



Fairfax Station

CONNECTION Clifton & Lorton

Civilian Review Panel Debated

NEWS, PAGE 12

At Oct. 25 Public Safety Committee meeting Police Officer 1st Class Richard Barron (center) said members of the police department are "very concerned" that volunteer civilians would have access to sensitive files as part of police investigation packets.

CONNECTION FAMILIES

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Race Tightens in Heated 10th District

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PHOTO TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

OCTOBER 27- NOVEMBER 2, 2016

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

VOTE TUESDAY, NOV. 8!

CONGRESSWOMAN

BARBARA COMSTOCK

A LIFETIME OF SERVICE IN THE 10TH DISTRICT

For 35 years, Barbara Comstock has lived, worked, raised a family, started a business and served as both Delegate and Congresswoman in the 10th District. Whether it was her work as a senior Justice Department official, a small businesswoman, a Mom at home, a senior aide and counsel in Congress, a Member of the House of Delegates or now as our Congresswoman, Barbara knows the challenges facing the 10th District because she has lived them with us and fought for us to get results on our priorities.

SHE GETS RESULTS

- Advance breakthroughs in 21st century cures for chronic disease such as cancer, Alzheimer's and diabetes.
- A 5 year Transportation Bill, signed into law, which will help relieve traffic congestion, provide more transportation funds, and make Metro safer and more accountable.
- A \$600 billion tax relief package, signed into law, for families, small businesses and our technology and defense businesses.
- Increased defense and cyber funding to protect us from terrorism.
- Human Trafficking legislation, signed into law, that cracks down on this growing crime and protects women and children.
- Started two Heroin Task Forces to battle the heroin scourge in our communities and advancing legislation to increase education, treatment and prevention.
- Started the "10th Congressional District Young Women Leadership Program" for junior high and high school young women.

**"I ask for your vote on
Tuesday, November 8th.**

As your Congresswoman, I will continue to work tirelessly to strengthen our national security and protect us from terrorism; advance breakthroughs in 21st century cures for chronic diseases such as cancer, Alzheimer's and diabetes; promote a 21st century economy with more opportunity and higher wage jobs; provide transportation funding and solutions; and fight the growing problem of human trafficking and heroin abuse in our community."

Barbara Comstock

703.731.4466 / info@barbaracomstockforcongress.com / www.BarbaraComstockForCongress.com

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PHOTO COURTESY OF COMSTOCK CAMPAIGN

Rep. Barbara Comstock, the Republican incumbent in the 10th District Congressional race, met with members of the Indian-American community during a Meet and Greet Sunday at the home of Fairfax resident Amod Desai.



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

LuAnn Bennett, the Democratic challenger in Northern Virginia's heated 10th Congressional district race, rallies volunteers at a Canvass Kick-Off event in Great Falls Sunday morning. She was joined by Maryland State Sen. Jamie Raskin (left), who delivered brief remarks to rally volunteers.

Race Tightens in Heated 10th District

Comstock, Bennett crisscross Northern Virginia in all-out effort to reach key voters.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

It's a few minutes before 9 a.m. Sunday morning, and LuAnn Bennett, the Democratic candidate for the 10th District Congressional seat, is sipping coffee in her stocking feet and greeting volunteers arriving at the Great Falls home of Mary Yang.

Bennett, a newcomer to politics seeking to unseat one-term incumbent Republican Barbara Comstock, appears comfortable and confident in her role as candidate.

Unfazed by the boisterous children sliding across Yang's spacious basement floor, Bennett is forceful when she addresses the crowd of shoeless volunteers (Yang's house rules) heading out to canvas Democratic supporters and make sure they turn out to vote on November 8.

She delivers a brief, energetic stump speech, touting her background as a small-business owner and working mom from McLean.

"I will bring those real-life skills to Congress," she says. "Somewhere along the line, elected officials stopped focusing on governing and started focusing on money. Governance has gotten lost in the shuffle and we need to get it back."

IN THE FINAL, frantic days of the one of the most unpredictable and unprecedented elections in modern history, both candidates spent the blustery fall weekend crisscrossing the sprawling, diverse 10th district -

meeting residents, rallying volunteers and campaigning hard for voters' support.

Comstock, known as an indefatigable campaigner, ended her long weekend in Fairfax, at a "Meet and Greet" with members of the Indian-American community at the home of Fairfax resident Amod Desai.

"She is the one person who understands the dynamics of this district, the issues, the culture, what's important," said Puneet Ahluwalia, a Fairfax County Republican official who organized Sunday's event. "She has been a presence in our community since she was a delegate...Her inclusivity has made a dramatic difference to us, especially with impressionable children."

"Our kids got the opportunity to share their thoughts directly with a Congresswoman," said Abhijit Adhikari, who also attended Sunday's Meet and Greet.

Both candidates began the weekend with a joint appearance at the ADAMS (All Dulles Area Muslim Society) in Sterling on Friday evening. Earlier in the day, the American Muslim Women Political Action Committee (AMW PAC) endorsed Bennett in the race against Barbara Comstock.

This is the first Congressional candidate the AMW PAC has ever endorsed, said Mirriam Seddiq, founder of AMW PAC, adding that "we truly believe that Ms. Bennett will be a strong ally for Muslim women in Congress."

Each candidate had some breaking news to share with supporters this weekend.

On Saturday, Comstock was buoyed by two key endorsements. The Winchester Star praised Comstock for knowing and working with her diverse constituencies. She also received the endorsement from the editorial board of The Washington Post, which surprised many Democrats, since the paper had never endorsed Comstock in the past.

"Yes, it was a little surprising to me," Comstock said during a phone interview on

Monday. "To get both of these endorsements...it demonstrates our depth and breadth of knowledge and our broad support across our district."

"It is a crazy time, but I'm energized by all the challenging work," Comstock said. "That's why I make sure to make those relationships and keep those partnerships throughout the district. People know me, and it's a privilege to help them."

In Comstock's latest ad, which her campaign released Tuesday, she looks directly at the camera and touts her ability to work across the aisle. The ad features the banner "Endorsed by The Washington Post" at the end. Comstock's campaign emphasized that it was a "100 percent positive" ad, in a political season which has featured much negativity.

"While others seek to divide us I get results that unite us," claims Comstock in the spot. "I approve this message because working together...works."

Bennett's campaign got a boost from a Democratic poll which showed her leading Comstock for the first time, by 46 to 42 percent, among likely voters. Pollster Expedition Strategies in September had shown Bennett behind by four points.

That recent poll was conducted Oct. 10-12, after the revelation of GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump's hot-mic comments boasting about groping and kissing women. There has been much speculation that problems with Trump's candidacy will hurt "down-ticket" Republicans like Comstock.

After Trump's comments were made public, Comstock issued an unequivocally scornful statement, calling Trump's comments "vile, disgusting, and disqualifying," and declaring she would not endorse or vote for Trump. She also made it just as clear she would not vote for Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton.

THE 10TH DISTRICT Congressional seat has been held by Republicans for many years. Comstock won the election in 2014 to replace her former boss, Frank Wolf, who had been in office since 1981. However, the District voted for Barack Obama in both the 2008 and 2012 presidential elections and is viewed by many political analysts as a swing district which reflects the changing demographics which have made Virginia a swing state.

The Cook Political Report, a non-partisan election tip sheet, moved the Comstock-Bennett race from "lean Republican" to "toss up" on Wednesday, Oct. 19, citing Trump's unpopularity in much of the district.

The apparent tightening of the Virginia 10th district race has attracted attention nationally. Both candidates have benefited from spending by outside groups, which have poured more than \$3.7 million into the race, according to data compiled by the Virginia Public Access Project.

Bennett has the support of Emily's List, whose President Stephanie Schriock campaigned for Bennett last weekend. The Congressional Leadership Fund, a super PAC supporting House Republican candidates, announced Friday an additional \$1.2 million for cable, broadcast and digital advertising in the district, bringing the GOP super PAC's total spending there to \$2.7 million.

Democrat Jamie Raskin, who is likely to win his own Congressional race in Maryland's 8th District, spoke to Bennett's gathering in Great Falls on Sunday, and participated in the door knocking that followed.

The Democrats holding the three statewide offices in Virginia, Gov. Terry McAuliffe, Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam and Attorney General Mark Herring, recently hosted a fundraiser for Bennett at a winery.

NEWS

Giles Overlook Developing

75 percent of land to remain open space.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Lorton Valley III calls its development Giles Overlook: 52 single family detached dwellings on 38.37 acres on Sanger Street in Mount Vernon.

Fairfax County Planning Commission voted Wednesday, Sept. 14, to recommend approval of

plans that will permit development less than 200 feet from the required distance between residential buildings and I-95 and to allow for increased height of a noise barrier to be located 15 feet from I-95 right-of-way.

Although the property will be rezoned from R-1 (one dwelling unit per acre) to R-5, which permits five dwelling units per acre, Lorton Valley's proposed density

will be 1.36 dwelling units per acre, according to Planning Commission documents. The developer will dedicate 20 acres along Giles Run to the county and 75 percent of the land will remain open space.

"Due to the long, narrow configuration of the developable portion of the property, the proposed layout is limited to a single street with dwellings on both sides," according to planning documents.

"The property contains wetlands, floodplains, resource protection area and even environmental quality corridor areas association with Giles Run, and the applicant has proposed to dedicate most of this area to the county," according to planning staff.

Access will be from an extension of Sanger Street that will be realigned and extended southward to terminate in a cul-de-sac near a

county pump station.

Giles Overlook, currently vacant and wooded except for a county-operated pump station, is located west of I-95, north of a landfill, at the end of Sanger Street in the Lorton area. The western property line is along Giles Run.

"The site benefits from its proximity to Inova Lorton Healthplex,"

SEE GILES, PAGE 7

DR. GENE SWEETNAM OPTOMETRISTS

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Reston Hospital Center, Classroom C, West Wing

**"The Latest Advancements in
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THROUGH NOV. 4

Sheehy Auto Stores Fall Harvest

Food Drive Sheehy Auto Stores throughout Washington, D.C.; Richmond, Virginia; and Baltimore, Maryland areas will collect canned goods and non-perishable food as part of the company's annual Fall Harvest Food Drive. Feeding America provides low-income individuals and families with the fuel to survive and even thrive. As the nation's leading domestic hunger-relief charity, Feeding America's network members supply food to more than 37 million Americans each year, including 14 million children and 3 million seniors.

Locations include:

Sheehy Volkswagen, 6601 Backlick Road, Springfield
Sheehy Nissan of Springfield, 6727 Loisdale Road, Springfield
Sheehy Infiniti of Tysons, 8527 Leesburg Pike, Vienna
Sheehy Ford of Springfield, 6727 Loisdale Road, Springfield
Sheehy Subaru of Springfield, 6571 Backlick Road, Springfield
Patriot Harley-Davidson, 9739 Fairfax Boulevard, Fairfax

FRIDAY/NOV. 4 - NOV. 6

Scouting for Food in support of Scouting for Food Charity Drive

during the weekend of Nov. 4-6. The Cub Scouts will distribute the bags sometime from Friday evening, Nov. 4 to Sunday evening, Nov. 6. Then the Boy Scout pick-up will be on the next Saturday, Nov. 12. Fill the bag

with non-perishable foods and leave on your doorstep the following Saturday, Nov. 12th, for Troop 1346 to pick them up. Contact: Cliff Phillips at ctp198@yahoo.com

SATURDAY/NOV. 5

Explore Careers in Health Science at NOVA-MEC Open House, Nov. 5 9:30 a.m. until 12 p.m., at 6699 Springfield Center Drive in Springfield.

Those interested in exploring a career in health sciences will have the opportunity to meet NOVA students, staff and faculty, tour the high-tech campus, participate in hands-on demonstrations and receive materials from various student organizations/clubs.

NOVA's Medical Education Campus is the first specialized community college campus in the Commonwealth of Virginia. It offers its students state-of-the-art facilities with a 32-chair dental clinic, a cadaver lab and a technologically-advanced patient simulators lab. The MEC offers ten Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degrees in Nursing, Dental Hygiene, Health Information Management, Emergency Medical Services, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Radiography, Respiratory Therapy, Physical Therapy, Medical Laboratory Technology and Occupational Therapy. Certificates in many medical disciplines, including Licensed Practical Nursing, Health Information Technology, Radiation Oncology, Clinical Coding, Phlebotomy and Emergency Medical Technology as well as continuing education for local healthcare workers and first responders are also available.

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—Colonel Philip (Phil) J. Saulnier, USA, Retired and Judith (Judy) Saulnier, Residents at The Fairfax for 3.5 Years

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OPINION

Bulova: Vote Yes

A legally binding commitment that 70 percent would go to the Fairfax County Public Schools.

BY SHARON BULOVA
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF SUPERVISOR

I was elected chairman in 2009, just as the Great Recession settled over this country like a stubborn storm cloud. The market value of property in Fairfax County plummeted, resulting in historic reductions in both residential and commercial tax revenues. At the same time, more people than ever turned to the county for assistance. Former County Executive Tony Griffin's prediction, in the throes of the Recession years, that "this will be our new normal" has proven prescient.

Recovery from the recession has been sluggish, exacerbated by the effects of sequestration and cutbacks in our commercial sector's bread and butter, federal contracting. To maintain fiscal equilibrium; real estate tax rates were raised, hundreds of millions of dollars were eliminated from the budget, salaries were frozen and reductions-in-force require our

COMMENTARY

workforce to do more with less. County cost-cutting measures that were accepted as necessary when the Recession first materialized eventually have caused some "fraying around the edges," per The Washington Post, (April 2, 2016). I am providing this backdrop to lend some context to our board's decision to put the question of a meals tax to the voters.

In Virginia, towns and cities are allowed a greater array of revenue tools, including the right to adopt a meals tax. Most cities and towns within and around us have a meals tax: Alexandria, Arlington, Herndon, Vienna, Falls Church, Fairfax City, Leesburg, and Manassas. Counties on the other hand must rely primarily (almost 80 percent of our budget) on real estate and property taxes to provide local services. Other revenues are capped or controlled by the state.

Counties in Virginia (which were rural farmland when early tax authorities were allocated) are only able to implement a meals tax fol-

lowing a successful voter referendum. This question will be put to Fairfax County voters on Nov. 8.

If the referendum is successful, and a 4 percent tax on restaurant meals and prepared foods is adopted, it would raise almost \$100 million, equivalent to over 4 cents on the Real Estate tax rate. The language on the ballot question becomes law and revenue from the meals tax must be used per the ballot language.

If authorized by the voters, the Board of Supervisors would hold a public hearing to adopt an ordinance defining specifics of the tax. Already we have made the legally binding commitment that 70 percent would go to the Fairfax County Public Schools. The School Board has committed that its share, estimated to be about \$70 million in new funding, would be used primarily to address teachers' salaries, which have lagged behind those in neighboring jurisdictions. Fairfax County today is spending \$800 less per pupil than in 2008. The remaining 30 percent would go toward other county

needs, including public safety, parks, libraries, and mental health. The meals tax is intended to diversify and enhance county revenue — to supplement and not supplant — support for school and county services. While our county continues to work hard to identify efficiencies and to stimulate our commercial tax base, we are also hoping to diversify the local revenue available to provide the quality services our residents value and rely upon — top notch schools, safe communities, and compassionate human services.

I am proud to lead Fairfax County, one of the best-managed, safest and well-educated jurisdictions in the country. Residents love Fairfax because of our great schools and because we are a safe and welcoming community. Maintaining that quality is a top priority for the Board of Supervisors and our partners on the School Board. It isn't, however, a simple or easy job given constraints under state law.

I hope you will vote "yes" on the meals tax referendum on Nov. 8.

Making Our Vote Count

BY YASH PATEL

"The ballot is stronger than the bullet." Although more than a century has passed since then-President Abraham Lincoln famously uttered these words, they still hold true in today's world. By simply checking a box or clicking a button, a single vote can do something instantly that would take any amount of ammunition years to accomplish—defending and upholding the blessings of liberty. The voting process is one of the sacred pillars of our Founding Fathers' cherished beliefs, which have supported our nation through peace and war. Democracy has stood the test of time while other types of government have come and gone, and will continue to do so as long as we continue to vote.

As the birthplace of modern democracy, America prides itself in setting the benchmark and leading the international community in voting rights. So why is it that in recent elections, just a little more than half the population is turning up, even though the fate of their country rests in these voters' hands? One reason eligible

voters don't show up at the polls may be because they believe their vote alone won't affect the outcome of the election. While that might be true to some extent, it is no excuse to opt out of the grand tradition of representative democracy. Voting is like watching a sports match from home: you know your favorite player can't hear you, and that you have next to no effect on the game, but you still cheer your team on as loudly as you can. You are conveying your loyalty to your team, just like how you would convey your patriotism for your country by casting a vote. Besides, if everyone started to think like that, if everyone started to suppress their unique voices and opinions and left their civic responsibilities up to the next person, we would start to ask ourselves: is this really a democracy? Is this really what our country deserves?

I like to think of the United States as a large company, and every vote, no matter which party it's for, is an investment in its future. As equal shareholders of our great nation, we can work together to make our nation a better place by bringing us closer to our neighbors and our society. In

order to understand the positive impact voting really has, you have to perceive it as a reciprocal relationship. Growing up, we've been told that voting is a gift. But what most people don't know is that it's not just a gift that's given to us, it's also a gift we give to our government. Not only does it affect our government, but also the people who participate in it. Studies show that voters are more likely to be involved in social events such as community service and reaching out to their local representative. One effortless vote is all it takes to start an interactive relationship with everyone and everything around you.

When you put on an "I Voted" sticker on Election Day, you're not just showing that you voted for your favorite candidate. In a way, you are also announcing your pride and support for America. By voting, we assure that America remains in safe, capable hands without blindly following the government. Your friends, your family, and the very democracy of America are all counting on you to be a role model and lead our nation to a common future backed by the majority. Just imagine the

SEE PATEL, PAGE 15

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Advocating for Women and Children

To the Editor

Congresswoman Comstock is a proven leader and has a record of advocating on behalf of women and children. Having three children graduate from Fairfax County Public Schools, and a fourth following in their

footsteps, I have seen firsthand the progress Congresswoman Comstock has made on behalf of education. As our Congresswoman, she passed bipartisan legislation on issues like human trafficking and STEM education for girls, while also instituting the successful Young Women Leadership program. She co-chaired a STARBASE caucus, bringing STEM education to all elementary school children and authored The Student Loan Relief Act,

helping college students refinance their loans.

Having a brother in law enforcement, I realize the importance of keeping our communities safe and congratulate Congresswoman Comstock for working with law enforcement and passing legisla-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15

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Giles

FROM PAGE 4

according to agent David R. Gill of McGuire Woods. “The Healthplex, along with the continued maturation of the Lorton area, will derive demand for additional high-quality residential opportunities such as this proposed community.”

Lots will range in size from 5,000 to 8,049 square feet, according to Planning Commission documents, and will typically include 20-foot front yards, 8-foot side yards, and 25-foot backyards.

Plans call for planting of evergreen and deciduous trees in front of the sound wall, which will range in height from six to 32 feet.

A tot lot is proposed on Sanger Street.

“The applicant has committed to preparing an additional noise study prior to subdivision plan approval and that the sound wall will be designed to reduce noise exposure for the yards of the lots and the tot lot to 65 decibels or less. This may require a higher noise wall in this location,” according to planning staff analysis.

Proffers specify the front facades of the dwellings will consist of 50 percent stone or brick and raised panel shutters.

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CONNECTION FAMILIES

Teaching Gratitude and Charitable Giving

Experts offer suggestions for instilling these practices in children.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

As the holiday season approaches, many begin to think about expressing thankfulness and giving to those who are less fortunate. Teaching gratitude and establishing a sense of charity in children also becomes a priority for many parents.

Those lessons should begin long before it's time to put the turkey in the oven or trim the tree, however. Experts say practicing gratitude and demonstrating charitable giving year-round in age-appropriate ways are keys to raising compassionate children.

In fact, regular conversations between parents and children about charitable giving and gratitude increase the chances that youngsters will be willing to give to charity, according to a recent study. Research from the Women's Philanthropy Institute at Indiana University's Lilly Family School of Philanthropy showed that children whose parents spoke to them about the importance of giving to those in need were 20 percent more likely to give than those whose parents did have such conversations.

"The conversations don't need to be formal or contrived," said Marcia Rosen, a marriage and family therapist in Bethesda, Md. "They can be as simple as sharing an experience about helping a friend who might need help running an errand, so we change our plans so that we can give the gift of our time to a friend. There are plenty of examples all around us everyday."

"The ability to empathize and take another's perspective increases as a child gets older and less egocentric," said Dr. Linda Gulyn, a professor of psychology at

Local charities such as Interfaith Works offer families a variety of opportunities for benevolence this holiday season.

PHOTO COURTESY OF
INTERFAITH WORKS



Marymount University in Arlington. "For example, make a thank you note to grandma for the birthday gift. With little kids, there might be a positive consequence for writing a note, for example [saying] 'After you write the note, we can watch the video.' As kids get older, have them take Grandma's perspective: 'You know how it feels to be appreciated, don't you?'"

Encourage children to find their own ways to express gratitude and give charitably. "For example, when thanking their soccer coach for helping them all season, have them come up with ways to thank him, even if it's clumsy or kid-like," said Gulyn. "[Parents] often do it for them. For example, parents take up a collection of money from other parents and then they buy and present a fancy gift to the coach, and the kids are not that involved."

"Gratitude often relates to expectations

and entitlements," said Amy L. Best, chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, George Mason University. "It is important that young people develop some sense of entitlement. They are entitled to dignity and have rights of care. Without a sense of entitlement, claims to care, recognition, justice and dignity are more difficult to articulate. But too much entitlement can elevate expectations to too high a level so that disappointment prevails and gratitude is difficult to muster."

Children must learn to be in the moment to take those chances, however. "Dwelling too much in the past, through endless rumination for instance, or always looking to the future undermines our ability to just be, to soak in and soak up a moment," said Best. "Consideration of past, present and future should be in healthy balance. Young people are often pressured to focus on the future,

"It is important to understand the suffering of others and to feel a sense of empathy toward the struggles of others to feel gratitude."

— Professor Amy L. Best, chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, George Mason University

and some feel a sense of hopelessness toward the future. Both make it difficult to be in the moment.

"Cultivating mindfulness of self and your connection to others and the world is important," she added. "It is important to understand the suffering of others and to feel a sense of empathy toward the struggles of others to feel gratitude. Too much ambivalence toward others, or too focused on the self, makes it difficult to cultivate a disposition of gratitude."

Local charities offer a variety of options for families interested in giving this holiday season and throughout the year. Interfaith Works, a Montgomery County, Md. nonprofit organization with a goal of meeting the needs of the poor and homeless, holds annual drives for coat and cold-weather gear including mittens, scarves and hats. The organization is opening a new women's homeless shelter and is in need of supplies. "We need things like sheets, blankets and pillows to make the women feel at home and welcomed when they move into their new residence," said Charlotte Garvey of Interfaith Works "So families can shop online for the ladies."

For more information, visit www.iworksmc.org.

VOLUNTEER EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Fairfax County's free **Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group** meets by phone on **Tuesday, Nov. 8, 7-8 p.m.** Share your experiences, gain support and get important information without having to travel. Register beforehand at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Telephone Caregiver Support Group. Call 703-324-5484, TTY 711.

30th Annual Northern Virginia Dementia Care Consortium Caregivers Conference, Friday, Nov. 11, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The conference "Gems: A Treasure Chest of Ideas" will have speakers and resources on topics important to caregivers. The \$30 fee includes continental breakfast, lunch, materials, and certificate

of attendance. First Baptist Church of Alexandria, 2932 King St., Alexandria. Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Caregivers Conference.

The **Fairfax Commission on Aging** meets on **Wednesday, Nov. 16, at noon** at the Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Rd., Burke. The public is welcome to attend and join in the comment period that begins each session. Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/coa.htm. Call 703-324-5403, TTY 711 for meeting access needs.

Fairfax County's free Caregiver Seminar/Webinar Series features experts in Medicare, dementia care, mental health and wellness, nutrition and elder law. **Register online at**

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Caregiver Support and Respite Programs or call 703-324-5205, TTY 711.

10 Legal Issues Caregivers Should Know About, Thursday, Nov. 3, 7-8:30 p.m. Caregivers often make health and financial decisions for loved ones. Learn what documents loved ones need in place, if the document age matters, and what happens if the documents fail or can't be drafted. George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale.

When is it More Than Just a Bad Day? — webinar, Wednesday, Nov. 9, Noon-1 p.m. Learn how to identify, cope, and find partnerships to support your family if depressive symptoms hit you or your loved one.

Simple Meals for Healthy Eating — webinar, Wednesday, Nov. 16, Noon-1 p.m. Learn tips to simplify meal preparation and eat healthy during the holidays and beyond.

Improving Family Conversations About Aging Issues, Wednesday, November 16, 7-8:30 p.m. It's difficult for many families to talk about topics related to aging like help at home and driving. Learn easy-to-use tips for starting the conversation and keeping it going in a positive direction. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Rd., Chantilly.

Fairfax County is offering free **Medicare 101 and Enrollment Events**. Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on **Medicare 101**.

Medicare Enrollment Event, Tuesday, Nov. 1, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Lewinsville Senior Center, 1515 Great Falls St., McLean.

Medicare Enrollment Event, Friday, Nov. 4, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Lorton Senior Center, 7722 Gunston Plz., Lorton.

Medicare Enrollment Event, Saturday, Nov. 5, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Korean Community Service Center of Greater Washington, Ste. 406, 7700 Little River Turnpike, Annandale

Medicare 101, Wednesday, Nov. 9, Noon-1:30 p.m. St. Luke Parish, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean.

Lost Treasure Returned

BY FCPD PUBLIC AFFAIRS BUREAU

Have you ever lost something sentimental? It might not have much monetary value, but to you, it holds a priceless memory and now it's gone. In 1987, Greg McCarthy graduated from Bartlesville High School, in Oklahoma. He left with his memories and his high school ring.

In 2014, McCarthy was living in Burke. One day he discovered some money and his ring was missing from his home. Someone had stolen it, but McCarthy didn't report it. The ring was gone forever, or was it?

On March 11, 2016, Officer Nicholas Cosmo responded to a report of a vehicle break-in in Burke. Neither the officer nor the 55-year-old victim knew anything about a man named Greg McCarthy. Officer Cosmo discovered a ring inside a glove found in the car, which the victim had never seen before. Officer Cosmo packaged the items as evidence and sent them to the Evidence and Property Section.

Months later, Evidence and Property Tech-

nician David Patterson was sorting through his daily list of property, which is about 300 pieces a day. He picked up a small plastic bag, containing a ring, and something about the ring caught his attention. It appeared to be a class ring, as it was inscribed with the year 1987 and the name "Greg." Patterson decided to try and track down its owner.

He learned that the ring was associated with a high school in Oklahoma. He contacted the school and obtained a phone number for a student named "Greg." It seemed like a long shot, but the man who answered was Greg McCarthy's father. Greg was now a Colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps and stationed in Africa. He contacted his son, who confirmed the ring was, in fact, his and that he had lost it in 2014.

McCarthy could not believe his ring had resurfaced after all that time. What are the odds that one Property Technician, who went above and beyond his regular duties, would be a part of a reunification of a ring and its rightful owner? That's what makes this ring so special to Greg McCarthy.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE

First responders were able to douse the flames fast enough on Oct. 22 to limit damage to the attached trailer, preventing the fire from spreading to the building.

Firefighters Extinguish Burning Tractor Trailer

Firefighters from Battalions 7, 5 and 4 helped extinguish a burning tractor trailer in the 8900 block of Burke Lake Road on Saturday, Oct. 22, a release from Fairfax County Fire & Rescue said.

The truck was behind a building, where firefighters found it with the fire underway.

First responders were able to douse the flames fast enough to limit damage to

the attached trailer, preventing the fire from spreading to the building.

As of going to print, Fairfax County Fire & Rescue did not respond to questions of whether a source or cause of the fire has been determined, or whether there were any injuries related to the fire.

—TIM PETERSON

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American Festival Pops Orchestra, Anthony Maiello conducting.

PHOTO BY STAN ENGBRETTSON/
COURTESY OF GEORGE MASON
UNIVERSITY



Patriotic Musical Salutes to America's Veterans

Veterans Day weekend at Center for the Arts.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Veterans Day weekend will bring two musical concerts to honor veterans of military service and America's "greatest generation" at the Center for the Arts. The two separate performances will span patriotic favorites, American musical standards and swinging jazz along with signature vocals to honor those who have served America.

The shows include Jazz 4 Justice's "Tribute to the Greatest Generation" and the American Festival Pops Orchestra's "A Salute to Our Veterans."

Under the musical direction of Jim Carroll, Jazz 4 Justice's "Tribute to the Greatest Generation" will feature music running the gamut from Duke Ellington, Billy Strayhorn, Toots Thielemann, to Louis Prima and more. "What better way to pay tribute to our brave men and women of the armed forces with the music that marched us through World War II," said Darden Purcell, Director of Jazz Studies, George Mason University

The concert will "not only pay tribute to our heroes; the men and women of the United States military, but also showcase the work of our wonderful students," said Purcell.

"Many young adults now do not grow up with the music of Duke Ellington so it is incredibly gratifying to watch them develop, both musically and emotionally, when they make a connection with 'Jazz' and its significance within American history."

Celebrating jazz, "the music is going to be great! You will leave 'fingers snappin' and toes tappin'!" added Purcell.

Under the baton of Anthony Maiello, Professor of Music at Mason, the 60-member American Festival Pops Orchestra will "Salute" veterans with musical numbers from the likes of Glenn Miller, John Philips Sousa, along with the vocal quartet, "The Side Boys" of the United States Navy Band. There will also be an emotional rendition of "The Stars and Stripes Forever."

"Our audiences come to be engaged. Patrons can expect to be part of the concert, to be involved from the very first note," said Maiello. "I can promise them that they will feel better when they walk out of the concert hall than when they entered it."

Maiello added, "I believe American music is essential to our existence as a nation. Everything we

Jim Carroll, Professor of Music, George Mason University, Music Director of Jazz 4 Justice



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY



Darden Purcell, Director Jazz Studies, George Mason University

WHERE AND WHEN

* **Jazz 4 Justice:** "A Tribute to the Greatest Generation" at George Mason University, Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performance on Nov. 12, 2016 at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$20 adults, \$15 for students and seniors. Tickets are available online at cfa.gmu.edu or by phone at 888-945-2468. NOTE: There will be a reception and jam session hosted by the Mason student group, "The Voyage" immediately following.

* **American Festival Pops Orchestra:** "A Salute to our Veterans" at George Mason University, Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performance Nov. 13, 2016 at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$50, \$43, \$30 with Youth Discount. Tickets (half price tickets for youth through grade 12) are available for this event. Tickets are available by phone at 888-945-2468 or online at cfa.gmu.edu. Note: There will be a pre-performance discussion with big-band arranger Bryan Kidd, who is in Residence with AFPO.

do involves music in some way or another. Holidays, ceremonies, events, personal and public gatherings are just a few examples of how music plays a role in our daily lives, whether we are making it or listening to it."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Shenandoah Run in Concert — Folk Music with a Kick! on Saturday, Oct. 29, at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., concert starts at 8 p.m. Ticket price - \$15. A family-friendly event. Adult refreshments and soft drinks served. For more information: www.accontinuu.org/concerts-at-accotink; 703-503-4579; administrator@accotinkuu.org

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

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

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/

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.

THURSDAY/OCT. 27

Special Blood Fairfax Screening 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Rave Motion Pictures Fairfax Corner 14 11900 Palace Way, Fairfax. Tickets Available: www.tugg.com/events/special-blood-80-v

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

Dr. Seuss Art Exhibition 3 - 7 p.m. at P&C Art 2813 Dorr Avenue, Fairfax. The beloved Dr. Seuss Art Exhibition and Children's Hour. http://www.pcart.com 703-698-8452 dennymazz@gmail.com

HALLOWEEN 2016 PREVIEW

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.herndon-va.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 can trick-or-treat for candy and treats, bounce around in our kids zone, and meet bugs at our creepy crawly 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



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

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

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.

FAITH NOTES

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

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

The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism. The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to

understand the workings of the mind, overcoming inner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit http://www.guhyasamaja.org for more information.

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

First Baptist Church of Springfield offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by both traditional and con-

temporary worship services at 10:30 a.m. at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or www.fbcspringfield.org.

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

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

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From left, Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission and subcommittee members Randy Sayles, John Lovaas, Phil Niedzielski-Eichner and George Becerra attend the Board of Supervisors public safety committee meeting on Oct. 25.



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

(Center) Adrian Steel, a member of the Ad Hoc Commission, said the goal of the civilian review panel's public meeting would be to provide a "full and fair presentation" of a police investigation.

Supervisors to Vote on Civilian Review Panel Dec. 6.

Draft item discussed at Oct. 25 Public Safety Committee.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

By their Dec. 6 meeting, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors should have the opportunity to vote on creating a Civilian Review Panel for police oversight, a first in Fairfax.

That's the goal of supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), who chairs the board's public safety committee. The committee met Tuesday, Oct. 25 to consider a draft of the action item that would establish the review panel.

The independent panel was one of the more controversial of the 142 recommendations from the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission created by board chairman Sharon Bulova in 2015.

The commission, with representatives from law enforcement, the media and community at large, was set up in response to a lack of transparency and accountability surrounding the 2013 shooting death of unarmed Springfield man John Geer by Fairfax County Police officer Adam Torres.

Fairfax County Police and the supervisors didn't release information about the case for more than a year after Geer's death, even to his family. It took a wrongful death civil suit filed by the family and a court order to finally get investigation files and Torres' name released.

Torres was fired in July 2015 and indicted by a grand jury for murder in August 2015, a first charge of that kind for any officer in the history of Fairfax County Police.

The former police officer pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter and was released in June, after receiving credit for time served for a 12-month sentence.

On Sept. 20, the supervisors unanimously approved another recommendation from the commission: creating an office of the independent police auditor.

The auditor will review all use of force incidents that result in serious injury or death, as well as other citizen complaints about police use of force not resulting in serious injury or death.

In addition, the auditor could engage in policy and practice analysis, as suggested by the Board of Supervisors, County Executive or Chief of Police.

BY CONTRAST, the civilian review panel would "review completed police internal administrative investigations of civilian complaints concerning allegations of abuse of authority and serious misconduct," according to the draft action item.

At the Oct. 25 meeting, Cook specified the civilian review panel would not conduct investigations. Rather, the panel would review investigation files and decide whether the police's own review was "well done, not well done or needs more work," Cook said.

If they determine more work is required, the panel would be able to send the issue back to the police.

Citizens could initiate that process in two ways, Cook explained: If they file a complaint with the police department but are unsatisfied with the results of an investigation, they can bring the matter to the civilian review panel. Or they could submit a complaint to the panel directly, which could request an investigation be conducted by police, that could then be reviewed by the panel.

Review of the investigations would happen at public meetings held by the panel. Fairfax County Chief of Police Edwin Roessler and an officer from the Internal Affairs Bureau would attend these hearings to offer additional explanation, but involved officers can't be required to come before the panel or answer questions, under the Code of Virginia.

Adrian Steel, a member of the Ad Hoc Commission, said the goal of the meeting was to provide the public with a "full and fair presentation" of an investigation review.

The meeting before the panel would provide a place for the complainant to appear "and have his or her day," Steel said. But Cook raised questions about whether the complainant should speak at the meeting, and if so, what limits might be in place.

Cook and Deputy county executive Dave Rohrer said the complainant could state the reasons he or she asked for a review. Rohrer said that since police investigators will appear before the panel to answer questions, it would be fair to allow the complainant to speak as well.

The board will also need to finalize criteria for who would be eligible to serve on the nine-person panel. All panel members would be appointed by the supervisors, but they would encourage communities and organizations to nominate candidates. Other potential criteria would exclude current and former Fairfax County employees, as well as current law enforcement officers and anyone holding public office.

Panel access to sensitive documents that would be part of the investigation files created another area of controversy.

Police Officer 1st Class Richard Barron said members of the department are "very concerned" with the fact that volunteer civilians would have that type of access.

Det. Sean Corcoran, President of the Fairfax Coalition of Police Local 5000 and a member of the Ad Hoc Commission, said it's about "who has access to what, and when, and why."

Corcoran echoed a suggestion made by supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) and separately by Kathy Smith (D-Sully) that the board could wait to establish the civilian review panel until after the independent auditor office is up and running.

Barron challenged the need for a Civilian Review Panel and said the reviews the police conduct on themselves are ad-

equate. "I don't see a legitimate need for it," he said.

"I don't think there's any purpose" for another level of review, Barron said, adding that officers feel this panel is being "rammed down their throats."

BOARD CHAIRMAN Sharon Bulova asked Corcoran, who voted in favor of the Ad Hoc commission's final list of recommendations, if he'd changed his mind since then. Corcoran responded he had lobbied against the panel prior to the final vote, but was outnumbered.

Herrity said he supports independent oversight, but is concerned that the fiscal impact of the panel is unknown.

"In the face of a \$200 million shortfall," he said, referring to budget projections, "we're creating a huge workload for the police department with no gain."

The draft item states, the civilian review panel would be created "for the purpose of building and maintaining public trust and police legitimacy."

John Foust (D-Dranesville) asked that staff begin to develop a significant education and training program for panel members on topics including FOIA, handling of sensitive information and other topics.

Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) spoke of the importance of forming the panel. "This is the best for you," she told the police organization representatives, noting that the community must be able to see the process. "I don't think we have an alternative."

The Board of Supervisors expects to vote on the proposal for Civilian Review Panel at its Dec. 6 regular meeting, with documents posted the week before. The next public safety committee meeting is scheduled for Dec. 13 at 1 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax. More information is available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/board-committees/meetings.

11

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

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With so many of our nation's finest military personnel living in our neighborhoods, Congresswoman Comstock has made our

national security and caring for our veterans top priorities. She supported the necessary increase in the defense budget and the prevention of the release of Guantanamo detainees. Equally important to Congresswoman Comstock is her commitment to our veterans. She will not let them be forgotten and continues to honor them by co-sponsoring the Hire More Heroes Act, the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act and the Border Jobs for Veterans Act.

Laura Murphy
Fairfax Station

Voting Her Conscience

To the Editor:

As a career federal workforce member for over 30 years, I have grown increasingly frustrated by the incessant attacks against our nation's civil servants. One might get an impression that we were responsible for every bad thing that happens in America. Some members of Congress attempt to balance the budget on our backs, despite our years of service and a plethora of restrictions and requirements they already impose on federal employees. Many in Congress cast a wide net when complaining about failures in the federal government, despite civil servants efforts to serve the American public by faithfully executing the programs, policies and laws directed by Congress and the administration. Thankfully, not everyone in Congress—and not every Republican—attacks federal employees.

My representative, Barbara Comstock, has shown a willingness to break from her party ranks, if necessary, to support the federal workforce. A recent notable example came this past July when the House of Representatives debated the so-called Government Reform and Improvement Act. The bill would have usurped the rights of countless federal employees by extending probation-

ary periods for new hires from one year to two years, and would have limited due process rights for senior executive service employees. Congresswoman Comstock was one of two Republicans to vote against this bill despite knowing that it could open her up to some criticism. She voted her conscience and sided with the tens of thousands of federal employees whom she represents instead of rubber-stamping this misguided proposal.

The vast majority of federal employees are dedicated, hardworking, and intelligent individuals who want nothing more than to serve our great nation by serving our fellow citizens. As with any other profession, occasionally a few bad apples tend to spoil things for everyone.

Congresswoman Comstock is willing to hold those bad apples accountable, but has the prudence and patience to differentiate between the few and the many. As an independent voter Congresswoman Comstock's "independent" willingness to back her constituents has earned her my vote come November.

Charles "Chuck" Caposell
Fairfax Station

Patel

FROM PAGE 6

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rors of poverty, crime, and unemployment. So what are you waiting for? Find the time, spread the word, and make your vote count.

Yash Patel is 9th grader at South County High School in Lorton.

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