



Fairfax Station CONNECTION Clifton & Lorton



NVTRP volunteer and day coordinator Ginny Craig of Oakton walks with therapeutic riding horse "Happy" at the non-profit's 17-acre farm in Clifton. The NVTRP is hosting its tenth annual major fundraiser "Ride to Thrive Polo Classic" on a private estate at Chetwood Park in The Plains, Va.

Horse of Action

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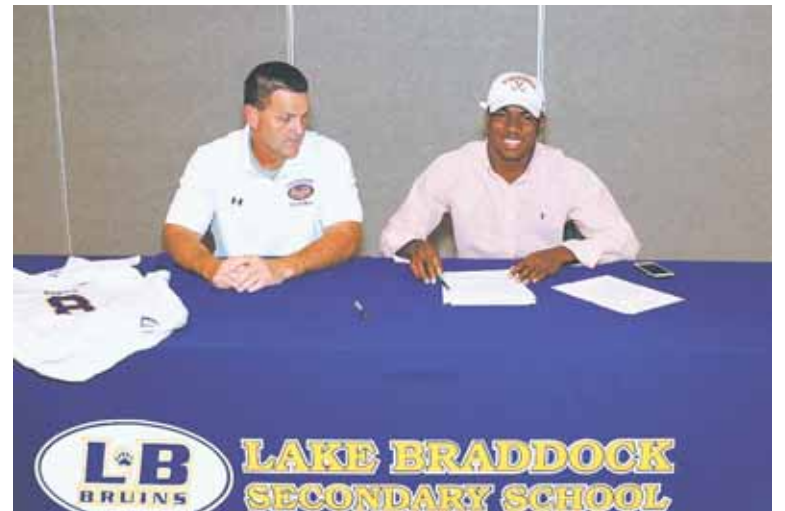
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NEWS



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Lamont Atkins, of Burke, signed his grant-in-aid scholarship package to play football for the University of Virginia. He is joined by his coach Jim Poythress, Lake Braddock's Varsity Football Head Coach.

Lake Braddock Running Back Signs for University of Virginia

On Friday, Sept. 9, 2016, Lake Braddock Senior running back Lamont Atkins, of Burke, signed his grant-in-aid scholarship package to play football for the University of Virginia. The grant-in-aid signature guarantees the future Cavalier a full-cost athletic scholarship at the university.

Lamont currently ranks as the 14th All-Purpose running back in the nation by 247sports.com and is the #2 running back in the state of Virginia according to ESPN.com. Coached by James Poythress, he led the Bruins foot-

ball team to the third round of playoffs ending the season with 1,142 rushing yards and 213 receiving yards.

Atkins, who verbally committed to the Cavaliers on April 23, 2016, also received scholarship offers from Northwestern, Vanderbilt, Syracuse, Illinois, Boston College, Marshall, Toledo, Old Dominion, Navy, Kent State, Harvard, Yale and Dartmouth. He will enroll and begin taking classes at the University in January 2017 and is eligible for football practice in the Spring.



Bruins celebrate at signing ceremony.

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SCHOOL NOTES

Karen Lee of Fairfax, VA

Creighton University Dean's List for spring 2016 recognizes full-time students who earn a 3.5 grade-point average or better on a 4.0 scale.

Megan Hess of Fairfax, was named to the Spring 2016 dean's list.

Chantelle Dubois, a student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, Hawaii and Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadet, participated in Cadet Language and Cultural Immersion Training. It was the soldier's first-ever training deployment as a cadet.

Dubois is the daughter of Laura and David Dubois of Springfield, Virginia.

Zachary Jarrett, of Springfield and a West Springfield graduate of 2012, graduated in Spring 16 from Auburn University Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor's degree in Biomedical Science. He was accepted to the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine; Auburn Campus which he started July of 2016.

Jake Bannon, from Clifton, Va./Paul VI Catholic, is playing for Saint Michael's College Men's Soccer Team

James H. Lau '17, received the President's Award for Overall Academic Excellence. James is a biology major at Hampden-Sydney College. He is the son of Michael and Audrey Lau of Springfield, VA.



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

NVTRP executive director Kelsey Gallagher (right) of Warrenton poses with therapeutic riding pony “Teddy” at the nonprofit’s farm in Clifton. Teddy will deliver champagne to VIPs at Saturday’s “Ride to Thrive” event, and has a signature cocktail “The Theodore” named in his honor.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NVTRP

From left, Peter Colòn, Nicole Bass, Patti Towsley and Sarah Maceyak assist César Dulanto in mounting a horse at the 2015 Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program Ride to Thrive fundraiser.

Horse of Action

Therapeutic Riding Program to hold tenth polo classic fundraiser.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Once a week for the last seven years, César Dulanto of Lake Ridge, Va. has come to Clifton to trade his wheelchair for a saddle.

Dulanto, 13, has been wheelchair-bound since the age of two with cerebral palsy. He used to have difficulty just sitting up in a chair. And, he said, “I used to be so shy.”

But on Saturday, Sept. 17, Dulanto will not only demonstrate how he’s able to mount a horse from his chair, grabbing the saddle and pushing himself up with greater core and arm strength than he’s ever had. He’ll also show off numerous riding skills he’s acquired through the Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program.

And he’s going to share some of his story in front of hundreds of people.

The NVTRP is hosting its tenth annual major fundraiser “Ride to Thrive Polo Classic” on a private estate at Chetwood Park in The Plains, Va.

The non-profit organization hosts as many as 110 riders — children and adults with disabilities, at-risk youth and recovering military personnel — in seasonal sessions, providing therapeutic riding, hippotherapy and an opportunity to develop or re-learn life skills in an open, peaceful environment.

“It’s a chance for us to bring our horses out, not just another black-tie gala,” said executive director and Warrenton resident Kelsey Gallagher.

THE AFTERNOON AFFAIR in the country will include a live polo match with sev-

eral professional players and amateurs beginning at 3 p.m., live and silent auctions, a carriage exhibition by the Piedmont Driving Club and demonstrations by several of the NVTRP clients, including Dulanto.

“It’s showing what everybody’s supporting,” said Debbie Nash, who helps coordinate the polo match and will compete in the match herself, along with her husband.

“You go there and see where the money’s going, how it’s benefiting,” Nash said. “That’s the big thing, actually seeing it in person, how they even get on the horses, the whole procedure.”

Another demonstrator will be Jack Taylor, 9, of Falls Church. Taylor can walk, run and play, but has issues with balance, awareness, and some walking and talking because of right hemiplegia, a paralysis of half of his body.

Taylor’s parents Don Taylor and Julia Meehan had never tried anything like therapy on a horse before moving to Falls Church in 2013. They started at NVTRP the same year.

“He gets an emotional benefit as well, he’s excited to share his hobby — not everyone does it,” said Meehan.

“We feel really lucky he’s a part of it,” Taylor’s dad said. “He thinks of it as fun, not therapy.”

The couple also takes their son to occupational and physical therapy each week, but said the traditional exercises can get repetitive and aren’t interesting for a child.

At NVTRP, Jack can work on improving his functionality, and “as a way to build skills and interest in something,” Meehan said.

One of the reasons horses are so effective as therapy animals, both for physical and emotional development, Gallagher said, is the way they interact with people around them, their riders.

“It’s self-actualization,” she said, “horses mirror what you give off.”

Many military personnel, Gallagher explained, come in with issues related to post-traumatic stress disorder. They can have difficulty controlling anger or anxiety —



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PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEXEEVA PHOTOGRAPHY

From left, Eileen Lavelle, Olivia Taylor, Josslyn Marrion, Patti Towlsey (walking in the back) and Claire Dudley demonstrating an assisted walk at the 2015 NVTRP “Ride to Thrive Polo Classic” fundraiser.

both of which make it difficult, if not impossible to connect with and mount a horse.

Working with the horses, needing to calm down before seeing any success, “brings these soldiers out of themselves,” Gallagher said, “gives them a sense of peace.”

“It’s saved marriages, lives,” she added. “This is what it’s all about.”

Started in 1980, NVTRP now occupies a 17-acre farm at the corner of Clifton and Popes Head Roads. Despite fielding a team of roughly 200 volunteers each week to help with maintaining the horses and assisting the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Int’l)

Certified Riding Instructors with lessons, Gallagher says there’s a two-year waiting list to get in.

THEY HOPE to increase their capacity with a new indoor riding ring, for which Fairfax County has recently approved the site plan.

To continue their work and begin to finance the new ring, Gallagher is hoping to improve on the \$107,000 gross the Ride to Thrive event raised last year.

For more information, visit nvtrp.org/polo-classic. Tickets for the Polo Classic will be available until Friday evening the night before the event.

AREA ROUNDUPS

Comstock Announces Deadline For Services Academy Application

Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) announced that the deadline for students interested in applying for a nomination by the 10th District Service Academy Advisory Board to one of the nation's military academies for the Class of 2021 is 5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 1 in her Sterling district office.

"I look forward to meeting the next generation of our country's leaders who will go on to join their peers in advancing a stronger America," said Congresswoman Comstock. "I encourage everyone in Virginia's 10th Congressional District who aspires to be a part of the Class of 2021 to apply for a Service Academy nomination."

Applications can be mailed or hand delivered to Comstock's Sterling office at 21430 Cedar Drive, Suite 218, Sterling, Virginia 20164. Interested students can request an Academy Nomination Application from Comstock's Web site at <https://comstock.house.gov/services/military-academy-nominations>. The selection process is strictly a competitive one.

For more information about the congressional nominating process, contact Mary Ann Cannon in Comstock's Sterling office at 703-404-6903, or go to <https://comstock.house.gov/> and click on Military Academy Nominations under the Services section.

Burke Church to Host a Community Block Party

A community block party will be hosted by Burke Presbyterian Church on Sunday, Sept. 18, from 12:15 to 3 p.m. when it conducts a "Food Truck Ruckus: Make Some Noise About World Hunger." Both sweet and savory food trucks will be on the church grounds at the corner of Burke Centre Parkway and Oak Leather Drive for folks to purchase yummy treats of their choice. There also will be play tables for young children, as well as corn hole and other games for adults and children of all ages. Plus there will be a free photo booth to capture memories and the Delaney Hall Band will be playing your favorite tunes, so stop by to sing along or just enjoy the jam of their unique blend of original music and faithful classic rock. Then plan to join in packaging 10,000 meals for those in need overseas through Stop Hunger Now from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Those attending are asked to bring blankets or lawn chairs to sit on and a canned food item or dry goods item to help stock the food pantry for ECHO in Springfield to combat hunger in our neighborhood. Check out the church's Facebook page for the most current information about this event and mission opportunities to help the hungry in our world.



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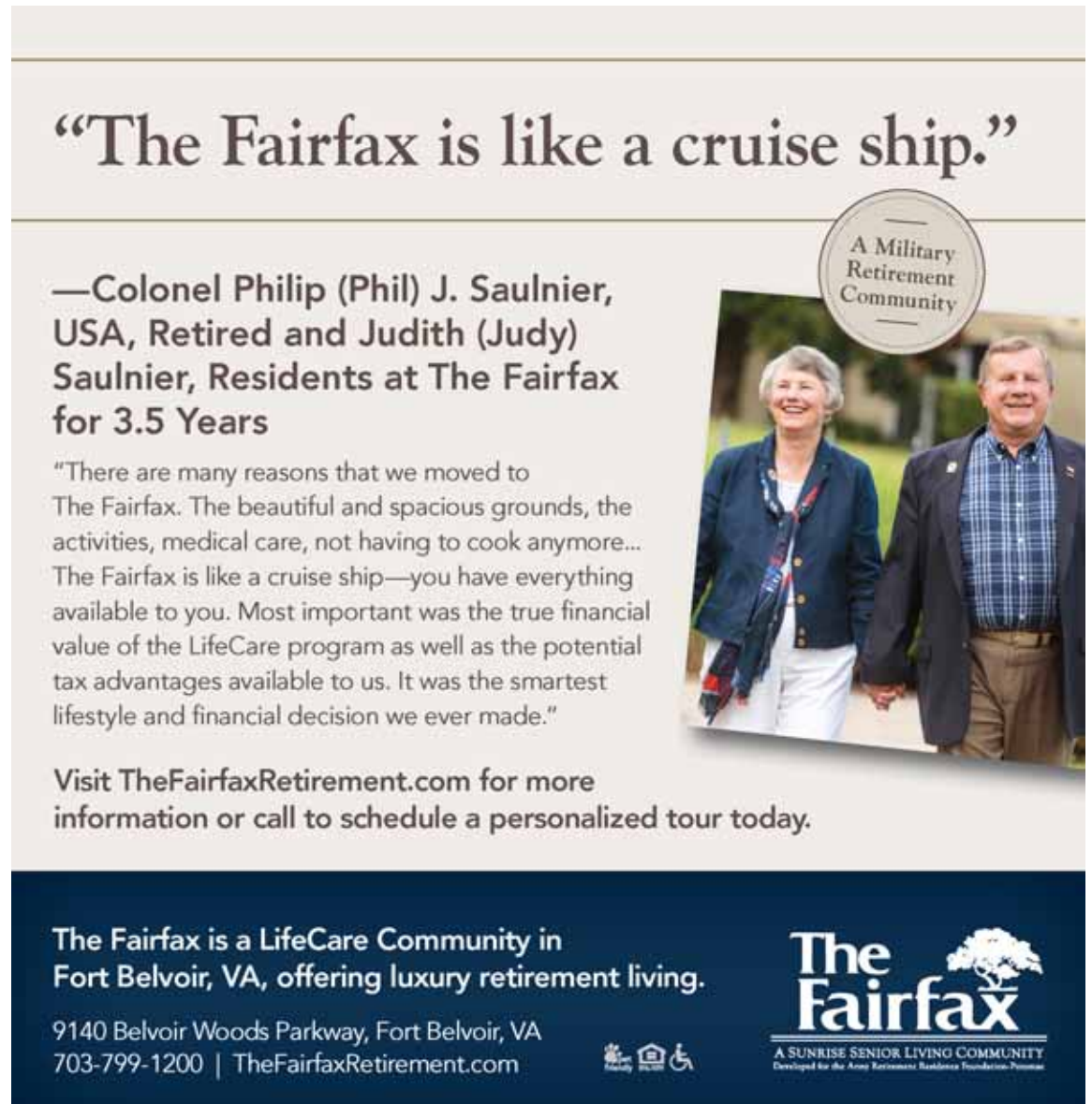
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NEWS

Lorton 17-year-old Dies after Wednesday Night Shooting

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Maurice Anderson Berger, 17, of Lorton was found suffering from an apparent gunshot wound to his upper body on the sidewalk on the 9700 block of Hagel Circle Wednesday night.

Fairfax County Police said officers from the Franconia District station responded to a report of gunshots being heard and a possible shot person at 10:36 p.m.

An unidentified vehicle had reportedly left the scene, police said, but there's no description of a vehicle or suspect information being released at this point.

Major Crimes division detectives are in the process of canvassing the neighborhood, behind the Lorton Station Marketplace shopping center, looking for information and evidence.

South County High School Principal Matt Ragone said Berger had been a member of the South County pyramid from elementary school through 2015.

Berger had attended South County but was currently enrolled at Bryant Alternative High School.

"We join the Bryant community in sending condo-

lences to the Berger family and Maurice's friends," Ragone said in a "Keep in Touch" email sent to South County parents and students.

In Ragone's email, he included a message sent to the Bryant community from their principal Ms. Tangy Millard, who called Berger's unexpected death "a tragic loss."

"Maurice was very well liked by all who knew him," Millard said in her letter. "He always had a smile on his face and was willing to help around the school community at any time."

Berger assisted with school pep rallies and graduation as a member of the AV/Tech team, and was an active member of the student-faculty Multicultural Book Club.

"Maurice was a strong daily, positive presence in our community," said Millard. "Our Bryant family will greatly miss Maurice."

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact Detective Bond of the Homicide Section at 703-246-7800. Callers can also contact Crime Solvers electronically by visiting www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text-a-tip by texting "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES(274637) or by calling 1-866-411-TIPS(8477), or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.



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CENTRE VIEW

CENTREVILLE DAY

History: Protests Required to Advance Justice

Local story: Protest, arrests, brutal treatment, torture of advocates for vote for women.

Democracy without our Bill of Rights could amount to mob rule. The Bill of Rights, a visionary document made up of the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution, is reprinted on our website; it's under 500 words; it takes just a few minutes to read.

In the United States, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights offer many protections of freedom and equality. But actually extending that protection and freedom to all has often required individual action and sacrifice, protest, demonstration and nonviolent civil disobedience.

That doesn't make every demonstration and every protest virtuous, but even when protest is not to our tastes, we should appreciate that we live in a country where the right to do so is protected.

Even something as basic as the right of women to vote only came about because of persistent, unpopular protests organized by a militant group, individual action, sacrifice and courage in the face of brutality and repression from existing authority.

The story of how women got the vote, that is to say how half the population of the United States escaped being disenfranchised, is a local story, and so appropriate to tell in the Connection.

EDITORIAL

Alice Paul, "one of the most notorious women in America, was the chairman of the National Woman's Party, a small and militant suffrage offshoot of the mainstream National American Woman Suffrage Association," wrote Catherine J. Lanctot, professor of law at Villanova, in "The Suffrage Pickets and Freedom of Speech During World War I."

In January 1917, Paul, Lucy Burns and other activists organized a relentless public protest outside the White House over President Woodrow Wilson's refusal to support the vote for women.

"By the fall of 1917, more than a hundred women had been arrested and imprisoned on charges of obstructing traffic and unlawful assembly, ostensibly because they attracted large and often hostile crowds to witness their demonstrations. ... Suffrage pickets found themselves at the center of increasingly violent confrontations with angry crowds and hostile law enforcement authorities. ...

"The judge assigned to their cases seemed perplexed by their stubbornness, patiently lecturing the women on world conditions, and explaining: 'We are at war, and you should not bother the President,' before sending them to

serve their sentence at the Occoquan Workhouse in Lorton, Virginia. This strategy backfired badly in mid-July, 1917, with a firestorm of controversy over the incarceration of several socially prominent women and the intervention of liberal lawyers who previously had been allied with Wilson. ...

"Wealthy women serving time in a workhouse brought extensive media attention."

In fact, protest by women of privilege made a critical difference.

Conditions in the workhouse were brutal and filthy; women were beaten and tortured by force feeding during hunger strikes.

The 19th Amendment was ratified on Aug. 26, 1920: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

Edith Mayo, curator emeritus of political and women's history at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, put the history in context at a recent event: "I think one of the things we're trying to get across is one has to be vigilant about voting rights. The voter suppression of recent years has concerned a lot of Americans. It took such guts and determination for all these groups except for white men to get the right to vote that any slipping backward and trying to suppress the right to vote is a grave concern."

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Suicide Prevention: Everyone's Business

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Suicide Prevention Alliance of Northern Virginia (SPAN), I thank you for the Connection's compassionate and informative editorial printed in observance of Suicide Prevention Week, titled Take One Action to Prevent Suicide.

Suicidal thoughts can affect anyone regardless of age, gender or background; it is the third leading cause of death among young people in the Commonwealth of Virginia, as well as across the United States. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), there is one suicide in the U.S. every 13 minutes; nearly 40,000 people per year die by suicide in the U.S. In Fairfax County, an annual youth survey found that local youth in 10th and 12th grades are at significantly higher risk for depression and suicide ideation than their peers in other parts of the state.

Launched with grant funding from the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and in kind contributions from local governments, mental and behavioral health partners from across the region launched SPAN, serving as a new regional resource for information, events and activities relating to suicide awareness and prevention.

The goal of SPAN is to provide an array of resources and support to increase help-seeking, reduce stigma, and prevent suicide. Through sharing information and efforts with stakeholders across the region, creating opportunities to reach out and provide training, awareness campaigns, promoting health and wellness programs to prevent suicide, SPAN members hope to come together to make a meaningful difference.

Stigma around suicide is a major impediment and while we are making progress in building a firm foundation for suicide prevention, there's still so much more we need to do. Coming together around the concept of suicide prevention is easy but implementing regional efforts and collaboration is challenging. We need to remind our community that suicide preven-

tion is everyone's business every day.

Be involved. Be engaged. All of us can have a key role in saving lives. Please learn more about SPAN at <http://www.suicidepreventionnva.org/>.

Jane Woods

Chairman, SPAN Committee
Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board member

Election Concern: Hate Mongering

To the Editor:

I wanted to write to say how extraordinary the upcoming election is going to be. This is the first time in twenty years that I have been forced to do more than just vote. I am a conservative from Alabama that cast my first vote for Bob Dole and supported Bush through the 2000s. I broke ranks to vote for Obama because of McCain hawkishness, I was just out of the Marine Corps and had seen enough wars. I supported Romney in the following election, but was not distraught by Obama's reelection. Now is a different time.

My concern is not partisan disagreements, but the fundamental values of our country. I am conservative and not a Hillary fan, but I must admit that she is the safest and most conservative nominee. Even if it would mean a more conservative court and lower taxes for my family, it is not worth the risk of death, war, and economic collapse that a Trump candidacy would allow. My biggest concern is the hate mongering and race baiting. Being from Alabama, I have a masters in understanding race baiting and coded language. It is always a distraction for some failed policy or difficult problem. Trump is laying out a traditional argument that life would be better if these brown folks would go away. Rational people know that those people are taxpayers, employers, and citizens. I see arguments that Trump is a modern day Dixiecrat, but that is insulting to Dixiecrats, they were far more inclusive. This year is the know nothing party revival. I am frustrated that the Republicans have somehow found the one Republican that could possibly be more unliked than Hillary.

Bill Cahill
Springfield





Demonstrators calling for justice for Natasha McKenna and Jovany Martinez stood during the Sept. 13 Public Safety Committee meeting. Martinez was a 29-year-old Hispanic man who died after being shot by Fairfax County Sheriff's deputy MDS Patrick McPartlin Monday night Aug. 15 outside Inova Fairfax Hospital.



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Board members reviewed a draft action item for approval of the recommendation to create an independent auditor office during a meeting of the public safety committee on Sept. 13.

Supervisors to Vote on Independent Auditor Office

Board item reviewed by public safety committee.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

At its Sept. 20 meeting, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will vote on the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission to create an office of independent police auditor.

Board members reviewed a draft action item for approval of the recommendation during a meeting of the public safety committee on Sept. 13.

The draft included a number of revisions to the commission's recommendation, which was discussed at the previous committee meeting.

Among the most significant revisions, said committee chair supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), was how the auditor will be involved in police internal affairs investigations as they are occurring.

In the language of the action item, the police auditor "will review police use of

force cases and complaints involving serious injury or death, including officer-involved shootings, to ensure the investigations are comprehensive, accurate, objective, and impartial."

Later in the document, supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) pointed out, it calls for the auditor to review all use of force incidents which are the subject of a public complaint made to Fairfax County Police or the auditor. This would include far more than just those involving serious injury or death, which are beyond the recommended scope from the Ad Hoc commission.

Cook and the members confirmed the scope of the auditor's work would follow the commission's original recommendation.

There was also clarification that the auditor (whose office would include two support analyst positions) would recommend things to be looked at and people to be interviewed as part of their work, but would not personally question them.

Their purpose is to determine whether an investigation by the police department is being conducted well.

Another revision, pointed out by Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova, was that the recommendation the Board-appointed auditor serve a two-to-five year



Independent counsel Julia Judkins commented on the creation of a civilian review panel, the primary topic of discussion for the next public safety committee meeting on Oct. 25.

term would be replaced by a proposal for the auditor to become an "at-will" position. If the action item passes, they would serve at the pleasure of the board.

Cook concluded the hour-long meeting by calling on independent counsel Julia Judkins to comment briefly on the creation of a civilian review panel, the primary topic of discussion for the next public safety committee meeting on Oct. 25.

From a legal standpoint, Judkins said, the most problematic component of the potential review panel would be that body hosting public hearings.

County employees, such as police officers, could be invited, not compelled to attend such meetings, Judkins said.

"This is a completely different animal and I don't see any authority for it," she said of such action.

Jack Johnson, chair of the Independent Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the Ad Hoc commission, reminded committee members the intent in that recommendation was the panel would review incidents and not investigate them.

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee is scheduled for Oct. 25 at 1 p.m. For more information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/board-committees/meetings.

COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

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CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Batting Cage Occoquan Regional Park 9751 Ox Road Lorton, VA 22079. Open through Oct. 30 Occoquan offers a baseball/softball batting cage, for hitters of all levels. Pitching machines offer other pitches like curveballs. Cost: 14 balls \$1.50 Team Rentals Per Cage: 30 min. \$18 60 min. \$34 <https://www.novaparks.com/parks/occoquan-regional-park/things-to-do/batting-cage>

Farmers Market & Food Trucks: 3-7 p.m. Thursdays through Oct. 27 at the Fairfax County Government Center front parking lot.

Rock the Block! 6:30 p.m. Every fourth Friday through Oct. 28. Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Concert series. Food is available for sale. Bring chairs and or blankets to sit on. Kids – wear swim suits and bring towels. Enjoy the new spray pad. No Pets allowed except service animals. fairfaxva.gov.

The Farmer's Market at Springfield Town Center. May 7- Nov. 19, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Through November. Corner of Spring Mall and Loisdale roads, Springfield. Enjoy fresh baked goods, produce, vegetables & fruits, meats & cheeses, and a host of other vendors. springfieldtowncenter.com.

Fairfax Rotary Club Meeting. 12:15-1:30 p.m. Mondays. American Legion, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Meetings with luncheon and program. fairfaxrotary.org.

Plant Clinic. 9 a.m.-noon. Sundays till end of September. Lorton Farmers Market, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton. Conducted by Master Gardeners. Answer gardening question, identify plants and insects, soil tests, etc. fairfaxgardening.org.

Carolina Shag. Wednesdays. 6:30-10 p.m. Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington



Apples at the weekly Fairfax County Farmers Market & Food Trucks event at Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy Thursdays 3-7 p.m

Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m. No partners needed. Dinner menu. \$8. Under 21 free. nvshag.org.

FUN-Exercise. Thursdays, noon-12:50 p.m. Grace Presbyterian Church Family Room, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Inova certified exercise instructor leads a moderate level exercise class with music and current events conversation. Muscle, Balance, Strength Training using stretch bands and weights both standing and seated exercises. Instructor donation is \$5. mooreffitt@yahoo.com or 703-499-6133.

EXERCISE PROGRAM Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 am year-round at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Rd. Fairfax, VA 22032. The exercises are for strength, balance and maintaining limberness. Contact SCFB office at 703-426-2824 for more information.

Cafe Ivrit (Hebrew Cafe). Wednesdays. 8:15-

9:15 a.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Shalom (hello) Did you always want to converse in Hebrew? Join Na'ama each week for conversational Hebrew. You will learn and practice Hebrew in a fun and interactive way while learning more about Israel. Free, however we ask that you try to attend regularly. RSVP Naama.Gold@jccnv.org.

Smoke Free Bingo (with breaks for smoking friends). 7 p.m. Every Friday. Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Free coffee, entertaining callers, \$1,000 jackpot. www.fairfaxvd.com. 703-273-3638.

English Conversation Groups weekly at George Mason, Burke Centre, and Lorton Libraries Practice and improve your English. Day and start times vary. Visit: <https://va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp>

First Sunday Jazz Brunch 11 - 2 p.m. Recurring monthly on the 1st Sunday at **Bazin's on Church** 111 Church St N.W., Vienna, VA 22180. Enjoy brunch accompanied by the soft jazz sounds of Virginia Music Adventure. Visit: <http://www.fxva.com/listing/bazins-on-church/1686/>

Stories From Strawberry Park 10 - 11 a.m. Tuesdays in **Mosaic - Strawberry Park** 2910 District Avenue, Fairfax, VA 22031. Enjoy a live interactive performance each week taught by a group of unique storytellers. For ages 10 and under. Held outside in Strawberry Park. In inclement weather and October through April, storytime will be held in Angelika Film Center. Recurring weekly on Tuesday. Visit: <http://www.fxva.com/listing/mosaic-district/2326/>

Singers wanted for the Celebration Singers. A women's show choir performing at various community sites in Northern Virginia. Do you love to sing? Make new friends? Bring joy to others through music? Come join us. Practice is held 10:30 am – 2:30 pm, starting again in September on Wednesdays in Burke. Contact: Barb Male, 703-250-5294, email barbdmale@yahoo.com or Gayle Parsons, 703-644-4485, email gparsons3@cox.net.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 16

Mind in the Making: Kickoff 10 - 12:30 p.m. 2334 Gallows Road Dunn Loring, VA Entrance 1 - Room 100. At this introduction workshop you will learn the research behind the Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs. These evidence-based skills all involve what researchers call. "Executive Functions of the Brain." Cost: Free. www.fcps.edu/dss/osp/prc/index.shtml or 703-204-3941.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 17

Day of Free Dental Care Hosted by Vienna Smiles 7:30 - 5 p.m. 2553 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna, VA 22181. First come first serve. The Smiles Team, comprised of offices in Vienna, Fairfax, Arlington, and now, The Plains, VA. "This event is very important to us, as it's one of our many ways of giving back to our wonderful community. 703-790-1953 ripps@mpaart.org

Golf Club Championship. 8 a.m. Burke Lake Golf Course, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Players compete in an 18-hole individual stroke tournament. Registration begins 2 weeks prior to event. Rain date: Sept. 24. Cost is \$35 and

includes lunch. Roberta.Korzen@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Fairfax City Regional Library Children's

Book Sale 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. 10360 North Street, Fairfax, VA. Thousands of gently-read books and non book media organized into categories including picture books, early readers, nonfiction, holiday, chapter books and more. \$.25-.2.00. Some specials \$3 and \$4. Free parking. Email: friendsoffairfaxcitylibrary@gmail.com or call: 703-644- 4870

Finding Common Ground: A Reverse Town

Hall to End Gun Violence. 6 - 8:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, Sanctuary. 2709 Hunter Mill Rd, Oakton, VA 22124. Let's break the stereotypes that usually accompany the labels "gun owner" and "non-gun owner" and find the common ground that will end gun violence. The following Virginia state legislators have agreed to attend: Senators Adam Ebbin, Barbara Favola and many others. Share a potluck dinner and share the story of what has shaped your views on guns. RSVP at uucf.org/finding-common-ground.

Oktoberfest Volksmarch and Biketoberfest

8 - 1 p.m. Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church in Burke. 10125 Lakehaven Ct, Burke, VA 22015. Join walkers of all ages and cyclists for the annual Oktoberfest Volksmarch and Biketoberfest Saturday, Sept. 17. The self-guided walks and group bike rides start at the Accotink Unitarian Church in Burke. An adult must accompany children under 12. Leashed dogs are welcome. Participation: Free. Contact Susan or Steve Brown at 703-644-0189 or <http://scenicroutes.us/nvv/events> or nicebrowns@verizon.net.

Ride To Thrive Polo Classic

1 p.m. Gates Open Chetwood Park 5403 Obannon Rd. The Plains, VA 20198. The Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program (NVTRP) will hold its 10th Annual Ride to Thrive Polo Classic. Enjoy an afternoon of polo, live and silent auctions, music, drinks and dining on a private estate. This event will benefit NVTRP's mission to provide equine-assisted activities to children and adults with disabilities, youth-at-risk, military service personnel and their families. Cost: \$75

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 17-18, 2016

Colonial Market and Fair. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Visit a recreation of an early American marketplace with crafts, entertainment and more. Try your hand at 18th century cricket and enjoy evening programs. Children \$9, adults \$17. Call 703-780-2000; 703-799-8697 or visit www.MountVernon.org for more.

Cox Fall Festival Preview Weekend. 10 - 6 p.m. Cox Farms, 15621 Braddock Road, Centreville. All of those giant slides, swings, apples and cider, animals, pumpkins are waiting for you. Be here right when we open and be on the first hayride of 2016. \$15 for kids 2 years and over. Visit: <http://www.coxfarms.com/fallfestival.aspx>.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 18

N-TRAK Model Train Show at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum 1 - 4 p.m. located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station, VA. Museum members and children 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; ages 16 and older, \$4. www.fairfax-station.org

Trucks and Tunes 4 - 7 p.m. Fairfax United Methodist Church, 10300 Stratford Avenue. Food trucks with a diversity of foods. Contemporary Christian concert by Shane and Shane at 7:00 p.m.

MONDAY/SEPT. 19

Mental Wellness for Older Adults 1 - 2 p.m. George Mason Library 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Call 703-324-7006 for more information and ADA accommodations.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 20

Mental Wellness for Older Adults 1 - 2 p.m. Sherwood Regional Library 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Call the Community Services Board's Information Line at 703-324-7006 for more information and ADA accommodations.

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21 Announcements

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LEGAL NOTICE

According to the Lease by and between Joseph Strauss (of unit 1131) and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: dog beds, boxes, clothes, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Friday September 23, 2016 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

According to the Lease by and between Barbara Franceschi (of unit 1069) and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: totes, bed, furniture, home decor, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Friday September 23, 2016 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
CafeSole, Inc trading as Cafe Sole, 7127A Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises and Mixed Beverages Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages, Son Ae An, President
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at
www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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-Werner Heisenberg

21 Announcements

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LETTERS

Meals Tax: Vote 'No'

To the Editor:

I'm writing this letter to encourage the people of Springfield and Fairfax County to vote NO on the meals tax referendum on the Nov. 8 ballot. There are numerous reasons to vote NO, but first among them is that a meals tax is the most regressive form of taxation our government can impose. It taxes food without discrimination to your ability to enjoy a simple meal out with your family.

Second, Chairman Sharon Bulova of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors reasoned in her September "Bulova Byline" that a meals tax is "a source of revenue most towns and cities within or adjacent to us already have." What she did not mention is

that lower meal prices in Fairfax County is an attraction for people to spend their earnings in the County, thereby increasing the overall revenue base. Just because others are doing it does not make it right or proper. Finally, our citizens need to understand what politicians won't tell them: no business, including restaurants, pay taxes; they simply collect taxes from the consumers to pass to the government. Let's tackle this problem from the other direction by cutting wasteful services we no longer need or desire so more of us can enjoy more frequent nights out on the town.

Matt Rising
Springfield

Meals Tax: Vote 'Yes'

To the Editor:

I am writing to encourage a "Yes" vote on the Fairfax County Meals Tax. A few pennies on the dollar will:

- ❖ Retain the quality of our schools
- ❖ Support other services like parks, libraries, fire and police
- ❖ Relieve the burden on our property taxes
- ❖ Increase property values

We relocated to Fairfax County almost a decade ago. We used only two criteria to narrow down our home search in the region. The first was convenience to our jobs, and the second was the quality of the schools.

People buy houses in Fairfax County because of our great schools.

There's considerable research from various universities and NGOs documenting the fact that school quality has a significant

impact on property values. All of the neighboring counties in our region have a meals tax. Fairfax teachers are paid less, and Fairfax County Public Schools have larger class sizes than these other counties. If we fail to pass the tax, our schools are likely to lose most music, art, and sports programs, along with many AP classes.

My children's best teachers are leaving the county, and more are likely to do so, if we can't shore up our schools. There is extensive documentation of all of this information at YesMealsTax.org. I strongly urge your support of this critical initiative. Please visit the website to engage with the campaign as I have done. They welcome your questions, and need your donations and support.

Debra Louison-Lavoy
McLean

FAITH NOTES

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

The Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Rd., Burke, is offering day and evening English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes to serve members of the community who wish to improve their English skills. Class levels offered are based on enrollment needs. Fall 2016 registration takes place Sept. 7—8 and classes begin Sept. 20. For more information call the church office at 703-323-5400. Leave your name and contact information and someone will get back to you.

Fairfax Baptist Temple, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a bible study fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and children's church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100 or www.fbtministries.org.

The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism. The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to understand the workings of the mind, overcoming inner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit <http://www.guhyasamaja.org> for more information.

Lord of Life Lutheran offers services at two

locations, in Fairfax at 5114 Twinbrook Road and in Clifton at 13421 Twin Lakes Drive. Services in Fairfax are held on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 and 10 a.m. Services in Clifton are held on Sundays at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. 703-323-9500 or www.Lordoflifeva.org.

First Baptist Church of Springfield offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by both traditional and contemporary worship services at 10:30 a.m. at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or www.fbcspRINGfield.org.

Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton, offers Sunday worship services at 10 a.m. and Cup of Fellowship at 11 a.m. Nursery care is provided from 9:45-11:15 a.m. Christian education for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. 703-830-3175.

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton, conducts Sunday masses at 7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., Latin mass at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. It also offers a Saturday vigil at 5:30 p.m. and a Thursday Latin mass at 7 p.m. Additional mass offered Monday-Friday at 6:30 a.m. (except on Federal holidays) and 8:45 a.m. 703-817-1770 or www.st-andrew.org.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, offers casual worship services on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. featuring contemporary music. More traditional services take place on Sunday mornings at 8:15 and 11 a.m. Sunday School is from 9:45-10:45 a.m. for children and adults. The church also offers discussion groups for adults. 703-451-5855 or www.poplce.org.

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Fall 2016 HomeLifeStyle

John Smith of Willem Smith FurnitureWorks shows examples of leather used for the seating he creates.



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

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HomeLifeStyle

Comfort Zone

Local furniture maker combines style and comfort

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

John W. Smith treks through a maze of sleek chairs and stately sofas in a large, sunlit showroom tucked in an industrial warehouse center in Fairfax. He pauses at dining chair, upholstered in beige linen and framed with espresso hardwood.

"Feel how smooth that is," he said, running his fingers along the wooden edge of the seat. "If you're at a sitting at the table for three, there's no sharp edge against the back of your calves."

Dubbed the "three-hour dinner party" chair, the Etesian is part of the Willem Smith Furnitureworks collection. Pieces ranging from the brown, leather San Luis, a streamlined version of a traditional wing chair, to the Francisco Metro Swivel, a petite recliner, to the Canapé sofa, fill the showroom.

"The comfort of the pieces sells them, but it doesn't look like big, over-stuffed furni-

ture," said interior designer Lowell Wade of Interior Motives in Alexandria.

Like many furniture makers, Smith strives to marry style and comfort. He's taken that commitment to a new level, however, creating and patenting his own seating mechanism to ensure comfort. Named piErgonom, it's a device that attaches the seat back to the seat cushion, preventing slippage and offering back support. Beauty and style matter to Smith, but in his liberal view of aesthetics, beauty springs from not only the physical appeal, but also the way a piece feels and functions.

"Comfort is the final element that determines whether the chair or sofa is a success," said Smith, a Great Falls father of four teenage daughters. "We sweat all of the details and are completely consumed by making all of our seating more comfortable."

Smith says that he is committed to minimizing his company's impact on the environment. His practices include using non-endangered hardwoods. All of the springs incorporated into the cushions of his seats are made from recycled steel. Most of the furniture and fabrics used are made in the United States. Buyers can choose from a range of textiles and finishes, including leathers and fabrics, which are displayed



PHOTO BY DEB STEVENS/THE CONNECTION

When designing the basement lounge area of this Potomac, Md. home, Anne Walker used two Willem Smith Caballero Sofas in Dreamer Grey Taupe Leather.

"Comfort is the final element that determines whether the chair or sofa is a success."

— John Smith, Willem Smith FurnitureWorks

in the showroom.

Born and raised on a farm in Ontario, Canada, Smith left a career in banking to

spend more time with his then-young family. He also itched to find creativity in his life. His pieces, which not only include seating, but also tables, cabinets and other wood works, are a blend of contemporary lines and classic styles.

Smith credits a talented team of what he calls "style leaders" with the aesthetics of his goods. "I have no illusions that I'm Yves St. Laurent and I wouldn't pretend to have an affinity for style," he said. "There is a difference between design and style. Design

SEE COMFORT ZONE, NEXT PAGE



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Family Furniture

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

is the engineering, construction, materials and performance, and that's my focus."

Before hitting the market, for example, each piece undergoes a careful inspection by Smith and his business partner John "JB" Behrens.

"We know all of our pieces intimately," said Behrens. "The designs essentially come out of a collaborative process. We think about furniture logically and practically and we obsess over comfort."

"We focus a lot on scale and proportion and how that relates to a furniture buying decision," he continued. "When we have a chair, for example, John and I look at it together, think about what works, what doesn't, what things bother us, how can we figure out a solution to turn problems into positives."

A combination of versatility and comfort drew Potomac, Md.-based interior designer Anne Walker of Anne Walker Design to Willem Smith furniture during a recent home redesign. "All of their pieces are incredibly beautiful. They combine this very clever combination of Old World and classic style with innovation," said Walker. "The greatest strength is the comfort of their pieces. They take painstaking details. You

can tell the first time you sit on one of their products that they are extremely comfortable."

Smith's wife, Mary, helps with marketing and other tasks. "The clear differentiator for the furniture is the attention to comfort and functionality," she said. "There is a lot of furniture out there that may look good, but isn't functional. A lot of the public doesn't realize it. That's the fun of the marketing piece: educating others about this great solution for people. Like before there was Starbucks people didn't realize they were drinking bad coffee all the time."

This attention to detail attracts clients ranging from furniture-seeking homeowners to interior designers on a mission to create a showplace.

"Their furniture has a bespoke quality and an incomparable level of comfort," said Joseph Van Goethem of Joseph Van Goethem Interior Design in McLean. "I believe Willem Smith is the epitome of authenticity and timelessness." Even better, he added, "when I first took a client to Willem Smith, there was no smothering my client, no sales pitch. When your furniture is that good, there's no need to sell it."

They may not hover, but they are there to help. One woman shopper first visited



PHOTO BY DEB STEVENS/THE CONNECTION

Interior designer Anne Walker used Willem Smith Quintana Swivel Chairs in Dreamer Apricot Leather to add a pop of color to a neutral palette.

the Willem Smith showroom earlier this year after renovating her kitchen. She chose a dining table, dining chairs and bar stools to complete the space. "JB and John ... helped me pick style, scale, color and design that enhanced my space and really pulled it together beautifully. I invested sig-

nificantly into the renovation and I really wanted the space to come together, flow, and serve as a welcoming, bright and calm social space."

Locally, Peet's Coffee & Tea selected Willem Smith's Rio Java chair for the lounge area of its coffee shops.

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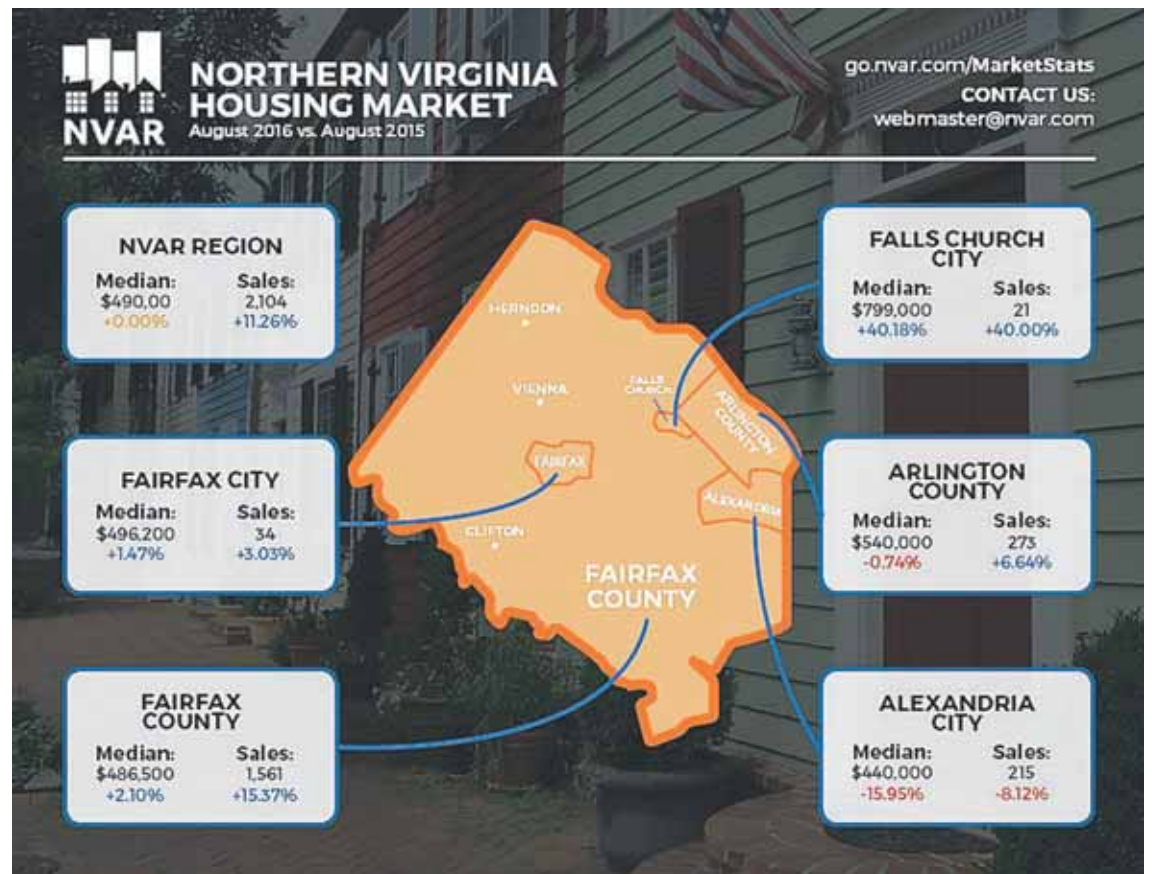
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