



Springfield CONNECTION

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CONNECTION
FAMILIES

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Pyramid Challenge Has Record Turnout

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The elementary school mascots Mighty Red Bird from Cardinal Forest, Rocky the Rockin' Robin from Rolling Valley, Hamilton the Hawk from Hunt Valley, Sparky the Kangaroo from Keene Mill, Mighty the Mustang from West Springfield and event sponsor, Dr. David Hughes, pose prior to the mascot race.

New Principal of Orange Hunt

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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.

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STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Karen Tuttle will lead Orange Hunt with 865 students and about 100 staff members.

Karen Tuttle is New Principal of Orange Hunt

School is famous for its German Immersion Program.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

A native New Yorker, Karen Tuttle, age 44, was named new principal of Orange Hunt Elementary School in Springfield, on Sept. 14, 2016, replacing Jason Pensler who became principal of Bull Run Elementary in Centreville. She will lead the school with 865 students and about 100 staff members. Orange Hunt is in the West Springfield Pyramid.

According to its website, Orange Hunt's ethnic breakdown is: 66.63 percent White; 8.19 percent Asian; 7.46 percent Black; 10.64 percent Hispanic; and 7.09 percent Other, based on statistics from 2015-2016. There are 97.4 percent of students in its General Education program and 19.19 percent in its Elementary Advanced Academics, Level II, Level III. Some 10.27 percent of students are enrolled in Special Education services; and 5.99 percent use English Language services.

"The student population is diverse," said Tuttle who's been an educator for 20 years. "We have a little bit of everything here.... There's a lot of single family homes in the area, a lot of military families, especially because of the German Immersion Program. Some of the military move specifically to our area. Some of the military families cycle through. They might leave and come back with different deployments. Our numbers stay pretty constant because of that."

About 300 students take part in the popular German Immersion Program, which teaches math and science in German. "It is a popular program especially with the military families," said Tuttle.

She said there's a lot of research that says if kids learn one language, they pick up a second language easily. In addition, the German Immersion teachers provide visual and hands-on experiments and experiences to the students to enhance their learning. "They build things; they make things — so the students acquire the language better," she added.

Mind. "There's a fencing program, a chess club, other languages," said Tuttle. "It's very inclusive; there's lots of opportunities for kids, which I love. Our Band and Strings program is excellent. It's about 150 kids — only for fifth and sixth grades."

She says what she loves most about her job is the people. "I think it's exciting because I get to work with people and problem solve — whether it's a teacher trying to get an endorsement or trying to help a child succeed. At the end of the day, if you're having a bad day, you just go talk to one of the kids and it just fixes everything."

She said her greatest challenge as a new principal includes having time to truly get to know people — whether it's the teachers, the parents, or the students.

For her personal goals, she said: "I think just continuing to create opportunities for kids and to really focus on how we can get kids ready for the life they want to lead." Fairfax County has an emphasis on its "Portrait of a Graduate" outlook which answers the question: "What are the skills necessary for success for all children in this rapidly changing, increasingly diverse, and interconnected world?"

Tuttle went on to say that "...we need to help them with the skills of communication, critical thinking, problem solving, being able to collaborate with others. We need to imbed the basic academic skills, but they need to be able to go beyond that."

Tuttle also added: "I'm excited to be here. You just work hard and you love what you do everyday. I just want to be my best and I want to be there for everyone. I can't do it alone. We all have to come together to make good things happen."

Tuttle grew up in New York state and graduated from Jackson City High School in 1990. She studied American Studies at SUNY Brockport College and earned a teaching certificate, graduating in 1995.


She began her teaching career in Johnson City, N.Y., where she taught fourth grade for two years and then moved to Fairfax County. She taught grades 4 and 5 at Hunters Woods Elementary in Reston. Then taught 6th grade at Providence Elementary where she was

THE SCHOOL offers many other programs such as Girls on the Run, Run Fit Kidz and Odyssey of the

SEE NEW PRINCIPAL, PAGE 7

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NEWS

New FBI Headquarters Decision Now Coming March 2017

The three sites in competition to be the next home of FBI headquarters — Greenbelt and Landover, Maryland, and the General Services Administration warehouse off Loisdale Road in Springfield — will see their race come to an end early next year.

According to release from the GSA, the site and offeror for the new headquarters will be announced in early March, 2017.

The date was pushed back, a GSA spokesperson said, because of

a “strong and overwhelmingly positive response from developers” to a solicitation sent out earlier in the year.

“GSA and FBI are encouraged by the proposals received,” the spokesperson said, “and are confident that, if Congress provides the resources requested in the President’s Fiscal Year 2017 budget, we will be able to deliver on our commitment to provide a world class facility for the FBI and a good deal for the taxpayer.”

—TIM PETERSON



PHOTO BY RICHARD MUMFORD/THE CONNECTION

Field Trip at Huntley Meadows Park

Brittany Hopkins’s third grade class from Sangster Elementary School in Springfield visited Huntley Meadows Park on Wednesday, Oct. 5. The class was one of three third grade classes from the school that visited the park that day to learn about wetlands. They began with a brief overview at the visitor center before walking through the woods and onto the boardwalk through the wetlands. Spotted during the walk were turtles, both in the water and on logs, fish, a great blue heron, a couple of egrets and a caterpillar, along with an abundant variety of plants and trees. The classes concluded their field trip with lunch at the park’s picnic shelter.

Gary Kramer, D.D.S.
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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 cut-backs 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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Four Cents Make Sense for the Future of Fairfax

To the Editor:

On November 8, Fairfax County residents will have an opportunity to vote on a meals tax that may add nearly \$100 million into our county budget. This issue has come up before and it didn't pass. This time, it's critical that we vote yes because it is doubtful that we'll have another opportunity to diversify our tax revenue stream again.

Beautiful parks, resource-packed libraries, and other services are part of why I moved back here when I had children. But by far the biggest reason was that I wanted them to get the great (if not better) education that I did when I went to school here.

But let's just take a step back — certainly, not everyone feels the

way I do about schools. Many people hate, even detest the idea of additional taxes — even if a significant portion of those taxes will be paid by other people. With 28 percent of the added revenue coming from commuters and tourists, I would think that help adding to our budget would be a welcome solution. Voting no on the meals tax is a no vote to Fairfax getting funds from anywhere but the state and property taxes. I don't know about you, but if someone else's lunch tab, or just four pennies on the dollar can lessen the blow to my October tax bill and help our schools, why would I say no to that?

The School Board has made it clear that the increased school

budget will go towards giving our teachers a much-needed raise. These raises will keep more great teachers from going just a few miles to Arlington or Alexandria, where they can earn as much as an additional \$10K per year.

Some restaurants (many of which I used to patronize frequently) claim that this tax will hurt their business and employees. Really? If that was the case, why open "any" restaurant in a county with an existing meals tax? If it was that damaging to businesses, you'd think that those jurisdictions (nearly all in Northern Virginia) would have significantly fewer dining options — just to avoid the meals tax.

People that go out to eat simply

don't base their decisions on a local meals tax. It's about the quality of food, service, location, and now, at least in my case, how they support the community.

Less than stellar schools lead to dropping property values. As school Superintendent Karen Garza said, "We can't cut our way to excellence."

Pennies invested now will help preserve a great education system, as well as the safety, resources, enrichment, and support that are found in our schools and county services. But we can't begin to invest those pennies unless you vote yes to the meals tax. Learn more at yesmealstax.org

Esther Rege Berg
Springfield

Supporting Meals Tax

To the Editor:

I'm writing to encourage Fairfax County voters to support the county meals tax referendum on the ballot in November. The proposal would impose a 4-percent tax on ready-to-eat prepared food and beverages at restaurants and stores. Seventy percent of the money raised would support the

Fairfax County Public Schools; the remainder would cover other expenses like police, fire, rescue, and human services. Supporting our schools is essential to maintaining our quality of life in Fairfax County. Good schools make Fairfax County a desirable place to live and do business and they raise the values of our homes. More specifi-

cally, the meals tax would allow the county to make teacher salaries competitive with those in neighboring jurisdictions. It would also allow the county to address increasing school class sizes, which make teaching less effective and which make our schools less attractive to prospective teachers.

The meals tax is also an alter-

native to a further increase in Fairfax County property taxes. The \$100 million per year it would raise would more than cover the increase in real estate taxes from 2015 to 2016 (caused by increasing property assessments). According to the county budget summary,

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New Principal of Orange Hunt

FROM PAGE 4

also the Lead Intern. She moved to McNair Elementary where she was an Assessment Coach and then became Assistant Principal. She then became Assistant Principal at Halley Elementary in Fairfax Station for six years, followed by her move to Orange Hunt as Principal.

According to Jamey Chianetta, principal of Halley Elementary: "Karen Tuttle is one of the most creative people I have ever known, and she uses this creativity to solve problems. She is an out-of-the-box thinker who is relentless in her efforts to help students achieve. Ms. Tuttle does not allow difficult circumstances to become excuses for underachievement. She has very high expectations for herself, students, and colleagues, and has a tireless work ethic. She is an exemplary leader who builds strong relationships with the entire community."

Paula Johnson, an Instructional Coach at Halley Elementary, added: "Karen Tuttle is a dynamic educational leader whose professionalism, sound judgement, warmth and ingenuity made a lasting impact on teachers and students at Halley Elementary School. The Orange Hunt community is very lucky to gain her expertise and guidance."

JENNY WEIS, an Advanced Academic Resource Teacher at Halley Elementary, added: "Karen is an enthusiastic person who leads

with empathy, vision, and passion. She was the champion of my program and regularly questioned me and pushed me cognitively on how to make my program stronger. She sees the potential in every student and knows that, with the right relationship, all of our students can be successful. She also believes that all students can excel with quality instruction that uses students strengths."

Waples Mill School Counselor Kate Crane added: "When I think of Karen, I think of a warm smile, constant encouragement, a positive attitude, creative problem solving and a drive to work tirelessly to do what's best for kids. Karen makes it a priority to build meaningful and genuine relationships with all members of the school community. She develops a keen understanding of student's needs and thinks outside the box to develop strategies to set all students up for success."

Matt Salerno, Assistant Principal at Halley Elementary, added: "Karen Tuttle embodies what a true advocate for student success looks like. She consistently has the best interest of each of her students in mind and, not only makes decisions that will positively impact each of them, but will celebrate their accomplishments with tremendous pride."

Karen Tuttle is married to husband Mark, who is in contracting, and the couple resides in Herndon.

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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 Inter-
faith 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 a 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, and some feel a sense of hopelessness to-

"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 Anthro-
pology, George Mason University

ward 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.

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American Festival Pops Orchestra, Anthony Maiello conducting.

PHOTO BY STAN ENGBRETSON/
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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 15

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The starting line of the mascot race. Sparky the Kangaroo from Keene Mill won the race against fellow mascots: Rocky the Rockin' Robin of Rolling Valley, event sponsor Dr. David Hughes, Hamilton the Hawk of Hunt Valley, Mighty the Red Bird of Cardinal Forest and Mighty the Mustang of West Springfield.



Olivia Byrd and Averly LaChance, sixth and first graders at Keen Mill Elementary School, crossing the finish line.

Washington Irving Pyramid Challenge Has Record Turnout

BY ALEXANDRA TECCO
THE CONNECTION

This year's Washington Irving Pyramid Challenge had the largest turnout in its 11-year history: 864 children from the six elementary schools that feed into Washington Irving Middle School gathered on the school's grounds for the race. Friends and family lined the race track and gathered at the finish line to cheer. A new highlight this year was the participation of each school's mascot and a mascot, popular with all the kids. Elementary school students from Cardinal Forest, Hunt Valley, Keene Mill, Orange Hunt, Rolling Valley and West Springfield gathered on the sunny day, each representing their school with a different colored shirt. The help and support of the community, local businesses and volunteers made the registration fee for the runners four canned goods. The collected food was donated to Food for Others, which supports Northern Virginia Families in need.

"It's really good for the kids," said Moska Mojadidi. Her children attend Keen Mill Elementary. "It's good for them to donate, volunteer, help people, exercise and all the groups getting together to meet each other," she says.

Children ran around the field with friends, danced to music and stretched while waiting for their race time. Ribbons were given out to the top finishers, but it was an informal affair, handed out at the finish line as they crossed it. The course was designed with special consideration so all ages, abilities and those with physical limitations, including walking devices, could participate, said Emily Canny, third grade teacher at Rolling Valley Elementary.

Volunteers from the West Springfield High School cross country team ran with each race as pacers. "They lead the race so the kids in front don't get lost," explained Anna McCandless, 14, ninth grader at West Springfield High School, a general volunteer at the event. The pacers also followed at the back of the pack, keeping the runners' spirits up to finish the race. Other community volunteers included parents and middle and high school students assisting with everything from registration to handing out water or collecting the canned goods.



Rounding the corner in the boys' grade 4-6 1 mile race as family and friends cheer them on.

Ian Sarabia, 14, ninth grade at West Springfield High School, Jonathan Rowan, 13, eighth grade at Washington Irving and Robert Lewis from Food for Others collecting the canned goods used by the runners to register for the event. The event was a chance to "help people not as fortunate" explains Rowan. For Sarabia it was a chance "to help out" while his sister was running.



Local businesses recognize the importance of exercise for the children and the community development through the Challenge event. Some of their assistance included the water, race bibs, race clock and t-shirts. The support of these businesses and sponsors keeps the registration fee as



Keene Mill Elementary students Maleka, 9, fourth grade and brother Ayaan, 6, first grade posing with their school mascot Sparky the Kangaroo. Ayaan shares his secret to a good run as he waits for his sister to run her race. "I turn my eyebrows down, put my hands behind me and feel the wind," he says.

gether," said Dr. David Hughes of David Hughes Orthodontics, one of the regular sponsors for the event.

The school mascots spent their time posing for pictures and cheering on the kids through fist pumps, waves and thumbs up. At the halfway mark of the event was the mascot race. All the mascots and Dr. Hughes gathered at the starting line. The kids from each school gathered to cheer their mascot then ran across the field to watch the finish line. Sparky the Kangaroo, mascot of Keene Mill Elementary, won.

"The mascots are so popular," explains Emily Canny, "having them really builds community participation and school spirit."

"This is one of our first events of the school year," said Kelly Sheers, principal at West Springfield Middle School. As such it is an event that sets the tone for the school events that follow and the school year. It reinforces the importance of "... building community, sharing fitness... and encouraging students of the importance of giving to others and, as a school, collaborating with others."

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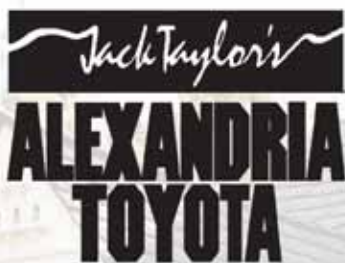
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HALLOWEEN 2016 PREVIEW

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



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

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

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.

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/>

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 6

that increase cost the typical homeowner \$184.81. Such a further increase could be staved off by shifting a small portion of the tax obligation from property owners to other taxpayers (including those from outside Fairfax County).

Finally, the meals tax would be a small burden. It would amount to 20 cents on a \$5 meal and \$2 on a \$50 meal. Most of the

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

other jurisdictions neighboring Fairfax County have a similar meals tax: Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax City, and the Towns of Vienna and Herndon. Yet most of us patronize restaurants there. Thus, the meals tax would not threaten the businesses of the restaurants in Fairfax County. That's why I support the proposal.

Sean Barnett
Annandale

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