

Celebrating National Night Out at The Elms of Centreville are (back row, from left), police MPO Vitelio Orantes and Capt. Bob Blakley with (front row, from left) Landon Rexrode, 4, and the Wilmot brothers, Nicholas, 6, and Carson, 4.

At National Night Out

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

NEWS



From left: Dev Goda, 6; Divya Kulkarni, 7; Shubham Goda, 13, and Connor Kentfield, 10, cool off with ice creams during National Night Out at The Greens at Fair Lakes.



At the Sully II festivities are (from left) Reserve Deputy Sheriff Howard Frame, resident Dan Jenuleson, plus Capt. Sean Whitmore and Capt. Derek DeGeare, also with the Sheriff's Office.

'It's Like a Giant Family' Fair Oaks, Sully districts celebrate National Night Out.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Take some firefighters, law-enforcement personnel and local residents; add in food, fun, handshakes and conversation in a relaxed, neighborhood atmosphere. Mix well, and the result is National Night Out.

Held each year, the first Tuesday in August, the event gives first-responders and community members all across the country a chance to mingle and form relationships.

It also promotes partnerships, camaraderie and a sense of neighborhood solidarity, while enabling residents to discuss issues concerning them with the police who patrol their communities. This year's event was last Tuesday, Aug. 4.

The Elms of Centreville

At The Elms of Centreville, off Braddock Springs Road, rain brought the celebration

inside the community center, but couldn't dampen the festive spirit. Residents chowed down on hamburgers, side dishes and watermelon, while enjoying music, each other's company and visits from firefighters and police.

"We just had the fire department at my apartment for a smoking electrical outlet, and it's nice to know who you're calling," said resident Jodi Rexrode, holding son Reece, 1. "They were here within 60 seconds of our phone call, and they made us feel completely safe in our home. We've

been here two-and-a-half years and we love it; it's a nice community."

Friend Latuana Hicks, who's lived in The Elms more than seven years, said she, too, feels safe there. "I like all my neighbors, the Elms staff and the apartment, itself," she said. "And tonight's an opportunity for people to get to network and know their neighbors."

Joining the party were Fairfax County police officers Major Jack Hurlock, MPO

SEE CELEBRATING, PAGE 3



Police, Sheriff's Office personnel and local residents gather in the playground at The Greens at Fair Lakes during National Night Out.



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Chatting outside the Sully Station II Community Center are (from left) McGruff the Crime Dog, police 2nd Lt. Dalton Becker and resident David Vincent.



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Enjoying sandwiches and chips together outside the Sully Station II Community Center are (from left) Meagan Rich, visiting from Michigan; Westfield High freshman Isabella Manson; Stone Middle eighth-grader Isabella Ibrahim; and Westfield freshmen Yasmein Akl, Spencer Thomas and Geo Argueta.

Celebrating National Night Out

FROM PAGE 2

Vitelio Orantes and Capt. Bob Blakley. While there, a woman asked Blakley to explain to her grandson why it was important that he and his younger brother wear their seatbelts in the car. Blakley told him it was “in case the driver hit the brakes suddenly, you wouldn’t get hurt.”

The commander of the Sully District Police Sta-

tion, Blakey was attending his third National Night Out event that evening. Of the 14 celebrations slated within his district, he hoped to make it to at least half of them.

“It’s a great turnout for all the National Night Out events in the whole community,” he said. “And considering that crime is low, we’ve seen even a much bigger turnout than last year. For us in Sully, we’ve made a priority out of engaging the community, so we appreciate the positive feedback. We prefer these positive engagements over the negative ones, any day. We’re just glad to be part of the community.”



In Centreville, Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova and Fairfax County Police Chief Ed Roessler pose with Deer Park Elementary second-grader A.J. Sexton, 7.

Greens at Fair Lakes

Residents of The Greens at Fair Lakes held their event in their community’s playground. Parents chatted with each other and moms introduced their new babies to other moms while their other children ran around, played on the swings and slides and devoured cold ice creams in the 95-degree heat.

From the county Sheriff’s Office, 2nd Lt. Stacie Talbot and 1st Lt. Jason Travis handed out bags containing a coloring book about keeping children safe. A nearly 20-year member of the Sheriff’s Office, Talbot said it’s nice to “get out in the community and let kids know we’re here to help them, as well as police officers, firefighters and the rest of the public-safety personnel.”

Sometimes, she said, children see deputies “taking them from their parents or taking their parents from them or keeping their parents in jail. So it’s good to let them see a positive side of us, too.”

Talbot is also involved with Project Lifesaver, which she started in December 2004. “It’s for people with autism, Down syndrome, Alzheimer’s and other cognitive disorders, who are prone to wander,” she said. “We put a transmitter on them and, if their caregiver doesn’t know where they are, we’ll go find them.”

Happy to be participating in National Night Out, Travis – who’s been with the Sheriff’s Office for 16 years – noted that “being a smaller office and being

SEE COMMUNITIES, PAGE 4

ROUNDUPS

Support Backpack Program

The not for profit Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) is seeking donations from the community of new backpacks for students in need who attend schools in the Fairfax County area as part of its Collect for Kids Back to School Program.

For the fifth year, WFCM is collaborating with Fairfax County, Fairfax County Public Schools and a variety of local non-profit organizations to provide high quality school backpacks through a partnership with the county’s Collect for Kids program.

WFCM’s goal is to provide backpacks for 2,300 qualified low income children who attend schools in the Centreville High School, Chantilly High School and Westfield High School pyramids. In 2014, WFCM assisted 2,019 children in those schools. Due to continued demand, WFCM is looking to increase its program capacity this year in hopes of assisting every child who needs a backpack in western Fairfax. The most needed backpack size is a large one with at least two compartments to hold multiple books and binders for middle and high school students. Backpacks should be of good quality, approximately \$15-30 in cost. No character backpacks, backpacks with wheels, or only one shoulder strap.

More than 1,000 large backpacks are needed for students in middle and high schools (dimensions 18-19 inch high x 13in wide x 8-10 inch deep, with two main compartments). Donated backpacks may be brought to WFCM’s Client Services Office and Food Pantry (13888 Metrotech Drive, Chantilly, next to Papa John’s Pizza) until Friday, Aug. 14, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. See www.WFCMVA.org.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Aug. 13, 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.

The first 35 vehicles arriving on each date will be inspected, so 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.

CLRC Seeks Fall Interns

The Centreville Labor Resource Center (CLRC) is currently seeking bi-lingual (English/Spanish) fall interns to help with the daily operations of the worker center, its new labor-justice projects and with producing a worker-created community newsletter. Contact CLRC Director Molly Maddra-Santiago at director@centrevillelrc.org for more details.

Food Donations for WFCM

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries’ food pantry needs donations of 1-2 pound bags of rice, canned fruit (all types), canned pastas, canned meats (tuna, ham, chicken), cold and hot cereals, spaghetti and sauces, peanut butter, canned vegetables (including spinach, collar greens, beets) and cooking oil.

Toiletries needed, which WFCM clients cannot purchase with food stamps, include facial tissues, toothpaste, shampoo and solid deodorant.

Bring all items to WFCM’S food pantry, weekdays, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at 13888 Metrotech Drive, near Papa John’s Pizza and Kumon Learning Center, in Chantilly’s Sully Place Shopping Center. A volunteer stocker/bagger is needed Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m. Contact Annette Bosley at 703-988-9656, ext. 110, or abosley@wfcmv.org.

Learn about Police Department

Throughout the year, the Fairfax County Police Department will host a series of lectures as part of its 75th anniversary.

❖ Sept. 16 – Helicopter Division, 10 a.m. at the Criminal Justice Academy <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fcpd-helicopter-division-tickets-15374129435>



Socializing at The Elms of Centreville are (from left) Amber Boykin and daughter Malia, 1; Jodi Rexrode and son Reece, 1; and Latuana Hicks. In front is Rexrode's son Landon, 4.



Children in Sully Station II explore a fire engine from West Centreville's Station 38.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Communities Welcome Police at National Night Out

FROM PAGE 3

confined to the Fairfax campus of the courthouse and the jail, it's nice to get outside, into the neighborhoods. We get to interact with people on a different level and answer questions about the Sheriff's Office and what we do."

Rob Baer, a resident of The Greens at Fair Lakes since 1999, organized the event for his community of 190 homes. "It's a nice, safe area, with lots of kids and friendly people," he said. "Any time the community can partner up with law enforcement, it makes everything safer and adds a personal touch on the community level. And when the neighbors get to know each other, it makes it a community, not just a townhouse complex."

Attendees also included police Capt. Chris Marsh, the new commander of the Fair Oaks District Station, plus Lt. James Krause, who'll be the assistant commander there beginning in October. "Being new to the station, I wanted to meet people and get to see the community a little," said Krause. He's currently working at police headquarters at the Massey building and helped plan the recent World Police and Fire Games held in Fairfax County.

On National Night Out, said Marsh, "It's important to get into the community and show our support for each other. And it's something we look forward to every year — speaking to like-minded people interested in celebrating the safety of our communities. It's a meet-and-greet to see the neighborhoods and get our faces known [to the residents]."

Sully Station II

If there's one thing the residents of Centreville's Sully Station II community know how to do, it's party — and last week's



Celebrating at Sully II are (from left) Gerry Connolly, Leslie Jenuleson and Sharon Bulova.

shebang was no exception. Held both inside and on the grounds of the neighborhood's community center, it attracted some 350-400 people and featured a deejay, a moonbounce, sandwiches from Firehouse subs, beverages, cotton candy and ice cream. Before it even ended, said Dan Jenuleson who organized the event with his wife Leslie, "We went through 12, three-gallon buckets of ice cream."

And with so much to offer, the gathering proved popular with people of all ages. "Everyone gets together — it's like a giant family," said Stone Middle School eighth-grader Isabella Ibrahim, enjoying a sandwich outside with some friends. "And they have an awesome deejay here, too."

Police 2nd Lt. Dalton Becker, assigned to the Sully District Station, was there with the police mascot, McGruff the Crime Dog. "This is one of the best events out here in the district," said Becker. "I've been driving McGruff around tonight; everybody's al-

ways excited to see him."

Becker started his career here 17 years ago at the Fair Oaks District Station. He then served at the Sully District Station from 2006-09 and returned here again, a year ago.

He said National Night Out is "a neat event for [the police] because we get to see people and socialize with them when there are no crises or issues. We live in such a busy area but, at this event, people are out and about relaxing when, normally, it's just go, go, go."

Also there was Fairfax County Police Chief Ed Roessler Jr. He was attending his sixth National Night Out event that evening and planned to visit more. "It's critical that we increase the engagement with our community to continue building trust between the police and the community — especially the youth," he said.

Meanwhile, reserve Deputy Sheriff Howard Frame said it's "good to show the

public what we do. We're not the 'goon squad.' We're a friendly bunch and part of the community."

"National Night Out is a great thing for the Sheriff's Office and the community, and it's fun to do," added Capt. Sean Whitmore with the Sheriff's Office. "Working in the jail a lot, it's nice to get out in the community and talk to folks [about our jobs]."

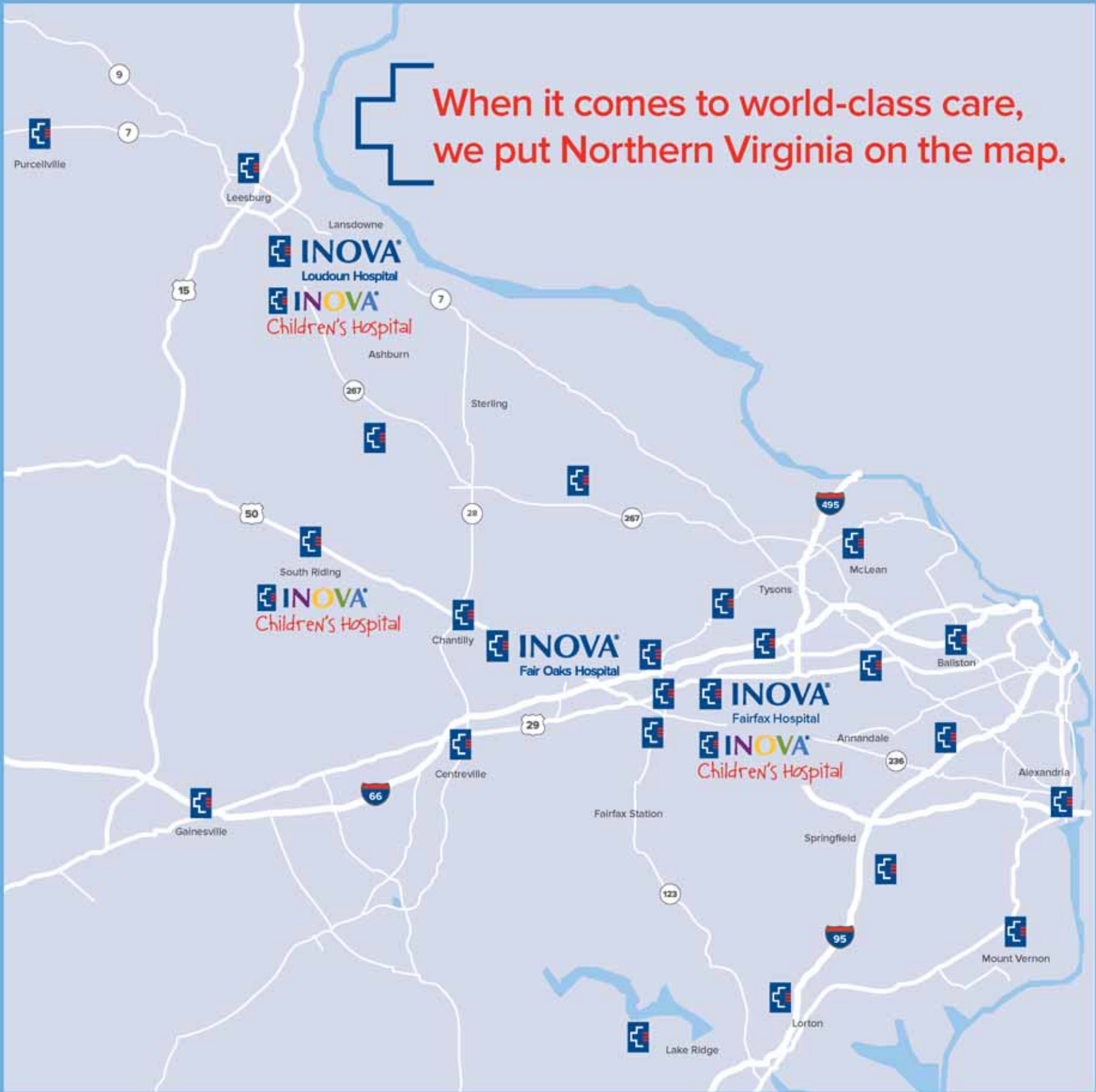
Resident Diane Reddy came to the celebration because she enjoys the community and all the first-responders who support it. "We're always busy working, and this is a good way to get to know other people," she said. "People used to stay as far away from the police as possible, but we know they're human, too. They look out for us so we can know we're safe and we can sleep at night."

Various dignitaries also made the rounds of the various events, including U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), county Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova and Sully District School Board representative Kathy Smith. It was Bulova's first visit to Centreville on National Night Out.

"Community policing and the relationship between the neighborhoods and our law-enforcement officers and firefighters are critical toward keeping us safe," she said. "And in Fairfax County, we do National Night Out really well. Neighbors make a big deal of it, and our public-safety personnel make a tremendous effort to get into the communities. Fairfax County is the safest jurisdiction of its size in the United States, and events like this help to make that happen."

For Connolly, it was his "21st year of doing this. It's a great way for neighbors to meet neighbors; and the more we do that, the safer our communities become. If we're isolated and don't know our neighbors, it's easier for criminals to prey on us. But instead, we're looking out for each other."

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'Our Community Deserves Better'

Strongly worded recommendations for police on transparency and public trust; FCPD has miles to go.

Outrage over the shooting death of John Geer of Springfield on Aug. 29, 2013, by a Fairfax County Police officer led the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to form of the Ad Hoc Police Practice Review Commission, which began meeting in March 2015. The Communications Subcommittee was the first to give recommendations to the full commission, and the report pulled no punches.

"Communications in recent high-profile use-of-force and critical incident cases were mishandled, inadequate and untimely, leading to loss of public trust and questions about the legitimacy of police actions. ... Our community deserves better."

"The failures in both communications and its Freedom of Information Act policies have created this crisis of confidence for FCPD. ... There must be significant change coming from the leadership of the county and the Fairfax County Police Department. No longer can they just pay lip service to the idea of transparency. Real change is needed – now. ...

"It is well past time for the Fairfax County Police Department to start providing timely, honest and effective communications with everything it does. We deserve nothing less. ...

"Constant 'happy talk' breeds suspicion, while being direct and clear about mistakes and failures as well as accomplishments results in increased credibility."

The Communications Committee, led by former Fairfax County Public Information Of-

ficer Merni Fitzgerald, calls for: a culture change to favor releasing as much information as possible; policy change to encourage transparency and accountability by establishing a culture of disclosure; adopting a predisposition-to-disclose, with public records presumed to be public and exemptions strictly and narrowly construed.

EDITORIAL

For example, the committee calls for: releasing the names of officers involved in any police shootings within one week; releasing video from body cameras, dashboard cameras and any other digital record of a police-involved shooting death immediately; a continuous process of information declassification for cases that are no longer active or are closed; releasing actual police reports, with redactions where necessary, rather than creating summary documents; providing unfettered access to blotter-type information to include a list of every incident and call with the basic who/what/when/where/how information.

The full report is eight pages, well-written and well worth reading.

CHANGE IN CULTURE is not coming automatically or easily to the Fairfax County Police Department. While the FCPD has released reams of information to the commission, that has not included much requested and needed information for the commission and its subcommittees to meet established scope of work.

For example, the Use of Force Subcommittee is tasked in its scope of work to "review

Read Report Online

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission/subcommittees/materials/final-recommendation-communication-subcommittee.pdf>

(not investigate) recent use of force incidents (lethal and non-lethal) involving FCPD as well as review any existing data summarizing all FCPD use of force interactions, officer involved shootings resulting in death or injury, and in-custody deaths from 2005 to 2015."

In May, the committee asked what documents and reports would be available and when.

The following response was posted in June: "The Chief of Police will post a synopsis and other information regarding the department's officer involved shootings but will not be releasing any case reports, files or documents from the criminal or administrative case."

That response does not reflect a culture of transparency.

But what's worse is that on Aug. 10, just weeks before the subcommittee's final recommendations are due to the full commission, the committee still has not received the synopsis promised, or even a list of officer-involved shootings resulting in death or injury, and in-custody deaths from 2005 to 2015.

FCPD Chief of Police Edwin Roessler is scheduled to present the synopses to the committee on Aug. 12. All commission and subcommittee meetings are open to the public, see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission/>

— MARY KIMM.

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Mary Kimm, Connection editor and publisher, serves on the Ad Hoc Police Policies Review Commission. The opinions expressed here are her own, and do not speak for the commission.

Now Is Time To Unite for Education

BY JIM CORCORAN
PRESIDENT AND CEO
FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Recently, the Fairfax County Federation of Teachers ran advertisements in the Connection newspapers questioning the dedication of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the business community to the county's education system.

Nothing could be further from the truth. The Fairfax Board of Supervisors has worked tirelessly to support Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). In fact, approximately 70 percent of FCPS' budget is unfairly shouldered by the county, which comes directly from residential and commercial taxes. From FY 1996-2014, contributions from the county quadrupled that of student growth. And this past April, the Board of Supervisors, in its FY2016 adopted budget, increased funding for FCPS for the fifth consecutive year, funding our schools at 99.8 percent of their advertised budget; bringing the total increase from FY2012 to FY2016 to \$240 million.

All the while, residents and businesses are being taxed by lawmakers in Richmond, with

little return in education dollars coming directly from the state to show for it.

The Fairfax Chamber has, for decades, supported the full funding of K-12 education throughout the entire Commonwealth. The Chamber believes that the future growth of the Northern Virginia economy, and consequently Virginia's economy, depends on a significant investment in K-12 education. The Chamber has been a leading voice in Richmond, working hand and hand with the county, to thwart any attempt to cut the state's contributions to FCPS.

Our work on behalf of FCPS extends beyond advocacy. Since 2010, the Fairfax Chamber has partnered with FCPS to establish the Education Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization allied with, but independent of, the county's public school system.

Every two years, the Fairfax Chamber spearheads the School Bond Referendum committee ensuring there are appropriate dollars for the county's education infrastructure to meet the needs of our growingly diverse community.

Additionally, the Fairfax Chamber has been recognized by the School Board for its years of dedicated partnership with Fairfax County

Public Schools.

And we promise that will not stop. We will continue to advocate for the needs of our schools. However, the Fairfax County Federation of Teachers is wrong to direct their frustration at the Board of Supervisors and the business community. The problem rests with Richmond.

Historically, the Local Composite Index (LCI) places Fairfax County at a disadvantage by not taking into account important factors such as the differential between county and city taxing authority, the impact of cost of living on a locality's ability to pay staff, and the increased costs associated with providing services to growing limited English proficiency and special education populations.

For years, the Board of Supervisors, FCPS, and the Fairfax Chamber have called upon the General Assembly to provide FCPS their fair share of state education dollars. Our schools, our children, and our economy depend on it.

We must come together and work united towards a common good. A failure to address the problem of inadequate state funding for education will leave our schools and our children behind.

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PEOPLE

Exploring with 'Dozi the Alligator'

Chantilly grad pens his first children's book.

BY SENITRA T. MCCOMBS
THE CONNECTION

Everyone craves a little adventure some times. Chantilly High School alumnae Daniel Boris' first children's book, "Dozi the Alligator Finds a Family," explores this topic through rhyme and illustrations.

Dozi, a small alligator, longs to explore the world beyond his swamp in Florida. He hides in the car of a vacationing family before they leave the amusement park near his swamp.

"One day Dozi goes from daydreaming to exploring and then he's out in the world. It is a huge confusing place but he's ready to do more than watch. Similar to the way children are eager to greet the world and see what's out there," Boris said.

He believes the book provides both children and parents with a universal storyline of "going on an adventure, taking those first few steps towards the greater world and finding answers to your questions."

"I believe it is a great bedtime story to ask your little one, 'What do you see outside? What do you wonder about? Where do you want to go?'" he said.

"Dozi the Alligator Finds a Family," released in May, is the first in a children's book series published by Heritage Builders Publishing.

The author's inspiration for the book came from a character in his comic strip, "Hoxwinder Hal," which was selected as a finalist in the Washington Post's "America's Next Great Cartoonist" contest in 2010.

It was his deep desire to share his work with younger audiences that motivated him to become a children's book writer. As a comic strip artist, he was always a visual artist. With the exception of composing a few writing gags for his comic strip, he had never written anything. So, the thought of writing a



Daniel Boris

children's book was a little intimidating.

However, like Dozi, Boris decided to test the waters despite his trepidation.

During the next three months, he experienced both peaks and valleys in his writing. However, he did not allow the challenges to get to him. "Sometimes ideas and words flow easily, but often you just need

to set it all aside and come back to it after a good night's rest," he said.

Boris also made a conscious decision to use rhyme in the book because the children's stories that he enjoyed most as a child also used rhyme.

"Personally, my ultimate goal is to stoke imaginations and inspire young minds the way my favorite children's stories did for me when I was a child," he said.

His favorite childhood book was "The Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles" by Julie Edwards.

Boris knew he would need a specific illustration style to bring the main character, Dozi, to life. Immediately, he began researching artists with portfolios online to find someone to bring this vision to life. His answer came in the form of an artist named Nicola Sammarco in Italy.

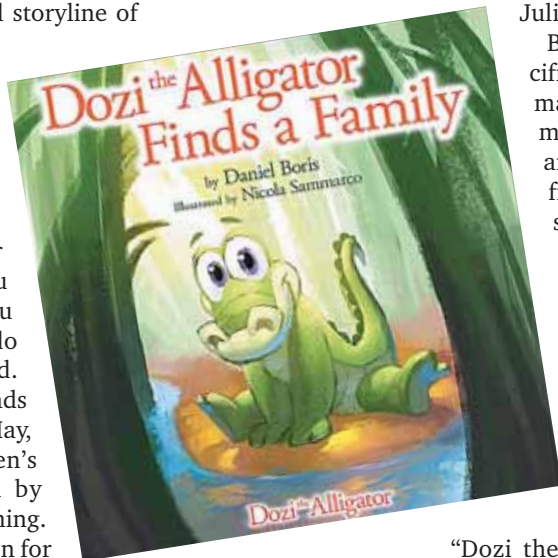
So, he contacted Nicola Sammarco through e-mail, introduced himself, and asked if he was interested in illustrating his book. Several weeks later, they were working on the illustrations.

"Dozi the Alligator Finds a Family" is available through Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Individuals can also purchase signed copies, stickers, and post cards from www.DanielBoris.BigCartel.com.

A native of Arlington, Daniel Boris attended and graduated from Chantilly High School in the 1980s.

During his time at Chantilly High, he remembers running cross-country and track. In particular, the time he ran two miles in under 10 minutes.

Currently, Boris resides in Leesburg with his wife, Rachel, and two children.



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Makeover Enhances Family Life

Sun Design converts large, dated house into a residence that satisfies all.

BY JOHN BYRD

Meet Roger Lataille, senior design consultant at Sun Design Remodeling and — more importantly — a remodeling resource homeowners turn to, and return to, whenever they need expert advice, hands-on support and commitment.

Case in point: in 2012, a north Arlington couple engaged Lataille to execute a top-to-bottom makeover to their 2,300-square-foot home. The goal was to implement functional improvements within a “transitional” interior design style that would work well for a growing family. Delivered on time and within budget, the owners dubbed the results “exceptional” in every detail.

Now, two years later, and with two daughters growing rapidly, the couple asked Lataille for ideas for an addition. As it turned out, the terrain around the property was too steep. While space enlargement discussions were still underway, however, the couple learned that elderly neighbors a few doors up the street were planning to sell their nearly 5,000-square-foot colonial.

The neighbor’s house had been built in the late 1960s and hadn’t been upgraded in decades. Still, more living space was a tantalizing proposition, and the couple soon asked Lataille for an assessment on remodeling the house to the standard he had achieved in their current residence.

In short order, Lataille and the clients walked through the house and — before any decision had been reached regarding a possible purchase — the designer developed preliminary sketches depicting several remodeling scenarios.

What was obvious to everyone from the start was that the existing house was seriously dated, even degraded in places — and that the desired upgrade would require considerable vision, budget-mindedness and team performance.

Adding to the drama: if the deal went through, the new owners wanted to put their current house on the market immediately, remodel the purchased property at once and move into their new residence as soon as possible.

There would be no interim period of rental properties or furniture in storage.

“Looking back, the qualitative difference between the interiors of the two houses was profound,” Lataille said. “The house being considered for purchase was like something from a 1970s movie set. There was large-pattern floral wall paper, wainscot paneling in many rooms; the family room adjacent to the kitchen was covered by a sled ceiling with faux exposed timbers.”

Moreover, the interior design style, Lataille elaborates, may have once been loosely described as rustic.

“But the look was plainly anachronistic in 2015,” he added, “A far cry from the contemporary transitional style my clients wanted.”

Details

IN THE PLUS COLUMN: the house featured generously-sized rooms and segues, large windows accessing abundant natural light and an apprecia-

Sun Design Remodeling frequently sponsors tours of recently remodeled homes as well as workshops on home remodeling topics. Headquartered in Burke, the firm has a second office in McLean. Call 703-425-5588 or visit www.SunDesignInc.com.



PHOTOS BY GREG HADLEY

Featuring billiards and pinball, the remodeled play room is also the site of a weekly card game.

bly “open” first floor plan with sight lines in three directions.

“The kitchen-centric first level plan had considerable potential,” Lataille said, “but it needed a more cohesive interior — one that would support a more intimate scale.”

The first feature Lataille slated for deletion: the sled roof.

Lataille proposed a stacked stone hearth for a sitting area adjacent to the open kitchen — evoking a cozy cabin-like ambiance — and creating an invitation to sit and interact that had been missing.

With a panoramic view on one side and the open kitchen on the other, the redesigned niche is transformed into a cozy spot for sitting by the window with a book, or chatting with the cook as meals are prepared.

With the exception of moving interior walls a few inches, the kitchen footprint remains fundamentally the same.

The 3.6-foot-by-8-foot cook top island and three stool dining counter now features a dark walnut-colored base topped with a dappled granite surface. The dark-stained oak flooring, by extension, perfectly contrasts with the ivory-hued paneling that wraps a two-door refrigerator, a roll-out pantry and drawers custom-designed to satisfy the cook’s requirements.

French doors with sidelights now connect the family room to a 17-foot-by-31-foot deck complete with hot tub and outdoor kitchen. The front stairs in the foyer have been re-finished; existing decorative capitals refurbished.

Downstairs, the once darkly cavernous lower-level has been elevated into an all-purpose family play area. Exposed vertical support beams are encased in dry wall, which, likewise, wraps HVAC vents. New wood-grained vinyl flooring, recessed lights and tawny/golden wall paint lend the space a light, cheerful ambiance.

The new play room features billiards, pinball and a card table where Dad hosts a weekly card game. The stacked stone tile fireplace situated in front of an L-shaped configuration of couches offers a perfect spot to watch a plasma screen TV mounted above the hearth.

The old kitchenette, transformed into the family’s downstairs refreshment center, provides step-saving convenience that makes entertaining easier for everyone.

Family life — at its most fulfilling.

John Byrd (byrdmatx@comcast.net) has been writing about home improvement topics for 30 years.

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SPORTS



Rising senior Tyler Scanlon moved from receiver to quarterback for the Westfield football team.



Linebacker and Navy commit Jack Clancy is one of the leaders of the Westfield defense.

Westfield Football Eyeing State Championship

Four-time region runners-up return strong defense.

BY BONNIE SCHIPPER
THE CONNECTION

For years, Westfield football has been recognized as one of the strongest teams in the state of Virginia, reaching the region championship game in each of the last four years, losing thrice to 2014 6A state runner-up Centreville, who also competes in Conference 5.

“Getting to those games four years in a row shows that we’re on the right track doing a lot of the right things,” Bulldogs coach Kyle Simmons said. “We’re not going to make drastic changes to the way we run our team, but maybe slight changes that will take us to the next step.”

With new special teams coordinator Mike Giancola, Westfield expects their special teams to be some of their strongest weapons.

“Defensively, we are returning seven or eight starters who have seen a lot of playing time,” Simmons said. “Because we are returning so many guys defensively, it also gives us strong special teams because most special teams have a lot of defensive guys.”

Teams can expect to see more man-coverage defense from the Bulldogs this year.

“We have the resources to be very aggressive on defense,” Simmons said.

Naval Academy commit Jack Clancy has proven to be a strong defensive force for Westfield, and has filled the middle line-



PHOTOS BY BONNIE SCHIPPER

The Westfield football program has reached the region championship game each of the last four seasons.

backer position on varsity for three years, and will step into more of a leadership role as a senior.

“Defensively, our front line is a huge strength, since we have some big boys,” Clancy said. “My role is to be a voice for the team on the field and be a leader so we can hopefully win a state championship.”

On the other side of the ball, Westfield is still trying to determine who will fill the offensive positions.

“Offensively, we are returning a couple guys who are really strong players but we have some question marks,” Simmons said. “We’ve got the bodies; we just need to find out who can play and who’s going to be able to help us out.”

After graduating quarterback Mason Scoville, who threw for 1,692 yards in 2014,

senior Tyler Scanlon, who played receiver last year, will step in to fill the position. Returning junior Rehman Johnson may also run the offense.

“We have some more receivers at our disposal this year. We have three or four guys who can really play the position well,” said Scanlon, who has received several offers to play college basketball. “[Johnson] is a good young quarterback so we’re going to throw some different things in there. One minute I may be in at quarterback, then suddenly I’ll be in at receiver and he’ll be in there. We plan to be pretty creative with our offense.”

With lineman Josh Ohanian, receiver Hank Johnson, wide receiver Ivory Frimpong, and tailback Dominique Pearson driving Westfield’s offense, the Bulldogs have the ability to produce despite lacking

many returners.

“We have a lot of weapons. There are a lot of guys we can put out there to make plays,” Scanlon said. “It’s an interesting dynamic when your quarterback can run out to receiver and run a route just as good as the other guys. That usually doesn’t happen.”

The physical size of the offensive line could also make Westfield a powerful force.

“The offensive line is really strong. They’re just big kids, like they’re all 300 pounds. They’re just massive,” Scanlon said. “Last year we had a smaller, more athletic line, but this year, they’re much stronger. I think as they learn the system and learn to move around, they’ll become a force.”

The Concorde District has always proven to create tough competition for Westfield throughout the season.

“[Conference 5] is made up of well-coached teams that can scheme well. They’re all good programs,” Simmons said. “We’re going to try to use that to our advantage so that when we get to the playoffs we will have been tested.”

Westfield will begin the season at Washington-Lee Sept. 3. The Bulldogs will travel to Centreville during the second half of the season, hoping to avenge last year’s loss in the regional final.

“Centreville is our ‘cross-town rival,’” Scanlon said. “They’ve worked us hard the past few years, and we like to think we’re two of the better teams in the state, so beating them is something we want to do and we’re very capable of.”

When asked about Westfield’s goals for the season, Scanlon didn’t have to think long.

“State championship,” he said. “That’s it.”

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to centreview@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Donors will receive free admission to Summer Activities Day at the museum. Sign up by calling 1-800-REDCROSS. Visit www.fairfaxstation.org for more.

Finding Support and Planning for Your Caregiving Journey. 8:30 a.m.–12 p.m. in the Board Auditorium of the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway. AARP and the Philippine American Foundation for Charities will present a program geared toward educating people about options for senior

caregiving. Listen to a lecture, participate in a discussion and have questions answered by experts from Fairfax County Services for Older Adults. Free. RSVP requested but not required. Call 1-877-926-8300 or sign up online at aarp.cvent.com/Fairfax829VA.

SUNDAY/AUG. 30

Blood Drive. 8:30 a.m.- 1 p.m. at St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton. Visit www.inovabloodsaves.org/index.cfm?group=op&step=2&opid=15209 to register.

SUNDAY/AUG. 23

Red Cross Blood Drive. 12-4 p.m. at

SATURDAY/AUG. 29

“Navigating the Caregivers Maze:

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By KENNETH B. LOURIE

If my experiences as a cancer patient/“terminal” “diagnosee” are at all typical, then the following generalization might in fact be true: certain situations and/or feelings that were once tolerated before diagnosis are nearly impossible to tolerate after diagnosis: traffic, waiting in lines, rudeness, compromise, sacrifice, delayed/deferred gratification, to list just a few. Life becomes so much more precious, that wasting some of it – or the perception of wasting some of it – on unpleasant, unrewarding, aggravating, stressful, menial tasks, obligations, duties, etc. becomes almost too much to bear; on a consistent basis, anyway. It’s a reverse bucket list. It’s less about what you want to do/accomplish and more about what you don’t want to do/endure. Avoiding unpleasantness becomes as important as finding happiness. Getting high on life is the epitome, but if you’re frequently getting low on living, you are not merely adding by subtracting, you are neutralizing. And though there may be a net gain emotionally, the associated pain and suffering may ultimately minimize the benefit.

And minimizing benefits is hardly the stuff of which cancer patients’ dreams are made. You need to maximize, not minimize. You need to reinforce every positive and eliminate any and all negatives, disconnecting and disengaging along the way if necessary; remembering that your life may depend on it. There’s no future – literally and figuratively, in being miserable (or being made to feel miserable). Life is challenging enough without a cancer diagnosis. Being told by an oncologist that you only have “13 months to two years” to live turns that challenge into a directive almost. The prognosis is not so much given/meant as a guarantee as much as it is a presumption (based on a variety of tests/scans) that time will indeed tell. Nevertheless, it’s difficult to not take those words personally, especially since you’re hearing them from a professional. Believing them is hard enough, but devising some sort of strategy to embrace/assimilate and incorporate them into a lifestyle you want to live is sort of a management problem for which most of us haven’t been trained and even less of us prepared for. It’s hard knocks that school never taught. That was college prep., not cancer prep. And even though you’re not exactly fending for yourself once you’re in the cancer whirled, you are in a world not of your own making, and a world (of emotions) likely never imagined and certainly not anticipated.

How you navigate, how you survive becomes a series of very personal choices. After all, it’s your life (actually in this column, it’s my life), and we have to live it. Obviously I am responsible for my own actions, but I have to be responsible for my own “inactions,” too. Solving problems, minimizing hassles, finding solace, accepting limitations, living and learning are all less effective if I’m distraught in the process. Happiness is one thing. Unhappiness is quite another.

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

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OBITUARY

Charles Thomas Cleary



Charles Thomas Cleary with son Andrew.

Charles Thomas Cleary (a.k.a. "brothercharles") of Oak Hill and Chantilly died on July 31, 2015, at the Capital Carving Halquist Memorial Intake Center hospice in Arlington, surrounded by loving friends and family. Charles was pre-deceased by parents John Patrick Cleary and Astrid Linnea Ohlson, both of Denver, Colo. He is survived by his son, Andrew White Cleary, age 16 (with Sharmian L. White of Chantilly); former spouse Diane Cleary; and siblings Patricia Cleary (Denver, Colo.); Linda Massey (Denver, Colo.); Bridget Cleary Karam (Austin, Texas); Kevin Cleary (Beijing, China); Christine Meeker (Sugarland, Texas); and Robin Deci (Sugarland, Texas).

Charles was an artist, an activist, and a teacher, and was deeply inspired by the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Charles created several conceptual collages around themes of peace, love, and race relations, and often used his artistic spirit and talents to teach children in art classes and to reach out to others in the world. One of Charles' collages was exhibited at the Charles Sumner School Museum in Washington, D.C., one of three public schools built for black children after the Civil War, named after abolitionist U.S. Sen. Charles Sumner. Charles also wrote numerous poems, among his favorites "Full Moon Revisited" and "Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," both of which are accessible on www.poemhunter.com.

Charles fought racial and economic injustice wherever he saw it, most recently participating in demonstrations against police brutality and racial profiling in Baltimore and D.C., even as he struggled with cancer. He mourned and marched after the killing of Trayvon Martin. He was a staunch supporter of increased gun control, and was a part of the Occupy D.C. movement. He had great admiration for President Obama, as well as for former Presidents Carter, Kennedy, and Lincoln.

Charles was an avid tennis player, professional tennis fan, and tennis teacher. In the years before his passing, he taught tennis at the International Country Club, Fairfax, and was instrumental in starting and building the CHHA men's tennis club, and in establishing a tennis instruction program for numerous children at the Chantilly

Highlands Community Center in Oak Hill.

Charles was also a devoted fan of coffee and conversation, and could be found at the Herndon Clocktower Starbucks just about every morning, until he could no longer physically make the trip. Two of his closest friends from Starbucks, Charlie Breiterman and Jack O'Neil visited him practically every day that he was hospitalized in the several weeks before his passing.

Notwithstanding all of his pursuits, Charles considered his greatest accomplishment and joy to be his son, Andrew, upon whom he doted. Starting as soon as Andrew could walk, Charles took his son to as many of D.C.'s museums, concerts, special events, and other activities as possible, as well as to peaceful protests and demonstrations. Andrew is featured prominently in several of Charles' creative works. Though Charles and Sharmian split in 2001, they remained friends and enthusiastic parents, often traveling with Andrew to a host of beautiful and inspiring locales, favorites of which were Disneyland, Santa Fe, Laguna Beach, and Martha's Vineyard. Charles was blessed to be able to say his goodbyes to Andrew, and Andrew helped select music to soothe his father's passing, including favorites by James Taylor and Simon and Garfunkel. Andrew attends Chantilly High School.

A fundraiser has been established by Charles' family and friends to assist with Andrew's future education. Those wishing to do so may donate online at: <http://gfwd.at/1MWthVv>.

Donations in Charles' name may also be made to The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Non-Violence in Atlanta, GA, at: <http://www.thekingcenter.org/donate-get-involved>. A celebration of Charles' life will be held in Denver, Colo. on Aug. 23, 2015; contact the family for details.

NEWS

Schools Seek Public Input on Budget

With Fairfax County Public Schools facing a projected Fiscal Year 2017 budget shortfall of \$100 million, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Karen Garza established a task force to look at programs or services that may be eliminated to reduce some of that deficit.

According to an update from the Aug. 7 online newsletter from Fairfax County, the 36-member task force has already met four times since June and discussed ideas for balancing the budget that came from a community online forum.

Among the four and a half pages of preliminary suggestions drawn from commu-

nity input are eliminating athletics and varsity sports programs, downsizing the Advanced Academic Program, energy-saving measures such as shortening the period that athletic fields are lit, and not implementing the planned later school start times.

Though no decisions have been made, the newsletter announcement said more suggestions will be posted online this month for community members to explore and offer feedback.

For more information on the Task Force and Fiscal Year 2017 budget, visit www.fcps.edu/savefcps.

— TIM PETERSON

CHANTILLY CONNECTION ♦ AUGUST 12-18, 2015 ♦ 11

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Any time after 20 days following the last publication of this Summons, the court may enter a judgment against you without further notice, unless prior to that time you have filed a written response in the proper form, including case number, and paid any required filing fee to the Clerk of Court at 200 W. Front St, Boise ID 85702 ph. 208-287-6900 and served a copy of your response on the other party, whose mailing address and telephone number are 663 E. State St. Apt F205 ph 573-418-5453. A copy of the Summons and Petition/Motion can be obtained by contacting either the Clerk of the Court or the other party. If you wish legal assistance, you should immediately retain an attorney to advise you in this matter.

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ONGOING

“Evenings on the Ellipse” Concert Series. Thursdays, 5:30-7 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center Ellipse (Backyard), 12000 Government Center Parkway. Chairman Sharon Bulova of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors hosts weekly live music events. Relax to the music and enjoy complimentary samples of local wines. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.

Sully District Starlight Cinema. Saturdays through Aug. 29, gates open at 6 p.m. at 5860 Trinity Parkway, Centreville. Evenings begin with programs for children provided by New Life Christian Church and movies start at dusk. Find “How to Train Your Dragon 2,” “Frozen,” “Big Hero 6” and “Paddington.” Free.

Summer Reading Program. Through Sept. 5 at all regional libraries. Come to the library for books and other fun events. All ages welcome. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ for locations and information.

MONDAY-FRIDAY/AUG. 10-14

All-American Girl Living Dolls Camp. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Children are invited to bring a doll friend and experience the life of an American girl growing

up in the most interesting eras in history. They will practice the life skills girls needed in the past and relate them to the present. Attendees will find activities, costumes, crafts and themed games. \$190. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

THURSDAY/AUG. 13

Time for Tots. 11 a.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Stories and activities for those aged 2-3 with an adult. Free. Call 703-830-2223 with questions and to reserve a spot.

Ask an Expert Series: Roger Goddard’s Rockets. 12:30-12:45 p.m. at Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air and Space Museum Parkway, Chantilly. Learn about rockets from Air and Space Museum staff member Michael Neufeld. Free admission. \$15 parking. Visit airandspace.si.edu/events/

Civil War Lecture. 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Lecture by author and historian Ed Bearss. All ages. Free. Call 703-830-2223 with questions and to reserve a spot.

FRIDAY/AUG. 14

Astronaut Academy. 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Claude Moore Education Center-Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air and Space Museum Parkway, Chantilly. Smithsonian TechQuest: Astronaut Academy is a free alternate reality game that will challenge participants to become an astronaut-in-training for a future trip to Mars. Instructions and guidance are given via a special webpage accessed on a mobile device. Players should bring their own phones or devices equipped with an internet browser

and a camera. The game is aimed at upper elementary and middle school visitors and their families. Admission is free. Parking is \$15. Visit www.airandspace.si.edu for more.

Ice Cream and Butter Making. 1-2 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Churn butter, crank ice cream and play historic games. There is a \$7 fee. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

SATURDAY/AUG. 15

Astronaut Academy. 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Claude Moore Education Center-Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air and Space Museum Parkway, Chantilly. Smithsonian TechQuest: Astronaut Academy is a free alternate reality game that will challenge participants to become an astronaut-in-training for a future trip to Mars. Instructions and guidance are given via a special webpage accessed on a mobile device. Players should bring their own phones or devices equipped with an internet browser and a camera. The game is aimed at upper elementary and middle school visitors and their families. Admission is free. Parking is \$15. Visit www.airandspace.si.edu for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 15-16

Civil War Encampment Weekend. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sunday at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Federal and Confederate troops recreate Civil War daily life. Visit the weekend encampment and discover a soldier’s lifestyle during the Civil War. Also find live music and a fashion show. House tour includes artifacts rarely on exhibit belonging to the Haight

family, mid-19th century residents at Sully. Tickets are \$9 for adults and \$7 for children and seniors.

SUNDAY/AUG. 16

Civil War Day. 11 a.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Watch a war reenactment and eat barbeque. Admission is free. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com.

MONDAY/AUG. 17

Book Nerds Club. 3:30 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. A book club for fifth and sixth graders. Copies of book available. Free. Call 703-830-2223 to reserve a space.

TUESDAY/AUG. 18

“Football and Fundraising.” 6-9 p.m. at Glory Days Grill, 3059 Nutley St., Fairfax. The Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), which provides services like SoberRide, is hosting an inaugural “Football and Fundraising” event. Guests will find food, a sports memorabilia auction and door prizes. Former Washington Redskins player Ricky Ervins will be on hand. Tickets are \$35 in advance, and \$45 at the door. Visit www.wrap.org for more.

MONDAY-FRIDAY/AUG. 17-21

Wilderness Survival Camp. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Cub Run RECenter, 4630 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Campers will learn to read maps, catch critters, hike trails, fish, start a campfire, cook over a campfire and how to pitch a tent. \$295 for Fairfax County residents and \$310 for out-of-county participants. Call 703-817-

9407 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/camps/rec-camps.htm

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 19

Baby and Me! 11 a.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Stories and activities for 1 year olds and adult. Free. Call 703-830-2223 with questions and to reserve a space.
White Glove Tour. 11 a.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Take a behind-the-scenes tour with a curator and learn more about specialized furniture at Sully. Look in cabinets and the old clock and see the special door that leads to hidden storage areas. There is a \$7 fee. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

FRIDAY/AUG. 21

Summer Wine Pairing Dinner. 6:30 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Chantilly. Enjoy a three-course wine pairing dinner. Tickets are \$71.99-79.99. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 22-23

Greenberg’s Train and Toy Show. 10-4 p.m. at Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Center, Chantilly. Take workshops, admire displays and shop at vendors at this model railroading expo. \$7-9 admission for adults. Visit www.greenbergshows.com/.

SATURDAY/AUG. 22

Astronaut Academy. 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Claude Moore Education Center-Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air and Space Museum Parkway, Chantilly. Smithsonian TechQuest: Astronaut Academy is a free alternate reality game that will challenge participants to become an astronaut-in-training for a future trip to Mars. Instructions and guidance are given via a special webpage accessed on a mobile device. Players should bring their own phones or devices equipped with an internet browser and a camera. The game is aimed at upper elementary and middle school visitors and their families. Admission is free. Parking is \$15. Visit www.airandspace.si.edu for more.

SUNDAY/AUG. 23

Summer Activities Day. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Find crafts and other hands-on activities. Tickets are \$4 for age 16 and older; \$2 for ages 5-15, and free museum members and children younger than 5. Visit www.fairfax-station.org.

MONDAY/AUG. 24

Sully Book Club. 1 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Book title is “My Beloved World” by Sonia Sotomayor. Adults. Free. Call 703-830-2223 with questions and to reserve a spot.

TUESDAY/AUG. 25

Ravenous Readers. 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. A book club for seventh and eighth graders. Copies of book available. Free. Call 703-830-2223 to reserve a space.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 26-30

Discover the Dinosaurs. Friday, 12-9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-8 p.m., and Sunday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Center, Chantilly. Come with the whole family to this dinosaur show that includes rides, games, displays and a Dino theater. \$16-25 admission. Call 703-378-0910.

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