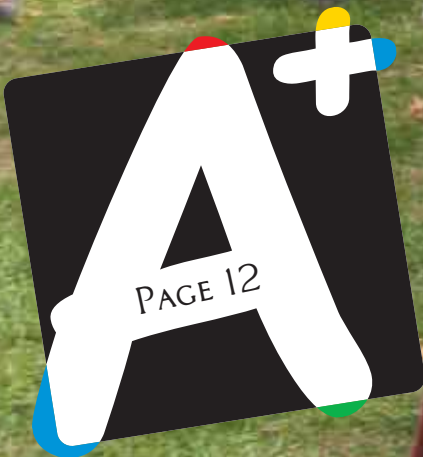


Vienna CROP Hunger Walk Raises \$35,000

NEWS, PAGE 6

The start of the Vienna CROP
Walk last Sunday, Oct. 18 at
the Vienna Town Green.



Meet the Candidates for Supervisors, School Board

NEWS, PAGES 12-15

Local Family Runs to Benefit Life-saving Medical Center

NEWS, PAGE 3

NEWS

Becoming Eagle Scouts at St. Mark

Two Scouts, Tyler Ham and Gunnar Almquist from Troop 1978, received their Eagle Scout rank awards at a Court of Honor held at St. Mark Catholic Church on Tuesday, Oct. 13. The Rank of Eagle Scout is the highest rank in the Boy Scouting Organization. The requirements which must be completed before the 18th birthday include: living with the Scout Spirit based on the Scout Oath and Law; earning of 21 merit badges of which 13 are required; six months service as a Life Scout in a leadership role; an extensive service project for a school, church, or community which the Scout plans, organizes, leads and manages. A Board of Review then checks that all requirements have been met and determine that the boy is of sound character and worthy of the rank of Eagle Scout. Eagle Scouts are expected to set an example for other Scouts and to become the leaders in life that they have demonstrated themselves to be in **Error!**

The Eagle Scout rank is recognized worldwide as representing a man of honor, who is persistent in his endeavors, and can be trusted to fulfill the tasks assigned to him. As a consequence the Eagle Rank opens up many opportunities, scholarships in the military, service academy, in higher education and academia, major professions, the clergy, business and politics.



From left, Tyler Ham, Eagle Scout; Jack LUNDI, Eagle Scout 1938, Eagle Advisor for George Mason District; and Gunnar Almquist, Eagle Scout.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



James R. Cudney II, the Worship Master of Concord Masonic Lodge, presented a gift to Tyler Ham to mark his earning the Eagle Scout status. From left, the Brothers of the Lodge present at the ceremony: Wilson McCarthy, Chis Ham, Thomas Hughes, John Hubbell and Don Park.

WEEK IN VIENNA

Candlelight Tour at the Historic Flint Hill Cemetery in Oakton, Oct. 24

The Flint Hill Cemetery Association is sponsoring a candle and lantern tour of the cemetery on Saturday, Oct. 24.

Participants will gather at the Church of the Brethren, 10025 Courthouse Road, Oakton, starting at 6 p.m. Tour starts at 7 p.m. Local historian Jim Lewis will discuss the history of the cemetery, which dates to the Civil War, and will detail the lives of some of those interred there.

Donation of \$10 per person encouraged to support the ongoing work of the nonprofit Flint Hill Cemetery Association, a 501(c)(13) organization. Refreshments will be served.

Flint Hill Cemetery is located at 2845 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. For information and registration, see the website at www.flinthillcemetery.org. Check website in the event of inclement weather.

How Can Women Bridge Modern and Traditional Cultures?

The Vienna Branch of American Association of University Women (AAUW) will host "How Can Women Bridge Modern and Traditional Cultures?" on Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 7 p.m. at the Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. The informational event will feature two local authors, Urmilla Khanna, "Boundaries of the Wind," and Veronica Li, "Confucius Says." The program is free and open to the public.

"Boundaries of the Wind," Khanna's first full-length book, covers her early years as she struggled to balance traditional values, her quest for a career in medicine, and her own growing family. Li's book, "Confucius Says," is the story of a woman coming to

SEE WEEK, PAGE 7



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PHOTOS COURTESY OF HURLBURT FAMILY

One-year-old Mina Hurlburt of Oakton received life-saving surgery at Children's National Medical Center and her parents now participate in the hospital's annual benefit 5K run, to be held this year on Oct. 31. With Mina is big-sister Zaiya.

Local Family Runs to Benefit Life-saving Medical Center

Steve and Idalia Hurlburt credit Children's National Medical Center with saving their baby daughter's life.

Mina Hurlburt — nicknamed "Beta" before her birth — turned 1-year old on Oct. 20, healthy, lively, and "perfect," as her father Steve refers to her. She was not always healthy or perfect; even before her birth, Mina was diagnosed with a congenital heart defect, Tetralogy of Fallot, and would need open-heart surgery a few months after she was born.

Since her birth, parents Steve and Idalia Hurlburt of Oakton celebrate their baby's

progress by supporting Children's National Health System' — the "Beta Blockers" — fundraise and participate to thank the staff for saving their young daughter's life. The race, initially scheduled for Oct. 3, was postponed to Saturday, Oct. 31. The Hurlburts have a dedicated fundraising page and hope to raise \$10,000 on behalf of Children's Medical Center in Washington.

"It was scary, very scary," said Steve Hurlburt. "I have no idea how we got through the past year. It was really a tough year."



Big-sister Zaiya Hurlburt has a "perfect" little sister, Mina, to play with since Mina's life-saving surgery at Children's National Medical Center.

Pregnancy complications forced the premature delivery of a baby already beset with a medical condition. Six weeks after Mina's early delivery and an emergency surgery at Children's Hospital, the baby went home on her original due-date of Dec. 1. Awaiting her arrival home was big-sister Zaiya, just 4 years old herself.

In January, 2015, the Hurlburt's baby daughter went through open heart surgery to repair her heart. The repairs were successful. After the surgery, Steve Hurlburt said there was an "overwhelming sense of peace," the peace that comes from knowing that Mina's repaired heart was now "normal."

NIH identifies Tetralogy of Fallot as a "rare, complex" heart defect, occurring in

about five out of every 10,000 babies, and, affecting boys and girls equally. Tetralogy of Fallot involves four heart defects. Babies with TOF struggle to breathe and thrive. The Hurlburts credit their daughter's progress to the care she received at Children's Hospital.

The Hurlburts continue to accept donations past the 5K race date of Oct. 31. The Beta Blockers maintain a dedicated page via the Children's Hospital campaign page at <http://childrensnational.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.team&teamID=6125>. To learn more about the 5K race and the services of Children's Hospital, go to <http://childrensnational.org/>.

— DONNA MANZ

Vienna Picture Framer Awarded

Sara Minarik Applegate, owner of Applegate Gallery located in Vienna, has earned the master certified picture framer designation from the Professional Picture Framers Association (PPFA).

Applegate has been framing for 17 years and has owned her own frame shop since June 2004. In the past she has framed an original pencil drawing by Diego Rivera, a civil war era American flag measuring 100" x 55", a pair of Houdini's handcuffs still locked on one side, and miniature Mayan figural sculptures. In 2013, Applegate won first place in the PPFA's annual international framing competition. Applegate emphasizes educating customers and the public at large in the proper care and preservation of their artwork and artifacts.

The MCPF exam is a rigorous test which consists of three parts. The candidate submits four framed articles including a canvas, a print, a textile and an object. These are to be framed to very high preservation standards. The candidate is also given 90 minutes to complete a fifth item at the test site to demonstrate a thorough hands-on knowledge of preservation framing. The final part is a defense of the framing techniques which the candidate used, and how they could be improved.

There are currently fewer than 70 Master Certified Picture Framers in the world.

Applegate Gallery is a member of the Vienna Business Association and supports sports and arts programs within the local schools.



Sara Minarik Applegate of Vienna-based Applegate Gallery gains master certified picture framer designation.

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Portrait by Sharon Lynn Campbell

LONGINES



Del. Marcus Simon (D) with Michael Hershman, chairman of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Commission. Simon headed the Mental Health subcommittee.

Police Commission Calls for Auditor, Civilian Review Board

Unanimous recommendations head to supervisors in wake of John Geer shooting, transparency missteps.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

After six months of meetings, the Ad Hoc commission created by Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova to review police practices has concluded its primary work. Chair of the commission's Independent Oversight and Investigations subcommittee Jack Johnson presented that group's final recommendations to the full commission on Oct. 8.

The subcommittee unanimously favored creating an Independent Police Auditor position that would "report directly to the Board of Supervisors and would provide oversight in cases of police use of force that lead to serious injury or death, including officer involved shootings," Johnson's letter to commission chairman Michael Hershman said.

The report also calls for establishing a seven-member Civilian Review Panel for cases of alleged police misconduct. The panelists are meant to work with the new auditor "as to serious use of force cases so that the panel can provide its views to the Board of Supervisors and the Chief of Police as to policy and practices changes that may be warranted," Johnson said in the letter.

"Oversight provides a meaningful voice or forum for the public and forms a crucial bridge between the public and the police," Johnson continued. "Increased transparency, trust, and communication between the police and the public can lead to greater community cooperation in achieving the ultimate goal of decreased crime and increased public safety."

It was the last full meeting of the ad hoc commission, and in addition to hearing from the indepen-

dent oversight committee, the commission voted unanimously to support the recommendations of all five subcommittees and to forward the recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Recommendations from the Mental Health Subcommittee call for an overhaul of how the criminal justice system responds to people in mental health crisis.

Commission chairman Hershman is scheduled to present the group's recommendations to the Board of Supervisors at its Oct. 20 regular meeting.

"It is Chairman Bulova's intention to move to accept the report and refer it to staff for discussion at the Public Safety Committee scheduled for Oct. 27 at 3 p.m.," said Bulova's chief of staff Clayton Medford.

The Board of Supervisors launched the Fairfax County Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission in response to public concern over the shooting death of John Geer by a Fairfax County police officer. On Aug. 17, 2015, former Fairfax County Police officer Adam Torres was charged with the second-degree murder of Geer, who was shot dead in the doorway to his own home on Aug. 29, 2013 after police were called in a domestic dispute. Torres was fired in July 2015, almost two years later.

The commission has been meeting since March as a full commission and five subcommittees. Areas of focus by committee include Use of Force; Communications; Mental Health; Recruitment, Diversity and Vetting; and Independent Investigations and Oversight.

The final report from the Ad Hoc commission is available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/chairman/pdf/adhoc-final-10.8.15.pdf.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Michael Hershman, chairman of the police commission, with Sharon Bulova at the final meeting of the full commission before recommendations go to the Board of Supervisors on Oct. 20.



Miriam Dupree, 17, of The Potomac School.



Thea Bitar, 13, of The Langley School.



Charlotte Burch, 15, of The Madeira School.

McLean, Vienna Student Youth Leaders in Washington International Horse Show

Miriam Dupree, 17, a student at The Potomac School in McLean is the 2015 Washington International Horse Show Youth Ambassador. In her role, she will serve as the youth spokesperson for the show and chair the WIHS Junior Committee.

She competes in hunter and jumper competition on the East Coast with her two horses, Medrano and Eros.

The 2015 WIHS Junior Committee includes, Jocelyn "Jacey" Albaugh, 15, The Madeira School; Thea Bitar, 13, The Langley School; Charlotte Burch, 15, The Madeira School; Rachel Michael, 16, The Madeira School; Rachel Michael, 16, The Madeira School; Natalie Ralston, 17, Langley High School; Mollie Thomas, 17, The Madeira School; Kendall Ann Youngblood, 14, Cooper Middle School; Jenna Zimmerman, 14, Kilmer Middle School.

The committee spends time with WIHS staff over the summer at the office in Georgetown in Washington, D.C., and during show week at Verizon Center working on youth programs and community-focused educational events, like Barn Night and Kids' Day. They use their creativity and teamwork on a variety of projects from planning the scavenger hunt to shooting photos for social media. They also take on other roles, such as giving tours and escorting media. All are enthusiastic equestrians, who share their knowledge to help educate show visitors about horses and horse sport.

Interested in joining? Applications for 2016 will be available in March. For questions, email info@wihs.org.



Rachel Michael, 16, The Madeira School.



Natalie Ralston, 17, Langley High School.



Mollie Thomas, 17, The Madeira School.



Kendall Ann Youngblood, 14, Cooper Middle School.



Jenna Zimmerman, 14, Kilmer Middle School.



Jocelyn "Jacey" Albaugh, 15, The Madeira School.

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- Received recognition as the Public Official of the Year (2006)

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The crowd gathers for the start of the Vienna CROP Walk last Sunday, Oct. 18 at the Vienna Town Green.



PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Members of the COGS Youth who participated in the Vienna CROP Walk.

Vienna CROP Hunger Walk Raises \$35,000

200 people gather at Vienna Town Green for three-mile walk.

Roughly 200 people participated in the 11th annual Vienna CROP Hunger Walk that helped raise \$35,000 on Sunday, Oct. 18 at the Vienna Town Green. Called CROP — Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty, the participants walked three miles through South Vienna neighborhoods for the cause.

The money raised will help toward fighting poverty and hunger both locally and abroad. Twenty five percent will go to CHO (the Committee for Helping Others), which serves needy residents in Vienna, Oakton, Dunn Loring and Merrifield. Seventy five percent will go worldwide to Church World Service Immigration and Refugee Program, an organization of 37 different denominations, fighting hunger and poverty, doing



Steve Pearson of Vienna cuts the ribbon with his family members: wife Wendy, and sons Thomas, Nathaniel, P.J., and Matthew. On the left is Vienna Mayor Laurie DiRocco.



Town of Vienna Mayor Laurie DiRocco addresses the crowd.

disaster relief and resettlement of refugees.

“We all had transportation getting here to the Vienna Town Green, and chose to walk three miles,” said Betty Rahal, coordinator of the event. “Most people in the world do not have that choice. They have to walk for food, water, and medical help. We’re glad these folks are here to support them in their life journey and to provide funds for their many needs.”

She added, “This year we have about 16 churches and groups involved in the walk. There are people in our local community without jobs, without transportation, and without the help they need for their families.”

George Bergquist, chairman of CHO, said “Last year we collected \$150,000 in donations, equally divided between churches, individuals and local businesses. We spent \$135,000 on emergency services for rent, utilities, and medical bills for people referred to us by Fairfax County social workers for people who live in Vienna, Oakton, Merrifield and Dunn Loring.”

— STEVE HIBBARD



From left: George Bergquist, CHO Chairman; Sue Hamblen, Director of Missions; and Betty Rahal, Coordinator of Vienna CROP Walk.



The Underground Worship Team, the band from Vienna Presbyterian Church, entertains the crowd.

WEEK IN VIENNA

FROM PAGE 2

grips with her heritage. The book is an affecting look at caring for aging parents and a story of the nuances of Chinese culture. The focus of both authors' remarks will be on how women successfully deal with the challenges of bridging modern and traditional cultures. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact: ViennaAAUW@yahoo.com

Washington Jewelry Services Expands in Vienna

Adrian Gotjen, owner of Washington Jewelry Services, has announced the expansion of his company and its relocation to the second floor of 301 Maple Ave. West, Vienna. The Washington Jewelry Services is a full-service jewelry company providing appraisals, consignments, custom designs, jewelry repairs and stone cutting.

Washington Jewelry Services is the only company in Northern Virginia providing

"Commission-Free" consignment services. This will allow clients to receive the full amount from the sale of their jewelry. For more information, visit www.washingtonjewelryservices.com, or call 703-868-5370

Vienna Advisor Receives Wealth Management Award

Matt Felber, financial advisor with Ameriprise Financial in Vienna, has been named a recipient of the 2015 Five Star Wealth Manager award by Five Star Professional. The award goes to less than 7 percent of the wealth managers in the region based on research administered by Five Star Professional, a third party research firm.

To receive the 2015 Five Star Wealth Manager award, a wealth manager must meet 10 objective eligibility and evaluation criteria associated with providing quality services to clients including client retention rates, client assets administered, firm review and favorable regulatory and complaint history.

As a financial advisor with Ameriprise Financial, a financial advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc., Felber focuses on helping his clients plan for their financial goals for a lifetime — through a personal long-term financial planning relationship. Contact Matt Felber at 133 Maple Ave. East, Suite 306, Vienna, or by phone at 703 766-9300 x10.



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OPINION

Election Coverage for an Informed Vote

Find stories, candidate questionnaires, letters and photos.

EDITORIAL

This week and next week are the last two publication dates before Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3. Our pages and website are full of coverage, letters, candidate questionnaires and photos of the campaign trail in an effort to help voters decide to vote and which candidates hold

views closest to their own.

Virtually every state and local office is on the ballot. Find previous coverage and complete coverage on our website www.connectionnewspapers.com, click on Elections. Because many districts in Virginia resemble spiky amoebas, it is sometimes diffi-

cult to include every race that might impact a town or community in the print editions.

Please take the time to vote, it matters. In Virginia, key races that have affected policy have been decided by fractions of one percent. Your vote can make a difference.

We will not be endorsing in any race this year. I'm keeping this short to allow more room for letters to the editor.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Deeper Look at School Spending

To the Editor:

The editorial ("Closer Look at School Spending," The Connection, Oct. 14-20, 2015) cites a draft report from the Virginia Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) to say that Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) reduced spending by 6.5 percent between 2009 and 2014.

It turns out that 2009 was the end of the decade-long housing bubble, during which the real estate tax paid by the typical Fairfax County homeowner increased 100 percent, from \$2,400 to \$4,800.

Between the start of the housing bubble in 2000 and 2016, while FCPS enrollment increased 22 percent, FCPS spending increased 100 percent. Even after adjusting for inflation, FCPS spending increased 38 percent. FCPS staff increased 27 percent.

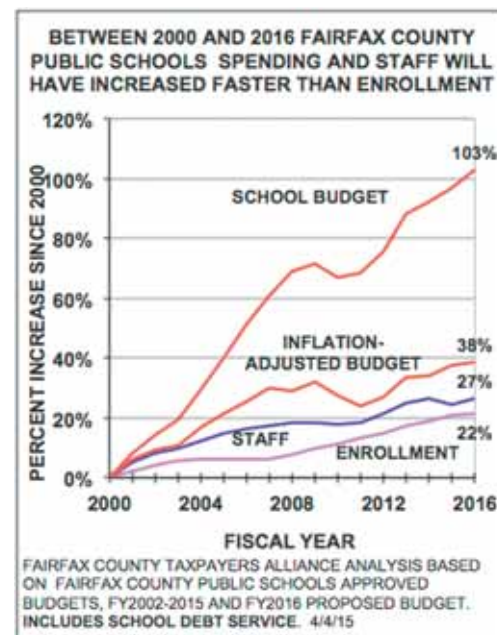
FCPS has claimed that since 2008 its budget was cut by \$500M and 2,000 positions. In fact, its budget increased by \$350M and 1,000 positions.

The JLARC report notes an increase in health insurance spending. It could have included pensions, too. Since 2000, FCPS and Fairfax

County spending for pensions and "Cadillac" health plans increased by \$700M. If that spending had increased at the same rate as enrollment and inflation, the increase would have been \$400M less.

The editorial notes the increasing number of FCPS students living in poverty. However FCPS has failed over the last 30 years to raise minority (Hispanic and African-American) achievement. Children in poverty are not getting educated, and a disproportionate number of them end up in jail. The problem is not the children or their families but the FCPS K-3 curriculum. The minority student achievement gap evident in 12th grade is evident in fourth grade. By fourth grade, children should have mastered reading and arithmetic. FCPS fails in both because it does not use phonics-based reading instruction and has inadequate drill in arithmetic. In addition it bores children with social studies. Virginia, U.S., and world history instruction should begin in Kindergarten instead of waiting until fourth grade. Younger children enjoy learning history.

Higher achievement resulting from better curricula would reduce disciplinary and spe-



cial education costs and save FCPS and the taxpayers tens and perhaps hundreds of millions of dollars.

Arthur Purves

Republican Candidate for Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

We Can Do Better

BY STATE SEN. DAVID MARSDEN (D-37)
DEL. DAVID BULOVA (D-37)

COMMENTARY

Having both been raised here in Northern Virginia, we have seen first-hand how the chronic congestion problems on I-66 have affected our economy and quality of life. Like most people in our area, this is personal. Traffic on I-66 has stolen countless hours that could have been spent with family or at work. That is why we were proud to support the bipartisan transportation package passed by the Virginia General Assembly in 2013 that is now generating billions for infrastructure improvements in our region. However, the way revenue is generated does matter, which is why we feel compelled to express our current opposition to the Virginia Department of Transportation's plan to toll I-66 inside the Beltway.

While legitimate concern has been raised with regard to the cost to commuters, there is a much deeper principal at stake. No one likes the idea of tolls. But like water and sewer ser-

vice, there should at least be a strong link between who pays and the services delivered. The idea of tolling I-66 inside the Beltway without a solid plan for creating new infrastructure that directly benefits the toll payers simply fails to meet this basic test. Likewise, we are concerned that this project violates the concept of first do-no-harm. A recent study by Fairfax County found that while those using parallel roads won't be affected in the direction of rush hour traffic, those who go the opposite direction will see significant increases in traffic. Even if this can be absorbed in the short-term, we have serious doubts about whether this is sustainable in the long-term. The days of one-way rush hour traffic are quickly going the way of the dinosaur as areas like Tysons, Herndon, Chantilly, Reston, and Centreville continue to develop. VDOT's actions mean that those who are using these local roads will see their commutes lengthened. This will include neighbor-

Opposition to I-66 tolls inside the Beltway.

hoods both inside and outside of the Beltway.

We applaud VDOT for coming up with some promising and creative solutions — including the active traffic management system recently implemented outside of the Beltway. But the current plan to toll I-66 inside the Beltway without increased capacity is the wrong way to go. It is a matter of principal.

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any local, 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:

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NEWS

Members of the Fairfax County Police Department, Department of Family Services, Office for Women and Domestic Violence Services, and domestic violence detectives gathered at the Historic Fairfax Courthouse to mark the launch of a new Lethality Assessment Program for victims of domestic violence.

PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION



'They're Not Alone'

New domestic violence victims screening tool launches in Fairfax County.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County is taking a step forward to reduce the deaths among victims of domestic violence.

According to the police department, county domestic violence hotlines receive over 240 calls each month. Of those, victims request 64 family abuse protective orders and 13 families are able to escape to an emergency domestic shelter such as Bethany House of Northern Virginia. Within a month, police make around 160 arrests for domestic violence-related offenses.

On Oct. 1, Fairfax County Police Department Chief Edwin Roessler and Sexual Violence Services director Ina Fernández held a press conference at the Historic Fairfax Courthouse to announce the launch of a new Lethality Assessment Program. The announcement coincided with October being declared Domestic Violence Awareness month.

The model, which originated in Maryland, calls for more collaboration between the police department and domestic violence service providers, as well as a screening tool for officers to more quickly and effectively respond to and refer victims to services.

A Fairfax County Domestic Violence Fatality Team found in 2013 that domestic violence accounted for about half of all murders in the county.

"It opened our eyes to a larger set of lethality," said Fernández. "Now we're moving more proactively to help the victim."

A response and referral tool within the Lethality Assessment Program features an 11-question screening for patrol officers responding to domestic violence calls. The first three questions are:

1. Has he/she ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a weapon?
2. Has he/she threatened to kill you or your children?
3. Do you think he/she might try to kill you?

If the victim answers "Yes" to any of the three, or to four of the next four in the sequence, they're determined to be "high risk" of being seriously injured or killed by their

partner and the officer then initiates a referral process using a domestic violence services hotline-dedicated phone. The victim may choose to be connected with an advocate and additional services such as shelter, or not.

Police and service providers are hoping this will empower more people in abusive situations to ask for help.

"We're concerned about unreported cases, there's a lot of trust-building we need to develop," said Chief Roessler. "We want to help victims self-initiate to take a stand and get away from violence, we want people to know they're not alone."

"It's such a tragedy those victims had not reached out," said Amy Carlini, a spokesperson for the Department of Family Services in Fairfax County. "A lot of times the most dangerous thing for a victim is trying to leave a situation."

All Fairfax County Police patrol officers received training in the Lethality Assessment Program in spring of 2015 and the department began implementing it in July. Since then, the department reported their findings that:

- ❖ Over half of the cases were determined to be high-risk
- ❖ 33 percent of the high-risk cases involved a firearm
- ❖ 64 percent of the cases involved a history of strangulation
- ❖ 55 percent of the cases involved a history of stalking

Fernández said an internal committee comprised of representatives from the police department and victims services, office of the Commonwealth's Attorney, Domestic Violence Action Center, office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, Bethany House of Northern Virginia and other organizations will continually review the program and complete assessments at the three, six, nine and 12-month marks.

"It's in the beginning stages," she said, "but we're hopeful we can continue to re-evaluate it."

For more information on Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/domesticviolence/#Announcements.

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Getting In: The Private Schools Admissions Process

Navigating the application and increasing the chance of getting an acceptance letter.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Although the school year just started, the application process for the 2016-2017 school year is underway at more than 80 local independent schools. From open houses, school tours and applicant interviews to transcripts, essays and teacher recommendations, the process can be arduous, say parents, especially with application fees that can soar higher than \$100 a piece. Making sure a child's abilities and interests are in line with a school's offerings and requirements can narrow down the list. "Parents need to be realistic about their child's strengths and weaknesses and learning style," said Mimi Mulligan, assistant head and director of admission and enrollment management, Norwood School in Potomac, Md. "Have an open and honest conversation with schools during the application process. Schools will tell you whether they can or cannot meet any special needs your child might have."

ADMISSIONS DIRECTORS say that practical considerations of all sorts should help parents whittle down their list of schools. "Do they want a big or small school? How far are they willing to travel each day? Does the school offer academic support if their child needs it? Can they afford they tuition?" asks Mary Herridge, director of enrollment management, The Madeira School in McLean. Getting to know a school's culture and paying attention to the school's mission can also help families choose a school. "School structure, single sex versus co-ed, dress code, religious affiliation, teaching pedagogy and parent involvement all influence school culture," said Mulligan. "Each school has a distinct and intentional mission statement. Sometimes that distinctiveness may be subtle so parents should also look at school mottos, belief or promise statements and portraits of a graduate, too."

An example, says Herridge, is a parent who values being deeply involved in helping a child with their homework. "As a school we value the student doing their own homework, managing their homework and coming to the teacher and self advocating if they need help," she said. "We encourage parental participation, but in high school we wouldn't expect a parent to sit and help with every single aspect of their homework. We can have that conversation early on and decide that this is not a good fit. "If they come to a school with a rigorous academic program, are [parents] going to be OK with their student being really challenged in class and having that reflected on their transcripts?" she continued.

"Parents need to be realistic about their child's strengths and weaknesses and learning style."

— Mimi Mulligan, director of admission and enrollment management, Norwood School, Potomac, Md.

"Nowadays, in school literature and marketing materials, all schools say they're good at certain things and offer certain things like small class sizes and low student teacher ratios, but nothing can replace going and sitting in a classroom and seeing how the teachers teach and how the students react with one another," said Herridge. "Talk to the math teacher. Have a conversation with the coach." If a school boasts hands-on learning, are students engaged in experiments in a science class or are they sitting behind desks and looking at a chalkboard? A tour, Herridge said, is crucial for students and parents. "When they see other students and meet the teacher they'll be able to say, 'Yes this is a good place for me,' or '... we can take this school off our list because it doesn't make sense for our family.'" "Most tours will give you an 'aha' moment that clarifies why independent education is worth the investment," added Benita Cathey, director of admissions, Grace Episcopal School in Alexandria. Patti Culbreth, head of school, Grace Episcopal School, said, "A look at the curriculum to include the 'specials' offered will give you an overview of the opportunities for your child." Delve deeper than a tour organized by the school, however. "Talk to parents [of students] who already attend the school," Mulligan. "If you don't know anyone, ask the admissions office to provide a few families you can contact."

EVEN AFTER A FAMILY has



PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. STEPHEN'S & ST. AGNES SCHOOL

Independent schools such as St. Stephen's & St. Agnes in Alexandria require an extensive application process aimed at familiarizing the applicant and the school with one another.

whittled down their list of potential schools, the road to admission can still be long. Competition can be fierce, with many schools receiving 10 applications for every available slot. Most require not only an application, but test scores, essays, interviews and letters of recommendation, a process that can baffle many parents. In preparation for the interview, admissions officials suggest applicants think about their own interests and attitudes toward academics.

"It's a good idea for a student to reflect on what they love about school, what they like to do outside of the classroom and how they see themselves as part of the school community," said Jon Kunz, director of middle and upper school admission, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria. "We don't approach it as an interview. It's more of a one-on-one conversation. We want them to be themselves and to be comfortable."

Students should use specific and concrete examples to demonstrate passions and talents. "For example, if a student is passionate about science they might say, 'I started this project on my own and created this amazing invention.' That helps us see their passion," said Linda Stratton director of communications, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School. "We're looking for students who are intellectually curious and excited about taking advantage of the opportunities here," Kunz added. "We're looking for students who demonstrate a strong sense of character who are respectful and ... who care about the world around them."

Admissions officials also want to evaluate whether applicants have the potential to meet the school's expectations, and scrutinize scores on tests such as the SSAT (Secondary School Admissions Test) and ISEE (Independent School Entrance Examination) and transcripts, looking for strong and consistent academic achievement. In the face of such a confusing and competitive process, many parents have turned to educational consultants for advice and assistance. "With the workload that school guidance counselors now have, there are a lot of families that are using independent consultants and that number has increased, and it has definitely increased over the last five or 10 years," said Sarah Brachman, manager of

communications, Independent Educational Consultants Association. In fact, Mark Sklarow, the association's chief executive officer, said 5-10 percent of families looking for an independent day school use an independent educational consultant, while 40 percent use one to find a boarding school. Getting to know the child helps educational consultants identify schools that are a good match. "Does the student do better in a hands-on environment or sitting at desk and the teacher writes on a blackboard?" said Leigh Ann Cahill of Independent School Options, an educational consulting firm in Alexandria. "We have so many wonderful schools in the area. We come up with five to seven schools that are the best fit for the family."

AFTER HELPING families decide where to apply, education consultants sit down with families to review test scores, transcripts, teacher evaluations and other application requirements. "It's important to have an open and honest conversation with the parent," said Cahill, a former teacher. She stressed that educational consultants cannot sway admissions decisions. Instead, "we look at the areas of strength. Rarely do you have a child who doesn't have any areas of strength."

She stressed that low test scores or blemishes on an academic transcript don't mean automatic rejection by independent schools. "Maybe the art teacher or science teacher says really great things about the child. We try to build a realistic profile of who the child is as a learner and where they have a spark. If you're a great photographer, let's link up your website if you've been posing photographs or bring your portfolio."

The essays are sometimes a bit daunting for parent and child, she added. "What do we say here? What do they mean when they ask this question? We don't write essays, but talk through ideas with parents and student and help them figure out what the admissions offices are looking for." In the end, everyone's goal is to find the best matches for both the students and the schools. "It's something that the parents don't have any control over," said Cahill. "One thing we really try hard to work with the parent is seeing this as a learning adventure. ... Their child will end up in a school somewhere."



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Candidates for Chairman of the Board of Supervisors

Sharon Bulova (D)

Incumbent
Town of residence: Fairfax
Age: 67

Family: Married. Between my husband and I we have: four adult children and seven grandchildren.

Education: AAS Degree in Business Management from Northern VA Community College, attended business classes, UVA evening program, previously held Real Estate license

Offices held, dates:
Elected Braddock (then called Annandale) District Supervisor in 1987. In February 2009 elected Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Re-elected in 2011.

Occupation and relevant experience: I am a full time Chairman. Prior to elected office I held positions in business.

Community involvement: I came to local government through my work as Civic Association president of Kings Park West. I have been a member of the Annandale Rotary, how serving as an honorary member. I am a founder of Faith Communities in Action and collaborated on two community history projects: A Look Back at Braddock and the Asian American History Project.

Website: <http://sharonbulova.com/>

Email address: sharonbulova@gmail.com

Twitter handle: twitter.com/sharonbulova

Name three favorite endorsements: FEA (Fairfax Education Association), Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, Sierra Club



QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

I love local government and feel strongly about community engagement. In my roles as Braddock Supervisor and now Chairman I have been committed to making sure our community is at the table with local government to participate in resolving issues and addressing our challenges. A major challenge right now is the sluggish recovery we are experiencing from the Great Recession. My goal is to strike the right balance between maintaining taxes that are affordable to our residents while investing what is needed to ensure a world class school system, safe streets and neighborhoods, compassionate human services, a clean environment and quality of life services like libraries and our fantastic park system.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

I have the experience, the commitment and the enthusiasm to serve as Fairfax County's chairman. I believe I have the collaborative skill set needed to lead our Board and our community on an even, positive course.

3. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system. A significant budget gap looms for the next budget cycle, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What are the top county priorities and how will you assure funding and manage the budget? What ideas do you have for increasing revenue? Name two areas/items you would cut or reduce.

Education continues to be my highest priority. It is however, not my only priority. It is critical that we continue to be the safest jurisdiction of our size in the U.S. and that we maintain the quality of life our residents value. Beginning in January our newly elected Board will engage in a multi-year Lines of Business process to examine all of our services in order to identify opportunities for efficiencies and savings. We have invited the School Board to participate with us in this process. I am hopeful that, working together, we will find new ways to economize on resources and improve on the delivery of services to families and students.

4. How many hours a week of outside employment do you anticipate while serving on the Board of Supervisors?

I am a full time Chairman. I work well over 40 hours per week plus countless hours of community and regional activities.

Glenda Gail 'for Rail' Parker (I)

Town of residence:
Alexandria, Fairfax County

Age: 68

Family: Three grown children, four Grand-children

Education: MBA with a certificate in Software Engineering Administration

Offices held, dates:
Elected to Vice- Chair, Independent Greens of Virginia (2007 to Present); elected to COG TPB CAC (2007-2010)

Occupation and relevant experience:
Governmental Budget Analyst, Businesswoman
Community involvement: Fairfax Federation Civic Association Committee, Public Safety Chair (approximately 2009-2010)

Website: www.GailParker.US

Email address: ggailparker@cox.net

Twitter handle: [@ggailparker](https://twitter.com/ggailparker)

Name three favorite endorsements:
Independent Greens of Virginia



QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

The Independent Green Party Green New Deal will get us on the right track. The Green New Deal means double- digit job growth in Eco jobs for the economy. Solar jobs. Wind jobs. Geothermal jobs. Rail jobs. The Green New Deal means Bike share for Fairfax County. Bikes, like rail, increase the value of our homes, businesses, and communities. The Green New Deal will bring Electronic VRE signs for commuters. The Green New Deal means New Tracks, More Trains, More often to More Places. The Green New Deal is solar panels, and geothermal heating and cooling for every public building. Renewable energy makes money for taxpayers.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

My advocacy for Rail and renewable energy. Investments in Green Energy make money. The solar age is here and we want on-board! It is past time to bring the Green Revolution to Fairfax County.

3. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system. A significant budget gap looms for the next budget cycle, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What are the top county priorities and how will you assure funding and manage the budget? What ideas do you have for increasing revenue? Name two areas/items you would cut or reduce.

The infrastructure budget has too many subsidies to big oil, big asphalt, big auto, fossil fuels. Giving a half a trillion dollars in taxpayer subsidies annually worldwide to big oil is fiscal lunacy. Cut and reprioritize the infrastructure budget to invest in free solar energy and geothermal energy. Work harmoniously with the School Board to place money where it will do the most good, fund education costs and teacher salaries rather than administration costs. Build Rail: Rail will grow revenues by growing the economy. Rail increases the value of our homes, businesses and communities. Every \$1 invested in Rail returns \$20 to the community!

4. How many hours a week of outside employment do you anticipate while serving on the Board of Supervisors?

The new salary voted by the Board will allow me to devote full time to BOS duties.

Arthur Purves (R)

Town of residence: Vienna
Age: 66

Family: Married 42 years, two children, seven grandchildren

Education: BA, MS, MBA University of Pennsylvania

Offices held, dates: N/A

Occupation and relevant experience: Computer Programmer

Community involvement:

-President, Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance since 1996
-Member, Fairfax County Meals Tax Task Force (2014)
-Member, Hunter Mill Citizen Budget Committee (2013)
-Treasurer, Fairfax Committee 100
-Member Fairfax Branch, NAACP
-Past member of three Fairfax County Public Schools advisory committees
-Scoutmaster

Website: votepurves.org

Email address: Arthur@votepurves.org

Twitter handle: [agpurves](https://twitter.com/agpurves)

Name three favorite endorsements: Del. Tim Hugo and Loudoun Supervisor Eugene Delgaudio



QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

Only 59% of Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) seniors are prepared for college, and the percent prepared varies from 75% for Langley High School to 20% for Lee and Mt. Vernon High Schools. In a quarter of a century FCPS has made no progress in closing the minority student achievement gap: only 35% of Hispanic and 20% of African-American FCPS seniors are prepared for college. Even if you don't go to college, being prepared for college makes you better qualified for a good job. The solution is better instruction in the basics; not more money. As county chairman I would hold the school board accountable for achievement when the school board makes its annual \$2B budget request.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

The incumbent chairman:

For 16 years has raised real estate taxes three times faster than household income, which is unaffordable, especially for seniors;

Does not hold the schools accountable for achievement;

Is indifferent to the disproportionate incarceration of Hispanics and African-Americans in the county jail;

Sat silent for 17 months while the police department refused to disclose the details of the shooting of an unarmed civilian by a police officer on August 29, 2013;

Neglected maintenance of the now unsafe and unreliable Metrorail system to build the Silver Line;

Since 2000 cut staffing of libraries and parks by 112 positions while adding 145 clerks to handle public assistance applications, for a total of 354 public assistance positions.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics job growth in Fairfax County was close to last of the 342 largest U.S. counties last year. I will grow jobs by cutting taxes; using the chairman's pulpit to advocate for higher achievement, including Hispanic and African-American achievement, through better curricula; being transparent; and making Metrorail repairs my highest transportation priority.

3. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system. A significant budget gap looms for the next budget cycle, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What are the top county priorities and how will you assure funding and manage the budget? What ideas do you have for increasing revenue? Name two areas/items you would cut or reduce.

For FY2017 the county and schools want to increase spending by \$240M while revenues are projected to increase only \$20M without a real estate tax hike. This predicament demonstrates the need for new leadership. Seventy percent of the spending increase is for raises (3.5% for county and 4% for school employees), Cadillac health plans, and pensions with retirement at 55. My opponent would raise real estate taxes 9%, pushing the typical homeowner's real estate tax from \$5,700 to \$6,200. She raised real estate taxes 8% last year. For 16 years the supervisors have been increasing taxes three times faster than household income. Since 2000, while school enrollment has increased 22%, the school budget increased 100%. County and school spending for health and pension benefits increased \$700M since 2000; that is \$400M more than needed to keep up with inflation, population, and enrollment. For 16 years the average annual raise for 30,000 county and school employees has been 4%. To pay for these raises and benefits, the supervisors have been increasing real estate taxes three times faster than household income. The revenue from the tax hikes was not enough to pay for the raises and benefits, so park and library staffing was cut and class sizes increased. And now teachers and police cannot afford the \$6,000 real estate taxes that were increased to pay for their own raises and benefits. To make Fairfax County affordable again, we need to cut taxes by reducing benefits and giving smaller raises, as is the case with private-sector employees.

4. How many hours a week of outside employment do you anticipate while serving on the Board of Supervisors?

I can retire and be a full-time chairman.

School Board Candidates for Hunter Mill District

Pat Hynes

Incumbent
Town of residence: Reston
Age: 56
Family: Two children
Education: B.A. in Economics from the University of Virginia; J.D. from Vanderbilt University
Offices held, dates: Hunter Mill representative on the Fairfax County School Board, 2012 to now; current chair of the Fairfax County School Board
Occupation and relevant experience: teacher; former lawyer
Community involvement: president, F.B. Meekins Cooperative Preschool in Vienna; president, Louise Archer PTA; president, Malcolm Windover Heights Civic Association; founding member, Vienna Teen Center Foundation
Website: www.hynesforschoolboard.com
Email address: hynesforschoolboard@gmail.com
Twitter handle: @VotePat
Name three favorite endorsements: Fairfax County Federation of Teachers; Fairfax Education Association; State Senators and Delegates who represent Reston and Vienna

QUESTIONS:
1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

As an educator, my goal is that we meet students' needs every day in every classroom. That means closing achievement gaps and offering challenging, child-centered instruction to all. We must recruit and retain a well-trained, respected and competitively compensated workforce. We must replace the high-stakes test score chase with skills-based teaching and assessment that will prepare our students to communicate well, collaborate, and solve problems creatively.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

I was a classroom teacher in FCPS from 2003 to 2012, which gives me unique insights and strong connections to the classroom. My legal training is also an important foundation, as school boards work within many legal constraints. As a PTA and community leader for two decades in Vienna and Reston, I built broad networks and developed a good understanding of the community's goals and values. Finally, I have served on the FCPS school board for the last four years, this year as the chair of the board. This board has been active and productive. I hope to continue that good work with my colleagues and use my experience to tackle the challenges ahead.



3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

FCPS must continue to provide resources to schools based on the needs of their students. But the school board should also be a more active voice in land use planning, to advocate for the kind of diverse communities that help schools thrive. With families from 200 countries and all socioeconomic backgrounds, our diversity is our greatest strength. As a county, we must manage that so that all children benefit.

4. How will you address the achievement gap?

The FCPS Strategic Plan sets an appropriately bold goal: to close all achievement gaps. The critical next steps are to set measurable objectives and implement more equitable practices. We must be more intentional about expanding pre-K, integrating classrooms, and having high expectations for all. We should post an equity scorecard, prominently on the FCPS website, with updated achievement results broken down by socioeconomic, language and learning disability subsets. That transparency will help the community hold us accountable for real progress.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system with a significant budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What steps would you take to manage the gap and to fund the needs of the school system? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

FCPS is spending \$1,000 less per student, in real dollars, than we were seven years ago. Those cuts have come from teacher pay freezes, class size increases and significant cuts in central office support. It is time to reinvest. I will not vote for a budget that freezes teacher pay or raises elementary class size. If we find that revenues do not meet needs for 2017, my priorities will be guided by the broad community input we have already begun to gather. Longer term, it is essential that the school board and county board budget more strategically and more collaboratively, and that we modernize and diversify the revenue base.

6. What value does FCPS add for taxpayers who do not have children in the schools?

A world class school system like FCPS draws businesses and families to the county from all around the country and the world. Good jobs and higher property values follow. Great schools are the most powerful public investment we make.

Mark Wilkinson

Town of residence: Herndon
Family: I've been married for twenty years. Our older daughter is a graduate of the University of Virginia and our younger daughter is a 2015 graduate of Westfield High School.
Education: Graduated from the United States Air Force Academy
Occupation and relevant experience: Currently I'm a technical program manager in Chantilly. Prior to this, I worked in federal service for over 35 years. Volunteer with the Diocese of Arlington as a Camp Contractor working with teens in providing construction projects for underserved Virginia residents. Habitat for Humanity and the St. Vincent de Paul Society.
Website: markwilkinsonforschoolboard.com
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QUESTIONS:
1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

As a dad, taxpayer, and citizen, I believe that the children of Fairfax County must come first with any decisions made by the school establishment, particularly the School Board. It is my goal to be an independent and non-partisan advocate for children, teachers, and the taxpayers of Fairfax County. My plan is simple – reduce class size, increase teacher compensation, and close the achievement gap – which will improve the lives of ALL FCPS children.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is the 10th largest school system in the United States, and it requires strong leadership and people who know how to manage government programs, and who understand policy, budgets, strategy, and contracts. These are the key activities of a school board member. I have 35 years as a public servant doing just that — managing budgets 5 times the size of FCPS's budget. I will demand accountability and transparency, and ask the hard questions that are necessary to ensure that FCPS does not lose its status as a world-class school system.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

I would start with the Office of Program Evaluation — it is their mission to determine the effectiveness of FCPS programs. Why is it that the achievement gap continues to widen, and yet we continue to pour millions of dollars (above and beyond the federal and state requirements) into programs designed to help our neediest students? We need a fresh look at why they are not working. Instead of asking parents what to save, we are

asked what to cut — year after year. We need strong leadership that will SAVE the most important programs — those that have direct impact the classroom. In particular, our neediest students will benefit from additional funding for programs, like Project Momentum. Partnering with the community business on building maintenance, food services, custodial services have a potential for better value from competition and lower rates.

4. Address the achievement gap?

In addition to re-evaluating the programs designed to help our neediest students as described above, I believe that we need to offer competitive compensation for our teachers. The value of our public school system comes from great teachers. Talented teachers help motivate all kids to do their very best. Where is the funding going? Why is it not working? A teacher who recently quit from a Title 1 school said that he "gives up." He said he just could not connect and have educational success with his students. Someone needs to figure out why, and it should not be solely hoisted upon our overstrained teachers.

5. What steps would you take to manage the budget gap and to fund the needs of the school system? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

We need a scalpel to identify inefficiencies within programs, rather than proposing to axe programs like arts, music and sports. Such approaches only result in painful reductions in overall services provided to our school children. I propose that before we look at cutting programs, we should examine expenditures and their effectiveness.

We need fresh ideas to eliminate redundant, inefficient, and/or ineffective programs currently in the system. An online checkbook can improve transparency and accountability by showing the taxpayers where the money is going. A line item review, zero based budgeting, and tasking the auditor general to conduct performance-based audits will drive more dollars back to the teachers and into the classroom.

6. What value does FCPS add for taxpayers who do not have children in the schools?

Fairfax County schools drive business, which increases home values. Fairfax County home prices are the highest in the region. The quality of schools in our community is a main contributor to home values. Importantly, about 53% of personal property taxes goes to the FCPS. This demonstrates the commitment that Fairfax County residents have to the education of their own children and to the common good.

Editor's note: These responses have been edited for length; the full version is available at www.connectionnewspapers.com.

Candidate for Hunter Mill District Supervisor

Catherine M. Hudgins (D)

Incumbent, unopposed.
Town of residence: Reston
Age: 71
Family: Two adult sons
Education: Bachelor of Science in Mathematics Education (University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff) and Masters of Public Administration (George Mason University)
Offices held, dates: Elected four terms as Hunter Mill District Supervisor—: 1999—present
Occupation and relevant experience: Mathematics teacher and technology professional
Community involvement: PTA
Website: cathyhudgins2015.com
Email address: cathy@cathyhudgins.com
Name three favorite endorsements: IAFF



Local 2068, Northern Virginia, Realtors PAC, SEIU Virginia 512

QUESTIONS:
1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

I continue to see two Fairfax Counties: one exceptional place to live for some; the other where many are unable to take advantage of all of the assets available in the community. One reason for this is the struggle to ensure adequate opportunity for affordable housing. The lack of affordable housing affects the homeless and under-employed, seniors, and those newly entering the workforce. Fund the Initiative to Prevent and End Homeless and increase affordable housing stock in 60% - 100% of AMI.

2. What distinguishes you from your

opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

While unopposed, I would respond to any opponent that my years of experience on the Board and in the community equip me best to address the issues in the next four years. I understand the issues, have worked effectively to provide the services and support policies that enhance quality the lives of Hunter Mill District and Fairfax County residents.

3. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system. A significant budget gap looms for the next budget cycle, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What are the top county priorities and how will you assure funding and manage the budget? What ideas do you have for increasing revenue? Name two areas/items you would cut or reduce.

Top priority must be for the School and County

Boards to set priorities to ensure the best outcomes for all children and families. Nearly 65 percent of General Fund goes to services to children and families: fifty--three percent to FCPS and eleven percent in Health and Welfare (H&H). While it may not be possible to directly combine these dollars for direct services, better coordination of service to children and families is necessary. Begin by addressing achievement gap, disparities and implementation pre-K, all related to better outcomes for FCPS and H&H. Success in these areas alone can make not only budget impact, but also better outcomes for youth, families and the community and warrant necessary increase to succeed and stay on target.

4. How many hours a week of outside employment do you anticipate while serving on the Board of Supervisors?

I have been retired from outside employment since elected in 1999 and serve fulltime.

ELECTION '15

School Board Candidates At-Large

Omar Fateh

Town of residence: Annandale
Age: 25

Education: MPA from George Mason University

Occupation and relevant experience: Former Campaign Finance Analyst at FEC, Former Academic Advisor/Assistant Instructor at Northern Virginia Community College

Community involvement: Co-organize youth basketball league, Assist in developing tutoring programs at local mosques

Website: www.fatehforschoolboard.com

Email address: fateh4sb@gmail.com

Twitter handle: Fateh4sb

Name favorite endorsements: Fairfax Education Association

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

The achievement gap. Our minority and economically disadvantaged students continually score 20-30 points below their peers on standardized tests. The dropout rate among economically disadvantaged students has nearly doubled in the last four years. First, standardized test scores should not be the main indicator of student progress or potential. Second, rather than having teachers teach to the tests, it is important for the School Board to give teachers the freedom to identify their students' strengths and interests. Finally, we must get parents involved, and to place responsibility on the students to succeed as well.

2. Why should voters choose you?

The qualities that separate me most from the other candidates for School Board include the perspective I bring as a member of some of the County's many underrepresented communities (including the Somali and Muslim communities), as a former Fairfax County Public Schools student, and also as a former advisor to countless area students at Northern Virginia Community College.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

Many parents in Fairfax County must work multiple jobs, and are not able to provide the full support needed by their children, such as attending school meetings and checking their children's work. It is critical for us to get parents as involved as we can, in part by meeting them on their terms and as much as possible. I will ensure that I am easily accessible to the entire community. Having worked with my local mosque to develop a tutoring program for our County's youth, many people within our community are willing to donate their time and efforts to help both academically, and in developing them as professionals.

Increased funding is necessary to meet the needs of an ever-expanding student body.

4. How to address the achievement gap?

To begin addressing the issue in earnest, the School Board first needs compassionate representatives willing to understand and serve the needs of the full range of County students with new energy and ability.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the school system with a budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What steps would you take to manage the gap? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

Board members must also better engage their fellow elected officials to seek additional funding. The majority of the Board of Supervisors wants to fully fund our schools, but the dollars simply are not coming in from Richmond. We need to work with state representatives to bring back our tax dollars. We must work first and foremost to provide additional funding. We must get both Boards on the same page, and put education—in other words, our children—first in Fairfax County.



Jeanette Hough

Town of residence: Fairfax
Age: 36

Family: Husband, Charlie (Oakton graduate '97); Ryan (4th grade), Keri (2nd grade), Ethan (Kindergarten), Vader (rescue puppy)

Education: B.A. in Economics; University of Virginia, Masters in Physical Therapy; University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Occupation and relevant experience: Physical Therapist (Senior Therapist – mentor and leader role)

Community involvement: Volunteer in children's elementary school, local homeless shelter, church, and with meals and holiday gifts through Our Daily Bread, volunteer with kid's sports and activities, Manna Meal coordinator, PTA member

Website: jeanetteforschoolboard.com

Email address: Jeanetteforschoolboard@gmail.com

Name three favorite endorsements: Class Size Counts, Former Congressman Tom Davis, Congresswoman Barbara Comstock

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

Responsibility to the community defines my call to serve. That responsibility comes with engaging the community members, being fiscally responsible and setting clear priorities. Authentic engagement includes holding office hours and citizen town halls throughout the year, not just showing up to ribbon cuttings and planned events. Our community deserves more transparency with FCPS' \$2.7 billion operating fund. I will prioritize reducing large class sizes, not with one-time fixes the way my opponents have, but with long-term planning. I will prioritize competitive teacher salaries. Our teachers' salaries have fallen behind compared to surrounding counties. Instead of making it a real priority, the Board raised their own salary by 60%.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponents, why should voters choose you?

My opponents either do not have children or have not had children in FCPS for a long time. As the mother of children in graduating classes of 2023, 2025, 2027, I bring a unique insight into our school system. I bring an Economics degree when we face a shortfall of over \$70 million for FY17 due to failing to enact budgeting best practices.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

Part of the growing divide comes from parallel decisions made by the Board of Supervisors. It is imperative to have a new School Board that can build trust with the Board of Supervisors. With a better relationship, the two Boards can work together for our community and all of our children.

4. How to address the achievement gap?

Under current leadership, the achievement gap continues to be substantial. We cannot keep electing the same people and expect a different result. We need to provide a rigorous curriculum to all students and allocate resources for objective gains. We need to work with the community to provide wraparound services and empower parents to help their children at home.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the school system with a budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

FCPS' projected shortfall is 2.5% of the operating budget. The current School Board took five years to hire an auditor general and has refused to do a line of business review. My top priority is to ensure clear metrics and objectivity so we base cuts on educational impact and effectiveness, not on bias and popularity. We also need to look at FCPS' contract procurement practices. I will bring leadership to the Board so we cut waste and inefficiency, not proven programs.



Manar Jean-Jacques

Town of residence: Fairfax
Age: 31

Family: My family is originally from Egypt and my wonderful husband, Thierry, is from Haiti. We have been married for 7 years and we have two children, Thomas is 2 and Mary is 8 months.

Education: I hold a B.A. in Sociology from George Mason University

Occupation and relevant experience: I work at the Refugee Processing Center as a contractor for the Department of State. Since starting there 8 years ago, I have been known as a solution-driven, out-of-the box thinker with creative solutions. In addition to my analytical skills, I bring a parent's perspective to the board. As a mom of two future FCPS students, my priority is ensuring the best education for children in FCPS.

Community involvement: I participate in local volunteer opportunities though my church, I spent time on the ground in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina assisting in disaster relief efforts and I spent time helping at an orphanage in my husband's hometown of Port-au-Prince, Haiti after the devastating earthquake in 2010.

Website: www.ManarForFairfax.com

Email address: Manar@manarforfairfax.com

Twitter handle: @Manar4FFX

Name favorite endorsements: I have am officially endorsed by the GOP and Arab Community Radio.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

As a first generation American, I cherish the importance of a government that listens to its people. I feel called to serve in my local government because the current school board is unresponsive to its constituents. I plan on involving the community in all board-related matters through regular town halls, PTA meetings, setting special time aside to meet with teachers and making myself readily available to the residents of Fairfax County via office hours, email and phone.

2. Why should voters choose you?

The incumbent at-large candidates either have children that have already graduated from FCPS or do not have children at all, the only way they take their decisions home with them is in their pockets. As a mom of two future FCPS students, my priority is ensuring the highest quality education for FCPS students so that our children have the best opportunities to thrive and be successful. I understand the frustration parents have with class size disparity, the need for more rigor in the classroom and the need for parents of this next generation to be respected and recognized as the primary educators of their children ... that is a perspective needed on the school board and it is one that the incumbents cannot offer.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

It is important to keep rigor, class size disparity and staffing formulas at the heart of the conversation with the community. Working together, we can create solutions that address our county's challenges and needs. It is the responsibility of FCPS to educate all students in the county and shape them into productive members of the community.

4. How to address the achievement gap?

Coming from an immigrant family and working daily to bring refugees to the U.S., I understand what education means for those seeking a better future for themselves and their families in the U.S. I am very concerned that the needle hasn't moved on closing the minority achievement gap in years, despite \$65 million being poured into projects targeting the issue. The current board continually changes the name of these projects (Excel, PSI, Momentum, etc), making it nearly impossible to

SEE QUESTIONNAIRES, NEXT PAGE



Ryan McElveen

INCUMBENT

Town of residence: McLean

Age: 29

Family: Married
Education: M.A. in International Affairs, Columbia University; B.A. in Anthropology and East Asian Studies, The University of Virginia

Offices held, dates: School Board Member, At-large, January 2012-Present

Occupation and relevant experience: Assistant Director, John L. Thornton China Center, The Brookings Institution

Website: www.ryanforschoolboard.com

Email address: voteryanmc@gmail.com

Twitter handle: @RyanLMcElveen

Name three endorsements: Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, Fairfax Education Association, Fairfax County Democratic Committee

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

I will remain a voice for the voiceless who don't know how to best resolve their concerns with the school system. One of my first actions on the Board was to push for the creation of a system to allow community members to submit YouTube video testimonies to be shown at our meetings. We became the first public Board in the country to implement this kind of feedback mechanism. I will continue engaging with the community in a transparent manner and with an open mind while working to improve our communications.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

I have a track record of bringing significant and positive change to the school system in a short amount of time. I have focused on three major initiatives — improving school food (including the creation of a fresh food pilot kitchen and the system-wide study of our Food and Nutrition Services program), the internationalization working group (to help guide our work on implementing world languages and study-abroad opportunities), and the alumni networking action group (which has helped us map a path to create an FCPS alumni association). In my next term, I hope to see all of these efforts through to implementation.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

FCPS is a tale of two counties, and this unquestionably has emerged as one of our biggest challenges. In Fairfax, more than half of our elementary schools sit above the socio-economic tipping point, proving that Fairfax has moved beyond localized poverty. To address this divide, the School Board must maintain its long-standing practice of targeting these communities with needs-based funding. Co-location of school and human services facilities, as has been piloted in Mount Vernon, is another way to tackle this community issue without spending significant additional county resources.

4. How to address the achievement gap?

Our Board has remained steadfast in our support of needy students and those who speak other languages at home by directing budget resources to these at-risk populations. We have made expanding early childhood opportunities one of our priorities, because we know that investments in the education of students at an early age pay dividends later in their educational careers (thus saving our system money). We must continue working with the county to creatively fund and house these programs.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system with a significant budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What steps would you take to manage the gap and to

SEE QUESTIONNAIRES, NEXT PAGE



School Board Candidates At-Large

Ilryong Moon

INCUMBENT
Town of residence: Fairfax
Age: 58
Family: Father of 2 FCPS graduates
Education: Harvard, B.A.; William and Mary Law School, J.D.



Offices held, dates: At-Large School Board Member, 07/1995-12/1995 & 2004-present; Braddock District School Board Member 1996-1999; At-Large Planning Commissioner 2000-2003.

Occupation and relevant experience: Attorney since 1984; Member, Board of Directors, American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras, 2000-2010; Member, Board of Directors, Montessori School of Northern Virginia, 1994-1995

Community involvement: Youth soccer coaching, Fairfax-Falls Church Regional Council of the United Way, Police Chief's Diversity Council.

Website: www.moon4schools.com

Email address: moon@moon4schools.com

Twitter handle: @Moon4Schools

Name three favorite endorsements: My family, Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, and Democratic Party

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

We should prepare our students for global competition. They will not only lead our country in the future, but must be able to compete with the students from the other nations. I want Fairfax County to be the best place to live, work, and raise children. We need good teachers and must support them. We should challenge our students to do their best, meet their individual needs, and provide them with a broad curriculum, including in STEM and foreign language education.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponents; why should voters choose you?

Experience and unique perspectives. I have served on the school board for 16 years, including 3 years as chairman and 2 years as vice chairman, and also chaired budget, governance, personnel, and policy committees. Furthermore, I bring unique perspectives as an immigrant grown up in poverty, an English language learner, an attorney, and a small business owner.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

All students should have resources per their needs. We should work more closely with the parents to help their children succeed. For the parents with language, cultural, or employment barriers, we should reach out to them more proactively. All students should have adequate access to digital devices and internet capability. We must also work with the County Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission on housing issues not to concentrate high poverty students on certain areas.

4. How to address the achievement gap?

Adequate resources, closer work with families, and high expectations for all students are needed. I support needs-based staffing. Resources should follow students' needs whether in opportunities, special education, or learning English as a second language. We need to equip, train, and educate parents to help their children succeed. Also, everyone should have high expectations for all students. We should expand early childhood education opportunities, working with the County, State, private sector, and community organizations.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the school system with a significant budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What steps would you take to manage the gap and to fund the needs of the school system? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

A community consensus on the school funding level should be built. I support the superintendent's work with the budget task force to gather commu-

Burnette G. Scarboro

Town of residence: Alexandria (Fairfax County)
Age: Over 21
Family: Luther, husband; Children – Syreeta, Seneca and Stefanie

Education: Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte, NC; NOVA Community College; and George Mason University, Fairfax, VA.

Offices held, dates: No elected office held

Occupation and relevant experience: Fairfax County Public Schools – Family Engagement Representative; African Heritage Early Literacy Project Leader. Co-founder South County Youth Network a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Member, Lt. Governor's Commonwealth Council for Childhood Success

Community involvement: Northern VA District PTA Director; Member, VA State PTA Board; Member, Chairman Bulova's Ad Hoc Police Review Committee; Coordinator, West Potomac-Mount Vernon School-Community Coalition

Website: www.burnette4schoolboard.com

Email address: friendsofburnette@gmail.com

Twitter handle:

Name three favorite endorsements: Dr. Larry Bussey; The Faith Community; and Mattie Palmore, Community Activist

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

My desire to have equitable education for all students drives me to run, along with character education in all school pyramids.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

Voters should choose me because I am embedded in the school system as an employee; family oriented and believe that students and families should not be judged by their geographical location.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

First, we need to address the increase in families placing their children in private schools or homeschooling; second, the economic divide is a direct correlation of the type of businesses in a community, i.e., fast food establishments vs. Fortune 500; and, third – work on changing the mindset of judging others by zip codes.

4. How will you address the achievement gap?

The achievement gap should not exist. The history of public education clearly shows that that public education was not designed for people of color. The achievement gap came on the scene when schools were integrated. I can only address the problem when all stakeholders understand why the problem exists.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system with a significant budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What steps would you take to manage the gap and to fund the needs of the school system? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

FCPS and the BOS must work together to develop strategies to bring more businesses into the area and reduce the reliance on real estate taxes. Teachers know where cuts can be made and that is the group that I would begin my inquiries.

6. What value does FCPS add for taxpayers who do not have children in the schools?

A school system with a stellar reputation is sought by businesses and former school graduates to return and give back to the community. Taxpayers want to see "more bang for their bucks." Elect me to the school board and you'll see the plan in action!



Theodore J. "Ted" Velkoff

INCUMBENT
Town of Residence: Chantilly
Age: 61

Family: Wife, Dr. Patricia Velkoff; Daughters Catherine (South Lakes H.S. 2007), Elizabeth (Chantilly H.S. 2009)

Offices held, dates: At-Large member of the Fairfax County School Board, January 2012 to present. Have served as Vice Chairman of the Board, Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Budget Committee.

Occupation and relevant experience: Senior Software Architect at Integrity One Partners, Reston VA; previously with Lockheed Martin and IBM in Manassas, VA. M.A., Computer Science, Indiana University; M. Music, Conducting, Indiana University; B. Music, Composition, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

Community involvement: PTSA President, Chantilly H.S.; PTA Treasurer, Chantilly H.S., Rocky Run M.S., Poplar Tree E.S.; Treasurer, Pleasant Valley Preschool, Girl Scout Troup 2829. Volunteer, stage manager and occasional human prop, Fairfax Ballet.

Website: http://www.tv4sb.org

Email address: ted@tv4sb.org

Twitter handle: @TedVelkoff

Name three favorite endorsements: Supervisor John Foust, Senator Chap Petersen, Delegate Ken Plum.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

Eliminate high stakes testing and replace with authentic assessments. We must restore the joy of teaching and learning that comes from projects, inquiry and communication. Recently inaugurated Portrait of a Graduate defines success not in terms of what students know, but what they can do with what they know.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponents and why should voters choose you?

I am proud of the work accomplished by the board of which I have been a member for the past four years. We hired a visionary and transformational leader in Dr. Karen Garza. We made much-needed changes to student discipline practices; solved the high school start time problem; and instituted full-day instruction in elementary schools on Mondays. My opponents have seldom, if ever, attended school board meetings or work sessions, and appear to have been motivated solely by disagreement with one action of the board last May. I have been an effective member of the school board by building relationships and brokering agreements on potentially contentious policy decisions.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

We need to expand innovative programs in schools throughout the county, especially those in economically challenged communities. We must insist on rigorous instruction for all children in all schools, whether wealthy or poor, gifted or disadvantaged. I am deeply opposed to the punitive accountability measures imposed by the state and federal government, which are counterproductive. I am just as deeply committed to the principle that we in FCPS must do everything we can to meet the needs of all children.

4. How to address the achievement gap?

The most important thing we can do is to achieve universal pre-school in Fairfax County. Nobel Prize economist James Heckman has demonstrated that high quality pre-school yields a 7 to 1 return on investment in less remediation and discipline issues over the career of a student.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the school system with a significant budget gap looming, both for FCPS



QUESTIONNAIRES CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE AND THIS PAGE

Manar Jean-Jacques

evaluate the effectiveness of the programs. I would begin addressing the achievement gap by engaging teachers in the conversation and seeking their expertise.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system with a significant budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What steps would you take to manage the gap and to fund the needs of the school system? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

If elected, I would like to put a motion before the board to vote on giving back the 60% raise they voted themselves in the midst of this budget gap. I would also like to look at outsourcing FCPS jobs that do not directly impact the education of children inside the classroom. Outsourcing gives businesses in the community an opportunity to thrive and frees up money that we would have been paying into pensions to now be redirected back into the classroom.

Ryan McElveen

fund the needs of the school system? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

FCPS cannot remain the system it is today at current levels of funding, and we won't realize that we've hit the breaking point until it's too late. It is well past time to diversify local revenue streams.

Beyond Fairfax, the School Board must take advocacy to the next level by coalition building with similar, like-minded districts and umbrella organizations throughout the state to push for a change to our state funding mechanisms. Additionally, both Boards need to continue exploring legal recourse to obtain the education funding guaranteed by the Virginia constitution.

Ilryong Moon

nity input. Both the School Board and the Board of Supervisors need to know where the community stands. We should also review our programs, practices, and operations to find savings. My priorities are to increase teacher salaries, lower class sizes, and challenge all students to do their best and prepare them for the postsecondary education and employment.

Ted Velkoff

and Fairfax County. What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

Because Virginia's antiquated form of government concentrates power in Richmond and marginalizes Fairfax County, the Board of Supervisors and School Board are pitted against each other by design. The Supervisors control school revenue; the School Board controls school spending. The County Executive proposes a revenue-based budget; the Superintendent proposes a needs-based budget.

The County Executive has told FCPS to "live within its means." In accordance with that budget guidance, the Superintendent will have to cut \$72M from the operating budget. The School Board has closed similar gaps by increasing class size and limiting employee compensation. This year I will not support a budget that is balanced on the backs of our employees.

Questionnaires have been edited for length. Full questionnaires are available at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com click on Elections.

Neither Peter Marchetti nor Robert Copeland, both candidates for Fairfax County School Board At Large, returned their questionnaires for publication.

SPORTS



Madison receiver Jordan Ebersole finished with seven receptions for 130 yards and two touchdowns against South Lakes on Oct. 16.



Madison running back Wiley Counts carries the ball during the Warhawks' 38-6 victory over South Lakes on Friday.

Ebersole's Big Night Helps Madison Beat South Lakes

Warhawks win sixth straight, improve to 4-0 in Conference 6.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

When asked to describe what makes receiver Jordan Ebersole a down-field threat, Madison head football coach Lenny Schultz referenced the senior's competitive nature.

"He's very durable," Schultz said. "When we do sprints in practice he never wants to lose. He can run all day long. If someone pushes him one time, if we run 10, he'll win nine out of 10 — and most times 10 out of 10. He gets mad at himself if he doesn't win all 10. He's a workhorse for us."

Facing South Lakes on Friday in a matchup of first-place teams in Conference 6, Ebersole ran past Seahawks defensive backs all night long.

Ebersole caught seven passes for 130 yards and two touchdowns as the Warhawks blasted South Lakes 38-6 on Oct. 16 at Madison High School.

Madison quarterback Jason Gastrock connected with Ebersole for a 35-yard touchdown with 58 seconds remaining in the first half, extending the Warhawks' lead to 31-6. With 9:34 remaining in the fourth quarter, Gastrock hit Ebersole for a 29-yard score.

"We've just got our timing down perfectly," Ebersole said about his on-field relationship with Gastrock. "We work on it every day in practice."

Both teams entered the contest with a 5-1 record, including 3-0 in the conference. It didn't take long, however, for Madison to take control.

THE WARHAWKS took the lead for good on the game's opening possession, when Gastrock scored on a 4-yard run with 9:05



Linebacker Ryan Partridge (52) and the Madison defense did not allow a point against South Lakes on Friday.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



Eric Kirlew and the South Lakes football team lost to Madison 38-6 on Oct. 16.

remaining in the first quarter.

South Lakes' only points of the game came on Madison's next possession, when the Seahawks blocked a punt and senior Anas Fain returned it for a touchdown. The extra point was no good, leaving Madison ahead, 7-6.

From there, the Warhawks scored on their four possessions, building a 31-6 halftime lead.

Madison is now tied with Hayfield for first place in the conference standings at 4-0.

Gastrock completed 14 of 19 passes for 217 yards and two touchdowns for the

Warhawks, and scored a pair of rushing touchdowns. He passed for 162 yards in the first half, connecting with Ebersole four times for 90 yards.

"We've really just been waiting for a type of game like this all season," Gastrock said.

Ebersole played for the varsity as a ninth-grader in 2012, when Madison finished the regular season 8-2 and made the playoffs. Ebersole's classmates on the freshman team finished 8-0. The following season, the varsity team finished 1-9, with its lone victory coming in the season finale against a winless Marshall team.

"After that 1-9 year, we just made it our goal to not have that ever happen again," Ebersole said. "We didn't want that, especially not our senior year. We wanted to come out and win as many games as we can."

After a 5-5 season in 2014, the Warhawks are in the hunt for a conference championship, winning six straight after dropping their 2015 season-opener to Oakton.

"Sophomore year, we were 1-9, that was probably the low point, I would say, of all our football careers," Gastrock said, "and we really just want to turn that around."

Madison running back Wiley Counts carried 10 times for 27 yards and a touchdown Friday. John DeSciociolo caught two passes for 66 yards.

South Lakes quarterback Devin Miles completed 19 of 28 passes for 148 yards. Henry Andrich had six receptions for 66 yards and Fain caught five passes for 46 yards.

FRIDAY was the fourth time Madison has allowed seven or fewer points in a game this season. The Warhawks defense did not surrender a point against South Lakes.

"They're just getting better and better," Schultz said. "They're playing good team defense."

Madison (6-1, 4-0) will travel to face Fairfax (1-6, 0-4) at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 23. South Lakes (5-2, 3-1) will host Langley (1-6, 1-3).

CALENDAR

Send announcements to north@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY

Weekly Storytime. 11 a.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Themes and Titles vary. Free admission.

ONGOING

The 53rd Annual James A. Bland Contest. Through Monday, Feb. 15. Vienna Assembly of God Church, 100 Ayr Hill Avenue, Vienna. Sponsored by the Vienna Host Lions Club, the contest will include school age (elementary and high school) vocalists and instrumentalists who will each present a song or piece of no more than eight minutes and will be judged by local experts in their field. Cash prizes will be awarded to 1st and 2nd place winners in each category. Contest will be on Saturday, Feb. 20, at 1 p.m. Information and an application can be obtained by contacting Lion Susan Stiles at sandcs89@yahoo.com or 703-938-1142. The deadline for applications is Monday, Feb. 15.

ONGOING

Two Simultaneous One Man Shows. Through Saturday, Nov. 14. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The Frame Factory, 212 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. Figurative artists David Cochran's and Joseph Sheppard Rogers' work will be on display.

THURSDAY/OCT. 22

Haunted Gingerbread Houses

Halloween Calendar

Halloween events in the area

THURSDAY/OCT. 22

Haunted Gingerbread Houses Workshop. 6:30-8 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Tickets: \$35-\$45.
Halloween Bunco Night Benefit. 7-9 p.m. The Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant Street NW, Vienna. Games, food and wine, and art works. Come in costume, if you like. Space is limited and a \$20 donation reserves your seat. <http://viennaartssociety.org/events-exhibitions/>.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 24-NOV. 1

Reston Zoo's Zooboo. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Reston Zoo, 1228 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. Designed for a younger audience, Zoo Boo offers four days of scare-free fun. Join the safe zoo neighborhood of Halloween entertainment, with kid-friendly fun around every corner.

SUNDAY/OCT. 25

Trunk or Treat. 11 a.m. Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Community event. Children 5th grade and under. Free. youth@greatfallsumc.org.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 28

69th Annual Vienna Halloween Parade. 7 p.m. Maple Avenue, Vienna. With the theme of "Celebrating 125 Years of the Town of Vienna" come in costume to celebrate Halloween. Visit www.viennava.gov.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/OCT. 30-31

Water Pumpkin Patch. Friday, 5-7 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Tysons YWCA, 8101 Wolftrap Road, Vienna. Come ready to have fun, swim in the pool with the pumpkins and pick one to go. \$6 per person, \$20 per family. karen@neptune-aquatics.com.

Workshop. 6:30-8 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Tickets: \$35-\$45.

Halloween Bunco Night Benefit. 7-9 p.m. The Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant Street NW, Vienna. Games, food and wine, and art works. Come in costume, if you like. Space is limited and a \$20 donation reserves your seat. <http://viennaartssociety.org/events-exhibitions/>.

Classic Books Discussion Group. 1

p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Join writer/scholar Amanda Holmes Duffy for a discussion of The Legend of Sleepy Hollow by Washington Irving. Adults and teens.

Alka Dhillon. 7 p.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Local Businesswoman and author Alka Dhillon will sign copies of her book The Om Factor: A Woman's Spiritual Guide to Leadership. Free admission.

FRIDAY/OCT. 23

Playdate Cafe. 10 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Toys and playspace for children. Coffee and conversation for grownups. Ages birth-5.

McLean Art Society Meeting. 10 a.m.-noon. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. Jan Ponder, landscape artist will give a demonstration of the use of encaustics, a burn in technique with hot wax. 703-790-0123.

SATURDAY/OCT. 24

Great Falls Farmers Market. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Great Falls Village Centre, 778 Walker Road. Great Falls. www.greatfallsfarmersmarket.org

Roald Dahl Double Feature. 2 & 7 p.m. Marshall High School, 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. George C. Marshall's drama department will open the 2015-2016 Season with a Roald Dahl Double Feature including "The Twits" and "Danny, the Champion of the World." Tickets \$5-\$15. <http://statesmentheatre.org>. 703-714-5400.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 24-25

Autumn Harvest Show. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. In time for the festivities ahead, potters offer tabletop items fit to grace a Thanksgiving table or haunt a Halloween spread. Credit card, cash, checks accepted.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 24-NOV. 1

Reston Zoo's Zooboo. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Reston Zoo, 1228 Hunter Mill

Road, Vienna. Designed for a younger audience, Zoo Boo offers four days of scare-free fun. Join their safe zoo neighborhood of Halloween entertainment, with kid-friendly fun around every corner.

SATURDAY/OCT. 24

D.C.'s Dancy Stars Gala. 6 p.m.-12 a.m. Hyatt Regency, Tyson's Corner, 7901 Tysons One Place Tysons. The 2nd annual charity ballroom dancing competition launched by Fred Astaire Dance Studio-Fairfax's owners and gala co-chairs, Jim David and Maria Coakley David will bring together some of D.C.'s hottest celebrity names and notable regional dancers to compete for the 2015 DC Mirror Ball Championship trophy and \$10,000 for the charity of their choice. Chelsie Hightower from ABC's "Dancing with the Stars," Lamont Easter from "House of Cards" and Shane Lewis from "Naked and Afraid," will be some of the celebrity judges who will crown the winning couple. Dress black tie. www.dcsdancingstarsgala.com.

Candlelight Tour of Historic Cemetery. 6 p.m. Tour starts at 7 p.m. Church of the Brethren, 10025 Courthouse Road, Oakton. Local historian Jim Lewis will discuss the history of the cemetery, which dates to the Civil War, and will detail the lives of some of those interred there. Cemetery is located at 2845 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. Donation of \$10. www.flinthillcemetery.org.

Biscuit. 2 p.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Biscuit comes to Barnes & Noble at Tysons Corner! Join for a special storytime and a chance to meet this beloved classic character. Free admission.

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I'm Fine Until I'm Not



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I title this column within the context of yours truly waiting for the results from my most recent diagnostic scan, a PET Scan in fact, a scan which offers more detail and clarity than the usual and customary CT Scan – without contrast (for those of you in the diagnostic loop) – that I have scheduled every three months going on nearly seven years now. I'm not stressing about it particularly, even though a post-scan (Wednesday appointment)/pre-weekend e-mail notification providing the results (especially the good kind) might have de-bumped the weekend road, but we've been down this dusty trail before so we (Team Lourie) will manage. Ergo the title.

My philosophy with respect to life in general and being a cancer patient in specific has been: "It's nothing until it's something." And if a follow-up explanation has been required, I've usually added something like: "It will be bad enough when it's actually bad, so I don't see the need to make it bad when so far as we know, it might be good." (Sounds like a mnemonic device trying to explain the difference between its and it's.) And continuing to be relatively/comparatively (speaking of grammatical/word usage; both apply here, I think) asymptomatic has certainly been a good/make-that-great thing; nevertheless, I can't help but remember that my original emergency room visit on January 1st, 2009 was precipitated by pain in my rib cage which had migrated from right to left and the associated shortness of breath. Three days later however, after being prescribed six pills to be taken over three days – for a possible pneumonia, my symptoms disappeared and remained so until I began chemotherapy a week after my diagnosis was confirmed on February 27th by my new best friend, my oncologist. That's when the fun really began: side effects of chemotherapy. But that's a whole 'nother series of stories, past and presumably future.

And since there's no guaranteeing one's future, all I can do, especially as a non-small cell lung cancer patient originally characterized as "terminal," with late/the latest stage – stage IV – is to minimize the complications I can control: diet, exercise, nutrition and stress, and accept the ones I can't. Stress is our four-letter word and maybe even a killer, too. And it serves no real purpose other than to create pain and suffering, when the complete opposite is what's needed and much preferred. Fortunately, my personality enables me to live life – emotionally – as if I'm not living on the precipice and about to be robbed of a reasonably normal senior circuit, given the fact that both my parents lived beyond their mid-eighties. (My limited knowledge and presumption of such lineage-related subjects was that as the son, I would likely have the same or better life expectancy.) Being told instead, at age 54 and a half, that I had "13 months to two years to live" was disappointing to say the least and downright dehumanizing to say the most.

It certainly becomes a not-merry-go-round existence on your date of diagnosis/prognosis and for the seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months and even years ahead (if you're lucky?); but eventually one, at least this one, finds a level on which one can live, love and laugh and not be constantly overwhelmed by less-than-ideal medical circumstances. Am I pretending? Am I presuming? Am I hoping and praying? Am I fighting back my internal demons? Am I compartmentalizing? Yes! Yes! Yes! Yes! Yes! Every chance I get. But as the doctor treating Capt. Augustus McRae in Miles City, near the end of part three of "Lonesome Dove" advised Gus to let the doctor amputate his remaining leg, Gus replied: "Sawbones, you can't have that other leg. Now how would I kick a pig?" To which the doctor responded: "I assure, sir, the alternative is gloomy."

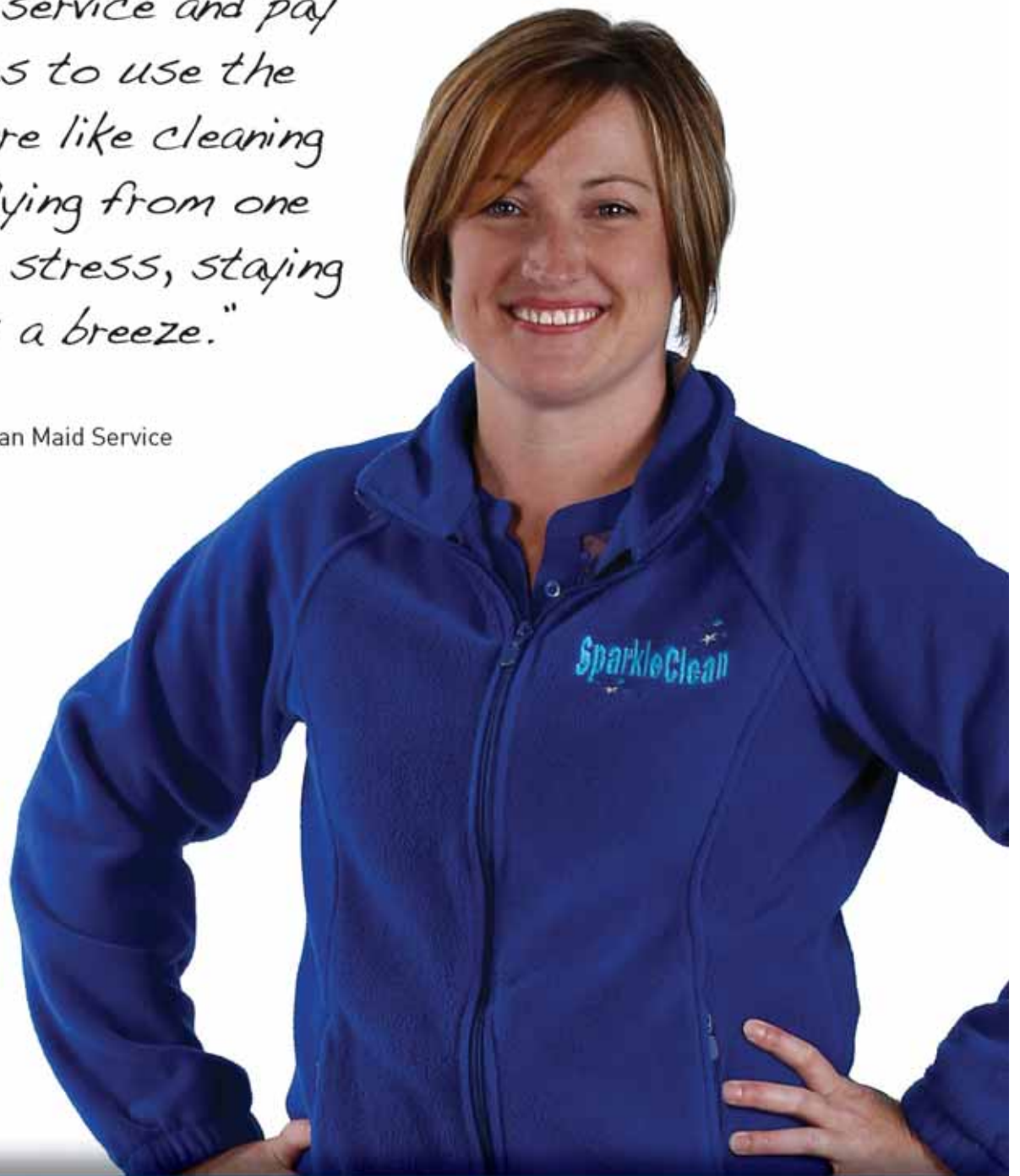
Well, I don't want to be a gloomy Gus – which Augustus wasn't, any more that I want to be a dismal Jimmy, which I rarely am. However, this cancer diagnosis presents all sorts of challenges – some I can overcome, some I can't. Most of all though, I'm trying to stay in the present, and deal with my future one day/result at a time.

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

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