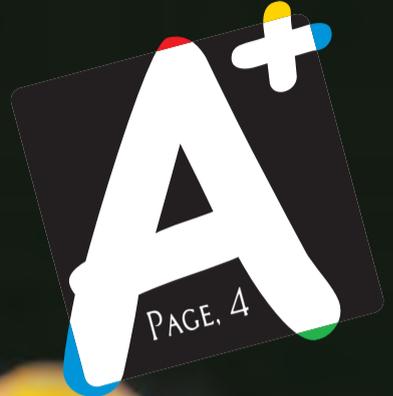


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Chantilly Keeps Charging

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Espinosa Cruz Pleads Guilty to Murder
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PHOTO BY WILL PALENCAR/THE CONNECTION OPINION, PAGE 4 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 2

Police Reform in Fairfax—Four Years Later

BY JOHN LOVAAS
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST



It's hard to believe it's been four years since the Ad Hoc Commission to Review Police Practices submitted its final report to Fairfax County's Board of Supervisors. The 202 unanimously agreed recommendations contained therein, if fully implemented as intended by the 40-member Commission, would be transformative of our Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD). While transformation would be an exaggeration of what has been accomplished so far, the progress to date is remarkable, thanks in no small measure to the leadership of Police Chief Edwin Roessler.

The Commission created by the Board of Supervisors in early 2015, fifteen months after an officer's fatal shooting of unarmed John Geer, divided its report into five areas: Communications, Recruitment & Diversity, Mental Health, Use of Force, and Independent Oversight & Investigations. In the 75 years since the Police Department was created, the men in blue controlled all that went on behind the steel blue curtain. Transparency and civilian review were foreign concepts. So, there was tension on a Commission made up of one-third police, including heavy hitters. Our unanimous decisions reflect their presence.

What has been accomplished? Nearly all recommendations to improve Communications, i.e., public information on police operations, have been implemented, including installing a civilian chief of communications. At

INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

times getting out information on police shootings still is delayed, but it gets out. Transparency does not come easily in a Department with five would-be police unions, but forward movement to date is impressive.

Diversity, however, is the one area where there has been almost zero progress. The Police Department is not representative of the County it serves — especially in hiring and promoting Latinos and African Americans. The county is nearly 10 percent black and 16 percent Latino, but the Force is just over 7 percent black and 4 percent Latino, and worse higher up. It's hard to believe minorities don't apply for and cannot qualify for entry level positions paying \$55,000. The Chief says bad press for cops these days is a main obstacle. That may be, but institutional resistance also certainly plays a role.

Mental Health - a success! Persons with mental illness frequently conflict with police officers, usually involving minor offenses (e.g., disorderly conduct), sometimes with tragic consequences. Half of all fatal shootings by law enforcement involve people with mental illness. Officers are ill prepared to identify persons in crisis much less manage encounters with them.

Their only option for resolution is arrest and incarceration in the county jail, a lockup filled with people in crisis.

Crisis Intervention Training for all officers and a Diversion First program providing facilities to assess and treat (vs. jail) the mentally ill were adopted and are underway.

Use Of Force. Appropriately, 87 of 202 Commission recommendations involve use of force. They include adopting a new philosophy—the Sanctity of Life as the guiding principle for new police policy and practices.

Policies and practices were reviewed and have been overhauled to include de-escalation in confrontations, prompt reporting stressing transparency, emphasis of less lethal techniques, and employing new technologies (e.g., late model tasers and body cameras for all officers). Implementation is nearly complete.

New tasers are now on the way, and long-delayed body cameras are expected to be approved for funding by County Supervisors this month. FCPD could be a topnotch, more humane force if these Use of Force reforms fully sink in. Perhaps John Geer did not die in vain!

A final area, Independent Oversight and Investigation, has met strong resistance from police. Three activities were proposed. A recommendation to build independent investigative capacity with the Commonwealth Attorney was killed by the Supervisors.

However, the Independent Police Auditor (IPA) is in place and reviewing all officer involved shootings, deaths and serious injury investigations conducted by the Internal Affairs Bureau.

Last, the proposed Civilian Review Panel is in place to accept public complaints about police abuse of authority, hear them and review police investigations of them. CRP's power was diluted in the approval process. Still, the creation of the CRP and the IPA mark truly historical turning points in drawing back the steel blue curtain.

More at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecivilianreviewpanel/complaint-process>

Legislating by Skulduggery

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)



Last week while Democrats in the North Carolina House of Representatives were attending a 9/11 remembrance service, Republicans called a surprise vote to overturn the Democratic governor's veto of the state budget. While Democrats and media were told that there would be no voting during the morning session, Democrats' attendance at the vigil allowed Republicans to get the three-fifths vote needed to override the veto.

Reaction to the maneuver has been harsh. The Charlotte Observer in an editorial said that "the verdict is now plain. North Carolina's Republican legislative leaders — not actually leaders, but connivers — are beyond shame." The paper described what happened as a "stunning display of contempt for democracy ... but this isn't a case simply of hardball politics and sly legislative maneuvering. This is a case of breaking faith with the people..." The Senate must concur on the override before it becomes effective.

COMMENTARY

Before Virginians get too smug about what happened in North Carolina we must remember what happened in the Virginia General Assembly about a month ago.

With the continuing string of mass murders in the country — beginning about the time of the massacre at Virginia Tech that for a while was the largest ever and continuing through a mass shooting at a Virginia Beach municipal building — Gov. Ralph Northam called a special session of the General Assembly to consider several bills intended to reduce gun violence.

The special session convened on July 9 to take up bills related to gun violence but without notice to Democrats or media the Republican majority adjourned 90 minutes later without taking up any of the bills and with a return date scheduled after the elections.

There were no bills among those introduced to respond to gun violence that would have confiscated guns or altered the Second Amendment.

They were common-sense bills that according to all public opinion polls I have seen are supported by more than 80 percent and some by more than 90 percent of the public.

The experience in Virginia can be described by the same terms of that in North Carolina: contempt for democracy, a travesty of the process, legislative deceit. You may have seen news reports that the Republican floor leader in the Virginia House received a \$200,000 campaign contribution from the NRA several weeks later.

Partisan control of the Virginia House and Senate are on the line this Nov. 5 as all 140 seats are on the ballot.

There are numerous critically important issues on the ballot that it would take several columns to enumerate.

I do want to add one that gets too little discussion and that is legislative reform. Such reform includes independent drawing of legislative district lines, or getting rid of gerrymandering, that allows the abuses of legislative power in North Carolina and Virginia that are discussed here. As the Charlotte Observer said of the situation in North Carolina, "It was an illegitimate majority acting in an unethical way."

What happened in both states demonstrates once again that the speakership be defined not as the head of the majority party but as an impartial and fair leader. In both instances the speakers of their respective houses should have stopped these episodes of legislating by skulduggery.

'The Heart Never Forgets' – Remembering 9/11 Losses



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Each year on Sept. 11, the front lawn of West Centreville Fire Station 38 is adorned with multitudes of small American flags. This station's firefighters responded to the Pentagon on 9/11 and also draped a huge, American flag over one side of the building. And on every anniversary of that tragedy, they place 343 flags outside their station in honor of the 343 firefighters who lost their lives that day in New York. Each little white tag atop every flag contains the name and unit of one of those firefighters.

Espinosa Cruz Pleads Guilty to Murder

Teen killed local student in February 2018.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

In February 2018, Fairfax City's Uriel Josaphat Espinosa Cruz shot and killed Centreville High student Matthew Ortega at point-blank range. Last Monday, Sept. 9, in Fairfax County Circuit Court, Espinosa Cruz pleaded guilty to murder.

"Are you entering this guilty plea freely and voluntarily – and because you are, in fact, guilty of this offense?" asked Judge Thomas Mann. "Yes," replied the defendant. Mann then warned him that, because he's not a U.S. citizen, he could be deported because of this conviction.

Mann also told Espinosa Cruz, 19, that he could sentence him to as much as 40 years in prison and that, since there's no parole in Virginia, he'd have to serve at least 85 percent of his sentence. In exchange for his plea, the prosecution agreed to reduce his first-degree murder charge to second-degree and drop his related charges of attempted robbery and using a firearm in the commission of a felony.

Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Kathleen Bilton then explained what her case against Espinosa Cruz would have been, had it gone to trial. She said a Washington Post deliveryman discovered Ortega's body in the road, Feb. 14, 2018, just after 5 a.m., in front of 13506 Jeb Stuart Square
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in Centreville.

"He was lying on his stomach with blood coming from his head," she said. The Post employee called 911; but since Ortega, 17, had no ID on him, police didn't know who he was. "Det. Aaron Spooner got a list

of absentee students and determined it was Matthew, and his mother confirmed it," said Bilton. "The medical examiner said cause of death was a single gunshot wound to the top of the head with a .40-caliber bullet."

She said nearby residents heard a scream, the night before, around 10:15 p.m., and detectives found a pill bottle containing just under 2 grams of marijuana in Ortega's pants pocket. Then, said Bilton, "A friend said he knew Matthew and that Uriel had confessed to killing him and said he'd buried the gun somewhere far away."

ORTEGA was actually shot inside a car and his body dumped on the ground afterward. He was in the back seat, with Espinosa Cruz next to him and two other people in the front. The details came out July 27, 2018, during the defendant's preliminary hearing in Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.

The star witness was Enrique Rivera, 18, who was in the front seat that night and who testified against Espinosa Cruz in exchange for immunity from prosecution. Rivera used to live in Centreville and at-



Uriel Espinosa Cruz



The victim, Matthew Ortega

tend school there with Ortega. And, he said, "I knew Uriel since I was a kid in Fairfax."

On the night of the murder, Rivera said he was driving around in his mother's car, smoking marijuana with Espinosa Cruz and a friend nick-

named Peanut before meeting with Ortega. "It was Uriel's idea," said Rivera. "He said he wanted to rob somebody who had weed; he said it would be easy. [Peanut] contacted Matthew through Snapchat. Matthew sent the address where he was, in Centreville, and I drove there and parked."

Rivera said Peanut was in the front passenger seat, with Espinosa Cruz in the back seat, behind him. Ortega came inside, sitting behind Rivera. "There were people around, so I drove across the street because I knew Uriel was going to rob Matthew," said Rivera. He said he kept the motor running and that, less than a minute later, Ortega was dead.

"Uriel pulled out a gun from his waistband and pointed it near Matthew's chest," said Rivera. "I saw it in the rearview mirror. Matthew put up his hands, palms out, in front of him and said, 'Stop, chill, chill.' That's when Uriel shot Matthew in the head. I never expected Uriel to shoot him."

Afterward, continued Rivera, "Uriel said, 'He's bleeding, he's bleeding.' Uriel grabbed [Ortega's] feet and I grabbed him, too, and

we pulled him out of the car and put him on the ground."

Then, he said, they left Ortega lying on the pavement and headed to Safeway to buy cleaning supplies – "Baby Wipes and stuff" – to erase the evidence of the crime inside the car. Said Rivera: "We all cleaned the blood off the back seat and the floor."

IN COURT MONDAY, Bilton said Espinosa Cruz claims an argument arose between him and Ortega and punches were thrown before he pulled his gun. "He says the victim pushed it away and it went off," she said. "He said he did not mean to pull the trigger."

However, added Bilton, neither Rivera nor Peanut told police anything about an argument, but that "Uriel simply pulled out a gun and shot [Ortega]. Both got immunity and then said the defendant told them he planned to rob Matthew. Both said the shot seemed to surprise Uriel. They said he wanted to take the marijuana from the victim's pocket afterward, but they told him not to."

Judge Mann then formally accepted Espinosa Cruz's plea and set his sentencing for Nov. 15. He'll continue to be held in jail without bond until then. Meanwhile, defense attorney Michael Chick requested permission to have a psychological evaluation performed on his client, and Mann agreed.

Afterward, outside the courtroom, Chick said the charge of second-degree murder also includes accidental homicide. He also said, "Uriel is extremely remorseful for what he did, and he's sorry for the pain he caused Matthew's family."

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Normal Adolescent Moods Swings or Depression?

Making a distinction between the two can be difficult.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Stephanie Pironne says her daughter Lila was always a child who was well behaved. From preschool through elementary school, she was described by her teachers as having a kind and cheerful nature. When her daughter, now 13 years old and in eighth grade, began middle school, something changed.

"She now goes from goes from happy to grumpy to sad all within 15 minutes and with nothing around her having changed," said Pironne. "I'm always on edge when she comes down for breakfast in the morning because I never know what I'm going to get. She might be yelling at me for something I didn't know I'd done, giving me the silent treatment or happy and chatty or combination of all three.

Such emotional roller coasters are often a part of puberty. Hormonal changes that happen when puberty begins can cause not only bodily physical changes but mood swings that can feel out of control, say mental health professionals. It's often difficult for parents and those close to teens learn to distinguish normal changes in mood from a more serious mental health issue.

"It's really, really hard to do, because they can present in very much the same way, and aren't always two distinct categories," said psychologist Stacie Isenberg, Psy.D. "Also, sometimes [puberty-driven mood swings], do get treated with medication. I've had patients who were prescribed birth control and some who were prescribed antidepressants."

The severity of the symptoms, says Carol Barnaby, MSW, LCSW-C can help make the distinction," said therapist Carol Barnaby, MSW, LCSW-C. "Crying spells or deep sadness for no apparent reason is a sign. Displaying a loss of energy or isolating themselves from others and persistent low self-esteem are also signals."

"If your child's mood seems off with regularity or they are withdrawing or increasingly irritable, I would advise parents to get a professional assessment," added Isenberg. "You can start with you pediatrician, and based on their recommendation, you may want to have your child see a psychologist or psychiatrist."

The amount of time the symptoms last could also be a clue that professional help is needed. "Teen depression is normally indicated by a persistent change in mood that lasts two weeks or more," said Barnaby. "The change in mood seems to cause significant distress and problems that show up at home, school, during extra-curricular activities, and in social areas of life."

A desire to hurt oneself is an indicator of a mental health issue that is more serious than normal teen mood swings, said Barnaby.

"If your child ever talks about self-harm like cutting themselves, refusing to attend school or other activities they previously enjoyed those are sign that you should seek help immediately.

If your child talks ...or has thoughts about suicide or not wanting to be around, seek professional help immediately," added Isenberg.

"She goes from goes from happy to grumpy to sad all within 15 minutes and with nothing around her having changed. I'm always on edge when she comes down for breakfast in the morning because I never know what I'm going to get."

— Stephanie Pironne

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Virginia Schools Rank Third in Nation with B-minus

A leading education journal ranked Virginia's public schools as third in the nation in student achievement based on the performance of students on national assessments in reading and mathematics, graduation rates and achievement on Advanced Placement examinations.

Education Week's Quality Counts 2019 report awarded the commonwealth a letter

grade of B- for K-12 achievement. Only Massachusetts, with a B+, and New Jersey, with a B, earned higher grades. Superintendent of Public Instruction James Lane said: "I look forward to visiting as many schools as I can during the coming weeks and months and personally congratulating teachers, principals, administrators and support professionals for all they do as we strive to make the commonwealth's schools the best

in the nation." K-12 achievement comprises one third of Education Week's three-part Quality Counts rating system. Earlier this year, the publication awarded Virginia a B on its "Chance for Success Index" and a C for school finance. Today's grade for K-12 achievement resulted in Virginia earning an overall grade of B- from Education Week for 2019.



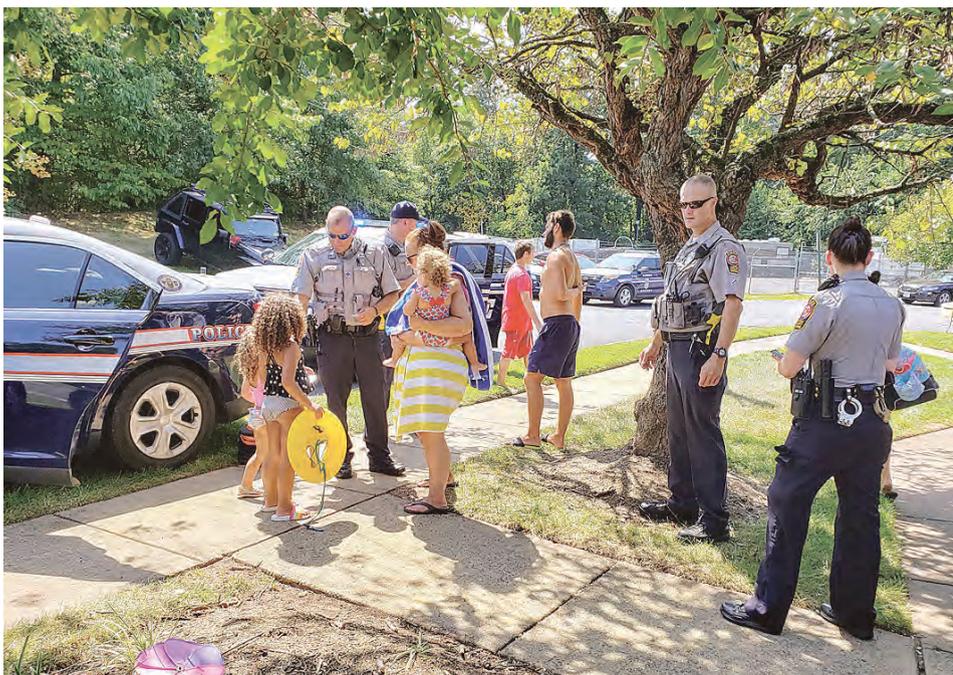
PHOTOS COURTESY OF JENNIFER HUGHES

Newgate residents enjoy their community swimming pool.

Newgate Residents Hold Summer Farewell Party

Residents of Centreville's Newgate community held a festive, end-of-summer pool party on Saturday, Aug. 31. More than 80 neighbors joined the fun to say farewell to summer and to welcome their children back to school. Police officers from the Sully District Station and

firefighters from the West Centreville Fire Station 38 also dropped by to enjoy the buffet and talk to the children. According to Al Schenck, Board of Directors president of the Newgate Homeowners Assn., "It was a great event and one that we will repeat in the years to come."



Neighbors and Sully police mingle during the end-of-summer event.

ROUNDUPS

Route 28 Widening Meeting

The Fairfax County Dept. of Transportation will hold a design public hearing on the Route 28 widening project on Monday, Sept. 23. It's set for 6:30-9 p.m., with a presentation at 7 p.m., at Centreville Elementary, 14330 Green Trails Blvd. in Centreville. Route 28 is

being widened to six lanes from the bridge over Bull Run to the Route 28/29 interchange.

The project will also include improvements at all signalized intersections, plus a 10-foot-wide, shared-use path on both sides of the road.

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Medicare Is In The House



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

More like in my wallet. After worrying for the past 18 months about possibly losing my health insurance, I finally hit pay dirt – and it didn't hit back.

I have received my Medicare card and after I "disenroll" from my interim "Obama Care" within the next week or so, I will officially join the ranks of the millions who have insured their health – so to speak, with the Federal Government.

No more will I if-and-or-but about hospitals, doctors ("medical" actually) and prescription drugs (parts "A," "B" and "D" for those of you unfamiliar with the alphabet soup). Dental and vision coverage I'm not so sure about, but at present, I can live with the coverage that I know I have now because the worst case scenarios have been addressed.

And, as a former insurance broker, solving and/or protecting against worst case scenarios was always my main concern.

To invoke "Speedy" from those long-ago Alka Seltzer commercials: "Plop, Plop, Fizz, Fizz. Oh, what a relief it is." And even though I'm not plopping or fizzing, I am effervescent nonetheless at my arrival.

Reaching milestones (even destinations, sort of) is a way I've measured and evaluated my cancer experience. Not that I keep a chart or even a calendar with Xs marking the days but "I've looked at life from both sides now" (heck, I've looked at life from all sides now – and in between, too) and my glass is still half full. I remain positive about my negative and despite having never having seen Joni Mitchell in concert (although I did have tickets to see her at Cole Field House in the '70s – once on stage however, she realized she was too sick to perform and stage right she went) occasionally her songs have spoken to me.

Right now, The United States Government is speaking to me in the form of a red, white and blue card. They are telling me that I have made it to the promised land, a land whose existence was proposed in 1965 and which became law in 1966 fulfilling promises made to all Americans who reach age 65 that health insurance is their right and not because they were privileged.

Nevertheless, I feel privileged to be "Medichere." For 10 years, 10 months and 20 days, dating back to late December 2008 when I first experienced the pain in my rib cage which precipitated my visit to the Emergency Room, I have been under the proverbial gun.

Sometimes, it's been holstered. Other times, it's been locked and loaded. So far, no shots have been fired, even though occasionally I've been in very close range.

I can't say for sure whether I thought I'd actually get here, but let's be realistic, we all had our doubts. But now it's time to gear up.

A tremendous weight has been lifted from my shoulders. All I have to do now is live with the fact that I have stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer, an incurable disease if there ever was one. But here I am, alive and reasonably well.

No more will I have to worry about who, what and where I'm going to be treated. From now on, I'm in charge. (Like Charles.) As a result, I feel as if I've regained a little control of my life.

And for a cancer patient originally diagnosed as "terminal," this control is an extraordinarily wonderful feeling.

I wish I could bottle it like "Brighto." "Brighto, Brighto, makes old bodies new. We'll sell a million bottles, woo, woo, woo, woo, woo, woo." (The Three Stooges in "Dizzy Doctors," 1937.) And that's just the kind of silly enthusiasm I'll need living forward.

Hardly is the lung cancer I have on the run. I wouldn't even say I have it on the walk. A stagger, maybe. (Or maybe that's me who's staggering when I lose my balance because of the neuropathy in my feet.)

Cancer is an adversary unlike any other. It's going to do what it does. I doubt Medicare is going to scare it into remission.

Moreover, my not worrying about having health insurance anymore probably isn't going to have much effect on "the cancer" ("Forrest, Forrest Gump") either. The biggest effect will be on me, emotionally.

I just hope that's enough. Because I'm going to need all the ammunition I can muster.

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

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

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

Women's Ministry 2019 Fall Conference. 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Greater Little Zion Baptist Church, 10185 Zion Drive, Fairfax. Members of the Women's Ministry of Greater Little Zion Baptist Church, Fairfax, Virginia present their 2019 Fall Conference, exploring the theme: Women of God: Stretching for the Imagined Life in Christ. (Ephesians 3:20 MSG). \$45 per individual or \$80 for two SisterFriends. Register at glzbc.org and click on Women's Ministry 2019 Fall Conference or call the church's Administration Office at 703-239-9111.

Security Training Event. Church safety and security will be the focus of a full-day training at Christ Central Presbyterian Church in Centreville. Developed by current and former members of law enforcement, the Shepherd's Watch Safe and Secure Church Training is intended for church security teams and church leaders wanting to develop and improve upon their safety and security plans. Churches interested in participating may visit Group.com/SecurityTraining, call 970-292-4697 or email ccable@group.com.

MONDAY/SEPT. 23

Public Hearing. 6:30-9 p.m. at Centreville Elementary School, 14330 Green Trails Blvd., Centreville. The Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) will hold a Design Public Hearing for the Route 28 Widening Project with a formal presentation at 7 p.m. Comments are due by Monday, Oct. 7. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/projects/route28-widening for more.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 25

Candidate Forum. 7 p.m. at Sully District Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly. Candidates for Sully District: Supervisor and School Board. These candidate forums are nonpartisan. The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area does not support or oppose any party or candidate and invite all certified candidates in their respective districts. Volunteers, including students, are welcome. Visit www.lwv-fairfax.org/candidateforum

Candidates Forum to be Held on Sept. 23

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area will hold a Candidate Forum for Fairfax County Chair of the Board of Supervisors and At-Large School Board candidates on Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 at 7 p.m. The event will be held at the Fairfax County Government Center; 12000 Government Center Parkway, in Fairfax.

All certified candidates for the Nov. 5, 2019 General Election have been invited. This event is free and open to the public, and questions for the candidates will come from the audience. Questions can be submitted in advance by accessing: www.surveymonkey.com/r/LWVFA2019

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SPORTS

Spencer Irons #16 drops back to pass for Osbourn Park while being rushed by Andres Sagastume #60.



Pierre Johnson #1 sprints away from two Osbourn Park defenders.



Connor Enders #5 and Pierre Johnson just miss blocking a punt by the Osbourn Park punter.

Chantilly Keeps Charging

PHOTOS BY
WILL PALENSCAR
THE CONNECTION

The Chantilly Chargers scored four first half touchdowns to take a commanding lead, enroute to a 42-6 victory over visiting Osbourn Park on Sept. 13. Chantilly would get on the board with 10:16 to play in the first quarter when Malcolm Lott ran 48 yards after catching a Tyler O'Reilly pass. After a successful PAT by William Hughes Chantilly led 7-0. Just a few minutes later Pierre Johnson would score on a 53 yard TD with 7:27 left in the opening quarter. Chantilly QB Tyler O'Reilly would rush in from 11 yards out with 5:01 to play in the opening quarter to give the Chargers a

21-0 lead after William Hughes successful PAT. In the 2nd quarter Chantilly RB Malcolm Lott would score his second touchdown of the game. Again Hughes was successful on the PAT giving Chantilly a commanding 28-0 lead. Darius Clark would score for the Chargers after a 55 yard run in the 3rd quarter with 9:13 to play in the quarter. Both Chantilly and Osbourn Park would score an additional touchdown in the 4th quarter. Chantilly improves to 3-0; Osbourn Park falls to 1-2. The Chargers will host Lee on Sept. 20.

—WILL PALENSCAR



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ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Senior Olympics. The Northern Virginia Senior Olympics features more than 60 events that challenge the mind as well as the body. New games this year: jigsaw puzzle and line-dancing. The public is invited, free of charge, to all NVSO events. The games run through Sept. 28. Visit www.nvso.us.

Crafters Wanted for 2nd Annual Fall Craft Show. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum will hold its 2nd Annual Fall Craft Show and LEGO (TM) Train Show on Saturday, Oct. 12, 2019, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For crafters interested in joining the event, booth space is enough room for a 10x10 canopy and cost is \$50 per space. Email dmueller@fairfax-station.org Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

Chantilly Farmers Market. Thursdays, 3:30-7 p.m., through Nov. 11 in the parking lot at St. Veronica Catholic Church, 3460 Centreville Road, Chantilly. Visit www.community-foodworks.org/chantilly for more.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 19

Fresh Food Drive. 3:30-7 p.m. at St. Veronica Catholic Church, 3460 Centreville Road, Chantilly. The Chantilly Farmers Market is teaming up with Western Fairfax Christian Ministries to accept food bank donations at the market each week in September. Free admission. Call 703-376-1170 or visit www.facebook.com/events/2024634134303532/

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/SEPT. 20-21

Kids Wish Kids Good Night. 7-8 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Put a new twist on the bedtime routine by letting children wish a good night to the animals at Frying Pan Farm Park. Bring a flashlight or lantern for this twilight tour and learn how farm animals settle down for the night. For participants age 3-adult. \$10 per person, and children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Dress for the weather. Call 703-437-9101 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 20-22

Capital Home Show. Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Brett Tutor, the carpenter on TLC's Trading Spaces, will headline with more than 250 companies exhibiting and showcasing the latest in home remodeling, renovation, décor and redesign. Visit www.capitalhomeshow.com

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

Native Plant Sale. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Runnymede Park, 195 Herndon Parkway, Herndon. Pre-orders accepted - visit each vendor's website (Watermark Woods, of Hamilton, and Nature By Design, of Alexandria), check inventory and availability, send an email. Pick-up and pay at Runnymede Park during the sale Sponsored by Friends of Runnymede Park. Free admission. Call 703-615-7855 or visit www.frpweb.org for more.

Rain Garden Workshop. 10 a.m.-noon at Sully District Governmental Center, James McDonnell Room, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Rain gardens, also known as bioretention areas, are attractive landscape features that allow rainwater and snowmelt to infiltrate into the ground. Learn about designing and planting a rain garden



COURTESY OF THE FAIRFAX STATION RAILROAD MUSEUM

Museum visitors enjoying games at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum.

Game Day and Scavenger Hunt

Play a Train or History Game as well as try your luck at a Scavenger Hunt. Sunday, Sept. 22, 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

at home. Free. Registration Required: <https://bit.ly/33oEOtC>.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 22

Chipmunk Stroll. 1-2 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Participants age 6-adult are invited to take a walk with a naturalist to look and listen for Eastern chipmunks (*Tamias striatus*). Learn about the lives of these cute critters that inhabit the park. \$6 per person. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence.

Game Day and Scavenger Hunt. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Play a Train or History Game as well as try your luck at a Scavenger Hunt. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

Picnic with Purpose. 4-8 p.m. at Pavilion at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. This is the inaugural fundraising picnic for Friends of Frying Pan Farm Park in the covered outdoor pavilion behind the Visitors Center. BBQ picnic and silent auction, games, music and prizes. Visit friendsoffryingpan.org/whats-new/bbq/ for tickets. Table sponsorships are also available. Event proceeds benefit scholarship and grant funds for Frying Pan Farm Park. \$30, adult; \$15, child; free, 3 or under.

MONDAY/SEPT. 23

Stream Life. 6-7 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Explore Big Rocky Run with a naturalist, use dip nets and kick nets to catch and release creatures and learn about their role in the environment. Learn stream monitoring techniques and the impacts humans have on these fragile ecosystems. Ages 4 and older. \$6 per person. Call 703-631-0013, TTY 711

THURSDAY/SEPT. 26

Erin Peterson Fund Golf Tournament. At the Westfields Golf Club, 13940 Balmoral Greens Ave.,

Clifton. Erin was a 2006 Westfield High grad who died in the April 2007 Virginia Tech tragedy. Afterward, her parents started the Erin Peterson Fund (EPF) to award scholarships in her memory to those less fortunate, plus the Leadership for Tomorrow program which provides grants to at-risk male students at Westfield. Community members make that possible each year when they play in the tournament and support the fund. To register, go to www.erinpetersonfund.org and click on Golf Registration. Raffle tickets may also be purchased online.

Fresh Food Drive. 3:30-7 p.m. at St. Veronica Catholic Church, 3460 Centreville Road, Chantilly. The Chantilly Farmers Market is teaming up with Western Fairfax Christian Ministries to accept food bank donations at the market each week in September. Free admission. Call 703-376-1170 or visit www.facebook.com/events/2024634134303532/.

Teen Volunteer Information Night.

7-8 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. This presentation will show teens how to find agencies in need of volunteers and explore upcoming volunteer opportunities. Hear from staff members at Volunteer Fairfax and get connected with the Youth Service Learning Directory to make volunteering a reality with impact for this school year and beyond. Ages 12-18. Call 703-502-3883, TTY 711, for more.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 28

Centreville Unified Pyramid Track and Field Event. 9 a.m.-noon at Centreville High School, 6001 Union Mill Road, Centreville. Centreville ES, Centre Ridge ES, Bull Run ES, Colin Powell ES, Union Mill ES, Liberty MS, and Centreville HS will be sending track teams consisting of students with and without disabilities to compete as one unified team. Unified Sports is a subdivision of Special Olympics. Free. Email ASBblount@fcps.edu or call 703-282-5555 for more.



By COURTESY OF CYNDI HOFFMAN

Hawaiian dance groups will again entertain at this year's celebration.

Ono Brewing's Celebration Brings Hawaii to Chantilly

By BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Area residents can visit Hawaii without leaving Chantilly when they attend Ono Brewing Co.'s second-anniversary celebration, Saturday, Sept. 28. That's because this family-friendly event will be a Hawaiian Luau party with Hawaiian food, music, dance and crafts at the fore-

front. With family connections to Hawaii, Ono owners Scott and Cyndi Hoffman created a tropical-themed brewery at 4520 Daly Drive, so it's only natural that their "Onoversary" will honor the islands. The fun starts at 1 p.m. and goes for seven hours and, of course, includes the brewery's own, craft beers.

"Ono" means "delicious" in Hawaiian, and both the food and beer are created to be exactly that. Odd BBQ will offer traditional, Hawaiian, plate lunches with traditional Kalua pork, plus other barbecue plates and sandwiches. In addition, some of the Hawaiian craft vendors will offer treats from the islands, such as Hawaiian shaved ice and a Samoan dessert called Pain popo - coconut sweet rolls.

THE LIVE ENTERTAINMENT will include 14 different, Hawaiian music and hula-dancing groups throughout the day. More than 100 singers, musicians and dancers from the Washington Metropolitan area and beyond will be there to wow the crowd. And attendees can even learn to hula via interactive performances.

The dancers will include several, area halau (hula schools), such as Halau Nohona Hawai'i, Halau O 'Aulani, Halau Ho'omau I Ka Wai Ola O Hawai'i and E ala E Hawaiian Cultural Center. Among those performing traditional, Hawai-

ian music will be the Northern Virginia Ukulele Ensemble, Hawaii State Society of Washington, D.C. - HSS 'Ukulele Hui, Kupono, Na Kawika and The Aloha Boys.

In addition, vendors and crafters will be displaying their handmade, Hawaiian-themed items, including leis, koa wood art, hair bows and dolls. There will also be lei-making demonstrations.

Event tickets are adults, \$11; children, ages 6-17, \$6; via www.onobrewco.com, or \$15 and \$8, respectively, at the gate. Children 5 and under are free. Food and drink must be purchased separately. Attendees will also receive a free, Hawaiian lei and a raffle ticket for prizes and giveaways throughout the day.

All the activities will be outdoors in the brewery's parking lot, and the event will go on, rain or shine. Some seating/tables/tents will be available, but people are encouraged to bring their own blankets and chairs.

ONO BREWING CO. boasts the area's first, state-of-the-art, self-serve beer wall. Customers pour their own beer and pay by the ounce. The wall offers a rotating selection of 10 beers on tap, all brewed on the premises, including beers with names and flavors inspired by the tropics.

And since the Hoffmans believe in giving back to the community, each month, they select a different, local charity and then donate 50 percent of all their tips/gratuities that month to the charity. Since opening in September 2017, Ono has supported 24 local charities and donated more than \$53,000. To learn more about it or to suggest a deserving, local organizations for future consideration, visit <https://www.onobrewco.com/monthly-charity>.