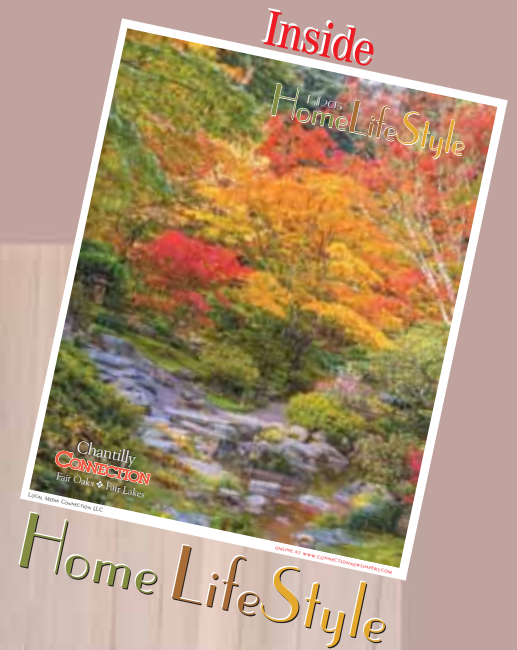
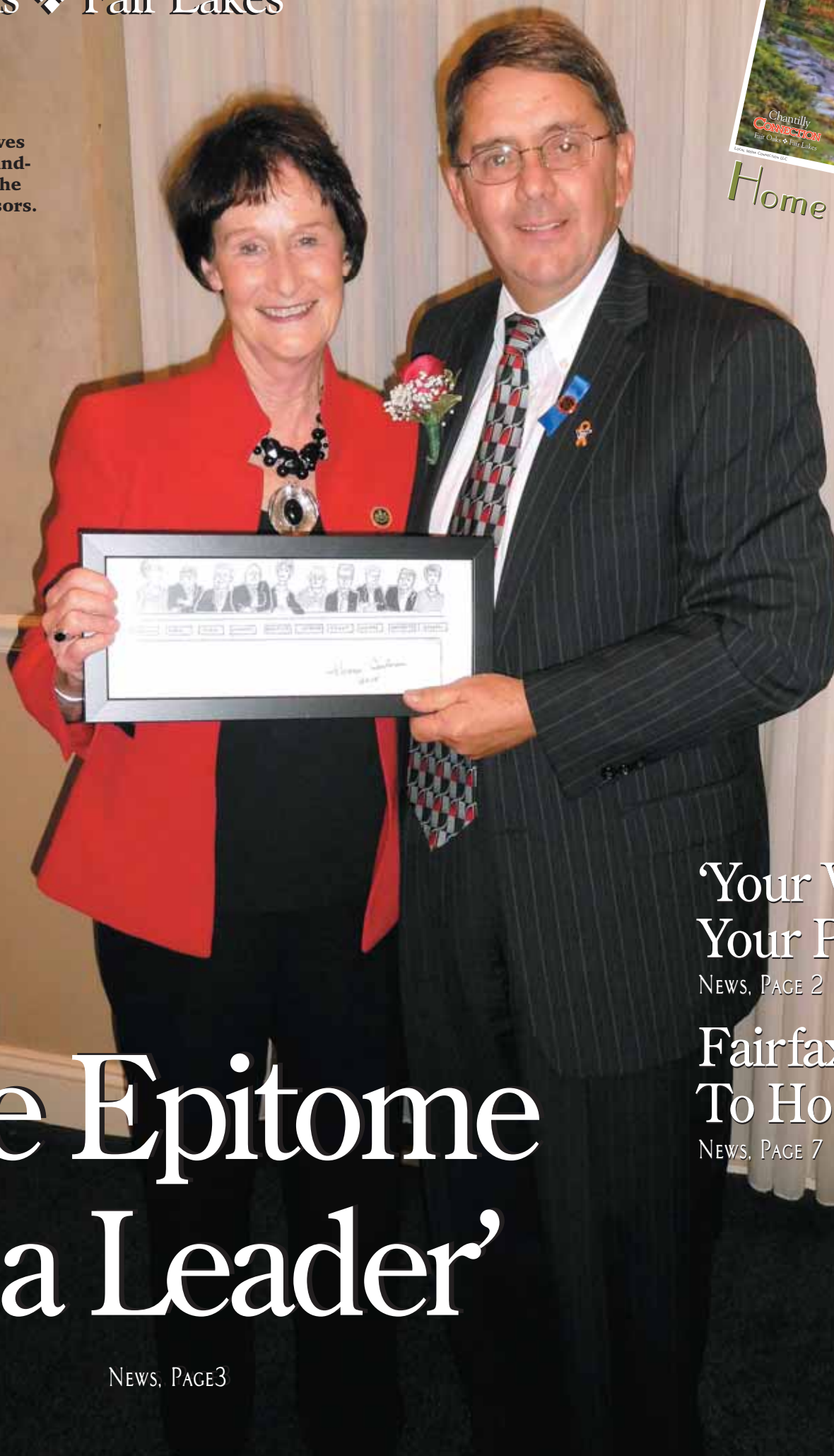


Chantilly CONNECTION

Fair Oaks ♦ Fair Lakes

Sharon Bulova gives
Michael Frey a hand-
drawn sketch of the
Board of Supervisors.



‘Your Vote,
Your Power’

NEWS, PAGE 2

Fairfax NAACP
To Host Rally

NEWS, PAGE 7

‘The Epitome Of a Leader’

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CALENDAR, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 8

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

SEPTEMBER 23-29, 2015

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ROUNDUPS

Candidates on 'Inside Scoop'

The non-partisan Meet and Greet Candidates Forum for certified candidates competing for Clerk of the Court, Commonwealth Attorney, Sheriff, and Director of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District will be broadcast on Inside Scoop from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Sept. 28 on Channel 10. Candidates for each office have been invited to appear jointly in the studio for a session to present their positions and answer questions. Candidates awaiting their turns to appear before the studio audience will be in the adjacent conference room, meeting one-on-one with constituents.

To join the live audience, go to the studio at 2929-S Eskridge Road in the Mosaic District of Fairfax. Viewers at home will be able to e-mail questions during the broadcast to insidescoop@NoVa.org or league@lwv-fairfax.org or by calling 1-571-749-1166. Directions are on the Channel 10 website.

To stream the program, follow this link: Stream our Candidate Forum live now on Inside Scoop! Follow the instructions "To stream the broadcast, click here." Ten minutes before the program starts, touch the Watch Live button on the screen. The streaming will last till the program ends. A videotape of the broadcast will be posted both on the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) website and on YouTube.

This event is one of 13 Meet and Greets sponsored this year by the LWVFA and its co-sponsors, the American Association of University Women of Virginia (AAUW), the Fairfax County Council of PTAs, the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., and the Voice of Vietnamese Americans.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Sept. 24, from 5-8:30 p.m., at the station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. No appointment is necessary. Residents should install the child safety seats so technicians may inspect and adjust them, as needed.

Because of time constraints, only the first 35 vehicles arriving on each date will be inspected. That way, inspectors may have enough time to properly instruct the caregiver on the correct use of the child seat. Call 703-814-7000, ext. 5140, to confirm dates and times.

FCPS Seeking Bus Drivers

The Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) office of transportation services is currently seeking individuals who are interested in becoming school bus drivers. Drivers can earn \$18.63 per hour plus benefits.

On Saturday, Sept. 26, FCPS will showcase a school bus at the Fair Lakes Fall Festival. Prospective drivers will get an up-close look at a bus and speak with school bus trainers and operators to learn more about what the job entails, available hours, training, and FCPS benefits, including health, dental, and vision benefits and the FCPS Savings for Staff program. Drivers are allowed to bring their preschool-aged children on the bus with them. Prospective drivers will be able to apply for a bus driver position at the fair.

Joining the FCPS transportation team comes with paid training and advancement opportunities. Summer hours are available. Retirees, college students, and career-switchers are encouraged to apply.

Applicants must be at least 21 years old; have a good driving record; pass a physical exam, drug screening test, and background check; obtain a commercial drivers license; and complete a five-week training program and commercial drivers license road test.

Additional information is available at www.fcps.edu/fts/tran/opportunities/index.shtml

Learn about Police Department

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

❖ Oct. 2 – Early days of Diversity, 11 a.m. at the Massey Building A Level conference room <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/early-days-of-diversity-tickets-15374156516>

NEWS

'Your Vote, Your Power'

Fairfax County NAACP hosts 70th Freedom Fund Awards.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

J.E.B. Stuart High School seniors Anna Rowan, Cassie Marcotty, Marley Finley, Abby Conde and Lidia Amanuel were bothered by the Confederate legacy of their school. Inspired by a history class with teacher Keith Bropst on the Massive Resistance anti-segregation policy, the girls set out to change Stuart's name, mascot and colors. They suggested a name change to Thurgood Marshall, in honor of U.S. Supreme Court's first African American justice.

The Students for Change, as their group is known, were among several recipients of awards at the 70th Fairfax County NAACP Freedom Fund banquet, held Sept. 19 at the Waterford reception hall in Springfield. There were two president's award winners, including the students, and two community service award winners.

"These are students who saw that a change needed to be made and made that change," said Fairfax County NAACP president Shirley Ginwright. "They didn't worry about the repercussions."

The students have gained support through a petition and are working to connect more with community members in the Falls Church neighborhoods that feed Stuart prior to a Fairfax County School Board vote scheduled for early 2016.

"It's great to be recognized," said Cassie Marcotty. "We've gotten mixed reactions, but overall there's been a supportive, lovely community."

Now, the girls are trying to raise awareness in their school, including sharing a new video they shot the same day as the awards. Over the summer, they also met with members of the Fairfax County NAACP who offered support and guidance.

The students have reached out to School Board members, including Mason District representative Sandy Evans. They met with Evans, "but everyone is staying neutral until after the election," Marcotty said.

Del. Scott Surovell (D-44) received the second president's award in recognition of his work on the revitalization of the Route 1 corridor and keeping the Hybla Valley and Gum Springs communities involved in the process.

In his acceptance speech, Surovell told the story of his grandparents moving to a



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County NAACP president Shirley Ginwright (left) presents the community service award to Valerie (center) and Rubin Cuffee (right), who accepted it on behalf of Celeste Peterson. Peterson and her husband Grafton created the Erin Peterson scholarship Fund in honor of their daughter who died in 2007 at Virginia Tech.

Fairfax County farmhouse from Brooklyn in 1935. As politically active and progressive Jewish people, "They joined the only organization who would take them," Surovell said, "the NAACP."

Surovell said his grandmother told him stories about gaining the right to vote, the poll tax and desegregating schools in Fairfax County. "It's a sound base to guide my actions going forward," he said. "We still have a lot of work to go."

Community Service awards went to Debbie Kilpatrick, president of the Fairfax County Council of PTAs, and Celeste Peterson, who, together with her husband Grafton created the Erin Peterson scholarship Fund in honor of their daughter who died in 2007 at Virginia Tech.

Keynote speaker for the afternoon was Eric Broyles, a Washington, D.C.-based attorney and co-author of the book "Encounters with Police: A Black Man's Guide to Survival." Broyles spoke briefly about the book, explaining how it was co-written with his best friend, who is himself a cop.

But the majority of Broyles' speech focused on the mantra "Your vote, your power; It's your vote or your blood" as a pathway for change. He talked about the importance of African Americans registering to vote and being more engaged with the democratic process.

"Most police officers are honorable, good people," Broyles said, but there can be some bad officers and bad leadership, which is why it's important for more African Americans to "get involved in the electoral process."

At the conclusion of the awards, president Ginwright announced the organization's plan to promote Virginia General Assembly bills for raising the felony robbery charge amount from \$200 to \$850 and having records expunged in certain circumstances.



Debbie Kilpatrick, president of the Fairfax County Council of PTAs, speaks as she accepts the second Fairfax County NAACP community service award.

'The Epitome of a Leader' Michael Frey honored as Sully's longtime supervisor.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Hearfelt accolades, fond memories and good-natured ribbing marked Friday night's Roast and Boast for Supervisor Michael R. Frey (R-Sully). It was held at the International Country Club in Chantilly and put on by the Centreville Immigration Forum.

It enabled the CIF to thank him for his unwavering support of the Centreville Labor Resource Center (CLRC) which enables local immigrants to obtain jobs in a safe environment. It also gave the nearly 200 people attending the bi-partisan event the opportunity to tell Frey, 59, how much they appreciated all he's done during his 24 years as the Sully District's first and only supervisor.

After serving 37 years in Fairfax County government — including six terms in Sully — in January, Frey announced he'd be retiring at the end of this year. So on Sept. 18, a roomful of dignitaries, friends, government officials, church members, fire and police personnel, plus business, civic and youth-sports leaders gathered to honor him.

"Michael, you've done something no one's been able to do for years," said U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11). "You've brought Democrats and Republicans together." Not-

ing how he served with Frey five years on the county Board of Supervisors — Connolly was the former board chairman — Connolly said Frey "brought disparate voices together" there, too.

He also said the preservation of the historic buildings in Centreville's Historic District "wouldn't have happened" without

Frey's efforts. And when two police officers were killed at the Sully District Station in May 2006, said Connolly, "Michael was a calming voice and led the community in nightly vigils. He showed leadership and commitment to the community, and that says something about his character."

Connolly called Frey the "quintessence of

what it means to be a local governor and tend to his community. We're all fortunate he served for 24 years as Sully's supervisor." In recognition, Connolly had Frey's name placed into the Congressional Record, and he presented Frey with the document at Friday's dinner.

Keynote speaker was WAMU/NPR reporter Armando Trull, an expert on Latino communities in the U.S. He spoke about Central American immigrants in the Washington Metropolitan area and, noting that Frey "looks at facts and solutions," he praised the supervisor's support of the CLRC.

Former congressman and Board of Supervisors Chairman Tom Davis was master of ceremonies. He served on the board from 1995-2008 and congratulated Frey on retiring "undefeated and un-indicted."

Another past board chairman, Kate Hanley, commented on how much Frey likes dogs and how "he invited every animal group possible to come to the board." She also

recalled how she became unexpectedly popular with some canines one day after Frey hid dog treats in the pocket of her jacket.

Hanley then listed some of the major projects accomplished during Frey's tenure as Sully's leader. They included construc-

SEE FREY HONORED, PAGE 4



Former U.S. Rep. Tom Davis and Michael Frey shake hands at the ceremony's end, while attendees give Frey a standing ovation.

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

'I'll See You in the Community' Frey expresses appreciation for everyone's help through the years.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Overwhelmed after hearing the lavish praised bestowed on him by the community Friday night for his 24 years of service, Supervisor Michael R. Frey (R-Sully) stepped to the podium to respond.

"Thank you" seems so inadequate for all the kind things you've said — and for just being here," he told the crowd. "It's truly, really humbling. I've loved doing it and I thank you for all your help."

Frey said it's been "a blast" serving with Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) these past few years because he initially began working in Fairfax County government for Herrity's father, former Board of Supervisors Chairman Jack Herrity, while he (Frey) was still a student at American University.

"I fell in love with Fairfax and learned so much from Jack Herrity, Tom Davis and other members of the board," said Frey. "Tom actually tried to hire me, but Jack offered me more money."

So Frey moved from Washington, D.C., to Virginia and transferred from AU to GMU. He got to know Springfield District Supervisor Elaine McConnell and helped her get



Flanking Supervisor Frey are his staff members Kathy Buckley and Mike Coyle.

PHOTO BY
BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

elected. She then offered him a job and, in November 1983, Frey moved to Centreville and bought a house in the London Commons community — where he still lives today. "I would never have dreamed then that I'd have the career that I did," he said. "But I didn't do it alone. I had smart friends and worked with great groups and organizations and good, committed people."

"This is a wonderful place to live and,

thanks to the Herndon Dulles Chamber of Commerce, we now have a business base," continued Frey. "I'm so proud to have seen the community develop. Working with the West Fairfax County Citizens Association [Land-Use Committee] and the Sully District Council [of Citizens Associations], we created a sense of place."

Regarding the Centreville Labor Resource Center, he traced its beginnings back to

Centreville resident Alice Foltz before the Centreville Immigration Forum even had a name. "She was concerned that there were immigrants not relating to the community and that no one was reaching out to them," said Frey. "So she and other groups held meetings and reached out to help them."

Eventually, he said, the CIF tried to solve community and business concerns about immigrant workers standing on the street corners, hoping to get work. "Then when Al Dwoskin volunteered to donate space for it, the labor center was born — and it was the right thing to do," said Frey. "It's now become an integral part of the community and we have many, new, solid and contributing members of the community. And I can't think of a better way to leave office than to have helped make the labor center possible."

Then, addressing everyone in the room, he said, "Thank you for the role you've all played in my life and for the things you've helped me do for the community in the areas of sports, animals and history, as well. Next year, I may turn on channel 16 and look at the Fairfax County budget hearings and laugh — and then turn back to March Madness. But I'm not moving away, and I'll see you in the community."

Frey Honored as Sully's Longtime Supervisor

FROM PAGE 3

tion of the new Centreville and Chantilly regional libraries, Sully District Police Station and Governmental Center, West Centreville Fire Station 38 and the Routes 28/29 Interchange, as well as his support of open space. Centreville also got a dog park and the Cub Run Rec Center under his watch.

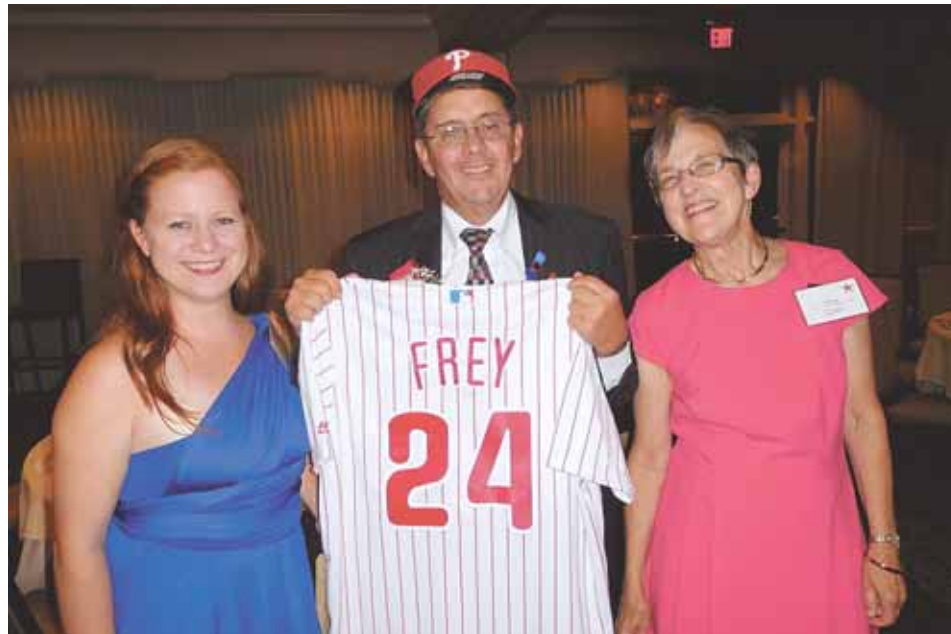
"I have for you a page from an old, board document saying, 'This page left intentionally blank,'" Hanley told Frey. "Michael, your record isn't blank and you'll leave a hole in the Board of Supervisors. Thank you for your service and for always putting your constituents first."

Next, current Board Chairman Sharon Bulova said she'll miss working with Frey. "He's always been a voice of reason on the board," she said. "He's an independent thinker and votes his conscience and for what he believes is right. Mike, you've done a fantastic job as Sully District supervisor."

She then presented him with a sketch she drew of the past two terms of supervisors. Afterward, Davis quipped, "And all those years, I thought you were taking notes."

Also retiring from the board is Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon). Describing Frey as "bright, energetic, non-partisan, fair and a straight shooter," Hyland said, "He's been the common-sense board member. He listens to all the rhetoric and boils it down to a pithy observation and analysis. He's the moral, ethical, bottom-line conscience of the board."

Unable to resist a few puns, Hyland said that, as a supervisor, Frey's reputation has remained "unsullied. And our Animal Shelter wouldn't be the place it is today without Michael's dogged support. It's been truly an honor and



Michael Frey with his Phillies cap and jersey from (from left) labor center Director Molly Maddra-Santiago and CIF President Alice Foltz.

a privilege to serve with you, my friend. Be safe, be healthy and be happy."

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) said he's known Frey 37 years and "there's nobody who knows more about this county than him. And he's responsible for what the Sully District is today." Herrity noted that, as state chairman of the Stadium Authority, Frey helped bring professional baseball back to Virginia. And, he added, "Michael's also the reason the World Police and Fire Games were held in Fairfax County."

Herrity said Frey has a love for public safety, youth sports and public service and has been a longtime friend and mentor to him. Saying "I wouldn't be where I am today without him," Herrity then gave Frey a special,

Springfield District coin.

Capt. Bob Blakley, commander of the Sully District Police Station, said Frey's willingness to listen to everyone. "And after the events of May 2006, Michael stepped forward as a true leader," said Blakley. "His response to that situation will be remembered forever."

"He's someone we can talk to about the issues, and I appreciate his guidance, advice and advocacy for animals," continued Blakley. "On behalf of Chief [Ed] Roessler and the Sully District Station, I present you with a station coin and a pin that the officers wear on their uniforms every day — because you're as much a part of them as anyone."

Also speaking was Al Dwoskin, who owns Centreville Square Shopping Center. He donated one of his storefronts for the worker center and pays for utilities while the CIF runs it. "Michael Frey and Centreville are synonymous, and he's been a friend of development here," said Dwoskin. He also credited Frey's courage and leadership in the face of a hostile crowd



Kate Hanley and Michael Frey share a laugh.

of residents who were initially against the center being here. "He was remarkable — the epitome of what a leader should be," said Dwoskin.

Pleased that Frey will still remain active in the community, he said, "Mike's a special person and it's been a pleasure working with him and seeing what he's done in the Sully District."

Sully School Board representative Kathy Smith, plus School Board members Ilryong Moon and Ted Velkoff also attended. Smith called Frey "the best partner the School Board could have. He cheers on the teams at sports events and connected kids in Chantilly, France with kids at Chantilly High. It's not always easy to be a public servant. Thank you so much for your commitment; you've made Centreville a wonderful place to live."

SYA President Gary Flather said Frey's always been a "huge supporter" of CYA and SYA sports which, together, represent some 30,000 children. He and CYA President Ralph Wills also praised Frey for helping

SEE 'THE EPITOME', PAGE 5



Police Capt. Bob Blakely at the podium.



Pat Herrity (on right) gives Michael Frey a Springfield District pin.



Michael Frey chats with School Board member Kathy Smith.



U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (on left) had Michael Frey's name placed into the Congressional Record.



Tom Davis photobombs a picture of (from left) Gary Flather, Ralph Wills and Michael Frey.

NEWS

'The Epitome of a Leader'

FROM PAGE 4

their organizations form partnerships with others to fund field construction. They then gave him a scrapbook containing photos of every field he had a hand in creating.

Cheryl Repetti, president of the Historic Centreville Society, discussed how Frey enlisted citizen support for historic preservation. She said it led to the expansion of the Centreville Historic District, preservation of the Spindle/Sears House and the establishment of Historic Centreville Park.

And while Frey always acknowledges the citizen groups who've helped, said Repetti, "I know firsthand the Spindle/Sears house wouldn't be here today" if not for his involvement and dedication. "That's only one example of many I could share," she said. "Good leadership is about using power to do good things, and Michael Frey was, and is, a good leader."

Frey's chief of staff, Mike Coyle, spoke of Frey's love of animals. He always brought his dog to work with him and, said Coyle, "His office was an Animal Shelter annex with guinea pigs, a chinchilla and one, large German Shepherd." And, said Coyle, a testament to Frey's leadership style is the fact that many of his staff members have been with him for years, with little turnover.



Michael Frey and Cheryl Repetti.

Calling him an "uncommon public servant," CIF President Alice Foltz presented Frey with several gifts on behalf of her organization and the labor center. They included golf balls and tees, travel brochures and an American flag blanket handmade for his dog, Boomer, by one of the center workers. And knowing Frey's love of the Philadelphia Phillies, they also gave him a Phillies baseball cap and jersey with the number 24 on it for his 24 years as Sully supervisor.

Family Hearing Services Opens

Family Hearing Services held its grand opening on Wednesday, Sept. 16, and is now open for business. Eileen Curtis, president of Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce and Lauri Swift, its director of membership along with other chamber members and local entrepreneurs were present to welcome Family Hearing Services.

Family Hearing Services will be open on Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is located close to Route 50 and Route 28 at 14102 Sullyfield Circle, Suite 350c, Chantilly.

Family Hearing Services is a locally owned and operated comprehensive audiology practice. Services include audiological evaluation, cerumen management, tinnitus evaluation, hearing aid evaluation and hearing aid fitting and repairs. Visit www.familyhearingva.com.



Eileen Curtis, president of Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce, welcomes Pinky Khatri, doctor of audiology, and her husband Pradeep Khatri.

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to chantilly@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.

THROUGH SEPTEMBER

Fairfax Choral Society Youth & Adult Auditions. Fairfax Choral Society will hold auditions and voice checks for youth and adult programs. Locations include Fairfax (adults), Annandale, Herndon, and Centreville (youth). Schedule an audition at 703-642-3277 or office@fairfaxchoralsociety.org.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 24

The Crossings at Chantilly Information Session. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Have your questions answered about senior living options. Free. Visit www.thecrossingsatchantilly.com.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 26

Westfield High School Community Tag Day.

MONDAY/SEPT. 28

Meet the Candidates. 7-9 p.m. at Fairfax County Public Access

Television, 2929 S. Eskridge Road, Fairfax. Meet Virginia state Senate candidate JC "Chap" Petersen and House of Delegates candidates, David Bulova and Sang H. Yi before the upcoming election and ask questions. Free. Email insidescoop@NoVa.org or league@lwv-fairfax.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 3

Town Hall Meeting. 10:30 a.m. at Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Delegate Jim Le Munyon will host a town hall meeting about state public policy issues. Free. Visit www.lemunyon.com for more.

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<http://www.bgcgw.org/fairfax/5th-annual-fore-the-kids-golf-tournament/>

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OPINION

Remembering Reston's Civil Rights Icon

"A local giant is gone from our midst. But his spirit and legacy will remain in Reston and beyond."

BY GERALD E. CONNOLLY
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (D-11)

No one can say Bob Simon didn't lead a full life, but that fact doesn't make his loss any easier. To the end of his 101 years, he was a grand man of extraordinary vision, heart, compassion, humor and charm.

Last year my office embarked on a project to celebrate the Civil Rights Movement by capturing the histories, memories and stories of those who fought for equality. Our goal was to make sure we allowed these brave voices to share their accounts, firsthand, and preserve them for future generations. Today, that archive is available at <http://ethnography.gmu.edu/collections/the-northern-virginia-civil-rights-archive>.

I was fortunate to bring Bob into this project and sit down with him for a few hours to hear his civil rights story. Most of us know Bob as the founder of Reston, but it is his legacy as a civil rights icon and its lasting impact on our community, that I will forever hold in my heart. You see, Bob hated discrimination and bigotry

because he experienced anti-Semitism firsthand as a young man. That experience forged in him a passion – a quiet passion – to build a small corner of the world where equality would be a reality.

Bob's insistence on making Reston the first racially-integrated housing development in Virginia made him a civil rights pioneer. It was not the popular thing to do, and he lost critical investment opportunities because of this decision. But to Bob, it was not a matter of doing the easy thing, or the popular thing. It was about doing the right thing. He had great clarity that to realize his vision of Reston there could be no racial barriers. To fulfill Reston's goals we had to be inclusive and welcoming.

Throughout his long life, Bob's moral compass remained true. He was an environmentalist before the term was invented, a patron of the arts, and passionate advocate for social justice. Northern Virginia owes much of its character and success to Bob. I feel this loss sharply and shall miss his dedication, his laugh and his friendship. A local giant is gone from our midst. But his spirit and legacy will remain in Reston and beyond.



CONNECTION FILE PHOTO

U.S. Rep. Gerald E. Connolly: "Bob's insistence on making Reston the first racially-integrated housing development in Virginia made him a civil rights pioneer."

Move Forward Against Gerrymandering

BY DIANNE BLAIS
AND LOIS PAGE
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF VIRGINIA

Sept. 1 brought yet another reminder of the partisan rancor that too often paralyzes the Virginia General Assembly these days. Despite convening briefly for a special session in mid-August, that body failed to meet the deadline imposed by a federal court for redrawing the boundaries of the state's 3rd Congressional District.

To briefly recap, a three-judge panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ordered the General Assembly to go back to the drawing board after it found that its 2011 Congressional redistricting plan sought to pack as many African-Americans as possible into the district represented by Democratic Rep. Bobby Scott of Richmond. Because African-Americans now make up nearly 20 percent of the state's population, this approach served only to dilute their potential political power in a state that has 10 other Congressional districts.

While the legal and political wrangling continues, the failure of the General Assembly to address its responsibilities will likely leave the map-drawing in the hands of the federal judiciary — a job that the League of Women Voters of Virginia (LWV-VA) suspect the judges are not eager to take on. The LWV-VA believes that these maps are a good place to begin, because they were developed by persons seeking to adhere to the redistricting requirements embedded in the Virginia Constitution, rather than by persons seeking only to amass enough voters of the right political stripe in their districts

to assure their easy re-election.

The judges do have the opportunity to set a very positive example for all future redistricting efforts by using as their starting point the independent, bipartisan redistricting plans that were developed during the last redistricting cycle. A good redistricting plan would respect natural geographic boundaries, the boundaries of local jurisdictions and communities of interest. If redistricting is done in a way that is fair and non-partisan, it will ultimately produce a result that permits democratic processes to flourish in our state and reflects the true political power of minorities and other ethnic groups within our increasingly diverse Commonwealth.

The court also has the opportunity to follow a key recommendation of Governor McAuliffe's bipartisan Integrity Commission. The commission recommended amending the Virginia Constitution so that future redistricting plans would always be drawn by an independent commission, rather than partisan politicians.

It was commendable that then-Governor Bob McDonnell appointed an independent, bipartisan advisory commission, which held hearings around the state before proposing three different congressional redistricting maps. The commission also encouraged the consideration of the winning maps that emerged from a competition among Virginia college teams that year.

Now that the U.S. Supreme Court has upheld the constitutionality of using such commissions to draw the boundaries of legislative districts, we believe the current impasse provides the appeals court with a rare opportunity to demonstrate that this approach can ac-

tually work in the Commonwealth of Virginia. In doing so, the court can strike a blow for fairness, transparency and good government — and take an important step toward promoting a healthier democracy in our very politically polarized state.

The League of Women Voters of Virginia (LWV-VA), along with Leagues across the country continue to press for redistricting reform at the state level. To learn more about redistricting and LWV-VA decades-long efforts to decrease gerrymandering go to <http://www.lwv-va.org/redistrict.html>. A major effort of LWV-VA is to have redistricting reform by 2021 when the next redistricting occurs.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Chamber Urges Congress to Avoid Another Shutdown

To the Editor:

An open letter to the Northern Virginia Congressional Delegation.

On behalf of the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce (Fairfax Chamber), representing nearly 700 member companies with more than 500,000 employees across Northern Virginia, we urge you and your colleagues in Congress to act immediately to find a path forward to

SEE LETTER, PAGE 11

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NEWS

Fairfax NAACP to Host Rally

Seeking 'Justice for Natasha McKenna.'

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County NAACP president Shirley Ginwright announced a rally will be held Sept. 27 to demand justice for Natasha McKenna, a 37-year-old woman with mental illness who died in February after she had been held in the Adult Detention Center.

During a struggle with a team of deputies who attempted to remove her from her cell and transport her to Alexandria police — who had a warrant for her arrest — McKenna was tased four times.

Sheriff Stacey Kincaid recently released a video of the incident, following a report from Commonwealth's Attorney Raymond F. Morrogh that he determined none of the individuals involved had committed any criminal offense.

"Anyone who watched the 48-minute video released last week of Natasha McKenna's last conscious moments cannot help but be horrified," Ginwright said in a statement. "Those who have read the 52-page report from Fairfax County Commonwealth Attorney Raymond Morrogh and his conclusion that it was a 'tragic accident' cannot help but wonder, 'What video was he watching?'"



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Commissioner Shirley Ginwright, chairman, Communities of Trust Committee and president of the Fairfax County chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, responds to protesters for Natasha McKenna at the public forum of the Fairfax County police practices review commission.

Ginwright said she has been in touch with McKenna's family through their lawyer and that the woman's mother is planning to attend the rally, where she'll make her first public statement on the incident.

There will also be speakers from the Virginia and national NAACP groups, American Civil Liberties Union, members of McKenna's family, the family lawyer and social activist groups.

The rally will be held Sunday, Sept. 27, beginning at 2 p.m. on the grounds of the Fairfax County Courthouse, 4140 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, VA 22030.



Seven Trucks Found Unsafe

Officers from the Fairfax County Police Department's Motor Carrier Safety Unit conducted a commercial vehicle safety inspection in the parking lot of the Greenbriar Shopping Center in Chantilly on Tuesday, Sept. 1, from 7-11 a.m. As a result of their efforts, 20 trucks were inspected. 44 violations were noted, 10 traffic summonses were written and seven trucks were taken out of service — meaning taken off the roadway for being unsafe.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FCPD

MILITARY NOTES

Email announcements to centreview@connectionnewspapers.com.

Army Pvt. **Joe'l T. Cruz** has graduated from Basic Combat Training at Fort Benning, Ga. He is a 2013 graduate of Westfield High School.

Air Force Airman **Steven D. Bui** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. The airman graduated in 2009 from Chantilly High School.

Air Force Airman **Timothy L. Hubbard** graduated from basic mili-

tary training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Richard E. Hubbard of Chantilly.

Air Force Airman 1st Class **Timothy L. Jones** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

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Tavon Greene (27), Bryson Malo (20) and the rest of the Westfield defense limited T.C. Williams to 12 yards of offense during Saturday's 21-6 Bulldog victory in Alexandria.



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Westfield running back Taevon Chapman-Greene rushed for 96 yards and two touchdowns against T.C. Williams on Saturday.

Westfield Defense Delivers Victory Against TC

Short-handed Bulldogs win eight days after losing to South County.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

With six starters suspended and the previous week's loss to South County still fresh in his mind, Westfield football coach Kyle Simmons shared with the Bulldogs his desire to win Saturday's matchup with T.C. Williams.

"I told the kids before we left school today, I said it's been kind of a sour taste in my mouth all week after a loss," Simmons said. "I don't know that they got it, but I'm a low-carb eater and I said I sure would like to taste some sweetness in my mouth after a win today."

Later that afternoon, members of the Westfield defense delivered their head coach the football equivalent of a chocolate milkshake.

Westfield held T.C. Williams without a first down in the opening half and limited the Titans to 12 yards of total offense for the game during a 21-6 Bulldogs victory on Sept. 19 in Alexandria.

With temperatures in the 80s for a 1 p.m. kickoff, Westfield built a 21-0 halftime lead while holding T.C. Williams to minus-8 yards of offense, including minus-21 on the ground, in the first two quarters.

The Titans' only touchdown came on defense, when Colson Jenkins intercepted a tipped pass and returned it 99 yards with 7:05 remaining in the fourth quarter.

"I feel the defense played great," said Westfield senior linebacker and Navy commit Jack Clancy. "Obviously, negative yardage [in the first half], no first downs, you can't ask for anything better."

T.C. Williams picked up its initial first down on a 13-yard run by Charles Farmer,

Jr. with less than 8 minutes remaining in the third quarter. The Titans finished with three first downs.

"Defense is lights-out," Simmons said. "They work hard, they prepare, they've got good players over there, [and] we returned a lot of guys with experience. They're doing what we really need them to do right now and what we're expecting of them. They're helping us hold on right now until we can get some guys back."

Westfield scored all of its points in the first half. Senior running back Terrell Monticue gave the Bulldogs a 7-0 lead with a 2-yard touchdown run with 2:25 left in the first quarter.

A sack on third down pushed T.C. Williams back to its own 1-yard line on its ensuing possession, and the Titans attempted

to punt from their own end zone. Westfield linebacker Kevin Petrillo blocked the punt and the Bulldogs took over at the Titans 2-yard line. Two plays later, junior running back Taevon Chapman-Greene punched it in from 2 yards, extending Westfield's lead to 14-0 with 11:15 remaining in the second quarter.

Westfield's next possession ended with a 1-yard touchdown run by Chapman-Greene, who finished with 96 yards on 26 carries. He also caught one pass for 11 yards.

Westfield senior quarterback Tyler Scanlon completed 7 of 16 attempts for 93 yards and was intercepted twice by Colson.

Saturday's win came eight days after Westfield lost at home to South County, 26-19, while missing six suspended starters. Those six players also missed the T.C. Williams game. Simmons said two players will return for this week's game against Stone Bridge, and the other four will return two weeks after that.

"I was really proud the Monday we came back, I think it was Labor Day; everybody knew by that time what was going on and I was proud of the way the coaches and the kids remaining handled that," Simmons said. "We had a good week of practice and did the same this week. We've got some guys getting some experience and some reps that wouldn't normally be"

Westfield (2-1) will host Stone Bridge at 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 25.

"We have our confidence, we're not going to give up," Clancy said. "We're going to keep pushing forward and we're going to hopefully fulfill our season with a state championship."



Westfield quarterback Tyler Scanlon scans the field during Saturday's victory over T.C. Williams.



Westfield linebacker Kevin Petrillo blocks a T.C. Williams punt during Saturday's game.

SPORTS



Centreville running back Julian Garrett carries the ball during Friday's game against Broad Run.

PHOTO BY
WILL PALENSCAR
THE CONNECTION

Centreville Football Falls to Broad Run

The Centreville football team suffered its first loss of the season Friday, falling to Broad Run 56-21 at Centreville High School.

SPORTS BRIEFS The Wildcats (2-1) opened the year with victories over Annandale and Fairfax.

Centreville, which has played in three of the previous four big school state championship games, winning it all in 2013, will

travel to face Tuscarora at 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 25 — the first of three consecutive road games for the Wildcats.

Chantilly Football Suffers First Loss

The Chantilly football team lost to Stone Bridge 42-28 on Friday in Ashburn, dropping its record to 2-1.

The Chargers will open Conference 5 play on the road against Herndon at 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 25.

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CENTRE VIEW

CENTREVILLE DAY

The Week After The Week Before

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



It's not what it was, but it is what it is: not perfect. But neither is it worse. It's a familiar pattern, to be sure, so nothing really has changed, which is a good thing; and the kind of "good thing" which I need to acknowledge, because cancer is a bad thing and one needs to counterbalance that negative with any and all positives.

And for yours truly, many of those good things involve food (you'll note I didn't say revolve). I don't eat much (variety), but I do relish (which I don't eat) the redundancy. As I like to joke: I eat about 10 things – repeatedly, so if circumstances, lack of availability or medication/side effects, prevent me from eating normally – for me, then the consequences are as I described them last week: unpleasant. And believe me, "unpleasant" is all it's cracked up to be. Not that deriving pleasure from food is mature, advisable, good for controlling weight and/or any other prudent course of action, according to health-conscious weight-watchers; nevertheless, for the rest of us down here in the eating trenches, a satisfying meal is hard to beat and even harder to resist. It's not exactly "The Borg," but when food has your name on it – so to speak – resistance might not be futile, but it's certainly near impossible.

Ergo my depression, when the week immediately after chemotherapy, the only thing that's futile is my attempts to find/taste any food that does anything other than disappoint. Add in the associated fatigue, difficulty sleeping and lack of initiative, and the week becomes a total drag, literally and figuratively. Ah, but the next week, this week in fact, the worm turns (no, I've not resorted to drinking Tequila), there's less drag and more coefficient. In effect, but not in actuality, my taste buds are thrown a bone. And once that "bone" begins to taste like something instead of nothing, my mood (but not my clothes) improve immeasurably. (If only the latter could improve as much as the former, how happy my wife would be). Then I have about 10 days of my atypical "foodish" behavior before the side effects from my every-three-week chemotherapy infusion begin to take their toll.

Now the challenge becomes not gorging myself in the interim. I have to be honest, it's difficult. To me, it's akin to coming up for air after being submersed too long under water; those first few breaths after reaching the surface are hardly measured. Quite the opposite, in fact. That's how I feel, and how I struggle to not overindulge during this next week or so. It's almost as if I've been shot out of a cannon; I'm going fast and furious, ravaging and rampaging innocent food victims along my way. I realize it's not any way for a grown man to behave, but this growing man is a cancer survivor who gets extremely hungry after a week of not-eating and even less oral-fixating.

Despite these food issues, this is a more enjoyable week, with an even better, more normal (eating-wise) one to follow leading up to Friday's infusion. And I look forward to it, mindful however of the eating/taste challenges inevitably to occur. It's not exactly how I'd draw it up in the huddle, but as I've said many times before: I'm just happy to still be in the game.

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

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THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

LETTER

FROM PAGE 6

enact legislation to continue funding the federal government beyond Sept. 30, without interruption. For the federal government to shut down would be so harmful to our region it would be, in a word, irresponsible.

A substantial segment of Virginia's economy is tied to the federal government, with federal contractors in the private sector employing a vast number of workers here in our region and throughout the Commonwealth. In addition, Northern Virginia is home to more than 65,000 federal employees and is where more than 110,000 federal employees work. As such, Northern Virginia's diverse business community, the economic engine of the Commonwealth, is tremendously impacted by federal expenditures.

Congress' inability in the past to enact individual appropriations bills, and rather to instead fund the government from continuing resolution to continuing resolution, has caused significant uncertainty and greatly disrupted business planning by federal contractors in the region. Such practices, combined with annual threats of government shutdowns and, in 2013, an actual shutdown, have caused private sector businesses of all sizes throughout Northern Virginia serious economic harm and forced them to lay off or furlough employees.

We are gravely concerned that such economic dislocation will again occur if the federal government shuts down on Oct. 1. Also, as you know, the impact of a shutdown would not be limited to the federal government and federal contractor workers in Virginia. As has been shown in the past, the downstream effects of a shutdown will also be harmful to small businesses in Northern Virginia and across the Commonwealth.

The Chamber recognizes the importance of restraining federal spending and different budget priorities for members of Congress. However with the U.S. economy continuing to underperform, Congress needs to act now to avoid inflicting any more substantial and enduring damage on the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States as a whole. Congress must continue to fund the operations of government in a budget-conscious way, while avoiding any more damaging fiscal showdowns. We need and expect nothing less. Accordingly, we urge you to work with your colleagues and leadership to promptly enact legislation by Oct. 1 to fund the operations of the federal government without interruption.

Jim Corcoran

President & CEO

Fairfax Chamber of Commerce

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor, The Connection
1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314
Call 703-917-6444 or email
chantilly@connectionnewspapers.com

ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

GFWC Western Fairfax County Woman's Club is selling 2015 White House Christmas ornaments. This year's ornament honors 30th President, Calvin Coolidge. The ornament cost \$20. Call 703-378-6216 for more.

"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. Enjoy complimentary samples of local wines. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.

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

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

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

English Conversation Group. Saturdays, 3 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Practice English with a group of students and adults. Free. Call 703-830-2223 for more.

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

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

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

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

Lego Block Party. Every other Tuesday, 3 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Legos will be provided for an afternoon of building. Grades 3-6. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

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

Live After Five. Fridays at 5:30 p.m. at

The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway. Every Friday night a band plays on the patio of the winery. Free to attend. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com for a full schedule.

Sully Historic Site. 3650 Historic Sully Way. Enjoy guided tours of the 1794 home of Northern Virginia's first Congressman, Richard Bland Lee. \$7/adult; \$6/student; \$5/senior and child. Hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 703-437-1794.

Singing. 7:30 p.m. at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Clifton. The Fairfax Jubil-Aires rehearse every Wednesday which includes training by an award-winning director. Visit www.fairfaxjubilaires.org for more.

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

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

FRIDAY/SEPT. 25

Erin Peterson Fund Golf Tournament. Westfields Golf Club, 13940 Balmoral Greens Ave., Clifton. Early registration begins Aug. 10. Register at www.erinpeterfund.org.

Meet Live Raptors. 6:30-8 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. At the Raptor "Stay or Fly" Campfire, a naturalist will introduce some live

raptors and explore their different strategies for surviving winter. Participants will also get to enjoy s'mores around the campfire. Tickets are \$7. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence.

Republican Women of Clifton's Dinner Gala. 7 p.m. at a private residence located at 6150 Sunpatterns Trail, Fairfax Station. Conservative columnist, author and Fox News Contributor, Michelle Malkin will be the keynote speaker for this annual event. General admission is \$60, VIP admission is \$80. Visit www.CliftonGOP.com for more.

SEPT. 26-NOV. 3

Cox Farms Fall Festival. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. (5 p.m. in November) at Cox Family Farms, 15621 Braddock Road, Centreville. The Fall Festival features a new "Imaginature Trail," hayrides, giant slides, rope swings, the Cornundrum Cornfield adventure and farm animals. Tickets are \$5-17. Visit www.coxfarms.com for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT 25-27

Capital Home Show. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Sunday at the Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center Drive, Chantilly. More than 300 companies will showcase products and services in home remodeling, renovation, home decor, and redesign. Experts will be on hand providing seminars and workshops. The "Shedquarters" will feature the latest trends in backyard spaces as created by members of the Interior Design + Staging Association. Tickets are \$10 for adults at the door; \$7 in advance. Groups of 20 or more may

purchase tickets for \$6 each. Tickets are \$3 for children ages 6-12. Child 5 and under are admitted for free. Tickets are good for one day only. Visit www.capitalhomeshow.com for more.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 26

Stretch & Sip. 11 a.m. at the Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway., Centreville. Take an outdoor yoga class, and a glass of wine is included in the price of the class. Tickets are \$13.50-15. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com.

Museum Day at Sully. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. A part of Smithsonian Magazine's 11th annual Museum Day Sully Historic Site will open its doors free of charge to those who download a Museum Day Live ticket. Visit www.smithsonian.com/museumday.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 26-27

ArabFest. 12-8 p.m. at Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. ArabFest is an Arab cultural festival, celebrating the culture through food, life, music, folk dances, and activities for children. Admission is \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Visit www.nvrpa.org for more.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 27

Vino Vinyasa. 12:30 p.m. at at Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. Yoga instructor Georgia Gerstein will lead an hour-long yoga class followed by a catered lunch by chef Steve Andronico, wine, vineyard tours, and more. Tickets are \$60. Visit www.paradisepresswinery.com for more.

FRIDAY/OCT. 2

Annual Fellowship Dinner. 7 p.m. at Westfields Marriott, 14750 Conference Center Drive, Chantilly. The theme of Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' 8th Annual Fellowship Dinner is "Neighbors Helping Neighbors." The dinner is complimentary, but donations will be accepted to aid in WFCM's mission to prevent hunger and homelessness. Reservations are required by Sept. 23. Visit www.wfcma.org for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 3

International Festival. 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at St. Timothy Catholic Church, 13807 Poplar Tree Road, Chantilly. Celebrate Northern Virginia's ethnic and cultural diversity. Free. Visit www.sttimothyfestival.org/.

Northern Virginia Pride Festival. 12-9 p.m. at Bull Run Special Events Center, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. The second annual Northern Virginia Pride Festival with the theme "The Road Ahead." Visit www.novapridefest.org/ or contact 703-506-2893.

SUNDAY/OCT. 4

Railroad Technology Exhibit. 1-4 p.m. at The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Contributions by local inventors since the early days of railroading and "futuristic" concepts, still being used today, will be highlighted. Artifacts from the Museum's collection will also be on display. Museum members and children 4 and under, free; children 5-15, \$2; adults 16 and older, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org for more.

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Diversification Could Help Real Estate Market

Home sales have increased, particularly in Fairfax County, which saw a 22 percent uptick.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Vienna-based realtor Craig Lilly with Long and Foster agreed with how Ken Harney, the moderator for the 2015 Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR) Economic Summit, described the current year's market trends at the gathering earlier this month at the Fairview Park Marriott.

"His assessment of 2015 is on target with what I am experiencing," said Lilly. "So far, so good."

Harney, a nationally-syndicated columnist, categorized 2013 as the "rebound year" when sales and house prices seemed to be back on a roll after years of post-recession doldrums. Then 2014 started out impressively strong as well, but mid-year the market became more "restrained."

"Last Spring things were rocking," said Lilly. "I think that caused some sellers to price too aggressively too quickly in a market that was changing. That certainly had an effect on the slowdown we saw for the rest of the year."

The data for 2015 is on Harney's side. Home sales have increased, particularly in Fairfax County, which saw a 22 percent uptick in sales. Figures just released by Real Estate Business Intelligence report the second-highest level of August sales since 2006, with inventories remaining fairly healthy and time-on-the-market about equal with the same period last year. The August report also showed the average sales price of single-family homes down slightly (.02 percent), while the average price of attached homes and condominiums rose slightly.

But even those positive numbers didn't keep the summit's panellists from making



From left — Jonathan Aberman of TandemNSI, Jill Landsman, NVAR VP of Communications, and summit moderator Ken Harney at the 19th Northern Virginia Association of Realtors Economic Summit.

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION



Dr. Terry Clower, director of George Mason University's Center for Regional Analysis, provided detailed data on area employment figures, income, job sector changes and more during the Economic Summit. There was considerable note taking during his presentation.

presentations that leaned decidedly towards the cautionary, for both short-term real estate transactions, and the future economic

temporary budget by the end of the month. Describing the region as a "company town," and as such, somewhat "vulnerable" to Con-

gressional activity, panellist Dr. Terry Clower, director of George Mason University's Center for Regional Analysis, said he wouldn't discount the possibility of a shutdown, despite the insistence of others that neither political party would tolerate that turn of events. Additional sequestration during a Presidential election year is also possible, he said. With a laughing acknowledgement of his "slight accent — I am from Texas," Clower reminded the audience that for a "good lump of the rest of the country, a government shutdown is not seen as a such a bad thing."

But for a region where almost 40 percent of the economy is directly related to federal wages and salaries, procurement and other federal activity, Clower's analogy of the "company town's" vulnerability seems right on target.

The seemingly endless "Federal Reserve Watch" for interest rate hikes was also discussed by Clower, and by Dr. Lawrence Yun, chief economist with the National Association of Realtors.

"A rate increase is coming, probably sooner rather than later, before the end of the year," predicted Yun, but he also believes that any increase will not have an immediate impact on mortgage rates.

That's an opinion that Weichert Realtors Fair Oaks managing director Lorraine Arora shares. "People will still be buying and selling. I think the current situation continues to make people a bit cautious, as Yun suggests, but I agree that we probably won't see much impact on mortgage rates, at least for awhile," said Arora.

Lilly was more struck by Yun's powerpoints showing homeownership at a 50-year low combined with rental vacancies at a 30-year low and rents at a seven-year high. "There's some things to be thinking about as a Realtor, and really as anyone living and working in this area," he added.

In Yun's research, millennials - who currently represent a large portion of the renters - are actually the most confident about the housing situation, and despite the many obstacles to their entering the market, the majority want to eventually become homeowners. Their achievement of that

SEE MIXED MARKET, NEXT PAGE

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Mixed Outlook for Market

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

goal is crucial, according to Yun, who noted that the net worth of homeowners tends to exceed that of renters.

One positive note on real estate trends by Yun that the Realtor attendees appreciated was his belief that the “trade-up” market would probably see an improvement, with potential buyers having more cash-in-hand from their current homes’ sales with which to make the move. The figures show that many homes that had fallen below their original purchase price have at the least returned to parity, and in many cases even seen a modest increase in value.

Back on the subject of the “company town” dependency, Clower and Yun both argued that diversification of job sectors is critical to the region’s future economic success, requiring greater regional cooperation.

SPEAKING OF ROBOTS, drones, artificial intelligence, virtual reality and the “We Work” models of sharing work, living spaces and resources, Jonathan Aberman, chairman of TandemNSI, focused on technological trends and how they would affect our daily lives. Aberman said that any region that doesn’t prepare for these changes with an emphasis on affordably “educating people on how to think, rather than just how

to do” will be quickly left behind.

Aberman said that more effort is needed to keep the federal dollars spent on technology and related research here at home. “We need to be encouraging our next generation of ‘gazelles,’ what we call our fast-growth companies and entrepreneurs. And we need to consider that these people will be more interested in data-ways than high-ways when considering their work options.”

To Aberman, that includes rethinking the number of “trophy offices” under construction and in the pipeline. He worries about over-building in commercial properties that sit empty for so long that they cease to be Class A buildings. Before they can be occupied, many are already not up to par for the next wave of change, either technologically, or culturally speaking, he said.

Lorraine Arora tends to agree with Aberman’s concerns. “Look at the commercial vacancy rates in Arlington, as just one example,” she said. She was also fascinated by Aberman’s predictions on technology’s influence on society in the very near future.

“It’s a little concerning,” she said. Technology is good, but I hope we don’t get to the point where people just don’t leave their homes.”

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BOWA kitchen renovation in Arlington features under-counter microwave and beverage center.



BOWA basement renovation includes space for arts & crafts, games and media.

Remodeling Design in 2015: It's all about the Family

Adapting your home so it tracks your family's development over the years.

BY JOSHUA BAKER
BOWA

Almost every luxury remodel starts with the same question "How can we improve our family's life at home?" But this answer varies as our families grow, age and evolve. And the best designs consider both current and future needs.

For young families, the focus is almost always child-centric. Kitchens are designed with low drawers for easy access to the most important items, like sippy cups and napkins. Refrigerator drawers installed as beverage stations and below-the-counter microwaves allow the "vertically challenged" to help themselves. Study areas are incorporated into family spaces to allow for parent-child interaction at homework time.

Creative storage solutions and child-friendly finishes, like washable wall paint, chalk-board paint in play areas, and custom ceramic tiles featuring kids' artwork in their bath, all lend to a successful design.

In the teen years, the question asked most often is, "How do I create the house where all the kids and their friends want to hang out?" For this age group, creative basement remodels with game areas are most popular, and perhaps not surprisingly, basement bars are often minimized or omitted completely. As opposed to the closed-off theaters of the past, media viewing rooms are now open and designed as multi-purpose spaces that also facilitate informal gatherings and entertaining. For the ambitious, outdoor features, such as pools, patios and fire pits, can create a neighborhood destination. (Though pools and water features are of-

ten delayed until kids are old enough to be safe around water.)

Teen-friendly designs often include a family foyer, an entrance from the garage with plenty of storage for sports equipment, coats, backpacks, etc. Other potential opportunities for teens include creating small, fun spaces like lofts in bedrooms, themed bedrooms, and making sure that there are plenty of USB charging stations.

For empty nesters, remodeling typically involves "downsizing" within the home by planning to use the space more efficiently. Often, one-level living is designed for convenience and to reduce energy use. Heating and cooling systems are zoned so only the inhabited areas are fully conditioned when in use. Apartment-style washer and dryers are right sized for a couple. Smaller, drawer-style dishwashers are also available. And, perhaps now is the time to discuss repurposing spaces that were previously used as game rooms or homework stations into areas to accommodate hobbies and interests.

Almost all design discussions should at least contemplate the potential for boomerang kids (children coming home after college), in-laws, or elderly family members who might join the home. For those wanting more independence and privacy, in-law suites sometimes include private entrances and even a small kitchenette. Sometimes kids' rooms are moved to the basement to add more privacy.

For all of us as we get older, a house that incorporates the principles of universal design, which allow us to live comfortably and safely in the homes we love, is a critical conversation. Design considerations include creating accessibility-friendly baths, kitchens, entrances and passageways and

perhaps reconfiguring to minimize steps. Often, a strategy that comes up is the consideration of the installation of an elevator to facilitate long-time use.

The design priorities for each remodel are unique to the family, but thinking about all the different phases of family life is critical to long-term success.

Josh Baker is the founder and co-chairman of BOWA, an award-winning design and construction company specializing in luxury renovations, remodels and additions in the greater Washington, D.C. area. BOWA has more than 25 years of experience and has been honored with 170 local and national awards. Visit www.bowa.com or call 703-734-9050.



Renovated home office by BOWA features space for the whole family.



Custom designed cabinetry in this renovated family foyer in Great Falls keeps a busy family organized.