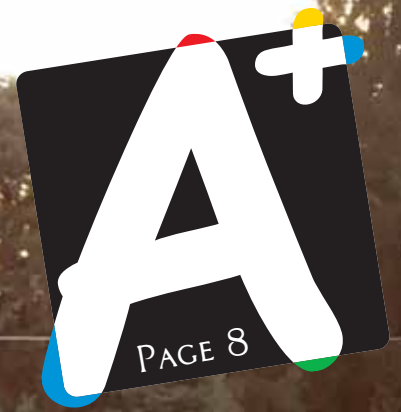




Fairfax Station

CONNECTION Clifton & Lorton



On Oct. 14, youth from Alternative House demonstrated some of their horsemanship skills they've learned at NVTRP for Fairfax County Sheriff's deputies and then did some teaching themselves.

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

At-Risk Youth Demonstrate Horsemanship

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Fairfax County SAT Scores Above Virginia, National Levels

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'Yes' or 'No' on Meals Tax

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CONGRESSWOMAN
BARBARA COMSTOCK

World Class Education.



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As Our Congresswoman, Barbara is Putting Children First:

Barbara understands the sacrifices and commitments made by educators in Virginia's 10th District and across the nation. She supports policies which empower parents and give states and localities more control over their local schools to ensure the best education for our children.



- › The House passed Congresswoman Comstock's *Inspiring the Next Space Pioneers, Innovators, Researchers, and Explorers (INSPIRE) Women Act*, which will help young women in the STEM fields through programs at NASA.
- › Congresswoman Comstock has authored the *Student Loan Relief Act*, which would offer students the ability to refinance their education loans to take advantage of lower interest rates. It would also allow employers to use pre-tax dollars to assist qualified employees in paying off student loan debt.

- › Congresswoman Comstock is the Co-Chair of the *STARBASE Caucus*, which offers hands-on STEM education to students in elementary school. She has worked in a bipartisan manner to increase resources for this important program.
- › Congresswoman Comstock voted for the bipartisan *Every Student Succeeds Act*. This bill, signed into law, represented a significant step toward improving our education system and empowers educators and parents to do what is best for each individual student.

"I come from a family of educators – my mom was a school teacher and librarian and my husband Chip is a retired Fairfax County assistant principal and teacher. My sister is a guidance counselor at a Fairfax County Public School. The education of our children and grandchildren has always been a top priority of mine. It's a privilege to represent you in Virginia's 10th Congressional District. Together, we can make sure our children receive a world class education."

Barbara Comstock

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Fairfax County SAT Scores Above Virginia, National Levels

School system average hides achievement gap.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

On average, Fairfax County Public High Schools performed better on the SAT college placement exam in 2016 than the Commonwealth of Virginia overall average.

Virginia students also outscored the national numbers, according to data released last week by the Virginia Department of Education and the College Board, the organization that publishes the SAT.

The two groups reported 65 percent of Virginia public school graduates took the SAT. Of that number, they said 45.2 percent earned the College Board benchmark for college readiness.

By achieving a combined score of 1550 — including critical reading, math and writing scores — the College Board believes those students stand a 65 percent chance of holding a B-average during their first year in college.

Virginia's 65 percent beat the national average of 37.3 percent of SAT-takers reaching the benchmark.

"While the overall performance of Virginia students compares favorably with that of their nationwide peers, the wide achievement gaps visible when we dig deeper into the data remind us that outcomes are not improving for far too many students of color," Virginia Board of Education President Billy K. Cannaday Jr. said in a statement. "Narrowing and ultimately closing these gaps is the state board's top priority."

2016 SAT

School	Test Takers	Critical Reading (Mean)	Math (Mean)	Writing (Mean)	Combined Score (Mean)
Annandale High School	319	506	524	490	1520
Bryant Alternative High School	3	-	-	-	-
Centreville High School	437	546	570	537	1653
Chantilly High School	506	558	585	542	1685
Edison High School	291	504	510	484	1498
Fairfax High School	475	535	550	518	1603
Falls Church High School	218	508	521	481	1510
Hayfield Secondary School	367	515	516	499	1530
Herdon High School	324	540	556	525	1621
Lake Braddock Secondary School	536	561	573	539	1673
Langley High School	369	614	633	604	1851
Lee High School	234	491	505	480	1476
Madison High School	377	596	608	585	1789
Marshall High School	340	564	578	557	1699
McLean High School	420	601	623	597	1821
Mount Vernon High School	238	471	468	448	1387
Mountain View Alternative High School	4	-	-	-	-
Oakton High School	471	581	600	569	1750
Quander Road School	1	-	-	-	-
Robinson Secondary School	522	564	577	544	1685
South County High School	412	532	550	516	1598
South Lakes High School	358	558	571	542	1671
Stuart High School	243	498	506	485	1489
Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology	442	720	761	717	2198
West Potomac High School	312	525	534	512	1571
West Springfield High School	445	564	560	535	1659
Westfield High School	465	539	552	518	1609
Woodson High School	487	587	600	568	1755
FCPS AVG		551.12	565.24	535.68	1652
Virginia Public Schools		516	513	493	1522
United States		487	494	472	1453

ALL DATA FROM VDOE AND THE COLLEGE BOARD

THE FAIRFAX COUNTY AVERAGES top Virginia in each category, aided by uncommonly high scores from the magnet Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, which requires its own test and application process for admission.

Jefferson comprised more than 63 percent Asian students for the 2015-2106 school year, 1.5 percent African American, 2.23 percent Hispanic, 25.43 percent Caucasian and 7.4 percent other, according to Fairfax County Public Schools.

Langley High School also posted averages of above 600 in each SAT category.

The majority of Langley's student body in 2015-2016 was white, with just over 65 percent. Asians were second with 23.47 percent, next Hispanic and other each with about 5 percent, and black with less than a percent.

JEB Stuart High School is an example where in each category it was above the national average but below the Virginia and FCPS averages. Stuart also had about 100

fewer test-takers (243) than the FCPS average (343).

Stuart was half Hispanic in 2015-2016, followed by 22.97 percent white, 13.8 percent Asian, 10.26 percent African American and 2.29 percent other.

Mount Vernon was the only FCPS school with average scores consistently below the FCPS, Virginia and national averages.

In 2015-2016, Mount Vernon's student body was made up of 41.68 percent Hispanic students, 27.6 percent African American, 19.59 percent white, 6.28 percent Asian and 4.85 percent other.

Karen Corbett Sanders, Mount Vernon representative to the Fairfax County school board, said West Potomac has seen a gradual increase in scores thanks to a PTSA-sponsored SAT prep program.

Students have the opportunity to take a mock exam for \$20, get an assessment based on their results of which areas they need help in, and then enroll in a prep course through the PTSA.

THIS YEAR is the first cohort at West Potomac that will have had that opportunity.

"You have so many test prep organizations today that are really working with kids to get those scores up but a lot are expensive," Corbett Sanders said.

The program has expanded and allowed students from Mount Vernon High School to come over and take part as well.

"It's one of those eye-opening things," she said. "It's just not fair for kids who can't afford it, but the schools and parents together are taking ownership, to make sure our kids get this opportunity too."

Corbett Sanders noted Fairfax County Public Schools offers online SAT prep as part of the Adult and Community Education program. That information is available here at: <https://aceclasses.fcps.edu>.

Buddy Bench at West Springfield Elementary

The Buddy Bench project at West Springfield Elementary came up at the end of last school year during a meeting between Dr. Kelly Sheers, Principal and Sara Fairchild, Counselor. They thought that this would be a good project for the Peer Mediators in the 2016-2017 school year.

The Buddy Bench will be located in playground area. Our students will be taught to keep an eye out and include anyone that is on the Buddy Bench.

Fairchild took the idea to the Peer Mediators and it was mentioned that funds were available for the bench but that they could also fundraise money if they'd like. They were so excited to raise money so they began to brainstorm all sorts of ideas. When student, Anne, came up with the Coin Wars, the students agreed that was the way to go. Fairchild and the Mediators worked together to solidify the

rules and what the prize should be. The point system was simple. Penny = 1 point, Nickel = 5 points, Dime = 10 points, Quarter = 25 points. They came up with a way to market it on the school news and Facebook page.

The children really pushed their peers to bring in coins and spread the word. The outcome was wildly successful. The grade level winner of the Coin War was sixth grade having 37,346 points. In total the students raised more than \$1,200. The bench will be on playground soon for all students to enjoy. For more information see buddybench.org

West Springfield Elementary students raised more than \$1,200 for the Buddy Bench in the school's playground.



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PEOPLE

Old Dominion Cotillion Marks 25th Anniversary

The Old Dominion Cotillion marked its 25th Anniversary in July celebrating the debut of five young women in the community. Since its inception, the Old Dominion Cotillion has focused on preparing young ladies for adulthood with grace, poise and a sense of social responsibility. The year-long program culminates with a ball held at Westfields Marriott in Chantilly. The ball has become the premier event of the ODC's Social Season. It gives young ladies the opportunity to replace blue jeans with an elegant gown and truly celebrates a young woman's transition to a member of society.

The Board of Governors has announced the debut of the following young ladies: Miss Darby Rachele Bouweiri, daughter of Ms. Kristina Bouweiri of Leesburg and Mr. William Bouweiri of Lovettsville, Va.; Miss Josephine Rayann Bowen, daughter of Ms. Mandy Bowen of Chantilly; Miss Bradan Alexandra McBurney, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Shawn McBurney of Fairfax; Miss Carolyn Marie Shabe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Shabe of Oakton; Miss Margaret Anne Thompson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Thompson of Fairfax Station.

The Debutantes, dressed in white Cinderella-like ball gowns were escorted by Cadets from Fishburne Military School. After the formal presentation, the Debutantes, their escorts and guests danced the night away to music by Rendezvous.

This year's Assembly included six Pages, five Future Debutantes, six Post Debutantes and three Post-Post Debutantes, along with active alumnae from classes dating back to 1992.



PHOTO BY STONE PHOTOGRAPHY

From left: Miss Margaret Anne Thompson, Miss Carolyn Marie Shabe, Miss Bradan Alexandra McBurney, Miss Josephine Rayann Bowen and Miss Darby Rachele Bouweiri.

In addition to learning social graces, the girls also participate in philanthropic activities throughout the Social Season. This year the membership contributed over 900 hours of service to their designated charity, The Ronald McDonald House in Falls Church, and other organizations. The ODC program is open to all girls in grades seven through twelve. Membership is now open for the 2016-2017 Social Season, which begins in October with the Invitational Tea and concludes with the 26th Anniversary Debutante Ball in July 2017. If interested in learning more about ODC or to be placed on the invitation list for the Invitational Tea to be held October 23, contact the Mrs. Sherry Pressley, Founder, or Mrs. Francine Gallagher at info@olddominioncotillion.org

For more information, visit the website at <http://www.olddominioncotillion.org>

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AREA ROUNDUPS

Walking to Help End Drunk Driving

The Fairfax County Police Department will join Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) on Saturday, Oct. 29, at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station, at 8 a.m., for a 5K. This effort is to help bring awareness to the dangers of driving while drunk. Two out of three people will be affected in their lifetime by a drunk driver and Fairfax County has already seen one fatality related to drunk-driving in 2016.

Will you help? Join the team and walk/run to raise critical funds for MADD and help put an end to a preventable crime. Follow this link to join: www.walklikemadd.org/index

Complete the Circle FOODRaiser Set for Nov. 6

Local nonprofits Britepaths (formerly Our Daily Bread) and Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC) invite community members to their annual Complete the Circle FOODRaiser on Sunday, Nov. 6 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at South County Middle School (8700 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton).

The event is a service project to feed local families in need and an Art for the Sky project by internationally renowned artist Daniel Dancer. More than 1,000 participants are expected to gather to enjoy live music, a family fun festival and be part of the "living" Art for the Sky photo that will be surrounded by food

SEE AREA ROUNDUPS, PAGE 11



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OPINION

No to the Meals Tax

A food tax is not a silver bullet.

BY PAT HERRITY
SPRINGFIELD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

I have been opposed to the meals tax from the start, but what has concerned me most over the last several months has been the tactics used to try to convince our residents to vote for it and the county's failure to deal with its spending problems. I would like to offer some clarity on these points and why I am against the meals tax.

The proponents of the meals tax insist the tax is for teachers' salaries and tax relief. In fact, the ballot language referencing schools and tax relief was selected because it was the language that passed in other counties in Virginia and according to one supervisor "we need to use the language that will get it passed." In reality, the Board of Supervisors will decide in April during the budget process how much funding goes to schools and then the School Board will decide how much funding goes to teacher raises and class size reductions. Despite the Board of Supervisors fully funding the School Board's funding request last year, the funds were not focused on fixing our teacher salary issues.

If it passes, the meals tax will just be an additional \$100 million tax on top of the \$100M in taxes the board passed earlier this year (over my opposition). In the last five years, real estate taxes alone have increased 25 percent and skyrocketed by \$565 million. As I have debated proponents of the meals tax over the last several months, there has been almost universal acknowledgement that Fairfax County has a spending problem. For example, Fairfax County offers its 35,000-plus county and school employees and administrators' unparalleled and unsustainable pensions and pre-social security benefits that even surrounding jurisdictions do not

pay. Despite my efforts to address this and other spending problems, there is no plan in place to address these unsustainable costs and benefits. The meals tax is a bad way to kick the can of addressing our spending problems down the road.

The meals tax is also bad way to address a spending problem because it is a regressive tax that targets a single industry and disproportionately hits those who can least afford it — the elderly, single working parents, young students, and people without other options. It is not a white tablecloth restaurant tax; it is a food tax. The meals tax would be on top of the current sales tax resulting in a 10 percent total tax on any prepared food, including the rotisserie chicken from the grocery store, the fountain drink from the convenience store, your morning coffee, and your food truck purchases. It is also a tax on a single industry — one that only has a 3 percent profit margin on average. This means the meals tax will result in the government making more money off of a restaurant than the restaurant itself makes in profit. This is fundamentally wrong. Restaurants not only provide thousands of young adults with their first job, they also give back to the community through sponsorships and donations.

Fairfax County voters have a decision to make. Do we settle for budget deficits and tax increases year after year, or do we send a message that enough is enough and it is time to address spending issues? I sympathize for those who support the tax; the Board of Supervisors and School Board have led them to believe that the meals tax is some sort of silver bullet to their budget and teacher salaries woes. Simply put, it is not.

Pat Herrity represents the Springfield District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness Supports Meals Tax

After careful consideration, the Fairfax – Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness has decided to fully support the proposed 4 percent Fairfax County Meals Tax.

Seventy percent of the funds raised by the tax will go to our Fairfax County Schools. Our schools have an integral role in

identifying and assisting our homeless and at risk youth as part of our homeless service system. Providing additional funding for the schools only makes sense.

Thirty percent of the funds raised by the tax will go to the county's general fund to be used for priorities as identified by the

Yes to the Meals Tax

Reduces dependence on property tax.

BY PHILLIP A. NIEDZIELSKI-
EICHNER

As a businessman here in Fairfax and a former member of the Fairfax County School Board, I write on behalf of a coalition of thousands of homeowners, parents, teachers, firefighters, police, friends and users of our libraries and our parks and recreation facilities, and those who belong to churches and non-profit organizations working to ensure that Fairfax County also protects those in need [www.yesmealstax.org].

Here since 1988, I have always valued Fairfax's pragmatic approach to local government services; i.e., we will pay for the cost of an excellent education system and high-quality services as long as the cost is reasonable and affordable.

Hit with the double whammy of the great recession and the federal budget sequestration fiasco, the Board of Supervisors and School Board did what they had to do under the circumstances — they cut costs and reduced services.

The county reduced annual expenditures by \$300 million and eliminated 700 jobs; for the school system, \$500 million and 2,100 jobs.

The maintenance backlog has grown to over \$150 million in recreation and park facilities alone.

We are spending less in real dollars per pupil this year than in 2008. We are losing our best teachers to surrounding jurisdictions, because salaries are no longer competitive in the region. Class sizes are larger.

Economic recovery has been slow. While home values have grown modestly, vacancies in office buildings are at a 25-year high and revenue from commercial property tax is at historic lows.

Compounding our challenge, state funding — particularly for schools — continues to decline, with a funding shortfall for K 12 education climbing to more than \$1 billion annually since 2009.

With 65 percent of county revenue now being generated by residential property tax, homeowners are carrying a substantial and growing share of the cost of services.

Without a more diverse revenue base, we risk school system excellence and we risk the caliber of county services that underpin our quality of life. In an article earlier this year, the Washington Post characterized this reality as Fairfax "fraying around the edges."

This is the setting for the meals tax referendum before us on Nov. 8.

Five great things will happen by approving the meals tax:

1. \$100 million will be generated. Almost a third of this revenue — \$28 million — will be paid by tourists and visitors to Fairfax.

2. Seventy percent of the revenues will be directed to the school system to help stem the loss of our best teachers and reduce class size.

3. Our quality of life will be strengthened by addressing unmet police and firefighter needs and those of our libraries and parks.

4. The backlog in county and school facility and infrastructure maintenance needs can be reduced, while also preserving our AAA bond rating.

5. Our tax base will be more diverse, relieving property tax pressure on homeowners.

Incredibly, Fairfax can do these great things by paying pennies-on-the-dollar when we eat out. Few of us ever notice paying Arlington County, Fairfax City, Falls Church and Vienna when we eat in their restaurants, yet we do.

If you agree that it is important to keep the best teachers in our classrooms, reduce class size, continue to protect our safety and maintain our quality of life; and finally — if you believe we need to be less dependent on homeowners to pay for all of the above — it is clear that we should vote yes for the meals tax. It's literally a pennies-on-the-dollar solution.

affordable housing."

We fully expect a portion of the funds raised by the meals tax will be used for this important priority.

Michael L. O'Reilly

Chairman, Board of the Fairfax Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness

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LETTERS

Fighting for Veterans

To the Editor:

As a Vietnam veteran and as President of Asian Pacific American Veterans Association, I am appalled at the mismanagement of the Veterans Affairs Administration. Congresswoman Barbara Comstock has been a leader in the effort to address the unacceptable problems at the VA.

Comstock has consistently supported and voted for legislation that will improve the VA and make sure that servicemen and women get the care they deserve. She co-sponsored the Faster Care for Veterans Act of 2016, which will help end the lengthy wait times veterans must endure when trying to get care at the VA.

These are just a few of the steps Comstock has taken to support our service members. She also supported a pay raise for our troops, voted for the Homes for Heroes Act of 2015, which will help combat veteran's homelessness, and her office is always willing to assist a veteran who needs help navigating the complex maze of the federal bureaucracy.

Congresswoman Comstock has

earned our support in November.

Alex Chan
Fairfax Station

Following Wolf's Example

To the Editor:

Many Fairfax County homeowners, like me, live in neighborhoods with community associations. We pay fees and assessments to the associations in addition to our county real estate taxes. I'm happy to do this, because the association ensures our community is maintained and property values are protected. It also provides services the county government doesn't.

That's why I was glad to see that Congresswoman Barbara Comstock cosponsored a bill, introduced by Democratic representatives, titled Helping Our Middle-Income Earners (HOME) Act. The HOME Act would allow homeowners earning up to \$115,000 in annual income to deduct up to \$5,000 in community association fees from their federal tax liability.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

Home of the \$6,850 Bathroom Remodel

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Contractors are validated through their Class License and Specialty Licenses. Class C contractors can only perform jobs of a monetary value up to \$10,000.00 and ONLY \$150,000 yr. Class B contractors up to \$120,000.00, and no more than \$750,000 per yr. Class A there is no monetary limit.

For Bathroom or Kitchen remodels a number of different Specialty Licenses are required. BLD License covers framing, drywall, tile work. PLB covers all plumbing such as the replacement of shower and kitchen faucets. ELE covers electrical work such as the replacement of lighting. HVA covers the replacement of ventilation fans and range hoods.

How do I submit a complaint about my Unlicensed Contractor?

Due to code limitations in the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code, complaints regarding construction activity more than two years old cannot be accepted.

- If a person identifies him/herself as a licensed contractor and it is discovered the person is not licensed, it is a violation of State and County Code. Complaints/violations may be reported using the online complaint form; or
- Call the Department of Code Compliance at 703-324-1300, TTY 711, to start the complaint process and an investigator from the Code Enforcement Branch will contact you; or
- Call the Virginia State Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation at 804-367-8500, TTY 711.

What are the risks of Unlicensed Contractors?

In most circumstances, unlicensed contractors offer lower quotes because they do not pay a licensing fee, or obtain a bond to protect their work, and in many cases, don't purchase liability or workers compensation insurance. Without these

expenses, the unlicensed contractor can offer a lower rate.

Many things can go wrong on a construction site, from injuries to shoddy workmanship to destruction of power, sewer or water lines. Ultimately, all issues are the responsibility of the general contractor. The general contractor and their insurance carriers are the primary payers in the event something goes awry on the job.

What most people don't know is that if you don't hire a licensed and insured contractor to handle your project, **you're the general contractor!** If your unlicensed contractor breaks a sewer line, **you're responsible.** If a worker gets hurt and can't work for two years, and there's no workers compensation coverage in place, **you are on the hook** for that workers' medical bills and lost wages.

The implications of using an unlicensed contractor go beyond the risks associated with the property worked on and injury to the workers. A homeowner or association that hires an unlicensed contractor can also be liable for the negligence of the contractor.

A neighboring property, a passerby or other property that is negligently damaged by the contractor can lead to liability to the person that hired the contractor. As the contractor's employer the hiring party is responsible for the contractor's actions during the course of that employment.

When a general contractor takes on a job they have overall responsibility for legal compliance, safety, quality of workmanship and just about everything else that happens on the job site. What's more, your homeowners insurance or landlord liability insurance isn't going to cover you for these events.

All policies exempt damage caused by the use of illegal or unlicensed contractors. Fire and water damage can be... expensive. If an unlicensed contractor improperly installs an appliance, such as a water heater that leaks and in rare instances explodes, your insurance will not cover it. If an unlicensed contractor installs an appliance, such as a dishwasher, and so on, the product warranty will be voided.

If you knowingly enter into a contract with an unlicensed contractor, you are not allowed to use the fact that the contractor is unlicensed as a defense for non-payment. Note that an unlicensed contractor can still file suit for fraud and deceit.

Those who are caught contracting without a license likely will have to appear before a District Court Judge and DPOR investigator to answer to misdemeanor charges that can carry a potential sentence of up to six months in jail and/or a \$5,000 fine, as well as an administrative fine of \$200 to \$15,000.

If illegal contracting continues, the penalties become more severe. A second offense results in a mandatory 90-day jail sentence and a fine of 20 percent of the contract price or \$5,000. <https://vacode.org/54.1-1115/>

Felony charges are filed against anyone who illegally uses another person's contractor license or who tries to mislead consumers into believing that he or she is a licensed contractor. Anyone who contracts for work in a state or federal natural disaster area without an active state contractor license also could face felony charges. If convicted of a felony, a person may have to serve time in state prison.

Furthermore, your state contractor board will not "typically" help you to make a warranty claim "Contractor Recovery Fund" against an unlicensed contractor. So if you are trying to recover at all, you will need to go to civil court. Even if you win in civil court, without a bond, there's a good chance the unlicensed contractor will not be able to pay your damages.

Recently, Fairfax County has been using sites like Zillow and Realtor.com to see if improvements have been done when selling ones home! AGAIN, the days of hiring an unlicensed "Friend", or "Neighbor" to work for monetary purposes is strictly prohibited and is easily verified through <http://www.dpor.virginia.gov/LicenseLookup/>.

All in all, it's not worth it! Always protect yourself by hiring a licensed contractor for your remodeling project.

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Discussing the Election with Children

Local educators offer suggestions for navigating a complicated political climate.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

While Colleen K. Vesely has watched televised debates and political events with her children throughout this election season, an event during which the American Civil Rights movement was discussed stands out. It was a concept her 3-year-old daughter didn't grasp, of course. But Vesely used the moment as opportunity to start guiding her children through this year's election season.

"I asked her to think about what she might do if someone at school was being mean to one of her friends, to which, she promptly replied, 'I'd tell them to stop being mean and that I don't like it,'" said Vesely, an assistant professor of early childhood education and human development and family science at George Mason University. "Elections offer opportunities to consider the importance of service and standing up for democratic principles. ... However, the tone of this general election season is different."

Still, Vesely and other educators say that while election cycles typically offer families a multitude of opportunities for conversations about civics and discussions of democracy, navigating the current political climate requires added dexterity.

Use the election season to facilitate conversations in a way that is relatable to children based on their age and experiences, advises Vesely. "By ... discussing the different issues ... parents with school-age and older children can use the election season as an opportunity to expand their children's thinking in relation to current social issues and history," she said. "Parents can use the election as fodder to hone their children's critical thinking skills with real-life issues by helping them critique candidates' opinions" as well as "understand different points of view on a variety of issues and develop their persuasive arguments." This is an exercise Vesely has used with her own children.

"During primary season, my 6-year-old and I watched a number of the candidates' speeches," she said. "We talked about the issues and each person as a human being. ... I offered reasons as to why I admired (some of) the candidates."

Focusing on citizenship and character is a strategy Vesely advises parents to use with children who are preschool-age and younger: "Parents might discuss what it means to be a good citizen in their home," she said. "For example, helping put away their toys when they are done playing, being nice to their classmates, helping their friends and teacher."

Similarly, local schools are developing creative



The election season offers students such as those at BASIS Independent School in McLean an opportunity to learn about the political process.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BASIS INDEPENDENT

ways to fit the Nov. 8 election into their lesson plans. For example, "since students are only in middle school for one presidential election, Norwood School takes advantage of this opportunity to help students begin to understand how to go about comparing candidates' positions on basic issues, and also to help them understand how the presidential election process works," said Michele Claeys, associate head of school and head of middle school, Norwood School in Potomac, Md.

To help students learn to understand issues and evaluate and compare candidates, teachers work together to create age-appropriate mini-lessons about candidates' positions on a small number of issues. "Students will explore and discuss — not debate — the issues, and learn how to find additional information on their own if they are interested," said Claeys.

On Election Day, middle school students will participate in a mock election designed to help them understand how the electoral process works. They will be divided into groups of different sizes with different numbers of electoral votes, representing each of the 50 states. "After both the real and mock elections, teachers will use the results to illustrate how the process works," said Claeys. "Throughout these lessons, our emphasis will be on respectful dialogue and consideration of multiple perspectives and experiences."

Educators at BASIS Independent School in McLean are teaching students about the political process by linking it to the selection of the school's mascot. By allowing students to choose a symbol to represent the school, teachers hope to initiate a broad conversation about awareness, empathy and other values.

"Especially for our younger students, conversations about how a mascot represents the qualities and values of our school serves as a good metaphor for the more serious representation in political contexts," said Sean Aiken, head of school. "Some students pre-

fer traditional mascots to give our school a sense of familiarity and camaraderie. Some want less common mascots to set us apart from other schools and celebrate our individuality."

The lesson will involve the entire student body. "We ask our older students to generate ideas that take even our youngest 3-year-olds into account so we can unite as a whole school and not just play to specific 'special interests,'" said Aiken.

"The exercise serves as an impetus for posing thought-provoking questions to the students," says Aiken. "Should we identify ourselves as humorous, serious, fierce?" he asks. "What will happen if the greater numbers of students in the middle school prefer a mascot that the much smaller number of sophomores do not prefer? Should we use some sort of delegate system or stick with popular vote? How will we feel if our top choice for mascot ultimately is not selected, and what is the appropriate response to that feeling? Does our choice of mascot represent not just our current community but those who will join us in the future?"

The activities, says Aiken, open the door for conversations about fairness and frustration in ways that are meaningful and age appropriate, and that can be put into the context of the current election season. "While our situation as a brand-new school is somewhat unique, the idea of mascot representation weaves through our whole society and could certainly be used to frame a conversation between students and their families about tone, identity and cooperation," he said.

Parents should also be aware of the ways the election is affecting their own emotional states and thus their families. "As I watch the presidential debates and continue to read the media coverage of the election, I find myself in an agitated and anxious emotional state," said Vesely. "This heightened emotional

SEE TALKING ABOUT ELECTION. PAGE 15

Learn as if you were to live forever; live as if you were going to die tomorrow.

—John Wooden

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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

The Pumpkin Patch will be open October 2 through 31, Sunday through Friday, from noon until 7 pm daily, and Saturdays from 10 am until 7 pm. Located at St. George's United Methodist Church, 4910 Ox Road, near George Mason University at the crossroads of Rt 123 and Braddock Road and across from the University Mall. A large variety of pumpkins and decorative gourds of all shapes and sizes will be for sale. www.pumpkinsusa.com

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>

Adventures in Learning

Shepherd's Center of Fairfax 8:30 a.m. - 2:45 p.m. every Monday for 6 weeks, Oct. 3, 2016 - Nov. 7 these events take place at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Rd. Fairfax. start with gentle exercise, followed by speakers on topics such as health, history, community, personal development, finance, and more. Afternoon breakouts are book club, bridge, canasta, and mind games. Bring a brown bag lunch. Cost: \$30 for 6 weeks (Mondays). To register: call 703-426-2824 www.scfbva.org.

Senior Line Dancing 1 - 2 p.m. Little River Glen Senior Center 4001 Barker Ct, Fairfax. Line Dancing is a gentle, social form of aerobic activity. Studies have shown it aids in warding off Alzheimer's disease. No previous experience needed. Cost: \$5.00 per 8 week session. barbriba@hotmail.com 703-524-3739

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.

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 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: www.fxva.com/listing/mosaic-district/2326/

THURSDAY/OCT. 20

Together We Can Stand Up to Bullying 10 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services 2334 Gallows Road Entrance 1 - Room 100. Did you know that children with special needs are more likely to be bullied than their peers? Learn ways to help support your child at home and in school. Dr. Sajjad Khan, an experienced clinician and researcher at NeuroScience Inc., will present educational and psychological studies on bullying at this crucial workshop. Register online.

FRIDAY/OCT. 21

Wellness Recovery Conference 8:30 - 2:30 p.m. NOVA Annandale Campus. Ernst Cultural Center 8333 Little River Turnpike Annandale. Have you or someone you care about ever experienced substance use disorder or mental health challenges? Do you want to learn more about recovery, staying healthy, and how to build and grow good relationships? Cost: \$30 703-324-9355 <http://www.novamentalhealth.org/conference.registration>

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. **"Mediterranea"** at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 7 p.m.; a discussion follows the film. Friday Night Film Series presents "Mediterranea" as a part of the Third Annual D.C. Immigration Film Fest. Doors open at 7 pm; Childcare is

Halloween 2016 Preview



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Thrill-seeking souls enter the eight-acre Clifton Haunted Trail on Oct. 24, 2015

Clifton Haunted Trail Returns Oct. 29

2016 **Clifton Haunted Trail** is scheduled for **Saturday, Oct. 29, 7 - 10 p.m.** in the historic town of Clifton. Admission: Ages 13+ \$15 Ages 12 and under \$10. www.cliftonhauntedtrail.com/

SATURDAY/OCT.22

Sully Historic Site Halloween Lantern Light Event 4 - 7 p.m. 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Sully will be hosting a Historic All Hallows Eve program to return visitors to a time before superhero costumes and candy corn. In the 18th & 19th centuries, Virginians celebrated All Hallows Eve with storytelling, fortune telling, and family gatherings. There will be a tour of the historic site and grounds by lantern light. This program is for participants age five to adult. The cost is \$10 per person. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 26, 2016

70th Annual Vienna Halloween Parade 7 p.m. Maple Avenue, Vienna. "Celebrating 125 Years of the Town of Vienna" come in costume to celebrate Halloween. Vienna.gov

FRIDAY/OCT. 28, 2016

Spooktacular. 6:30-8 p.m. Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Enjoy ghoulish games, a spooky craft and a children's show. Fee: \$10/child in advance or \$15/child on day of event. www.herndonva.gov.

Bradley Farm Haunted House Friday & Saturday 6 - 10 p.m. 13159 New Parkland Drive, Herndon. The guided tours are \$5 www.BFHauntedHouse.com.

SATURDAY/OCT. 29

Clifton Haunted Trail 7 - 10 p.m. in the historic town of Clifton. Admission: Ages 13+ \$15 Ages 12 and under \$10. www.cliftonhauntedtrail.com/

SATURDAY/OCT. 29 - OCT 31

Roer's Zoofari Trick-Or-Treat 5 - 7 p.m. 1228 Hunter Mill Rd. Vienna. Roer's Zoofari welcomes families from all areas to a new way of trick-or-treating this year. Kids

provided. Films shown on big screen with surround sound at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10215 Lakehaven Court Burke, 703-503-4579; www.accotinkuu.org, administrator@acctinkuu.org This is a non-religious event open to the public. Tickets start at \$6 and can be purchased at the door or here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/>

mediterranea-tickets-26956413358

SATURDAY/OCT.22

1st Annual Forge Brew Works & LCAC Oktoberfest noon - 6 p.m. at Forge Brew Works 8532 Terminal Road Lorton. Admission: Free. forgebrewworks.com/beers
Sully Historic Site Halloween



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBYN WITSCHY

Katie Pline (left) and Keeler Lambertson (right) of Clifton acted in a scene depicting the Salem witch trials, burning and lynching.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBYN WITSCHY

Clifton residents Aaron and Tracy Kuzemka, Josie Layfield, Alexis Pollard and friends ran a "Children of the Corn" scene during the 2015 Clifton Haunted Trail.

can trick-or-treat for candy and treats, bounce around in our kids zone, and meet bugs at our creepy crawl station. Admission: \$10 per child, free for adults. www.roerszoofari.com/

SATURDAY/OCT. 29

Howl-O-Ween at Lake Anne, 1-3 p.m. Plaza Activities. Free. Join us on the Plaza dressed in Halloween flair (adults + pets) for a Howling good time! Dogs, cats, and all types of furry friends are welcome to participate. Pet Costume Contest starts at 1:30 p.m.: Pet Parade, Live DJ, Pet Friendly Beer Garden, Window Decorating Contest, Yappy Hour Specials from 1-5 p.m., Treats, Tricks & More From Local Merchants. www.lakeanneplaza.com

MONDAY/OCT. 31

Halloween Spooktacular at Great Falls Village Green and Great Falls Center, 5-7 p.m., with Pet Parade at 4 p.m. (all dogs must vacate the green by 4:50 p.m.) Boy Scout Troop 55 will create some spooky fun for everyone in the Haunted House; The Langley Marching Band performs in the Wells Fargo parking lot; Linda Waitkus of Great Dogs of Great Falls is leading the Pet Parade starting at the Gazebo. Look out for the Great Falls Volunteer Firefighters in the Safeway parking lot.

Lantern Light Event 4 - 7 p.m. 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Sully will be hosting a Historic All Hallows Eve program to return visitors to a time before superhero costumes and candy corn. In the 18th & 19th centuries, Virginians celebrated All Hallows Eve with

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

CALENDAR



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Shenandoah Run in Concert at Accotink

Local band Shenandoah Run, playing “folk music with a kick,” will be in concert Oct. 29 at 8 p.m. at Accotink UU Church, 10125 Lakehaven Ct., Burke. Like a spirited family reunion, nine-piece band, Shenandoah Run, pays tribute to both vintage Americana and contemporary folk, playing covers and some originals and occasionally including a song from the worlds of bluegrass, country or foreign lands. Expect top-notch musicianship and multi-part harmonies that will lure you in for an irresistible sing-along. More information at www.accotinkuu.org/concerts-at-Accotink. Tickets: \$15.00.

FROM PAGE 10

www.mountvernon.org/ for more.

storytelling, fortune telling, and family gatherings. There will be a tour of the historic site and grounds by lantern light. This program is for participants age five to adult. The cost is \$10 per person. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site

“Gallant Knights and Fair Maidens”: Ring Tournaments in Fairfax County 2 p.m. The Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Historian Jeanne Niccolls will present her research on jousting tournaments, a dominant form of chivalric entertainment, in the antebellum and post-Civil War periods. The tournaments featured men on horseback competing with lances to capture rings. Cost: Free. 703-591-0560.

SUNDAY/OCT.23

Annual Road to Success Luncheon hosted by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority 12 p.m. at the Hilton Springfield, 6550 Loisdale Road, Springfield. Reservations are required for a student and one parent and students are asked to wear business attire. scholarship@fcacd.org

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/craftsmen_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

TUESDAY/OCT.25

Raising Kids for Success 7:30 - 9 p.m. Oakwood School 7210 Braddock Rd. Annandale. Oakwood School Parenting Series features Occupational Therapist Michele Dausman as she teaches strategies to increase your child’s sense of feeling connected, capable, competent, and courageous. Cost \$10 Visit www.oakwoodschool.com to register. 571-214-8799

TUESDAY/OCT.25 & OCT. 26

INOVA Fair Oaks Hospital Auxiliary Handbag and Luggage Sale 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hospital Atrium 3600 Joseph Siewick Dr, Fairfax, VA 22033 Karen Almquist, IFOH Auxiliary Publicity Chair

THURSDAY/ OCT. 27 - OCT. 30

Mason Musical “The Threepenny Opera” at George Mason University’s Center for the Arts in Fairfax. October 27, 2016 - Oct. 29 at 8:00 p.m. October 29 at 2:00 p.m. Oct. 30 at 4:00 p.m. Who can get ahead? Those with money do in Brecht and Weill’s landmark twentieth century musical, The Threepenny Opera. Set in gritty 1920’s New York City, where prohibition is in effect but speakeasies are open and corruption abounds, the story follows the charismatic antihero Macheath and his exploits for power and wealth.

FRIDAY/OCT. 28

Alan Jackson Concert 7:30 p.m. EagleBank Arena 4400 University Dr. Fairfax. Alan Jackson is coming to Fairfax on his “Keepin it Country Tour.” Cost: \$55

SATURDAY/OCT. 29

Clifton Haunted Trail 7 - 10 p.m. in the historic town of Clifton. Admission: Ages 13+ \$15 Ages 12 and under \$10. www.cliftonhauntedtrail.com/

AREA ROUNDUPS

FROM PAGE 5

donations that participants bring that day. Advance registration is encouraged. Admission is \$5 (\$10 for XXL event T-shirt), and attendees are encouraged to bring at least three food pantry items or a grocery store gift card that will be distributed to community members in need after the event. Details and registration are available at <http://www.CompletetheCircleFx.org>. Contact 703-273-8829 or info@britepaths.org.

Saturday Morning Coffee with Del. Bulova

On Saturday, Oct. 22, Del. David Bulova (D-37) will

continue a tradition started in 2006 by holding informal office hours to take place from 9 to 11 a.m. at Jireh Bakery and Café. Constituents are invited to talk about issues of interest and to ask questions about legislation affecting the community. The format is casual and no appointment is needed.

Jireh Cafe is located at 13848 Lee Highway, Centreville. Del. Bulova is also happy to arrange individual appointments on specific issues or concerns.

Del. Bulova’s 37th House District includes the City of Fairfax and portions of Fairfax County. He serves on the General Laws, Education, and Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources committees. He is also a member of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, the State Water Commission, the Joint Commission on Health Care, and the Housing Commission. For more information visit www.davidbulova.com.

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Fairfax County Sheriff's Office deputies pose with Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program unofficial mascot Teddy.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

At-Risk Youth Teach Sheriff's Deputies Horsemanship Skills

Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program partners with Alternative House and Sheriff's Office for pilot program.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Sheriff's deputies tread carefully as local youth led them around an obstacle course they'd designed, blindfolded. Others were taught horse safety by their young coaches.

On Oct. 14, more than 12 deputies from the Sheriff's Office spent time with at-risk youth from Alternative House in a pilot partnership program for community engagement at the Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program farm in Clifton.

Alternative House and NVTRP are longtime partners; at risk youth being one the groups among children and adults with disabilities, and military service personnel that NVTRP helps through equine-assisted activities and therapy.

Alternative House helps underserved, at-risk youth in low-income areas of northern Virginia including Falls Church, Springfield and Annandale. Among their services, the organization provides shelter for runaway adolescents, as well as a 24-hour crisis hotline and young mothers assistance program.

"With the attention around conflict between minorities and law enforcement, we thought NVTRP could have a role in bridging that gap," the riding program's executive director Kelsey Gallagher said

in a statement, "using horses to help individuals find common ground."

The event Friday marked the end of a six-week session for the youth at NVTRP. They demonstrated some of their horsemanship skills for the deputies and then did some teaching themselves.

"These kids are subject to seeing violence, so we are so grateful for having a chance to be in this environment [at NVTRP] where they are close to nature, interacting with a beautiful horse and learning life lessons," Nandred Navarro, director of community based services at Alternative House, said in a statement.

"This new initiative of coming together with the deputies from the Sheriff's Office is invaluable to teaching them to trust authority, a relationship that has been tarnished by recent [national] events," Navarro added.

Second Lt. Emily Fary with the Sheriff's Office said it gave the deputies a great opportunity to interact with youth in the community and be part of an activity that brings smiles to their faces.

"It's definitely a good feeling to know that you touched a life in a positive way," she said in a statement, "that maybe they have never experienced with law enforcement before."

The Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program is located at 6429 Clifton Road in Clifton. For more information, visit www.nvtrp.org.



Fairfax County Sheriff's deputies tread carefully as local youth led them around an obstacle course they'd designed.



On Oct. 14, youth from Alternative House demonstrated some of their horsemanship skills they've learned at NVTRP for Fairfax County Sheriff's deputies and then did some teaching themselves.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 7

The legislation is a simple, but important step toward the greater goal of comprehensive tax reform.

This is part of Congresswoman Comstock's common sense approach to improve life for all her Northern Virginia constituents. On many issues, she works with both Democrats and Republicans to address our local concerns at the federal level. She's been instrumental on legislation to prohibit human trafficking, increase transportation infrastructure investments, and improve Metro safety and accountability, among many others. In addition to her work in the Capital, she's present all over the 10th District, meeting with constituents. She knows Fairfax County and will continue following the example of her predecessor, Frank Wolf, to use her office to make Fairfax a better place to live and work.

Robert Carlson
Centreville

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To the Editor:

The election is coming up in just days now, and I am urging your support for Barbara Comstock, since we are very fortunate to have such a strong and capable Congresswoman representing our district. She is especially strong as an advocate for retirees and senior citizens and has been a strong defender of Medicare. She voted to permanently fix the "sustainable growth rate" that has undermined the program for years.

Comstock has also supported a two billion increase in important research spending, which helps researchers in the fight against Alzheimer's disease. She and her colleagues in Congress were able to postpone a proposed tax on important medical devices like pacemakers, artificial joints, and diagnostic scanners like MRI machines. She also helped pass the Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, which provides assistance to state and area agencies on aging and related model programs.

As Congresswoman, Barbara Comstock is working to protect and preserve Social Security. She voted for increasing funding to prevent Social Security

fraud and ensure that retirees receive their proper benefits. These are concrete actions that produced real results for her constituents. Barbara Comstock is a dedicated and hardworking public servant who has earned and continues to earn...our support and our vote.

Paula Sabo
Fairfax Station

Millennial's Perspective

To the Editor:

Millennials now make up the largest voting bloc in our country, and we have the unique opportunity to shape the outcome of the 2016 election. I encourage my fellow millennials in the 10th Congressional District to vote for Barbara Comstock for Congress.

Congresswoman Comstock understands the needs of our community and the issues important to our generation. I had the opportunity to first meet Congresswoman Comstock at her kick off event for her Delegate race in 2013. After speaking to her, I could tell she was very knowledgeable about the issues millennials were facing.

Before law school, I often used the Metro to commute from Vienna to Washington D.C. for meetings and work. As many of my friends know, Metro has been a constant headache. Congresswoman Comstock has been a leading voice in our community to address these issues every step of the way. This is exactly the kind of leadership millennials want to see in Washington – someone who understands the issues that affect their constituents, and someone who is willing to work across the aisle to find solutions.

We also want leaders who understand the generational challenges we face. Virginia students are borrowing over \$1 billion per year to pay for college. That's unsustainable. Congresswoman Comstock introduced legislation to reduce the burden of student debt by allowing students to refinance their college loans. On Nov. 8, I encourage my fellow millennials to vote for a leader who is currently getting things accomplished for our community and our generation. I ask that you vote Barbara Comstock this November.

Brandon Schall
Fairfax Station

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Catherine Louise Scott Pearson, 90 years old, left this world for heaven on September 20, 2016 at her home in Alachua, Florida. Catherine was born on April 4, 1926 to Mamie and Archie Scott and grew up in the Alexandria and Franconia area. She married Samuel T. Pearson in 1942. She is survived by her daughter Carole (husband Chuck) Page, son Samuel (wife Lynne) Pearson, sister June Hoffman 7 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren and 1 great great grandchild. She was preceded in death by her husband Samuel T. Pearson, parents Mamie and Archie Scott, brothers Austin, Robert, William (Sonny) Scott and sister Betty Burk. She will be laid to rest at Pohick Church with her husband in a private family service. She will be greatly missed. In lieu of flowers contributions can be made to Just Man Ministry 3246 Snow, Katy, Texas 77493 or to Carole Ann Page c/o "Go Fund Me Page."

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FAITH NOTES

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St Mary of Sorrows Church Landings
Tuesday's 7:30 p.m. 5222 Sideburn Rd, Fairfax, will begin a "Landings" program for returning Catholics and people considering returning to the practice of their Faith. Program started Sept 20th and will run through Nov. 15. Pre-registration required. 703-818-8618 or annleggio@yahoo.com.

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.

Education • Learning • Fun

Talking About Election

FROM PAGE 9

state with feelings of stress and agitation can spill over into family relationships, leaving us less present and sensitive in our interactions with our children and partners."

Choose the information children are exposed to thoughtfully and be prepared for questions, say experts. "The 2016 general election season [has been] described by some as dark and more negative than any of the recent past elections," Vesely said. "We want to encourage our children's participation in the political process, but ... it can sometimes be ugly and hurtful."

Shielding children, says Vesely, doesn't mean ignoring negativity entirely, however. "Parents should be prepared to talk through what children might hear from other children on the playground or at school," she said. "Parents ought to pay attention to ... their children's emotional states ... especially after viewing or discussing election-related media. As parents, we can look for teachable moments in which we might express notions of treating others how [we] want to be treated."

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Fairfax

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Beautiful 4200+ sqft home. Updated kitchen, new appliances & granite counters, new windows in 2012, Brazilian cherry floors, gas heat & fireplace, new granite counters in bathrooms, new carpet in bedrooms & basement, sprinkler & security system, new washer & dryer, freshly painted, corner lot with fenced yard. Must see!

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- Kitchen with granite counters, granite-topped island & cherry cabinetry
- Gas Fireplace
- 2 Garage Spaces



Kathy O'Donnell
REALTOR
Let's Work Together
703-338-7696
Kathy.odonnell@LNF.com



Catie, Steve & Associates

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Fairfax

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