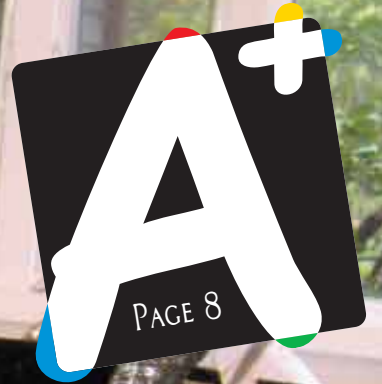


Springfield CONNECTION

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Newington

Church Hosts Oktoberfest

NEWS, PAGE 4



Bob Westin, of Springfield, plays the stump fiddle with the Kings Park German Band during the Oktoberfest Volksmarch at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church in Burke.

'Reports and Tears Are Not Enough'

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PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Members of the Fairfax County ad hoc police policies review commission and Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova (center) hold a public forum at Walt Whitman Middle School on Sept. 14.

'Reports and Tears Are Not Enough'

Protesters demonstrate for Natasha McKenna, social justice and improved mental health services at ad hoc police review commission public hearing.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Cayce Utley of Centreville said Natasha McKenna, the 37-year-old African American woman with mental illness who died in the Sheriff's Office custody in February, must be "more than just a mistake, more than an accident. Black women aren't your 'Oops,' they aren't your teachable moments."

Utley was one of nearly 30 individuals and organization representatives who spoke at the Sept. 14 public forum for the Fairfax County ad hoc commission to review police policies.

Though the work of the commission is focused mainly on the Police Department and came about largely as a result of the way the county handled the 2013 officer-involved shooting death of Springfield man John Geer, the forum provided residents with an opportunity to both hear the final recommendation report from the commission's Use of Force subcommittee and voice their frustration about McKenna's death and the lack of services for individuals with mental illness.

When Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kincaid released footage last week of McKenna being forced to the ground outside her cell in the Adult Detention Center by six male deputies, then restrained, shocked with an electricity conduction de-

vice or "taser," and later losing consciousness and a heartbeat, it sparked outrage in the community.

RESIDENTS from all over Fairfax County, as well as Maryland and Washington, DC, filled the auditorium at Walt Whitman Middle School to capacity. Many were holding signs they had brought to demonstrate for McKenna in front of the school prior to the meeting.

Throughout the forum, several demonstrators cried out "Say Her Name!" ("Natasha McKenna!") and other exclamations condemning the graphic scenes from the video, continued violent treatment of people of color by law enforcement and asking what was being done about it.

Erika Totten of Alexandria compared McKenna's death to the "casual slave killing" act in the Virginia code from 1669. "This is what we're dealing with today," she said. "Her death was ruled as an accident. I have a problem with that. Natasha is me. Your reports and tears are not enough."

"Their anger is understandable," said Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon) who attended the meeting but did not speak publicly. "You can't look at the video without saying this could have, should have been avoided."

"The fact they're here, expressing angst over the case and how we deal with mental illness, is something the community needed

SEE PROTEST, PAGE 15



Members of the audience at the Fairfax County police policies review commission public forum raise signs protesting in the name of Natasha McKenna, who died while in the custody of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office.

Video of McKenna Incident Released

Three days after Commonwealth's Attorney Raymond F. Morrow announced he had concluded his investigation of Natasha McKenna's death while in the custody of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Stacey Kincaid released the video of the incident. Her justification for not releasing it sooner was that it had previously been evidence in an ongoing investigation.

The 48-minute video, available to stream on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=jVs8B2Nmo5k&feature=youtu.be, begins with a message from the Sheriff: "I

want all of you to know this tragic incident has been ingrained in my mind from the day that it occurred. There is no better way for me to share what actually occurred than to make this video available for the community to review it in its entirety."

As of publication, the video had over 400,000 views.

The graphic footage shows McKenna being removed from her cell and forced to the ground as she struggles against six Sheriff's deputies who are telling her, "Stop resisting," and "Ma'am, if you do not stop resisting, you will be tased, do you understand?"

While being moved from the ground to a chair and restrained, McKenna received four shocks from an electricity conducting device or "taser" wielded by one of the deputies. He applied the taser twice in her lower body, twice her upper body, one of the deputies explains on the tape.

A medical team was called to check McKenna's vital signs. In the hallway outside her cell, she was deemed stable enough to transport. When the team that was moving her reached the van waiting to take her to Alexandria, another check showed she no longer had a pulse. Deputies began performing CPR on her and were eventually relieved by Fairfax County Fire & Rescue.

McKenna's body was put on a gurney and taken away in an ambulance, at which point the video ends.

— TIM PETERSON

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Fairfax County Sheriff's deputies, wearing protective suits, can be seen forcing Natasha McKenna to the ground outside her cell at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center in the video released by Sheriff Stacey Kincaid.



After being restrained with upper and lower body cuffs, and a spit hood, and receiving shock from four applications of a conducted electricity weapon or "taser," a medical team checked Natasha McKenna's (center, seated) vital signs prior to her being taken from her cell to a van bound for Alexandria.



Before being loaded onto a van to be transported to the Alexandria Sheriff's Office, medical officials determined Natasha McKenna no longer had a pulse. Sheriff's Office deputies began performing CPR and were replaced by Fairfax County Fire & Rescue, who then took McKenna to the hospital.



About 50 people attended the Oktoberfest Volksmarch at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church in Burke.



Ben Watson of Springfield dances with his daughter Eden.

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Burke Church Hosts Oktoberfest

About 50 people took part in the sixth-annual Oktoberfest Volksmarch despite the pouring rain on Saturday, Sept. 12, at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church in Burke. Presented by the Northern Virginia Volksmarchers, the event included a 5K or 10K walk (three or six miles) and 24-mile

Biketoberfest bike ride around Burke Lake (with 14 cyclists participating), music by the Kings Park German Band and German bratwurst.

As part of the Northern Virginia Volksmarchers (NVV), the club hosts nine year-round walks in the area, including Burke, Fairfax, Alexandria, Reston and

Dykes Marsh, among others. A volksmarch, literally translated means “people’s walk,” and is a leisurely walk through a scenic, historic, interesting area over a pre-determined route.

“We’ve been doing this for six years,” said organizer Steve Brown, who led the bike ride. “We were hoping for 150 people but it all depends on the rain.” He called the day a unique event that brings together four organizations — members of the church, bicycle club, Volksmarchers and the band. With his wife Susan, the couple has done Volksmarches on all seven continents.

He added: “It encourages folks to increase their fitness year-round. I think it helps connect people with the church, the bike club

and the Volksmarches.”

“I think the main thrust is meeting people with an interest in health and friendship,” said Peter Shaulis, NVV member. He added: “The 10K can be pretty strenuous; there’s no time-keeping with these walks. It is not a race; you do it at your own pace.”

“It’s a social organization where you can keep track of your walks, where you’ve done them, and the distances — in booklets that keep your records,” said his wife Pat Shaulis, a member of NVV.

The next Volksmarch 10K and 5K Walks will be held Oct. 3-4 at Fort Belvoir, Va. For details, visit www.ava.org or contact Kristin Mayer at kristin.b.mayer.naf@mail.mil.

— STEVE HIBBARD

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Practicing for Plane Pull

Franconia-based Olympia Moving & Storage has been pulling moving trucks in preparation for its big pull at the Dulles Day Family Festi-

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

val and Plane Pull, Sept. 19 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Dulles International Airport. While their trucks are lighter than the 100,000-plus pound plane they’ll be tugging 12 feet at the event, they’re hoping practice makes perfect so they can take the top slot, which has been held by the Chesapeake Sheriff’s Office for seven years running, with a record pull time of 5.114 seconds. The free family festival, presented by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority and Software AG, also features live music, a car show, military and civilian aircraft displays, police K-9 demonstrations, business exhibits and a special Kids Zone. There is no charge to enter the festival, although donations are appreciated. All attendees over the age of 18 will receive a door prize ticket for the chance to win a “weighty” prize. Find out more at www.planepull.com.

NEWS

Exploring Presidential Libraries

Springfield resident's book details a journey visiting presidential libraries across the country.

In 2006, Leonard Kalkwarf and his wife set out to the Midwest, visiting several official U.S. Presidential Libraries including those in Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Arkansas. For the next eight years, they visited all remaining nine libraries throughout the United States, ending their expedition with the library dedicated to President George W. Bush in 2014. This September, Kalkwarf published a new book, "Exploring the Libraries of the U.S. Presidents," detailing his experiences and observations from each of the sites.



Leonard Kalkwarf

dential project until a new Presidential library is built and transferred to the Government."

Rather than selecting a favorite library, Kalkwarf believes each site well defines and reflects each presidency. In his opinion, the largest and most beautiful of

the libraries is President Reagan's, located in Simi Valley, Calif. "It was so large that Air Force One and Helicopter One were located in one room," said Kalkwarf. He also believed that President Clinton's library in Arkansas was the most organized and that President Carter's and President Johnson's libraries deserve honorable mention, as well.

The Kalkwarfs' journey did not stop at the Presidential libraries; they further challenged themselves to visit at least one site relevant to all 43 past U.S. Presidents. In 2014, that challenge was completed as it took them to various locations, whether Presidential birth sites or other locations important or significant to each. The details surrounding these visits can also be found within Kalkwarf's book.

Kalkwarf has published several books previously; his most recent, "Dear Craig," published in 2013, brings biblical figures to life and gives each modern personalities. "The book took me one year to write and 40 years to research,"

SEE LIBRARIES, PAGE 7

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Treatment Denied Syndrome

Natasha McKenna's blood is on all of our hands.

BY PETE EARLEY

Natasha McKenna did not die from excited delirium. She died from Treatment Denied Syndrome.* Commonwealth Attorney Raymond F. Morrogh's 51-page investigative report about the death of the 37-year-old woman contains a horrifying litany of attempts by McKenna to seek help for her mental illness only to be met with ineptness and indifference.

Rather than being welcomed when she appeared in area emergency rooms, she either was shown the door without receiving help or was discharged before being stabilized. In one instance, she was stuffed into a cab less than four days after being so violent that she needed to be restrained to prevent her from harming herself or others. In another, a police officer and magistrate overruled a doctor who twice tried to get McKenna hospitalized. In a third, she was discharged from one INOVA hospital at 12:30 p.m., only to reappear at another INOVA emergency room at 10 p.m. on the same day. The medical personnel's solution was not to help her but to call the police and have her arrested. Taken to jail, she was stripped naked, held in solitary and stuck in bureaucratic limbo for several days. When it came time to move her, she was stunned with a taser four

times and died.

If the lack of treatment McKenna received while she was alive was not enough, she was further abused in death. Relying on "junk science," Medical Examiner Dr. Jocelyn Posthumus declared the cause of McKenna's death to be excited delirium — a make-believe syndrome not recognized as real by the American Psychiatric Association, American Medical Association or the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-9) of the World Health Organization.

No matter, that diagnosis allowed Fairfax Prosecutor Morrogh to drive in the final nail. Declaring at a press conference that McKenna possessed super-human strength and quoting a deputy who described McKenna as being demonically possessed, the Commonwealth Attorney stripped away what little dignity was left for this woman whose only real crime was that she got sick.

The release of a sheriff's video of McKenna being removed from her cell — naked and afraid — visually disputed Morrogh's characterizations. McKenna walked from her cell in handcuffs and was knocked to the floor by a squad of men who never showed any signs of losing control of her or of having their lives threatened.

This week, two important meetings could help set the agenda for change. On Monday Sept. 14, the Ad Hoc Police Practices Commission was scheduled to discuss the use of force by law enforcement in Fairfax. On Tuesday night, Sept. 15, community leaders planned to meet to discuss how to create a jail diversion system to keep individuals such as

McKenna from being incarcerated. Nearly 50 community leaders attended the inaugural Diversion First meeting last month. (Morrogh did not.)

The ideas being suggested by Diversion First are not new. They were first brought to the attention of Fairfax officials more than a decade ago but were never implemented because of a lack of funding, a lack of interest and a lack of leadership.

Natasha McKenna paid with her life because of that. Who's to blame?

Like the biblical Pontius Pilate washing his hands of Christ's blood, nearly everyone who crossed paths with McKenna during the last month of her life can claim blamelessness. Thanks to Dr. Posthumus and Prosecutor Morrogh, McKenna is not only the victim but perpetrator of her own death.

The unanswered question is whether Fairfax County — its leaders and its citizens — have learned anything from this tragedy or if they will continue washing their hands and reassuring themselves that there was nothing any of them could do — after all, Natasha McKenna was mentally ill.

* Treatment Denied Syndrome is a term first used by a long time National Alliance on Mental Illness advocate to describe our nation's lack of mental health services and callous disregard for persons with mental disorders.

Pete Earley is author of 13 books including the New York Times bestseller "The Hot House" and the 2007 Pulitzer Prize finalist "Crazy: A Father's Search Through America's Mental Health Madness;" former Washington Post reporter, a resident of Fairfax, and a member of the Fairfax County Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission.

COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

Helping Create Safe School Environment

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



Back to school month is a great time to talk with children about important issues that develop during a typical school year. Of the many issues that students will face, bullying is a topic that warrants a serious discussion. While bullying may be viewed as merely a childhood issue, it can have lasting effects on children long after the bullying subsides. Child victims of chronic bullying are at increased risk for both poor physical and mental health, as well as poor academic success, which may continue as they grow and develop into young adults.

Bullying can take many forms, but Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) defines bullying as any unwanted or aggressive behavior that is intended to harm, intimidate, or humiliate another student. This includes actions such as

threats, rumors, physical or verbal abuse, and purposeful exclusion.

Recent studies have found bullying to be an increasingly larger issue faced by more students than ever before. A recent survey of our own FCPS students found that over 50 percent of students in grades 8-12 reported being bullied by someone at some point during the school year, and nearly 45 percent of students reported being the aggressor in a bullying situation.

Bullying doesn't simply involve

a bully and victim. Kids may play multiple roles in bullying such as assisting in bullying by encouraging the behavior or reinforcing the bullying by acting as an audience. Some children may act as onlookers by neither reinforcing the bullying behavior nor defending it, while others may come to another child's defense when bullying occurs. Any one of these roles can negatively affect a child.

Many children simply don't know how to handle a bullying situation, and FCPS is committed to fostering a safe school environment to prevent and address bullying for all students. To accomplish this, FCPS has developed a county-wide positive behavior approach to teach children how to respect one another and to resolve conflicts in positive ways. The goal is to enhance the FCPS capacity to educate children by developing research-based, school-wide, and classroom discipline systems. This will also include the development of school-wide procedures for all

students and staff, and will cover all settings both inside and outside of the classroom.

Students are also taught about bullying through the health and counseling curriculum. The curriculum focuses on teaching students how to recognize bullying and harassment, as well as teaching students how to report these behaviors. The lessons are tailored to the age of the students, and the curriculum expands as children grow and mature.

When it comes to bullying, creating a safe school and neighborhood community is the first priority. It begins by talking with our children, and helping them to understand appropriate behavior. It also includes teaching them what to do when they are a victim of or witness to bullying. Practicing what to do in different scenarios helps students become more confident in these intimidating situations. To learn about other resources, please visit <http://www.stopbullying.gov>.



Libraries

FROM PAGE 5

said Kalkwarf. "Dear Craig" was drawn mostly from sermons that he had given over his career as an ordained minister.

Kalkwarf, a resident at Greenspring retirement community in Springfield, Va., is a true Renaissance man. In his remaining leisure time, Kalkwarf also enjoys volunteering and participating in athletic events. Since 2010, he has been a volunteer in the Office of Presidential Correspondence at the White House, where he responds to emails, letters, and phone calls from the American people on behalf of the President. Kalkwarf also hosts a Presidential history program at Greenspring's in-house television station. To add to his many talents, he is also an accomplished athlete; having already received a Gold medal in this year's Northern Virginia Senior Olympics in the three-mile-walk event, he is registered to participate in over a dozen more events from javelin throw to long jump to horseshoes. At this time, "Exploring the Libraries of the U.S. Presidents" can be purchased online at Amazon, Barnes & Noble and WestBow Press.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

'Boats on Potomac River'

Springfield artist Sidney Xunnian Zhang's oil paintings are on display in the Monroe Gallery of the Arts Club of Washington, 2017 I Street, Northwest, Washington, D.C., through Sept. 26. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Born in Shanghai, China, in 1947, Zhang came to the United States in 1988 when he was awarded a fellowship from Savannah College of Art and Design. In his artist's statement, he writes, "I try to express an atmosphere that is filled with tranquility and soft beauty."

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Ending Bullying

Back to School: Local educators offer advice for parents on how to deal with bullying as school resumes.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When Carol Baker cried, no one heard her. She and a classmate were alone in the girls' locker room, and as Baker, then an eighth grade student, tried to leave, her classmate grabbed her gym shirt and pushed her into a locker. They weren't fighting over anything in particular and Baker didn't sustain any physical injuries.

"I was awkward and easily intimidated," said Baker. "I was an easy target for someone who got pleasure out of scaring other people."

As she describes her pubescent encounter, Baker is still visibly shaken, even though the encounter happened more than 30 years ago. It could just as easily happen to her two children — a daughter in fifth grade and son in eighth grade — today. Bullying remains a real issue in schools, and from

smart phone apps to in-school programs, there are a plethora of initiatives to address and prevent it.

"Most researchers agree that bullying is an intent to cause harm," said Michele Garofalo, Ed.D., chair of the Department of Counseling and school counseling program director at Marymount University in Arlington. She is an expert in bullying, adolescent stress and character education.

Educators describe bullying as unwanted, aggressive behavior that is repeated and occurs where there is an imbalance of power, either real or perceived.

However, it's important to know the difference between teasing, exchanges between two people who simply don't like each other, and outright bullying.

"Teasing can be hurtful, but the intention may not be to cause harm and an imbalance of power might not be there," said Garofalo, who also has a private therapy practice.

When offering in-the-moment strategies



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL/THE CONNECTION

A new phone app called Know Bullying offers prompts for starting conversations about bullying, as well as warning signs and tips on dealing with the issue.

"If parents suspect a child has fallen victim to bullying, it helps if they already have open lines of communication and their kids feel comfortable talking to them."

— Amy Best, chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, George Mason University

for addressing bullies, Garofalo says children's well-being comes first. "Most importantly, students should consider their safety," she said. "If they feel they are in danger, they should quickly leave the area and go to a safe place and tell an adult — school counselor,

Bullying Resources

Know Bullying phone app:
<http://store.samhsa.gov/apps/knowbullying/index.html>
<http://www.stopbullying.gov/>
<http://www.stopcyberbullying.org/>
<http://www.tolerance.org/>
<http://character.org/key-topics/bullying-prevention/>

Fairfax County Public Schools:
<http://www.fcps.edu/dss/ips/ssaw/violenceprevention/bullyinginfo/definition.shtml>

Virginia Department of Education:
<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/prevention/bullying/>

teacher, administrator, parent. Students should not stay and fight back."

Bullying is most likely to peak in sixth through ninth grades. "The early teen years is when it emerges, when there is a lot of identity development," said Amy Best, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at George Mason University in Fairfax. Her research focuses on the study of youth identity formation, youth well-being and social inequalities. "Peer groups assume much greater importance for kids and kids are more self aware than they had been previously.

There's not a lot of cross-gender or cross-race bullying."

If parents suspect a child has fallen victim to bullying, it helps if they already have open lines of communication and their kids feel comfortable talking

SEE ENDING BULLYING, PAGE 10

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Ending Bullying

FROM PAGE 11

to them. An effective dialogue is crucial when it comes to addressing the problem.

“The hard part is when kids don’t want to talk about it, but parents should have on-going conversations with their kids,” said Best. “It’s useful to be able to create spaces where kids feel comfortable sharing.”

ONE ROADBLOCK to assessing a potential bullying situation is when a child is reluctant to share or talk. Unfortunately, this is particularly common among the same age group most susceptible to bullying. “Yes and no questions won’t glean the best information,” said Lauren Keller, Lower and Middle School counselor at Bullis School in Potomac, Md. “Instead, parents should ask questions about relationships and times of day, such as: ‘Who did you sit with at lunch? What did you do during recess and who were you with? Is there anyone you would like to make plans with for this weekend?’”

A new phone app comes to the aid of parents who might find initiating a conversation with their children daunting. It’s called Know Bullying, and it offers conversation prompts, tips for preventing bullying and warning signs that a child might be a victim or a bully.

Local school districts and private schools have anti-bullying policies and plans in place. St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School in Alexandria hosts groups such as Lunch Bunch and Courageous Conversations, which are forums where “students can talk candidly ... about their daily hopes and challenges,” said Linda Stratton, director of communications at the school. “These groups also take leadership in fostering a community of respect.”

Experts also urge parents to contact school counselors, administrators and classroom teachers to report bullying and to obtain more information. “If parents believe their child is a victim, they should consult the school counselor or mental health professional who can work with the child to examine feelings and come up with strategies to help the child cope,” said Garofalo, who also advises parents to be vigilant for signs of depression, anxiety and suicidal ideation.

If any of those danger signs appear, they should immediately contact a mental health professional for assessment and counseling.

If parents find it necessary to contact their child’s school, the approach is important, and experts suggest sticking with specifics. “Labels are often unhealthy in some cases. Parents and other adults would do well to address the behavior in front of them,” said Peter Braverman, founder of the education group ARC Professional Development in Bethesda, Md.

“As a teacher or administrator, if you say, ‘Josh is a bully,’ I can’t do anything about it, but if you say, ‘Every time my son walks into Spanish class, Josh dumps his notebook on the floor,’ then I can address it.”

AVOIDING LABELS also helps when confronting the child who is suspected of bullying. “One of the first things we hear from students is that they shut off when they hear the word ‘bully,’” said Erin O’Malley, dean of student services at Bishop O’Connell High School in Arlington. “And we want the students to listen to us.”

“Most kids don’t want to be bullies,” added Braverman. “Addressing specific actions and behaviors allows the kid to think, ‘I’m a good person and I can modify these behaviors.’ As an administrator, I have no problem calling your parents at work and telling them to come and pick you up. I’ll help you change your behavior in any way I can, but if you do it again, you’re going home.”

Additionally, it is good for adults to focus on all parties involved in bullying. “There are three actors: the bully, the victim and the bystanders,” Braverman continued. “The great irony is the bystanders are the ones who hold all the power.”

Braverman knows this from experience. “The best class I ever graduated in 8th grade was the worst class I had in 6th grade. There were two boys in the class and for years one bullied the other, and one day one it stopped when [the victim] stood up to [the bully]. He got other kids to stand with him while he did it. If a powerful bystander stands next to the victim, the problem would stop immediately.”

Garofalo is about to embark on a research project to study the role of bystanders in bullying situations.

Parents can also turn bullying situations into teaching opportunities, says Best. “Learning to deal with conflict and confronting problems are important life skills. Listen to kids first and then map out a plan of action.”

ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

George Mason University ARTS by George! venue, de Laski Performing Arts Building.

“ARTS by George!” Gala Features Broadway Superstar Bernadette Peters

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Where and When

“ARTS by George!” at George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Gala is Sept. 26, starting at 5 p.m. Events and performances at Center for the Arts and de Laski Performing Arts Building and the “ARTS by George!” tent located next to the performing arts building. Tickets for “ARTS by George!” (includes student showcases, food, beverages, Bernadette Peters gala concert; with champagne and dessert reception onstage) are \$250/person. Call 703-993-4188 or visit www.artsbygeorge.gmu.edu to order tickets and/or inquire about sponsorship opportunities and benefits. Tickets only for the performance by Bernadette Peters in the Concert Hall are \$60-\$100. Visit www.cfa.gmu.edu or call 703-993-2797.

“There is nothing like it anywhere else in the region,” said Rick Davis, dean, George Mason University, College of Visual and Performing Arts describing the upcoming ARTS by George! Gala evening.

With great art, great student performances, and “a headliner performance in the Concert Hall by one of the great musical theater artists of our time, Bernadette Peters, there is nothing like it anywhere else in the region,” added Davis.

The Gala funds scholarships and provides enhanced funding for the entire Great Performances season at Mason; full of eye-opening entertainment and inspiration for audiences.

“ARTS by George! scholarships help Mason students create as they learn,” said Ángel Cabrera, Mason president. “These students flourish at Mason and go on to contribute to their field nationally and internationally.”

This year’s event is co-chaired by Joseph Catalano, vice president of Sandy Spring Bank. Catalano noted that “ARTS by George!” is “a big part of the fabric of Northern Virginia, providing not only an opportunity for people to see the treasure we have in Mason but for our very talented, dedicated students to perform before audiences in a special evening.” He invited first-timers to join the festivities.

The funds raised for scholarships give Mason students opportunities that might not be otherwise available. “The scholarship made my return to school possible for my degree in arts management,” said graduate student Megan Merchant. “I have received practical experiences and an un-



Bernadette Peters

PHOTO BY ANDREW ECCLES

“ARTS by George!” Schedule

- 5 - 7:30 p.m. - Showcases in visual arts, music, dance, theater, computer game design, film and video studies, arts management throughout the de Laski Performing Arts Building.
- 5 - 7:30 p.m. - Creative cuisine and fine wine bars
- 5 - 7:30 p.m. - Silent auction of unique arts-related items and experiences
- 8 p.m. - Concert Hall performance by Bernadette Peters
- 9:45 p.m. - Champagne and dessert reception with Bernadette Peters

derstanding of what leadership in the arts requires,” noted Merchant.

In an interview, multi-Tony Award recipient Bernadette Peters spoke of the importance and value of supporting the arts and students through events such as “ARTS by George!”

“We want to encourage young people to be creative.” She promised “an evening’s journey to be entertained” as she “expresses the emotions in each song; capturing the moment” with a wide range of numbers written by Rodgers and Hammerstein, Stephen Sondheim and many more. And perhaps some unexpected sultry songs that will flood the audience with fond memories.

Peters will be accompanied by members of the renowned U.S. Marine Band for some of her numbers. Peters may also chat about matters beyond music. She is an author of children’s books including the recent “Stella and Charlie: Friends Forever,” a tale about two shelter dogs who become “BFFs.”

ENTERTAINMENT

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. The deadline is the Friday prior to the next paper's publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 17

Magic Tree House Club. 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Read and talk about Tigers at Twilight, number 19 in the series. Having used their magic tree house to travel to India, where they must get a gift to help free the dog Teddy from a spell.

Mother Goose Storytime. 10:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Come enjoy stories, songs and fingerplays and lay a foundation of early literacy skills for your baby. Birth to 23 months with adult.

Springfield Writers' Group. 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Share your work, give and receive feedback in a supportive setting. Adults

FRIDAY/SEPT. 18

Movie Night in the Campground. 7-9 p.m. Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Join in the fun of Movie Night by watching The Goonies at the Campground at Burke Lake Park this fall.

Reinventing Your Home. 1 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn how assistive technology, adaptive devices, easy home modifications, and design features can create an environment for senior homes where everyone is comfortable and safe.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 19

Raise a Glass of Hope. 4-7 p.m. Private residence in Mason Neck. A wine tasting to benefit the Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC). Tickets are \$50/person (\$35 tax deductible) and \$75/couple (\$45 tax deductible).

Fairfax County NAACP Freedom Fund Awards Banquet. 1-5 p.m. Waterford Springfield, 6715 Commerce Street, Springfield. Eric Broyles, co-author of "Encounters with the Police: A Black Man's Guide to Survival" will be the event speaker. There will be book signing and books available for purchase. See the author discussing his book in a TV interview. www.fairfaxnaacp.org.

2015 Bead Challenge Event. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Beads of Challenge(BOC) is an exclusive Beads of Courage "beadraiser" and fundraiser that brings together children who are BOC members, along with their families, by

encouraging them to attend a BOC event in their community and request a dream bead. A dream bead answers the question "if I could have any bead, what would it be?" During the event, participants will see how "act of courage beads" are made and learn more about the artistic process of glass bead-making.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 20

NTRAKScale Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will have a display and N gauge trains running. Tickets: \$2-\$4.

MONDAY/SEPT. 21

Small Wonders. 11 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Stories, songs and finger play. Age 12-23 months.

Hidden Pond Monday: Snakes. 4:30 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Presented by the staff of Hidden Pond Nature Center.

Let's Hear it for the Girls. 7 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. All girls book discussion group. Water Street by Patricia Reilly Giff. Age 9-12 with adult female.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 22

Tai Chi. 10 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Come experience the benefits of Tai Chi led by Dante Gilmer of Still Water Tai Chi Center. Wear comfortable clothes that allow movement. Adult.

Legos in the Library. 4:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Use your imagination and make friends with LEGO bricks free build.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 23

What's in the Sky? 11 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Stories, songs and finger play. Age 3-5 with adult.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/SEPT. 24-26

Children's Book Sale. 6 p.m. Thursday till 2 p.m. on Saturday. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Children's books of all ages will be available to purchase.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 26

Pohick Annual County Fair. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The 70th Annual Country Fair includes games, booths, barbecue, homemade apple butter, historic church tours, living history re-enactors, organ

concerts, live music, pony rides and more. 703-339-6572. <http://www.pohick.org>.

Fighting Chance 8K Run/Walk. 8 a.m. Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Burke. Run to give an orphaned child a fighting chance for a future free from poverty, disease and violence. Register for the 8K run/walk at www.2540.org

Azalea Sale. 1-4 p.m. Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield. The Northern Virginia Chapter, Azalea Society of America (ASA), will be holding their 8th Annual Public Azalea Sale and Auction.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 26-27

Workhouse Fall Arts Festival 2015. Saturday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sunday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Over 100 of the nation's best artists will exhibit their original fine art and crafts. The two-day outdoor festival will include work by artists from across the Mid-Atlantic region, showcasing paintings, photography, ceramics, sculpture, jewelry, handcrafted furniture and much more.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 27 - SATURDAY/OCT. 3

Annual Fall for the Book Festival. George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. A week-long, multiple-venue, regional festival that brings together people of all ages and interests. Featured authors are Tim O'Brien and Diana Gabaldon. www.fallforthebook.org.

MONDAY/SEPT. 28

Animal Decomposers. 4:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn about the hidden insects that can be found in decomposing logs that you dissect yourself with the help of staff from Hidden Pond Nature Center.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 29

Celebrate Calm Workshop. 7-9 p.m. Irving Middle School Barker Hall, 8100 Old Keene Mill, Springfield. Ten ways to stop defiance, disrespect and yelling. Free parent workshop presented by Kirk and Casey Martin.

Meet Author Colin Gunderson. 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Meet Colin Gunderson, former Los Angeles Dodgers staff member and author of "Tommy Lasorda: My Way." Books available for sale and signing.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 30

A is for Apple. 10:30 a.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Fun stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult.

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Sophomore outside hitter Katie Hibner led Lake Braddock with 13 kills during the Bruins' match against Chantilly on Sept. 10.



Lake Braddock senior Faith Briden looks for a kill against two Chantilly blockers.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock Volleyball Falls Short Against Chantilly

Sophomore Hibner leads Bruins with 13 kills.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

After falling behind multiple times in the first set, the Chantilly volleyball team scored five of the final six points to win the opener against Lake Braddock on Sept. 10.

With Chantilly having grabbed momentum, junior Julia Recto did her part to ensure the Chargers remained undefeated.

Chantilly won the first two sets, Recto totaled 21 kills and the Chargers cruised to a 3-1 (25-23, 25-14, 18-25, 25-16) victory at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

BOTH TEAMS entered Thursday's action unbeaten in best-of-five matches. It was Chantilly that emerged with a 4-0 record, thanks in part to the performance of Recto, who put away eight kills in the fourth and final set.

"Julia is one of our go-to players," Chantilly head coach Charles Ezigbo said. "She's one of those quiet people who just does what you tell her all the time. As a player, she's really good, the girls respond to her and [she is] very coachable. I'm really happy to have her."

Lake Braddock fell to 3-1.

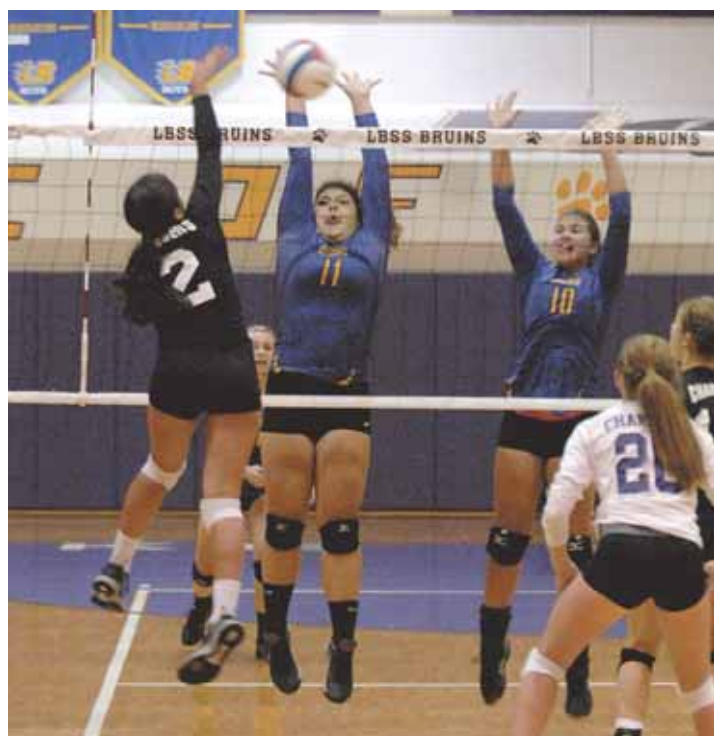
Standing 5 feet 9, Recto is not exceptionally tall, but Ezigbo said her timing and fast arm swing help her to be a dangerous hitter.

"It's more technique than anything," he said.

With Chantilly leading 14-13 in the fourth set, Recto put down three consecutive kills to help the Chargers pull away.

"I really make sure that I get my timing right," said Recto, a third-year varsity player, "and I do a lot of conditioning to make sure that I can out-jump the other blockers and make sure I can get there fast enough and beat them to the net."

Chantilly junior Milleysha Molina finished with seven kills and junior Brynn Feighery



Lake Braddock's Miranda Cortez Verano (11) and Hannah Arthur (10) attempt to block Chantilly's Milleysha Molina.

had four. Sophomores Alexa Carlisle and Katerina Bagatska each had two blocks, and Feighery and Recto each had one. Senior Emily Sciorra had three aces, and Molina, Recto and junior Julia Kim each had one.

"I think we're doing really well," Recto said about Chantilly's 4-0 start. "We still have a lot of work to do but we have a lot of potential to be even better than we were tonight."

Thursday's match might have had a different outcome if Lake Braddock was able to close out the opening set. The Bruins led 22-20, but scored just one of the final six points.

After a Lake Braddock attack error brought Chantilly within one, Bagatska produced a kill and a block to give the Chargers a 23-22 lead. A Chantilly service error tied the score at 23, but the Chargers secured the set with a kill by Feighery and an ace from Molina.

"This game is all about momentum and when that happened I think we started feel-

ing a little bit more within our game," Ezigbo said. "We just weren't playing really well earlier. ... They basically took us out of our game so we had to get back into the game and I think that run kind of gave us our confidence back a little bit."

Lake Braddock head coach Aubrey Eaton said the Bruins' miscues played a significant role in the outcome.

"I don't think Chantilly did anything, I think we did it to ourselves," Eaton said. "Give them all the credit, of course, because they won that set, but I really believe that was on us, that we just basically allowed Chantilly to get back in the match. Maybe it did swing momentum that way, but I felt like we had control and then we let them get control again."

Katie Hibner, a 5-foot-8 sophomore outside hitter, led Lake Braddock with 13 kills, including 10 in the third and fourth sets.

"Katie Hibner was excellent tonight," Eaton said. "She always takes a little while



Chantilly junior Julia Recto tallied 21 kills during the Chargers' 3-1 victory over Lake Braddock on Sept. 10.

"Katie Hibner was excellent tonight. She always takes a little while to warm up to the game and you just have to go through that ... but once she gets going, she really does get going."

— Lake Braddock volleyball coach Aubrey Eaton

to warm up to the game and you just have to go through that ... but once she gets going, she really does get going."

Senior middle blocker Faith Briden had five kills, two blocks, one block assist and two aces. Senior right side Miranda Cortez Verano had five kills, one solo block and one block assist. Junior defensive specialist Danielle Beirman had two aces.

Eaton said senior libero Tara Wulf, and junior setters Grace Bergan and Maddy Sita played well for the Bruins.

Chantilly will travel to face defending 6A North region champion Madison at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 17.

LAKE BRADDOCK will travel to face Fairfax at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 21.

"I think that what we showed today was that we could play with the big girls and I'm looking forward to more of that," Eaton said. "I think we'll be real contenders in our conference and then also in the region, as well."

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Investigation Continues for Dead Body in Fairfax Station

Early on Sept. 9, Fairfax County Police announced through Twitter that officers had responded to the report of a dead body on the 9500 block of Crosspointe Drive.

A 60-year-old dead man was located and an investigation started.

In their statement, police said that while the investigation is continuing, they haven't seen anything suspicious about the incident or have to think there's a public safety threat.

— TIM PETERSON

A dead man was found early in the morning on Crosspointe Drive in Fairfax Station on Sept. 9.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT



BULLETIN BOARD

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 18

Prospective Members Meeting. 7 p.m. GlowGolf, 8430 Old Keene Mill Court, Springfield. All members of the community age 18 or older are invited to attend these events; children are also welcome when accompanied by a parent or guardian. Kiwanis International is a global organization of members dedicated to serving the children of the world. Kiwanis and its family of clubs at all age levels—nearly 600,000 members strong—annually raise more than \$100 million and dedicate more than 18 million volunteer hours to strengthen communities and serve children.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 19

Homicidal Holidays. 2 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Ever feel homicidal at the holidays? Several authors from the multiple award-nominated mystery anthology Chesapeake Crimes: Homicidal

Protest

FROM PAGE 3

to hear, they needed to be listened to," Hyland continued.

Before beginning the forum, commission chairman Michael Hershman called on Use of Force subcommittee chairman Phil Niedzielski-Eichner to review the group's final recommendations to the full commission.

Niedzielski-Eichner explained that the subcommittee's work was "substantially augmented and facilitated" by a June 2015 report from the Police Executive Research Forum that included 71 recommendations for policy changes.

Among its 40 recommendations, the subcommittee called for a more clear and concise use of force policy, the collection and maintenance of "robust demographic data on all detentions and use of force," limiting the use of SWAT "and other advanced tactics," the employment of body cameras to

Holidays will appear on a panel to discuss the craft of writing crime short stories and how they use holidays in their writing.

Saturday Morning Coffee with Del. David Bulova. 8:30-10 a.m. Main Street Bagel, 10268 Main Street, Fairfax. Constituents are invited to talk about issues of interest and to ask questions about legislation affecting our community. The format is casual and no appointment is needed.

EKG Screenings. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Free EKG screenings to area teens at the Recreation and Athletic Complex (RAC). These screenings are a vital and free precaution that can help protect Fairfax's students and athletes.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 20

The 32nd Annual Infant Toddler Family Day Care Provider Appreciation Celebration. 1-3 p.m. PJ Skidoos Restaurant, 9908 Fairfax Blvd., Fairfax. Infant Toddler Family Day Care (ITFDC), a non-profit organization providing child care resource and referral services in Northern Virginia, will celebrate its 32nd anniversary. ITFDC services and supports early child care educators who provide high quality child care throughout Northern Virginia.

record interactions with the public and establishing independent oversight of the police department.

Another recommendation proposed that Mobile Crisis Units for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis be expanded with three additional units.

SPEAKERS at the public forum who addressed the report were generally supportive of its recommendations, with the exception of its additional item that all police officers carry tasers on their person while on duty.

More information and materials from the police practices review commission are available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission.

The next meeting will be held Oct. 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax.

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21 Announcements

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Joseph Belcher, President.
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Complaint For Absolute Divorce of Willie Gray Ward and Qwendolyn Branch Ward Issued at the State Of North Carolina In The General Court Of Justice District Court Division File No. 12CVD1715 10/24/12. Address and Phone number as followed.

21 Announcements

Willie Gray Ward
3009B Buckingham Road NW
Wilson, NC 27896

Main Contact Phone Number 252-373-3341

28 Yard Sales

The Middleridge Community (in Fairfax, VA) will be having multiple yard sales throughout the community on Saturday, Sep 19th, from 9am until 1pm. More info can be found on the MCA website <http://www.middleridgecivicassociation.org/>

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