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FALL FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

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Nova Chamber Hosts Char-a-oke

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About 150 people attended the sixth-annual Char-a-oke Charity Karaoke hosted by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, Sept. 22. Springfield's Interstate Van Lines team had a notable appearance.



Inmates Explore Ways Back to Community

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Sworn Officer Liaison Integral to Community Policing in North Springfield

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LONGINES

ANIMAL PLANET

Inmates Explore Ways Back to Community

Inmate Resource Fair at Fairfax Adult Detention Center helps inmates overcome hurdles upon release.

BY ALEXANDRA TECCO
THE CONNECTION

Toccara Puller moves table to table at the Inmate Resource Fair at the Fairfax Adult Detention Center on Tuesday, Sept. 20. Puller and the small group of other female inmates make contacts with the 20 vendors in attendance which represent the diverse partnerships the Sheriff's Office has made to help with their releases. Governmental agencies, businesses, non-profits all come together in the single room to share pamphlets, flyers and individualized advice for the 200 inmates, male and female, some of whom are veterans, that will visit the fair by the end of the day.

The partnerships, sitting behind tables lining the grey and beige painted room, help with the vast array of hurdles the inmates will face upon release: food, shelter, clothing, medical care, mental health care, employment, transportation, acquiring job skills and overcoming stigma.

"This is a great program," explains Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kincaid. "Anytime we have an opportunity to help men and women get the services they need it's a great feeling. We help them realize that every day is a new opportunity."

PULLER leaves the fair with a stack of papers, "info on groups to help," she explains. It's info that's useful to every inmate when they're about to be released. "if they can take it seriously then they can be successful," she says.

Puller has participated in many programs during her two years. She joined book club, has been studying for her CDL and has plans in three years to be "working for a company, have a 401k, be stable and collecting paychecks," Puller explains.

They are simple goals, but meeting these basic needs are often the difference between thriving upon release and recidivism.

"Some leave here with nothing but the bag of personal belongings they came in with," explains Lieutenant Jaime Popik, Supervisor of Inmate Programs and Recreation. That means no connections in the community, no support structure and lacking the means to acquire food and shelter. The inmates will also leave with the stigma of being incarcerated and trying to move back into the community, to be someone's neighbor, explains Popik, which means they often feel that they have no ties.

Popik hopes the community keeps an open



Whittina McLilly, Re-Entry and Family Services Program Manager with OAR (Opportunities, Alternatives and Resources), speaking with an inmate at the fourth Inmate Resource Fair at the Fairfax Adult Detention Center.



Pablo Chavez and Brian White, Program Coordinators with the Virginia DMV, help an inmate apply for identification. IDs help with everything from getting a job, to opening a bank account or even visiting a hospital, Chavez and White explain.

mind, giving the inmates a second chance.

"Think of them as family," Popik explains, "who had the worst day of their life and made a horrible decision. They're just normal human beings who made mistakes."

For Puller, the fair helps build upon the resources she acquired during the past two years. She received the medical assistance she needed, learned from the programs she participated in that those who had a hard

life can still rise above it. "These resources help people who don't have any light," Puller explains, thankful for the help.

THE FAIR has been growing slowly, a few more vendors each time the fair is held, Spring and Fall. For the March resource fair, next Spring, Popik is hoping for more mentoring opportunities. A chance to have a relationship with someone in the community once released. "Maybe next time someone

who does credit repair help," Puller suggests.

Northern Virginia is a unique area because the community is so active and supportive, Kincaid explains. "This is an opportunity to get involved," says Kincaid. When the Sheriff's Office visits the community it responds and "when offenders get out they share the resources that have helped them by word of mouth." Consequently, the circle of those that benefit from the fair grows larger than just the 200 attendees.



Toccara Puller chatting with Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kincaid at the Inmate Resource Fair. "As a community we need to be thankful for what we have and help each other," says Puller.



Jim Corcoran and the E.C.'s perform karaoke. Corcoran is President and CEO of the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce.



PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION
The team from Interstate Van Lines in Springfield.

Nova Chamber of Commerce Hosts Char-a-oke

Event raises \$5,000 for the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia's Future Fund.

About 150 people attended the sixth-annual Char-a-oke Charity Karaoke hosted by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, Sept. 22 at The Barns at Wolf Trap in Vienna. Ten teams paid \$500 each and individuals paid \$40 for the chance to sing karaoke, helping to raise about \$5,000 for the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia and its Future Fund to support various nonprofits in the Northern Virginia area.

"It's a great event to bring people together to support the local community while engaging employees at the same time," said Sarah Mitchell, Event Manager with the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

After the spirited performances, prizes were awarded for Best Vocals to Calibre Systems; Best Rendition to Interstate Moving; Most Spirited to Evans Incorporated; and Crowd Favorite to Mohamed Hafez of IntelliDyne LLC.

— STEVE HIBBARD

Rachael Ander, Co-Chair of the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia and its Future Fund.



About 150 people attended the sixth-annual Char-a-oke Charity Karaoke hosted by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, Sept. 22 at The Barns at Wolf Trap in Vienna.



Leidos of Reston performs karaoke.



White 64 of Tysons Corner performs "White Noise."



Mohamed Hafez of IntelliDyne of Tysons Corner.

NEWS

Students ran an average of 30 to 35 laps to celebrate the money they raised during the nine-day Boosterthon program.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BOOSTERTHON



Keene Mill Elementary Students Raise \$32,000 with Boosterthon

More than 760 Keene Mill Elementary School students in Springfield ran in the Boosterthon Fun Run on Sept. 16, capping a nine-day fundraising program and learning experience with the theme "Backyard Box Office."

Students ran an average of 30 to 35 laps at the school to celebrate the money they raised during the Boosterthon.

Over the nine-days, students learned five steps to make a difference in their community. Documentary-

style videos taught lessons about identifying a need, writing a plan, forming and launching a team, and following through with the plan.

From the stories of five difference-making youths, the program is designed to inspire students to put their own ideas into action.

Overall, the Keene Mill students raised \$32,000 that will be used to put finishing touches on the school's renovation, including chairs, carpet and bookshelves.

—TIM PETERSON

With more than 40 students, the Academy now offers more space including seven dance studios, four music studios and a new black box theater that will be complete in January, 2017.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Metro School of the Arts Welcomes Students to New Kingstowne Academy

Students of the Metropolitan School of the Arts (MSA) Performing Arts Academy of Alexandria will see a lot of new changes at the newly, expanded MSA Academy headquarters in Kingstowne. With more than 40 students, the Academy now offers more space with 14,500 square feet, including seven dance stu-

dios, four music studios and a new black box theater that will be complete in January, 2017. They're also building a new Early Childhood dance studio and waiting area for their youngest students and families with small children. For information, go to www.metropolitanarts.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

ONGOING

Burke Lake Seniors Golf League seeks members. Interested golfers are invited to join the Burke Lake Seniors Golf League. Must be 55 and older, enjoy playing golf, meeting new people and having an all-around good time. Reserved tee times on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the Par 3 Burke Lake Golf Course on Ox Road. Annual dues for the season – April 1 through October 31 – are

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

\$20 plus green fees. For more information, call Charlie Ryan 703-690-4227.

The **Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program** needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltcombusdman/.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to **drive older adults** to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

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Independent Police Auditor Marks History

Kudos to Board of Supervisors for unanimous approval of independent police auditor; now on to the Civilian Review Panel.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted to create the position and office of independent police auditor on Tuesday, Sept. 20, creating the first civilian, independent oversight of law enforcement in Fairfax County. The unanimous vote demonstrated the board's commitment to the ongoing process that began early in 2015 when Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova established the 32-member Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission.

Police Chief Edwin Roessler expressed strong support for two key-stone recommendations of the Ad Hoc Commission, the auditor and the Civilian Review Panel, next up for consideration and implementation by the Board of Supervisors.

Many commission recommendations have already been approved, including the establishment of the Diversion First program providing treatment rather than jail for people in mental health crisis, development of an overriding use of force policy, and more transparency in police communications.

Independent oversight and civilian participation in reviewing police use of force, officer-involved shootings and citizen complaints will play a vital role in maintaining Fairfax County

Police Department's reputation as being one of the very best law enforcement organizations in the nation.

Some critics complain that the final language approving the auditor limits the independence of the office, but the auditor will be briefed on investigations contemporaneously, providing a window of oversight and sunshine not previously in place. There are more than 200 different civilian oversight structures around the country. While civilian oversight is a national best practice, the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing recommends that every community

have community oversight of police, with each community developing the model that is best locally.

Public Safety Committee chair John Cook (R-Braddock) is tasked with shepherding major recommendations through the Board of Supervisors. He pointed out that the specifics of the approval for the auditor are not locked in stone; revisions after a period of experience would not be surprising.

Recommendations by the Independent Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee for the Fairfax County model included establishing the Independent Police Auditor and establishing a Civilian Review Panel to respond to commu-

nity concerns or complaints about alleged incidents of abuse of authority by the FCPD.

The panel as proposed would not conduct investigations and would not be involved in the disciplinary process for any officer, but would review select investigations after they are complete. The panel would also not overlap duties with the auditor.

The panel could issue public reports, and meet with the auditor periodically, providing its views to the Board of Supervisors and the chief of police as to policy and practices changes that may be warranted. The panel could also hold periodic public forums around the county to gather information and suggestions about the FCPD, public perceptions and recommendations for policy and procedure, involving other police advisory committees and members of the Board of Supervisors as appropriate.

Indications are that there will be some modifications to the proposal for the Civilian Review Panel over the coming weeks. It's a good time for those with interest to tune in.

The board's Public Safety Committee will discuss the creation of a Civilian Review Panel at its next meeting, scheduled for Oct. 25 at 1 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center.

Read more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/chairman/pdf/adhoc-final-10.8.15.pdf

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Mary Kimm served on the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission and continues to advocate for implementation of commission recommendations.

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Support the Meals Tax

To the Editor:

The referendum on the November 8 ballot in Fairfax County to permit a surcharge on prepared food (a "meals tax"), if approved, will bring Fairfax into conformity with its neighbors. Montgomery County (Md.), Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church, The City of Fairfax and the towns of Herndon and Vienna already have this tax. They are thriving.

When approved and implemented, this new revenue source will bring in an additional \$100 Million a year. Somewhere between one-quarter and one third will come from visitors to Fairfax. This will ease pressure to raise property taxes to meet our needs, while maintaining and expanding the public services we value here.

I know I did not move to Fairfax because of the summer humidity or traffic congestion. I live and work here because of the strong jobs, communities, parks, libraries, public safety system, and the educational resources.

Since the recession and seques-

ter, Fairfax has been struggling to maintain what makes this a great place. Our excellence is at risk. Of course, it would be wonderful if the Commonwealth would meet its obligations to us, but they have consistently fallen short. This is the only new revenue available to us.

On November 8, I will vote and urge my friends and neighbors to vote YES on the meals tax referendum.

Frank Blechman
Fairfax Station

Running Away From Tough Budgetary Decisions

To the Editor:

The Fairfax Board of Supervisors is at it again. Real estate tax bills soar – and now a proposed meals tax — with not a word about attacking the County's expenditures. If the meals tax was offered as a way to reduce real estate taxes — up sharply by 26 percent in the last

five years — a thin rationale might exist. But it is just another revenue source that will be an unmistakably regressive tax falling heaviest on lower-income and fixed-income residents as well as thousands of foodservice employees. And you can count on the Board eventually wanting to hike a meals tax just like they have done with the real estate tax rate.

Instead of singing the now tedious, contrived chorus about "devastating" County schools and teachers, why don't the Board and FCPS focus on non-classroom administration and the Gatehouse Road bureaucracy? Why can't the Board establish zero-based priorities to identify reductions or elimination of marginal County programs? Instead of taxpayer relief, why is the answer always raising or introducing taxes? Since assessments in this area continue to rise, our tax bills escalate relentlessly without relief in sight. The Supervisors turn away from tough budgetary decisions. It is much easier for them to use the homeowner as a handy ATM machine to keep their coffers full. Enough is enough. Defeat the meals tax and force the Board instead to find

meaningful economies in the County budget.

Dell Pendergrast
McLean

Taking Exception on Ex-Convicts' Voting

To the Editor:

Every election, we go to the polls to choose the public servants most dedicated to public service and the public weal. Criminals proven beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law of public malice so inimical to the public good that our laws require them to be imprisoned have no place in this most sacred and public-spirited decision-making. To call their exclusion "repressive" ("Why Do Some Want Virginia To Be One of the Most Repressive States?," The Connection, September 7-13, 2016) disrespects the truly repressed, including the hundreds of thousands of these

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

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Sworn Officer Liaison Integral to Community Policing in North Springfield

Civic Association to hold community meeting on break-ins Oct. 5.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

For North Springfield resident Jeff Schaefer, having a safe community starts with neighbors looking out for each other.

"We all have to take a part in that," said Schaefer, who coordinates the North Springfield Neighborhood Watch program. "You go around, capture information, if there's a street light out, or something else suspicious, and take care of it."

For the majority of issues that come up on the watch, on-duty volunteers report to the police and hand things off.

Though sometimes, someone will see something or even be the victim of the crime, and post about it on the neighborhood Facebook page. They may do this before, or even instead of, calling Fairfax County Police.

That's where North Springfield Civic Association president Ken Balbuena will reach out to them, whether they officially reported it or not. Balbuena then initiates another chain of contact with their local Franconia police station by reaching out to the community's designated Crime Prevention Officer Allie Eggers.

Eggers is a sworn officer and liaison between the citizens and station.

"She's our preliminary contact," Balbuena said. "We'll ask 'Hey, this is going on, we hear there's a detective assigned and a couple of officers who've been on the scene. She'll work on the back end and give us a more disclosable report we can share with our community.'"

THE NEXT COMMUNITY over is Ravensworth Farm — Balbuena said there's a lot of coordination between their respec-



North Springfield community members speak up at a March 2016 Civic Association community informational meeting in March.

tive Crime Prevention Officers as well.

With the speculation that can go on, especially over social media, when there's an incident in a community, Balbuena said the relationship with Eggers is a successful one for "keeping the open lines with our community, sharing factual information."

That strong partnership he said goes a long way in preventing public mistrust of law enforcement.

Schaefer said he sends Officer Eggers an email about once a month, following up on something that may have come from a Neighborhood Watch shift.

"She's great to work with," he said. "She's been responsive, she's been good about that. We know we'll get an answer."

Schaefer recounted a recent report of graffiti in the neighborhood that was reported through Eggers and taken care of quickly.

That utility of a community contact point for police, as well as regular FCPD blotter reports, crime mapping at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policevent and local updates through the website www.crimereports.com, are what impress Schaefer about Fairfax County law enforcement.

"It's there, the transparency and accountability," he said. "Fairfax County does it right. Police are really here to help."

Most recently, Balbuena, Schaefer, Eggers and FCPD detectives have been dealing with a series of car and home break-ins and tire slashings in North Springfield, the latter of which happened to three vehicles over two different days.

"There's a whole range of theories as to who it could be," Balbuena said, including teenagers, homeless people and workers who had been in the area paving streets.

"Some people make that assumption it's the street pavers," he said. "But it's going to go back to what do you report as speculation versus factual."

RESIDENTS will be able to hear a factual update at the next regular meeting of the North Springfield Civic Association on Oct. 5, its first since May.

The meeting is an embodiment of the association's relationship with Eggers and the Franconia station. "It's letting police and detectives in the field handle the investigation," Balbuena said. "Then having a dialogue and us moving the information on into the community."



Residents will be able to hear a factual update on recent break-ins and tire slashings at the next regular meeting of the North Springfield Civic Association on Oct. 5, its first since May.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF
GARY BLACK III



North Springfield Civic Association president Ken Balbuena speaks at a March 2016 community informational meeting for proposed traffic calming plan on Leesville boulevard.

The meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of North Springfield Elementary School, located at 7602 Heming Ct in Springfield. All community members and the public are invited to attend. For more information, visit www.nscivic.org.

Officer Eggers did not respond to requests for an interview for this article.

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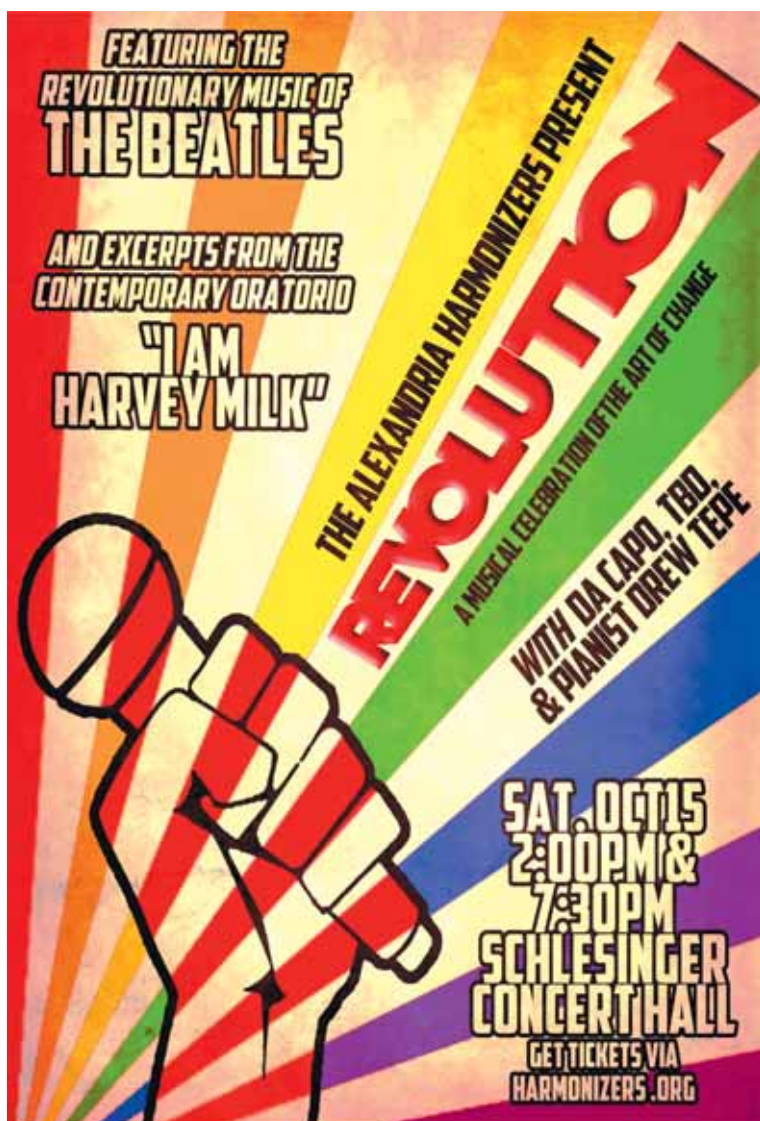


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PHOTO BY LUCID FRAME PRODUCTIONS/
COURTESY OF VIRGINIA OPERA

Virginia Opera's 'Pagliacci' (bottom to top): Kelly Kaduce as Nedda, Clay Hilley as Canio and Michael Chioldi as Tonio.



PHOTO BY NEIL BRADLEY-YOUNG/
COURTESY OF VIRGINIA OPERA

Gabrielle Zucker, dancer performing in the role of Anna in Kurt Weill's 'The Seven Deadly Sins.'

Opening Season with Double Delight

**Virginia Opera brings
'The Seven Deadly Sins'
and 'Pagliacci' to the
Center for the Arts.**

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION



PHOTO BY KEITARO HARADA/COURTESY OF VIRGINIA OPERA
Adam Turner, Virginia Opera, Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor

Virginia Opera opens its 25th season at the Center for the Arts with a fascinating double bill not previously seen in Northern Virginia.

The double-bill includes Kurt Weill's satire about unfettered capitalism "The Seven Deadly Sins." It is a work that includes both singing and dancing about two poverty-stricken sisters who take a journey across America. They fall prey to sins: Anger, Lust, Greed, Envy, Pride and Jealousy along with Hunger.

The second half of the twin-bill evening is a new production of "Pagliacci" by Leoncavallo. It is a tale about an actor playing a "clown" who nevertheless experiences the great burdens and sorrow, just like any other real person. And his burdens take place in a fast-paced all-consuming journey of jealousy and murder.

This is the sixth consecutive season featuring the "First of Firsts" series introducing local audiences to operas never performed by Virginia Opera, said Adam Turner, Virginia Opera's Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor.

"Virginia Opera makes a bold repertory choice with this season's opener designed to pique the interest of both newcomers and seasoned opera goers alike," said Turner. "Virginia Opera is truly excited to present this unique pairing."

When asked why audiences who may not regularly attend opera should try the unique pairing of two operas, he said, "One of the first complaints I hear from folks about giving opera a try is: 'It's too long' or 'I won't understand, it's in another language.' 'The Seven Deadly Sins' is only 35 minutes in length, and it's sung in English."

WHERE AND WHEN

Virginia Opera presents "The Seven Deadly Sins" & "Pagliacci" at the Center for the Arts, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performances: Saturday, Oct. 8, 2016 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 9, 2016 at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$54, \$90, \$110. Call 888-945-2468 or visit: www.cfa.gmu.edu

Note: "The Seven Deadly Sins" will be performed in English with English supertitles. "Pagliacci" will be performed in Italian with English supertitles.

Note: Pre-opera discussion by Virginia Opera's Dr. Glenn "Dr. Opera" Winters 45 minutes before the curtain.

Turner went on to say that "Pagliacci" has "one of the most familiar and easy-to-follow stories of the entire opera repertory and it is only 80 minutes in length. With its highly dramatic storyline and incredibly powerful music, Leoncavallo's 'Pagliacci' is the perfect opera for a 'first-timer.'"

"Pagliacci" also features one of the most moving and well known tenor arias of all time; "Vesti la giubba." The aria is often used in pop culture and spoofs including in "The Simpsons." Even the band Queen used it.

"I am so excited to be making my directorial debut at Virginia Opera, especially with such an unusual pairing of operatic works," said director Keturah Stickann. "It will be an incredible season opening for Virginia patrons."

Inviting patrons Virginia Opera President/CEO Russell P. Allen added, "Virginia Opera is committed to bringing to the stage vibrant new repertory and productions."

FALL FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

ONGOING

Stories From Strawberry Park 10 - 11 a.m. Tuesdays in **Mosaic - Strawberry Park** 2910 District Avenue, Fairfax. 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/>

Batting Cage Occoquan Regional Park 9751 Ox Road Lorton. 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.

SUNDAY/OCT. 2

Woodrow Wilson Bridge Marathon. 7 a.m. Starts and Finishes in Old Town Alexandria Visit: <http://wilsonbridgehalf.com/>.

SATURDAY/OCT. 8

Fall Festival in Old Town Historic Fairfax. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 10209 Main Street, Fairfax. What started out as a small market for artisans has grown to a festival with over 400 arts, crafts and food vendors, children's activities and entertainment for all ages. Visit <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/fall-festival>

Oktoberfest Reston noon 11900 Market Street, Reston. Restaurants and vendors will line the streets of the Reston Town Center. Live music will fill the air with traditional German tunes from various bands and the Reston community will come alive.

SUNDAY/OCT. 9

Clifton Day. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Town of Clifton, corner of Main Street and Chapel Road. The town's annual arts and crafts fair. Visit: <http://www.cliftonday.com/>

Reston Pumpkin 5k and Kids' Pumpkin Dash 8:15 a.m. 11900 Market Street, Reston. Get off the couch and get ready for the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce's Reston Pumpkin 5K and Kids' Pumpkin Dash. Participants are encouraged to debut their Halloween costumes and join in the fall fun with the whole family.

SATURDAY/OCT. 15

Pumpkin Preparedness Race 8 a.m. Vienna Volunteer Fire Department 400 Center St S, Vienna. Inaugural 5k road race to support first responders across Northern Virginia. Brand new course across quiet Vienna streets. All proceeds benefit the Northern Virginia Emergency Response System. Register at www.preparedness5k.com

Halstead Square Festival 11 - 4 p.m. Halstead Square Dunn Loring Metro 2750 Gallows Road Vienna.



Thousands have thronged to the Fairfax Fall Festival. This years' festivities will begin at 10 a.m. and last all day on 10209 Main Street, Fairfax.

Celebrate Northern Virginia's culinary and visual arts when Halstead Square Dunn Loring Metro hosts its first Food, Wine & Art Festival to benefit the Workhouse Arts Center. Cost: Free. www.halsteadsquare.com

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 21-23

Annual Craftsmen's Fall Classic Art & Craft Festival. Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Features original designs and work from hundreds of talented artists and craftspeople from across America. Visit http://www.gilmoreshows.com/craftsmens_classics_chantilly_fall.shtml

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 22-23

Fall Harvest Family Days. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Enjoy autumn activities including wagon rides, wheat treating, 18th-century dancing demonstration, and straw bale maze, and more. Included in estate admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org/ for more.

FRIDAY/ OCT. 28

Family Fall Festival. Friday from 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Join Sydenstricker United Methodist Church for games, food, cake walk, and of course "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown!" Costumes are encouraged, please no masks or weapons. Register online at sydenstrickermc.org/family-movie-night

night.

SATURDAY/NOV. 5-6

Cox Farms Pumpkin Madness. 10 - 5 p.m. Cox Farms, 15621 Braddock Road, Centreville. Come out and smash, throw, and launch those old pumpkins. Bring back your used Jack-o'lantern...We'll help you recycle it. Last admission 4 p.m. Visit: <http://www.coxfarms.com/fallfestival.aspx>.

SATURDAY/NOV. 12, 2016

The Robinson Marketplace. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 5305 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Shop at over 80 vendors at the Holiday Market, raffle and silent auction sponsored by the Robinson Secondary School PTSA. Visit <http://www.robinsonptsa.org/marketplace.html>

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 19-20

30th Annual Holiday Craft Show 10 - 3 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax, VA 22030. What started out in 1987 as a very small show has grown to become a premium arts and crafts festival. Artisans from all over the United States, including many local artists, are participating in this year's show and we are delighted to be able to offer you so many wonderful holiday gift choices. There really is something for everyone on your shopping list. Visit: <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/holiday-craft-show>

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Fairfax Divorce Workshop.**

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Date: Saturday, October 8, 2016
 Saturday, November 12, 2016

Time: 8:30 a.m. – Registration
 9:00-12:30 p.m. – Workshop

Place: Fair Oaks Commerce Center
The Duff Law Firm
 11320 Random Hills Road/Suite 630
 Fairfax, VA 22030

Fee: Waived for 2016 workshops

Please join us for our Second Saturday Divorce Workshop and get the information, support and guidance from professionals: a family law attorney, financial advisor, and a family therapist.

Registration at the door; however, pre-registration is recommended as space is limited.

Online Registration: www.secondsaturdaynova.com
 Email: nancy@secondsaturdaynova.com
 Phone: (703) 591-7475

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CALENDAR



The inaugural 5k road race to support first responders across Northern Virginia will be Saturday Oct. 15 at 8 a.m. in Vienna. The event will take place at the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department located at 400 Center St S.

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. 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 through Sept. 30 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 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. moorefitt@yahoo.com or 703-499-6133.

EXERCISE PROGRAM Mondays and Fridays at

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

Plan Ahead Events

SATURDAY/OCT. 15

Pumpkin Preparedness Race 8 a.m. Vienna Volunteer Fire Department 400 Center St S, Vienna. Inaugural 5k road race to support first responders across Northern Virginia. Brand new course across quiet Vienna streets. All proceeds benefit the Northern Virginia Emergency Response System. Register at www.preparedness5k.com

Halstead Square Festival 11 - 4 p.m. Halstead Square Dunn Loring Metro 2750 Gallows Road Vienna. Celebrate Northern Virginia's culinary and visual arts when Halstead Square Dunn Loring Metro hosts its first Food, Wine & Art Festival to benefit the Workhouse Arts Center. Cost: Free. www.halsteadsquare.com

FRIDAY/OCT. 21

Superintendent's Revenge 2016. 10 a.m. Twin Lakes Golf Course, 6201 Union Mill Road, Clifton. Obstacle-filled layout. \$160 per team. Roberta.Korzen@fairfaxcounty.gov.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 21-23, 2016

Annual Craftsmen's Fall Classic Art & Craft Festival. Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Features original designs and work from hundreds of talented artists and craftspeople from across America. Visit http://www.gilmoreshows.com/craftsmens_classics_chantilly_fall.shtml

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WEDNESDAY/NOV. 2

Chronology of the Civil War in Fairfax County, Part I (1859-part of 1863). Preservationist and former Topographer, Ed Wenzel, will discuss his recent book at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Doors open at 7 p.m. Forum begins at 7:30. Copies of Wenzel's book will be available for purchase and signing. The Forum is free and open to the public. www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR. 703-425-9225.

SATURDAY/NOV. 5-6

Cox Farms Pumpkin Madness. 10 - 5 p.m. Cox Farms, 15621 Braddock Road, Centreville. Come out and smash, throw, and launch those old pumpkins. Bring back your used Jack-o-lantern...We'll help you recycle it. Last admission 4 p.m. Visit: <http://www.coxfarms.com/fallfestival.aspx>.

TUESDAY/NOV. 8, 2018

Election Day. General election. Visit www.sbe.virginia.gov/ and www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

9:30 am year-round at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Rd. Fairfax. 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. 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. 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. 30

Cardinal Forest Elementary School Celebration and Picnic 5 - 7:30 p.m. 8600 Forrester Blvd. Springfield. Celebrate 50 Years of Learning as we celebrate the history of Cardinal Forest Elementary and the development of a beautiful community tucked into the heart of Springfield. 703-451-1920

Author Cece Bell at Burke Centre Library 4:30 - 5:45 p.m. 5935 Freds Oak Rd Burke. Children's author Cece Bell's new graphic novel memoir "El Deafo" Bell chronicles her hearing loss at a young age and her experiences with the awkward Phonic Ear. Cost: Free. www.fallforthebook.org

SATURDAY/OCT. 1

Christ Church Consignment Sale 8 - 2 p.m. 7600 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. From 12-2pm many items are 50% off. We have two sales:

Spring and Fall. Selling gently used clothing for infants to juniors. Come early to find bikes, strollers, bassinets, bouncers, furniture, large toys, books and more. Cash, Check, and Credit are accepted. www.christchurchsale.com

Union Mill Elementary School

30th Anniversary 9 - 11 a.m. 13611 Springstone Dr, Clifton. In honor of the 30th Anniversary an Open House for all former students, staff members, and families are encouraged to come and see how the school has changed and grown since its opening in 1986. 703 322-8522.

SUNDAY/OCT. 2, 2016

Woodrow Wilson Bridge

Marathon. 7 a.m. Starts and Finishes in Old Town Alexandria Visit: http://wilsonbridgehalf.com/.

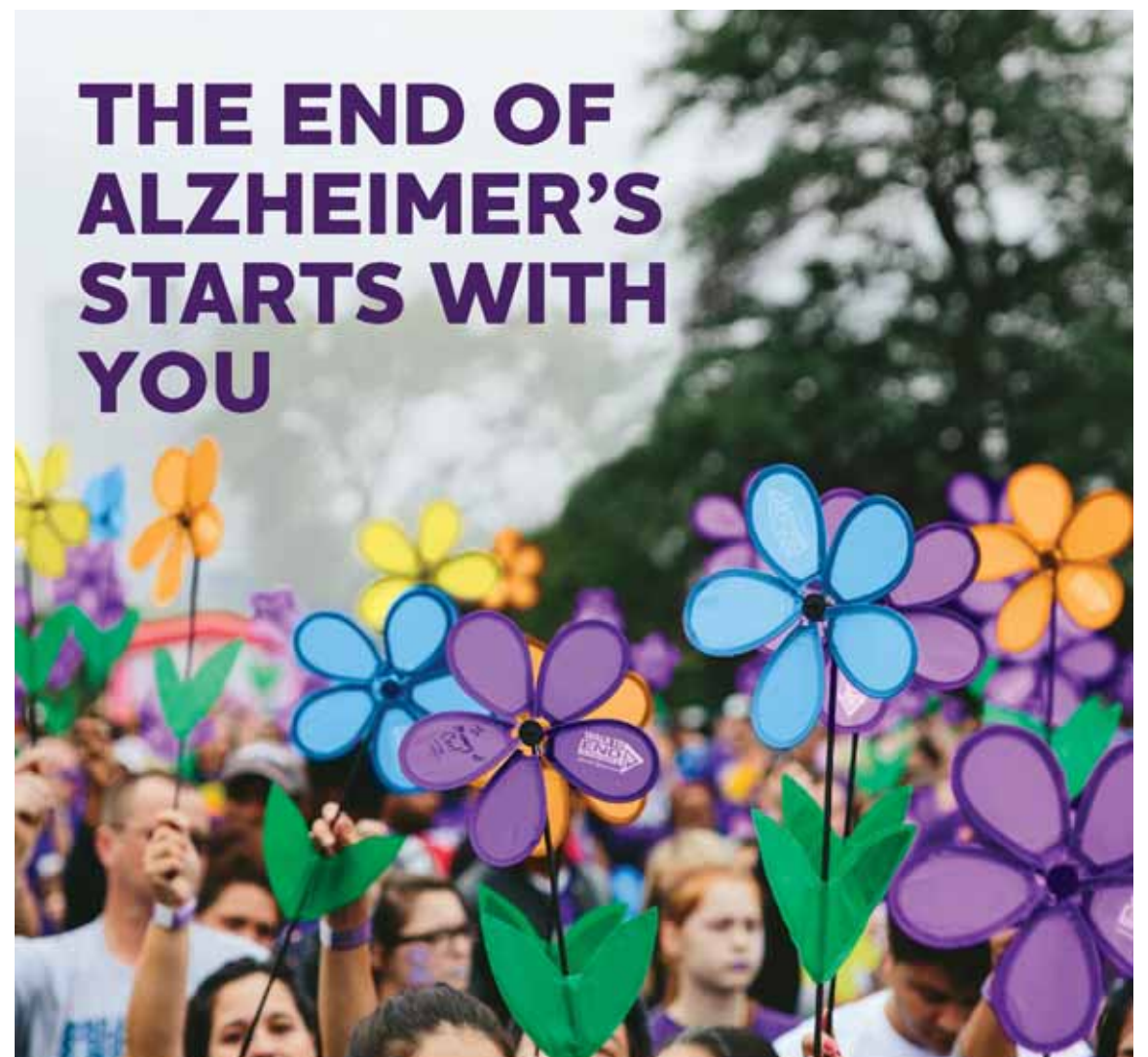
Club Invention: Environmental Protection 10 - 11:30 a.m. 11948 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax. Designed for children in grades 1 through 3. Identify ways that waste makes its way into water systems and oceans. Examine ways to build machines to clean contaminants from water systems. Encourage the use of eco-friendly, sustainable living through reducing, reusing, and recycling. Demonstrate how polluted waters can be cleaned. Admission \$12. childsci.org/

Your Child's Mind: Promoting Motivation 4 - 6 p.m. St. Stephen's United Methodist Church 9203

Braddock Road Burke. Rachna Varia, PhD and Kristi Guadagnoli, PsyD are co-founders of MindWell Psychology. Their talk will identify how our children can learn to persevere through challenges and develop intrinsic motivation. In addition, they will discuss the role of executive functioning, or how a student can learn to learn. Cost: Free. Lmaldana@hotmail.com

MONDAY/OCT.3

Budding Bookworms 11 - 11:30 a.m. 11948 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax. Budding Bookworms is story time with hands on activity immediately following designed for preschoolers ages 2-5 years. Admission \$12. childsci.org/



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Alzheimer's is an epidemic devastating our families, our finances and our future. The disease is all around us — but the power to stop it is within us. Join us for the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's and be inspired by all the footsteps that fall into place behind yours. Together, we can end Alzheimer's.



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The Path Toward Tomorrow

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

According to Michelle Gregory, Division Director from the Countywide Service Integration and Planning Management department, it's probably been more than a decade since Fairfax County conducted a human services needs assessment for the residents of the region. In the summer of 2015, the County decided it was more than time to take a detailed look at how things have changed since the last official recording and to see who most needed what in our area.

"The Path Toward Tomorrow: The 2016 Fairfax County Human Services Needs Assessment" was completed in May of 2016 after almost a year of exhaustive public outreach, meetings with public and private groups and nonprofits, boards, authorities, commissions and faith-based organization, focus groups and meetings in several languages, and even an on-line survey that gathered about 1,300 responses asking residents to identify the human services needs and populations most affected by the issues being raised. Quantitative measurements from a variety of sources like the U.S. Census Bureau and the county's economic and demographic statistics were added to the qualitative data to produce the most comprehensive analysis possible.

After internal review and discussion, it was time to disseminate the information to a wider pool and look for collaborative solutions and the best use of resources to address the needs uncovered.

That's where non-profit Giving Circle of Hope (GCoH) stepped in, organizing a series of open forums where the report could be summarized for the education of local service organizations and members of the public. Originally started to financially aid a local family affected by tragedy in 2003, GCoH formed a permanent philanthropic society in 2004. With more than 100 members, Giving Circle of Hope uses its membership dues and other fundraising efforts to provide grants to mostly small local "organizations that create positive change in Northern Virginia by improving the lives of people in need."

THE FIRST OF THE MEETINGS took place on Sept. 20, at the Volunteer Fire Department's conference room in Vienna, with Vienna Mayor Laurie DiRocco offering opening remarks and introducing the speakers.

Fairfax County's Gregory and her colleague Linda Hoffman tag-teamed to cover the highlights of the report for an audience that included other members of the Giving Circle of Hope, representatives from other charitable organizations, and concerned county residents.

"As involved as we are with helping those in need in our community," said one attendee, "this [report] is still really eye-opening."

The published report is 57 pages in length



Vienna Mayor Laurie DiRocco welcomes the public and introduces the speakers at the forum to discuss human services needs in Fairfax County, sponsored by the non-profit Giving Circle of Hope.)



Cyndi Shanahan is the co-chair of the Governance Committee for the Giving Circle of Hope, the Reston-based nonprofit that provides grants for organizations helping Northern Virginians. The group also engages in direct service projects and educational and networking activities for the betterment of area residents.

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION



Holly Seibold attended the "Path Toward Tomorrow" presentation and discussion. Seibold represented the non-profit group BRAWS – "Bringing Resources to Aid Women's Shelters." BRAWS has a website at www.braws.org, and can be found on Facebook.

– no way to detail it in this format, but some of the highlights that seemed to make the most impact concerned the increasing number of area citizens who just can't make ends meet, or get ahead while trying to provide for basic necessities.

With the county rapidly changing from a slower-paced Washington bedroom community to a semi-urban environment, the population has dramatically increased and become more dense, evolving from primarily single-family dwellings to a heavier pres-

ence of multi-family complexes. Fairfax County did not suffer as deeply as other parts of the country during the worst of the economic downturn, but by all indicators, local economic recovery has not kept pace with other parts of the country.

Gregory noted that the findings show "an increase in higher paying jobs and in the lower paying wage sectors," but that the workforce in the middle has not benefited from either more employment opportunities or from adequate wage increases. This

Giving Circle of Hope hosts County needs assessment reporting.

gap puts pressure on the majority of county residents and on the agencies and organizations that seek to assist them. "And it's not healthy for the county in general."

The "Key Human Services Needs" that are highlighted in the report fall into four categories:

- * Housing – Affordable Housing in general, Accessible Housing for the Disabled and Older Adults, Services to support independent living for both groups

- * Financial Assistance – Particularly child care and early education opportunities

- * Affordable Health Care – Insurance, Behavioral and Mental Health Services for all age groups, and assistance for victims of domestic violence

- * Transportation – Affordable and accessible public transportation, with particular emphasis on the "first and last miles" that often make public transportation difficult to use.

IN THE PAST it seemed most individuals or families needed assistance in only one area of need, or less assistance in order to meet basic standards of living. The findings of the study indicate that needs are now overlapping, and that more persons are further behind and in greater need to rise to that level.

After the presentation, the attendees had an opportunity to ask questions and to network, agreeing that it would "take a village" to make the most significant and positive impact. The Needs Assessment was seen as an important tool to focus limited resources and energy to where it is most needed.

Before the meeting ended, Cyndi Shanahan, Governance co-chair for Giving Circle of Hope, took a few minutes to explain more about the organization. "We are really proud to say that we are about to go over the \$1million mark with our grants programs." In addition to providing these grants, GCoH also performs service projects like their "Empty Bowls" dinners, where to date they have raised \$182,000 and 10,000 pounds of food donated directly to Food for Others. Members also visit the Embury Rucker Shelter in Reston twice a month to engage the children there in creative activities.

To view the report go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov and type in "Path Toward Tomorrow." Click on the link for "Human Services Needs Assessment." The full report, a summary and an on-line version of their presentation are available. The members of the Giving Circle of Hope invite you to learn more about their organization and consider becoming a member by visiting their website at www.givingcircleofhope.org.

Upcoming Meetings

Another "Path to Tomorrow" meeting was planned for Sept. 26 in Herndon, and again in Reston, on Oct. 5, from 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Reston Community Center at Lake Anne. Virginia Del. Ken Plum is scheduled to be the introductory speaker at the Reston event.

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 55-33, 50-35 and 50-36 of the Code of the City of Fairfax, the City of Fairfax Police Department will be disposing of the below listed unclaimed property, by public auction conducted by an independent auction service, converted to department use or generally disposed of. Any person who feels they have a legal claim, with reasonable proof of ownership, should contact MPO Lynn Coulter of the City of Fairfax Police Department at 703-385-7829 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. weekdays until close of business Friday, October 21, 2016.

Below is a summary list of all items. For a complete list, please go to the City of Fairfax website:
<http://www.fairfaxva.gov/unclaimedproperty>

36 - Assorted Cell Phones

8 - Assorted Electronics

23 - Miscellaneous items

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28 Yard Sales

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TAX NOTICE CITY OF FAIRFAX

PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS ARE DUE

Personal Property tax bills have been mailed and are
due
October 5, 2016

LATE PAYMENT PENALTY

To avoid a 10% late payment penalty and interest charges, payment
in full must be made in person or postmarked by close of business on

October 5, 2016

Taxes may be paid in person Monday – Friday
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Treasurer's Office, Room 234, City Hall

IMPORTANT

Even if you do not receive a bill,
you are responsible for paying personal property taxes on time.

For Additional Information, call 703-385-7900

Volunteer Fairfax to Host VolunteerFest

The community is invited to a family-friendly volunteer event: VolunteerFest, presented by Volunteer Fairfax, is the local celebration of National Make A Difference Day. This region-wide community service event — to be held on Saturday, Oct. 22 — is dedicated to mobilizing volunteer power to tackle projects at nonprofits in our neighborhoods. There will be a variety of projects, in various locations with morning, afternoon and evening shifts available, rain or shine. If you are a first-time volunteer, this one-day extravaganza is a great way to get started. Volunteer service hours are available. All volunteer activities are free to the participants. For information about this feel-good, do-good event and to register as a volunteer visit www.volunteerfairfax.org/individuals/volunteerfest.php.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

miscreants' innocent victims. Criminals do not "pay their debt to society" through incarceration, which requires massive security expenditures and provides food, shelter, and medical care at taxpayer expense.

Governor McAuliffe claims to believe that Virginia, to be "more equal," must give such criminals the same or more say in governance as their victims. Rapists must have the same say as the women they raped, thieves the same say as those from whom they stole, bank robbers the same as bank depositors, kidnapper and hostage, the innocent man walking down the street and the gang who beat him senseless. Murderers receive a greater say in governance, having permanently deprived their victims of the franchise.

Unlike the painstaking judicial procedures and trials afforded these convicts to determine their guilt or innocence, the Governor makes no pretense at considering their rehabilitation through individualized assessment. The plan is of a piece with the lighter-handed treatment of criminals beginning in the 1960s and 1970s that, however well-intentioned, led to skyrocketing crime.

Even Pollyanna would suspect that the true motivation for the priority Governor McAuliffe has given this misanthropic project is the indubitably correct belief that these lawbreakers will vote disproportionately Democratic.

Griselda Farthing
Great Falls

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Connection

1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314

Call: 703-917-6444.

By e-mail: south@connectionnewspapers.com

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Gordon Parks, Back to Fort Scott is organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, in partnership with the Gordon Parks Foundation. Photo: Unfiled, St. Louis, Missouri, 1950; Gordon Parks (American, 1912–2006); gelatin silver print. Courtesy of and copyright the Gordon Parks Foundation.

21 Announcements

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