

MARCH 8-14, 2017

25 CENTS NEWSSTAND PRICE



From left are Supervisors Jeff McKay, John Foust, Kathy Smith, Sharon Bulova, Michael Frey, Pat Herrity, Penny Gross and John Cook outside the newly renamed animal shelter.

Animal Shelter Named After Michael Frey

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Chief Releases Name of Officer in Shooting Death

Officer used deadly force in two prior cases, both determined to be lawfully justified.

BY TIM PETERSON

Fairfax County Chief of Police Edwin Roessler has named 16-year veteran Master Police Officer Lance Guckenberger as the officer who used deadly force, killing Mohammad Azim Doudzai at his home in Herndon, the scene of a double shooting and barricade incident on Jan. 16.

Roessler released the name of the officer March 2, after a protracted risk assessment and court action by the officer seeking a restraining order to stop the release of his name. This is the first FCPD officer-involved shooting since the Board of Supervisors adopted recommendations from the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, including releasing the name of the officer within 10 days of an officer-involved deployment of deadly force unless the chief determines that more time is needed to investigate or mitigate a credible threat to the officer and/or family.

Police say two men were shot inside Doudzai's house, in the 13300 block of Covered Wagon Lane in Herndon. Officers from the Reston District station responded around 2.40 p.m. on Jan. 16, after the shooting victims had already gone to the



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE

In a press conference from the scene of the Jan. 16 officer-involved shooting-barricade incident, Chief of Police Edwin Roessler said the less-lethal force deployed included a taser and 40mm foam bullet. The deadly force was MPO Lance Guckenberger's service firearm.

hospital. A third man was trapped inside the home with Doudzai, who police said was armed with both a gun and at least one knife. Adding to the danger of the scene were flames and smoke coming from the

residence, police said.

In an attempt to de-escalate the situation, members of the Crisis Negotiations team and Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team were called in to negotiate with Doudzai. Guckenberger is assigned to the Special Operations Division responsible for both those teams.

Doudzai eventually came to the front door, where Roessler said both less-lethal and deadly force were used to bring him down.

In a press conference from the scene of the incident, Roessler said the less-lethal force deployed included a taser and 40mm foam bullet. The deadly force was Guckenberger's service firearm.

The exact sequence of those uses isn't known, but should be determined at the conclusion of the ongoing FCPD investigation, medical examiner's findings and decision from the Commonwealth's Attorney.

A March 2 release from FCPD announcing the officer's name failed to mention the less-lethal force used. FCPD spokesperson MPO Don Gotthardt said in an email that detail was probably not considered due to focus being on the release of the name and taking care of the officer.

Guckenberger has been involved with two

prior cases involving use of deadly force, Roessler said the March 2 release, one in 2005 and one in 2010; in both cases the suspect survived.

The first involved a business holdup on Jan. 14, 2005 in Falls Church and an exchange of gunfire with the suspect in Bailey's Crossroads. Guckenberger received both the Fairfax County Police Silver Medal of Valor and the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police's Award for Valor for his actions in 2005 incident for rescuing the store manager, according to press accounts from the time.

The second involved a man with a history of mental illness who was reportedly using narcotics. He fired at officers multiple times, police said, with what turned out to be a BB gun powered by a CO2 cartridge.

"Both of those matters were determined to be lawfully justified uses of force," Roessler said, "in which the officer used great restraint while being exposed to suspects who were using weapons against the involved officer while the officer was attempting to preserve the sanctity of human life for others."

Both criminal and administrative investigations by FCPD into the Jan. 16 incident are ongoing, police said.

Thank You for Your Patience and Support

We at Covanta Fairfax, the Energy-from-Waste facility in Lorton, VA, wish to express our sincere gratitude to Fairfax County and the Fire and Rescue Department for their help and support during the recent fire at our facility. We would also like to thank you, our neighbors, for your patience and understanding throughout this unfortunate event.

For 27 years, Covanta Fairfax has been an integral part of Fairfax County's world-class, environmentally conscious waste management system and we are working to come back better and stronger than ever. Rest assured, this includes enhancing our fire protection and suppression capabilities with the latest technologies available today to help prevent a fire incident like this from occurring again.

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Animal Shelter Named after Michael Frey

Lifelong advocate for humane treatment.

BY BONNIE HOBBS

If a dog is man's best friend, then certainly Michael Frey is one of the best friends of dogs, cats and other animals. He's advocated for them so much that, on Saturday, the Fairfax County Animal Shelter was named and dedicated in his honor.

After serving 37 years in county government — including six, four-year terms as Sully District supervisor — Frey retired at the end of 2015. And on March 4, family, friends, shelter staff and supporters, former Board of Supervisors colleagues and staff members from his tenure as supervisor attended the ceremony in his honor.

There were speeches, laughs and heartfelt sentiments, plus the unveiling of the sign declaring the building the Michael R. Frey Animal Shelter. Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova led things off.

Quoting Charles Darwin, she said, "The love for all living creatures is the most noble attribute of man." She then said, "The compassionate and humane treatment of animals cannot be separated from the quality of life for people. The two go hand-in-hand."

Saying this county has come a long way since the days of the dog catcher and the dog pound, Bulova called Frey a leader and an inspiration in the community for bringing about many positive changes for animals here. "Almost 40 years ago, when Michael first joined county government — first as staff and then as the first elected supervisor of the Sully District — he noted that there was little thought about the humane treatment of animals," she said. "This bothered Michael a great deal."

Bulova said Frey always stresses that it took many hardworking and dedicated people to make progress at the shelter and in the community, fighting for better conditions for the animals. "And that is true," she said. "Before these improvements were



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS

Fairfax County officials and employees gather with Michael Frey (center) outside the animal shelter named in his honor.

made, we had cats in cages in the hallways — and that was not OK"

But Frey, too, campaigned for the animals and, said Bulova, "Today we recognize the importance of Michael's contributions to these monumental changes. Whether it was for dog parks in the community, dog runs for the shelter, recognition of other people's

SEE ANIMAL SHELTER, PAGE 7



From left: Michael Frey, Sharon Bulova and Pat Herrity listen to the speeches during the ceremony.



Mary O'Malley took this cake's photo of Michael Frey and his dog Boomer.

'Something I Will Cherish'

BY BONNIE HOBBS



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS

Michael Frey and his sister, Alana Remley, at his reception.

When Michael Frey stepped to the podium Saturday afternoon at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, instead of boasting about his own achievements, he remained his usual, humble self.

Although the animal shelter now bears his name, he related something a friend told him about it. "He said, 'If a building is named after you, that includes the floors, too,'" said Frey. "So whenever an animal has an accident on that floor ..."

The rest of his sentence was drowned out by laughter, but the audience got the point

Frey is pleased and humbled by new honor.

and knew Frey wasn't about to let the honor go to his head. He then thanked Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) and Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) for introducing the naming resolution to the Board of Supervisors and thanked the board for approving it.

"Before I joined the board, the shelter was something considered 'out of sight, out of mind,'" said Frey. "I brought it to their attention; but without the board's support I couldn't have done anything. Then the citizens supported a bond issue to renovate the shelter, and this building is the result."

Noting his love of dogs, Frey said Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) once in-

troduced him at an event by saying, "If dogs could vote, he'd be governor." And while Frey's always championed the shelter, he credited its success to its leadership, especially under Director Karen Diviney.

"Once she took over, we began to explore what we could do here, and we owe her our thanks," he said. "I want to thank my staff, too, who were always there to support me in whatever we did and also when we weren't making progress. Several of them were with me almost all 24 years, and that means a lot to me."

Regarding the shelter, Frey said its evo-

SEE CHERISH, PAGE 11

Environmental Coalition Calls on County to Recommit

Faith communities coalition wants dedicated Energy Office.

BY ANDREA WORKER

As Fairfax County prepares to update its formal Environmental Vision, the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS) is calling on local elected officials to recommit to the environmental protection pledge they adopted under then-Chairman Gerry Connolly. The non-profit coalition of about 50 interfaith communities sent a red-clad contingent to support the FACS members registered to speak at the Feb. 28 meeting of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. One after another, the speakers praised the supervisors for the county's environmental stance, but urged them to renew their dedication to the goals outlined in the pledge.

Coming from different walks of life and offering different perspectives, those who testified were united in asking the board to establish an office to oversee the transition to clean energy in the county.

Peter Clifford, representing FACS member Unity Church of Fairfax, called for a department with the "authority and responsibility to address what you established" in the initial pledge. "Establishing firm goals and regular measurement," Clifford said, was the key to success in this endeavour.

In her testimony, pediatrician Dr. Samantha Adhoot of Alexandria acknowledged that the county is in a tight budget climate, but, echoing the request for an office for environmental advocacy, she warned that environmental issues were also "public health issues," with more cases of Lyme disease, asthma and other respiratory conditions occurring with the longer seasons of unusual warmth.

THE COOL COUNTIES Climate Stabilization Declaration, as the pledge is officially named, established the goal of reducing the D.C. region's overall greenhouse gas emissions to 80 percent below 2005 levels by 2050. It was signed on July 16, 2007. In the 10 years since, it's difficult to tell if progress is being made by Fairfax County, according to Eric Goplerud, chairman and co-founder of FACS.

In an opinion piece recently published in the Washington Post, Goplerud argues that statements about the county's efforts, made by Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, may confuse residents. In her post of Feb. 6, Bulova cited a 10 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions per capita for the county.

Goplerud says the chairman was referencing a report by the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments (WMCOG) published in April of 2016 and covering the years between 2005-2012. Not a timely piece of evidence in Goplerud's view.



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER

The Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions brought a red-clad contingent of supporters for their speakers at the Fairfax County Feb. 28 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Goplerud also points out that the Cool Counties commitment is for a "total reduction," in emissions, versus per capita. When the data is reviewed from that perspective, given the population growth in the county, carbon pollution may actually have risen, as the county's own 2013 "Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory" indicates. That report shows yearly greenhouse gas emissions in the county as having risen by 3 percent between 2006 and 2010, somewhat at odds with the WMCOG that credited the county with a 2 percent overall decrease in emissions during its last study period.

Kambiz Agazi, the county's environmental coordinator, has said that the lag in providing emissions data is due to the time it takes to compile the complex information, but that the county is committed to publishing the data every three years.

Goplerud and other speakers from FACS aren't willing to accept that delay. While they admit that there is an enormous amount of information to be recorded and analysed, the FACS says that Fairfax need only look at their immediate neighbors to see that measuring energy activity can be done with much more expediency.

The FACS cites Arlington County, Montgomery County in Maryland, and the District as examples of jurisdictions with more current data. Arlington reports a 21 percent reduction, Montgomery County a 10 percent decrease, and the District more than a 20 percent improvement.

Fairfax provides a number of bar graphs on their "Energy Data" website to display usage of electricity and natural gas and their "equivalent carbon emissions in metric tons" in government buildings sorted by category, but there are notations cautioning that "the data is limited by the way the facilities are metered." There are no measurements for private buildings or emission outputs related to transportation for comparison sake at this web location, but the 2013 Greenhouse Gas Inventory does include detailed measurements of emissions by source, as of 2010.

While it's difficult to make an apples-to-

apples comparison on the actual results among the localities because of the types of buildings that each includes in their reporting and the dates studied, the data that the others provide is more up-to-date than what is published for Fairfax County. Goplerud and other local environmental activists believe that the difference is due in great part to those jurisdictions having dedicated energy efficiency offices to tackle the issues versus the "lone coordinator" the county employs, despite being the largest jurisdiction in the region.

The county and the activists agree that the county itself is only responsible for about 3 percent of the emissions produced in the area. The speakers all praised the county's efforts to improve their own performance, but pointed again to the goals of the Cool Counties pledge — significant emissions reductions for the region, not just the public sector which comprises such a small percentage of the emissions problem. Some, like Clifford, and FACS executive director Reba Elliott, also reminded the supervisors that much of the improvement in recent years can be attributed to the local utility companies change from coal to natural gas as the generators for their power.

"I don't think we will see such a change" from the utility companies again, said Clifford. Instead, it's "up to public-private partnerships" like the work being done in Arlington County with LEAP (The Local Energy Alliance Program).

Before the meeting, Elliott added that citizens rely on the county to use their knowledge and resources and their power to educate businesses and the public, guiding them on working toward the energy goals that "are in the best health and economic interests of us all."

AT THE CONCLUSION of the Public Comment period, Bulova expressed the board's thanks to the FACS speakers "for their advocacy." She spoke briefly about the county's "Energy Dashboard" which launched Phase I in March 2016 to provide an overview of the energy usage between 2006 through



John Clewett, Cindy Speas, and Ray Martin were among the supporters from The Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions who attended the Feb. 28 Board of Supervisors meeting. The group wants an Energy Office for the county.

2014 in four key service areas: county Government Buildings, Public Works, Parks and Housing and Human Services. The information was updated in August of 2016 to add data for usage in 2015.

Phase 2 of the Dashboard, completed in November of last year, added additional detail and in January, graphics and tables were included to show the reduction in equivalent carbon emissions.

"Thank you for pushing us for [the dashboard]," Bulova said to the FACS members. She made note of the Environmental Vision update underway, and announced that later in the year she would be reconvening her "Private Sector Energy Taskforce" for study and recommendations on how to move forward.

"It's sounds very positive," said Ray Martin after the meeting. Martin was one of the FACS supporters in attendance and belongs to the Lewinsville Presbyterian Church. "But we really need that dedicated office [of Energy]. We're here to help and do what we can. I hope they will try harder."

The Energy Dashboard can be found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/energy/energydata. A description of the county's efforts, with links to other resources, is available in the Fairfax County Sustainability Initiative at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/environmental/sustainability/. The Cool Counties Pledge is also on the county's website.

Adewusi Named Officer of the Month

Traffic Enforcement Officer Olukemi “Kemi” Adewusi has been selected as an Officer of the Month for the Sully District Police Station. He was honored at a recent meeting of the station’s Citizens Advisory Committee.

“Kemi has been doing a great job for the Sully Station during the past year as the station Traffic Enforcement Officer,” wrote Lt. Todd Kinkead in nominating Adewusi for the award. “He also filled an opening that had been vacant for over nine months due to a retirement.”

Kinkead described Adewusi as “always cheer-

ful and willing to assist in any way he can. He takes great pride in his work and takes all actions to resolve any parking issues and educate the callers and violators alike. This tactic builds trust and a community partnership. Countless calls have been received commending him for his great work and the time he spends on any particular issue to resolve it to his best abilities.”

Kinkead further noted that Adewusi’s parking citations consistently number more than 200 per month. “That adds up to a lot of opportunities to meet people and leave them

smiling, after seeing his infectious smile,” wrote Kinkead. “No one likes receiving a parking citation, but Kemi has a way of leaving people with a greater understanding of the laws he is enforcing, along with a way to prevent future encounters. He is always able to see that there is a human being behind each vehicle he cites.”

All in all, added Kinkead, “TEO Adewusi is a dedicated employee and is very deserving of this recognition as Officer of the Month.”

— BONNIE HOBBS

ROUNDUPS

Attend Thriving Family Summit

The Thriving Family Summit vision began with a drug overdose and death of a local teenager and a local church offering to host her memorial service. In response, local church and Fairfax County leaders gathered to identify some specific actions to deepen awareness of the growing teen trends of broken families, drug addiction, anxiety, depression, and suicide, and how to make resources better known and accessible. The free Thriving Family Summit will be held Saturday, March 11 at 15451 Lee Highway, Centreville. See <http://thrivingfamilysummit.com/>

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, March 16, from 5-8:30 p.m., at the station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. No appointment is necessary. But residents should install the child safety seats themselves so technicians may properly inspect and adjust them, as needed.

Because of time constraints, only the first 35 vehicles arriving on each date will be inspected. That way, inspectors may have enough time to properly instruct the

caregiver on the correct use of the child seat. Call 703-814-7000, ext. 5140, to confirm dates and times.

Learn Drug Prevention Strategies

The next UPC Prevention program will be held Thursday, March 16, 7 p.m. at Westfield High School’s Lecture Study room. This adults-only UPC parent awareness program features an evening of dialogue with a panel of high school seniors on drugs and alcohol use, teen parties, and healthy teen-parent communication. Middle school and high school parents can benefit from this program.

Dentist Corner

— Evelyn Samuel, DMD

Q. What is Gingivitis?

A. Gingivitis is a form of gum disease. It occurs when bacteria build up between the teeth and gums. Symptoms include gums that are swollen/puffy, red, inflamed, and/or bleeding. Pain is not always associated with Gingivitis therefore; the disease can be present and not known. If not treated, it can progress to a more aggressive disease, periodontal disease, which causes destruction of bone and eventual loss of teeth. Periodontal disease has also been linked to heart attacks, preterm delivery in expecting mothers, strokes and other systematic disease such as diabetes.

There are several causes of Gingivitis. Among them are certain medications, poor nutrition, hormonal changes, other diseases, and viral/fungal conditions. However, the most common etiology is poor oral hygiene. Gingivitis is treatable and reversible. Practicing good oral hygiene in the form of brushing after each meal and flossing, will aid in preventing this condition. If the disease is present, a professional dental cleaning will remove plaque and hardened calculus that cannot be removed at home thus reversing damage.

Have a dental question? Email your question to info@drevelynsamuel.com

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Saturday, March 18

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West Springfield High School
Saturday, April 1

12 pm to 2 pm

Co-sponsored by West Springfield HS Student Government and Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce

Oakton High School
Saturday, March 18

1 pm to 3 pm

Co-sponsored by Supervisor Linda Smyth and Oakton HS Marketing Department

South County Secondary School
Saturday, April 29

11 am to 1 pm

Co-sponsored by Supervisor Dan Storck, South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, South County Federation, and South County Secondary School

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Independent, Civilian Oversight in Place

New auditor and panel will make an excellent police force better, more transparent and accountable.

In February, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors followed through in establishing two forms of independent oversight of law enforcement for the first time in county history.

Richard Schott will begin as independent auditor on April 17, reporting directly to the Board of Supervisors.

Nine members have been named to the county's inaugural Civilian Review Panel, chaired by Adrian Steel. More than 140 Fairfax County residents applied to be considered to serve on the panel, and those named appear to have a remarkable set of qualifications.

Independent, civilian oversight of law enforcement is a national best practice.

Schott is a 27-year veteran of the FBI where he specialized in training on officer use of force, civil rights and color of law issues. He worked on the Henry Glover and Danziger Bridge civil rights cases, prosecutions of New Orleans Police Department officers for civil rights violations after Hurricane Katrina.

The Office of the Auditor will handle cases of police use of force that result in serious injury and death and the Civilian Review Panel will handle complaints about Fairfax County Police abuse of authority or misconduct.

These methods of oversight were adopted

by the board following recommendations of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, established by Chairman Sharon Bulova in the wake of the police shooting death of John Geer and public reaction to 17 months when FCPD released no information about the case until forced to by court order.

Leadership of FCPD, especially Chief Edwin C. Roessler Jr., have embraced the almost all of the 202 recommendations of the commission, which acknowledged the overall excellence of Fairfax County Police.

Nevertheless, the county's first independent auditor will come on board with work to do.

In his mandate to monitor and review internal investigations of Police Department officer-involved shootings, in-custody deaths and use-of-force cases in which an individual is killed or seriously injured, Schott will begin with the investigation of the officer-involved shooting death of Herndon resident Mohammad Azim Doudzai in progress.

Among the questions for Schott will be why it took 45 days, rather than the recommended 10 days, to release the name of the officer involved in the shooting. The chief needed the additional time to fully investigate and mitigate any possible threats to the officer and his family, and respond to legal action by the officer seeking to stop the release of his name, a delay permitted by the new policy. The officer

was involved in two other uses of deadly force, one in 2005 and one in 2010, with the suspect wounded but not killed in those two incidents. (The officer received valor awards for the 2005 incident for rescuing the store manager during an armed robbery with shots fired.)

Other questions that we hope the auditor can answer for the public:

According to the chief's statement at the scene on the day of the incident, two officers used less lethal force (taser and foam bullet) while one officer fired his service weapon. Was a supervisor coordinating the plan? What was the sequence of events and uses of force? Was there an attempt to subdue the suspect without deadly force?

Why is so little additional information forthcoming about the incident? Subsequent releases have contained fewer details than were release on the day of the incident. What video exists and when will it be released?

The policy states: "It is important to note the 10 day period is primarily related to the release of officer names and is only designed as a limit to not be exceeded without cause, not a recommended standard, and the board and the public expect the Police Department to release other appropriate preliminary factual information and updates to the public as soon as possible."

Another area of inquiry is analysis of data released last year that indicates 40 percent of the subjects of use of force by FCPD are African American, while only 8 percent of the county population is African American.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to centreview@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Children who will be 5 years old on or before Sept. 30, 2017, are eligible to attend kindergarten. Find the correct neighborhood school by entering your address at <http://boundary.fcps.edu/boundary/>. Complete a packet of registration forms found at www.fcps.edu/it/forms/enroll.pdf or in the school office. Gather supporting documents: proof of residence in the school boundary, a certified copy of the child's birth certificate, parent/guardian photo ID, and any custody orders. Certificate of physical exam and immunization will be required before the student may start school, but is not required for registration. Parents who choose to delay enrollment in kindergarten by one year are required to notify the school in writing of their intent.

Greenbriar West Elementary School is now accepting information for next year's Kindergarten classes. Call the school office at 703-633-6700 as soon as possible.

Brookfield Elementary School Kindergarten registration will take place on **Friday, March 24** from 7:45 a.m.-3 p.m. Call Brookfield Elementary at 703-814-8700 to receive a registration packet and make an appointment for registration.

VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTORS NEEDED

The **Sully Senior Center** in Centreville is looking for the

following instructors: Zumba gold, basic art, Tai Chi/Qigong, and a personal trainer. Meals on Wheels drivers, substitute drivers, and coordinators are needed for routes throughout the county. Much of the coordination can be completed via phone and computer. Call 703-324-5406, email VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteer-solutions.htm

VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Umpires Needed for Youth Leagues. Northern Virginia Baseball Umpires Association is in need of umpires for youth leagues, high schools, and collegiate-level baseball and volleyball games. Experience is helpful, but not required. Contact NVBUA at 703-978-3601 or assignor@umpires.org.

ADULT SOFTBALL

Over-40 Softball League will be starting its 27th year this season and is looking to add one more team. Players must be at least 40 years of age to be eligible. All games are doubleheaders - played on Sundays at Bready Park in Herndon between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. The season runs from late April to early October and usually guarantees 26-30 games. Email at skeduman@aol.com for more.

2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

Preschool Registration. Clifton Presbyterian Church Preschool, 12748 Richards Lane. Offers classes for 3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds (9 a.m.-noon). "Extended care" until 3:30 p.m. is also available. Visit www.cliftonpc.org or call 703-830-3175.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 8

Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Washington Dulles, 45425 Holiday Drive, Sterling. Business insights for navigating the Trump Administration. \$50 members, \$65 prospective members and guests. For more information and to register visit www.dullesregionalchamber.org.

Emergency Response Team Training. 7-11 p.m. at Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Academy 4600 West Ox Road. For the Community Emergency Response Team to help families and neighbors in the event of a disaster in their community. Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/cert/> or call 703-246-3926.

Saturday Night in the Suburbs. 7 p.m. at Westfield High School, 4700 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly. A panel of high school seniors will be featured, talking openly about alcohol and drug use, teen parties, social media, parent supervision and enabling, and communication with parents. Middle school and high school parents are

encouraged to attend. Visit www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org/ for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 11

Social Action Linking Together (SALT). 9-11:15 a.m. at the Virginia International University (VIU), in Conference Room (VD-102), 4401 Village Drive, Fairfax. Legislators will discuss safety net issues in the 2015 General Assembly session. visit www.S-A-L-T.org or contact John Horejsi at jhorejsi@cox.net or Dr. Bilgin at kbilgin@viu.edu for more.

MONDAY/MARCH 13

Emergency Response Team Training. 7-11 p.m. at Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Academy 4600 West Ox Road. For the Community Emergency Response Team to help families and neighbors in the event of a disaster in their community. Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/cert/> or call 703-246-3926.

Planning Committee Meeting. 7 p.m. at the Sully District Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Volunteers to plan the 25th anniversary of Centreville Day welcome for all levels of involvement - from committees to groundwork to day-of assistance. To learn more about Centreville Day and Friends of Historic Centreville, visit www.historiccentrevilleva.org and Centreville Day on Facebook.

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A Connection Newspaper

Animal Shelter Named after Frey

FROM PAGE 3

work for animals – like [veterinarian and shelter volunteer] Susan Hall, support for improvements in our animal facility or changes to animal ordinances and laws, Michael was always at the forefront on our board to champion these important causes.”

At long last, citizens approved a bond issue and the shelter was renovated. “Just three years ago, we came together for the ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of this beautiful, state-of-the-art animal shelter,” said Bulova. “Today, we celebrate one of our community leaders whose vision, dedication and advocacy helped to make these changes a reality.”

Addressing Frey directly, she said, “I am so proud to be here today for the dedication of this wonderful building in your honor, Michael. We are grateful for all your years of service to the community and the Board of Supervisors. We are happy to celebrate and to honor you with this fitting tribute to your passion and advocacy for animals with this building dedication.”

Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) said, “It’s great to see so many people here to honor Michael because of his commitment to animals. This is a perfect honor for him and for his serving the Sully community for 24 years, as well.”

Noting that Frey had a hand in planning nearly everything in modern-day Sully District and did so much for the county, Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) called naming the animal shelter in his honor a “no-brainer.” He also told the crowd that Frey began his career as chief of staff to his father, Jack Herrity, when he was board chairman, and later for his predecessor, Elaine McConnell.

Listing some of Frey’s achievements, Pat Herrity said that, as state chairman of the Stadium Authority, Frey helped bring professional baseball back to Virginia. And, he added, “Michael helped preserve the Centreville Historic District and brought the World Police and Fire Games to Fairfax County and the Udvar-Hazy air and space museum



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS

Police Chief Ed Roessler

to the Sully District.”

“He also served as a great mentor to me, and I’m proud to call him a friend,” continued Herrity. “Mike dedicated his life to shaping Fairfax County into the greatest place to live, work and play, especially for our animal friends. He’s also been the proud owner of many rescue German Shepherds, Mosby and Marley in the past, and now Boomer. And Mike was largely responsible for making sure the recent renovation of the animal shelter happened.”

Gina Lynch, of the Animal Services Advisory Commission, said Frey established that commission and “taught the Board of Supervisors the importance of the humane treatment of animals.” She also praised him for pushing the county to adopt a no-tethering law.

Deputy County Executive Dave Rohrer spoke, as well, of the shelter’s transition into a better place for animals, and commented on how Pennsylvania-native Frey had helped. However, he teased, “How can a Phillies fan be the person we name something after?”

On a more serious note, Rohrer – the county’s former police chief – said, “A community’s core values are reflected in how we act – including how we treat animals. Michael’s been a leader in that and has earned our respect. He’s supported the community in many ways, and we have a bond, unfortunately, with the May 8, 2006 fatal shootings of Det. Vicky Armel and MPO Mike Garbarino. Michael was a huge part of helping lead us through that tragedy, and he still checks on their families. From the Police Department and me, thank you for what you’ve done, and congratulations.”

Current Police Chief Ed Roessler knows Frey also as a friend and neighbor and told him, “Your vision for this community created a legacy we’re trying to replicate in south county. And what an honor to have a building named after you. You’ve created something for other leaders to follow, and we’re blessed to have had your service.”

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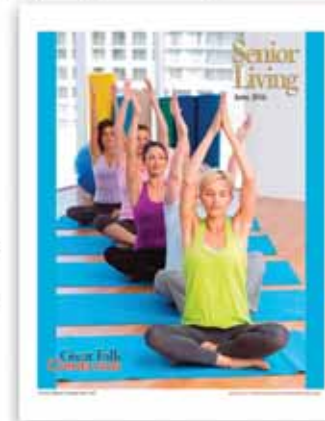
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Email announcements to centreview@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ONGOING

Art Guild of Clifton Exhibit. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. at Clifton Wine Shop, 7145 Main St., Clifton. Includes oil paintings of European settings; doors, windows, and flower shops. Free. Call 703-409-0919 for more.

Carolina Shag Dance. Wednesdays, 6:30-10 p.m. at Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m.; no partners needed; dinner menu at 6:45 p.m. Tickets are \$8. Visit www.nvshag.org for more.

Open Rehearsal. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. at Lord of Life church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Centreville. The Fairfax Jubil-Aires barbershop chorus invites men of all ages who enjoy singing. Free. Visit www.fairfaxjubilaire.org for more.

Toddlin' Twos. Tuesdays, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Early literacy storytime with songs and activities included. Age 2 with caregiver, free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Storytime for Three to Fives. Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Stories and activities for children age 3-5 with caregiver. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

English Conversation Group. Thursdays, 7 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with a group of students and adults. Free. Call 703-

502-3883 to reserve a space.
English Conversation Group. Selected Saturdays, 3 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Practice English with a group of students and adults. Free. Call 703-830-2223 for a list of dates.

English Conversation Group. Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with a group of students and adults. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

Plant Clinic. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. A neighborhood plant clinic with horticultural tips, information, techniques, and advice. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

ESL Book Club. Mondays, 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Meet and discuss a book chosen by group. Free. Call 703-830-2223 with questions and to reserve a spot.

ESL Book Club. Every other Saturday, 11 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults learning English are welcome to meet and discuss a book chosen by the group. To find out book title, call 703-502-3883.

Lego Block Party. Every other Tuesday, 3 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Legos will be provided for an afternoon of building. Grades 3-6. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Duplo Storytime. Every other Wednesday, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Develop and reinforce early literacy skills for reading success. Ages 1-3 with adult. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a

spot.
Live After Five. Fridays at 5:30 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway. Every Friday night a band plays on the patio of the winery. Free to attend. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com for a full schedule.

Mondays are Family Night. 5-7 p.m. at Villaggio, 7145 Main St. \$45 for a family of four. Call 703-543-2030.

Legos Kids Club. Every other Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Thousands of Legos for children to play with. Ages 6-12. Free. Call 703-830-2223 to reserve a space.

Starlight Storytime. Every other Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Stories under the stars for ages 4-8. Wear pajamas and bring stuffed friends. Free. Call 703-830-2223 to reserve a space.

Over-40 Softball League. A Fairfax-based league is looking for enough players to form another team. Players must be at least 40 years of age to be eligible. All games are doubleheaders -played on Sundays at Bready Park in Herndon between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. If interested, email skeduman@aol.com for more.

PET ADOPTIONS

Adopt a Cat or Dog. Fridays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Visit www.lostdogrescue.org for more.

Adopt a Dog. Saturdays, 12-3 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Highway. Visit hart90.org for more.

Adopt a Dog. Sundays, 1-4 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy. Adopt a puppy or dog. Visit aforeverhome.org for more.

Adopt a Dog. Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. at PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Adopt a puppy or dog. Visit www.lostdogrescue.org for more.

THROUGH MARCH 31

Slave Life Exhibit. Various times at the Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. \$7 adults, \$6 students, and \$5 seniors and children age 5-15. Artifacts excavated from around Sully's 18th-century slave cabins. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site/ or call 703-437-1794 for more.

FRIDAY/MARCH 10

Swing Dancing. 8:30 p.m. at Hilton Washington Dulles Airport, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon. Members of the Billy Coulter Band, Junkyard Saints, Alexandria Klezmet and Western Bop to play a mix of American music from 1940 to 1960. \$15. Visit www.nattybeaux.com.

SATURDAY/MARCH 11

Farm Tasting and Lessons. noon-4 p.m. at Whitehall Farm Market, 12523 Popes Head Road, Clifton. Tasting of farm veggies and meat, then a free yoga class, essential oils demonstration, and some more wellness themed demos. Veteran Compost will be here to answer any spring compost and potting soil questions. Visit www.neckbackandbeyond.com.

Thriving Family Summit. 12:30-6 p.m. at Korean Central Presbyterian Church, 15451 Lee Highway, Centreville. A first step in bringing awareness, resources, and real hope to engage challenging issues plaguing the community. Free. Visit

thrivingfamilysummit.com/
Women of Walney. 2 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Learn how the women of Walney both lived within and challenged the gender roles of their time periods. \$6. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence for more.

SUNDAY/MARCH 12

Chantilly Egg Hunt. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.. 26469 Ticonderoga Road, Chantilly. Join the Easter Bunny and search for candy and toy-filled eggs. Visit www.ticonderoga.com/about.

Bluegrass Barn Music Series. 6 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park Visitor Center, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Bluegrass artist Steve Gulley and New Pinnacle. Tickets are \$18 in advance; \$20 at the door; and \$16 for advance group purchases of 10 or more. Call 703-437-9101 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark/.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 15

"Fire & Ice" Trip. 5:30-7 p.m. at Wingate by Wyndham Chantilly, 3940 Centerview Drive. Join Anoop Mittra, Cruise Planners and Andrea Savitch, Unique Travel Events as they reveal the wonders of extreme climate travel, from Antarctica to Africa. Visit www.dulleschamber.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 18

Girls Inspired & Ready to Lead. 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Educational and social enrichment opportunities and positive role models so girls can feel confident in themselves and supported in achieving their dreams. Visit www.girlsinspiredinc.org for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 18

Job Fair for Teens. 10 a.m.-noon at Chantilly High School, 4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Resume workshop at the Chantilly job fair. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teenjobfair.htm for more.

St. Patrick's Day party. 6-9 p.m. at St. Veronica's Church Parish Hall, 3460 Centreville Road, Chantilly. This is a family event that includes food, drink, sing-alongs, and Irish dancers. Adults \$7, children \$5, drinks extra. Visit www.stveronica.net/ or call 703-773-2000 for more.

SUNDAY/MARCH 19

Women of Walney. 11 a.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Learn how the women of Walney both lived within and challenged the gender roles of their time periods. \$6. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence for more.

MONDAY/MARCH 20

"Wonders of Raptors." 7 p.m. at Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Centreville Garden Club presents "Wonders of Raptors" presentation by John Shafer. Email centrevillegardenclub@gmail.com or call 703-266-9233 for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 25

Purple Tie Bash. 7:30 p.m. at the Fair Oaks Marriott, 11787 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway. This event is a fundraiser that benefits all Chantilly High School students and athletes through capital improvements such as facility upgrades and purchases of equipment, uniforms, and much more. Visit www.chantillysports.org.

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BEFORE: Above, owners Jack and Marie Torre wanted square footage for a larger kitchen and dining room, but “set-back” rules prohibited building in the rear, and the front-facing roof overhang limited options for re-designing the facade.

AFTER: Best Whole House Makeover in 10 states, left: Sun Design Remodeling’s conversion of a circa 1960s split-level into a neoclassical style residence has been named a regional “Contractor of the Year” (COTY) winner by the National Association of the Remodeling Industry.

From Split-Level to Neoclassical

Conversion wins regional “Contractor of the Year” award.

BY JOHN BYRD

Converting a circa 1960’s split-level into a spacious neoclassical-style residence has won Sun Design Remodeling a regional “Contractor of the Year” award from the National Association of the Remodeling Industry. The Fairfax residential makeover was named the best whole house remodeling in the “\$250,000 to \$500,000” range in a 10-state area that extends from Maryland and Florida to as far west as Tennessee. Owners Jack and Marie Torre have been so pleased with the outcome that they’ve held an several open houses just to show the changes to curious neighbors. Another open house will be held in the annual Parade of Home, April 22-23.

To accommodate the owner’s requirements, Sun Design added a 300-square-foot addition, introduced a front veranda with a foyer, and elaborated the exterior in a wholly new architectural language.

The Torres had purchased the 3,000-square-foot brick and siding structure in 1984, and found a perfect spot for raising children. As the children moved on, however, the couple recognized that the changes they wanted to make to the house were apparently infeasible.

“We couldn’t add on to the rear because of set-back restrictions,” Jack Torre said. “The bigger problem, though, was a six-foot roof overhang in front, and the seven steps

required to walk from the ground level foyer to the primary living area.”

The couple were actively looking at relocating when a chance visit to a Sun Design remodeled split-level nearby convinced Marie Torre to make an appointment with Bob Gallagher, the company’s president.

In the first meeting, a “wish list” emerged that included a larger kitchen, a formal dining room with a tray ceiling, a family room with a view of the tree-lined back yard, and a spacious first-level powder room.

With these goals in mind, the design team focused on how best to configure the essential components within a well-inte-

grated whole.

Since new space couldn’t be added on the rear, the east side of the house was designated for the new dining room/sitting room wing.

Still more problematic: under the existing plan, one entered the house from a narrow front foyer — ascending to a main level hall that segued in three directions.

What was missing, Gallagher observed, was a “procession” in which rooms unfold in an inviting orderly sequence.

“The structural challenge was finding an optimal way to raise the front door to the main level of the house,” Gallagher said.



The split-level’s former bow window was converted to a set of French doors which overlook the new veranda. Though the execution makes the addition hard to detect, the dining room beyond the fireplace is actually in the home’s new wing.

“This would require extending the front foyer eight feet to get past the existing roof overhang. We also needed to redesign the front elevation to better rationalize the difference between the grade at ground-level and the home’s main living area — a distance of about seven feet.”

What evolved was not merely a larger foyer, but an improved and more appropriate architectural context that allows for a front veranda that surrounds and presents the front entrance to the home.

The resulting interior meanwhile revolves around two comparatively modest additions: a 44-square-foot foyer aligned with the front door; 300-square-foot west wing that houses a formal dining room and an adjacent rear-of-the house sitting area.

The new addition includes a two-sided fireplace visible in the living room. The enlarged kitchen now accommodates a custom-designed banquette, and storage pantries.

The gourmet kitchen, according to Marie Torre, provides spaces for all cooking utensils, even items formerly stored in the basement.

Replacing the roof over and raising the ceiling from eight feet to nine feet has made the living room feel substantially larger.

Better yet, the remade rear elevation — which includes a “bump-out” with divided light windows and French doors — invites abundant natural light.

“This is a completely different house,” said Marie Torre, “One much more satisfying to occupy.”

Sun Design Remodeling frequently sponsors design and remodeling seminars as well as tours of recently remodeled homes. Headquartered in Burke, Sun Design also maintains an office in McLean. Visit www.SunDesignInc.com.

No More "Dating"

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Not until next year, anyway. Besides, there will be enough water gushing under that bridge, almost as much seen a few weeks back flowing onto the Oroville Spillway in Northern California. At least I hope so. Because if there's no more 'gushing,' there's likely no more, well; we don't have to talk about that. Not talking and planning for one's future is bad for a cancer patient's business; self-fulfilling prophecy and all that presumptive karma. And with all the dos and don'ts and hopes and prayers in the cancer world, my general philosophy has been not to mess with Mother Nature, too much, if you know what I mean? I don't necessarily believe in leaving well enough alone, but neither do I believe in poking the bear.

I mean, I acknowledge that I'm dying, but aren't we all really? Reminiscent to a few years back when a former ESPN Sports anchor (Dan Patrick, I believe it was, now of NBC Sports) made famous a similar characterization concerning a ballplayer's injury, when he said: "He's listed as day to day, but then again, aren't we all?" Oh yeah. A little perspective goes a long way, even a decade or so in arrears. I guess that's what's so enriching about reading. Unfortunately, reading is not fundamental for me, writing and listening is. And as with my unexpected non-small cell lung cancer diagnosis at age 54 and a half (lifelong non-smoker, no immediate family history of cancer or premature death; I know, any death is premature), I make the best of my situation and endeavor to strive to stay alive. I don't dwell on the negative. Sure, I accept and understand my reality (maybe in some dispute, but not in my head though), but having been raised with a positive attitude by both my late parents, I am able to endure until science/medicine finds a cure. It's not ideal, but it's a living — thank God!

And even more so the day after chemotherapy, as I sit and write on Saturday, March 4. Reminded as I am of the situation I find myself living in and trying to learn from to cope and always hope. Somehow trying to find a way to continue to take cancer in stride while not hiding from the harsh realities that affect many cancer patients. Just as occasionally looking in the mirror is not a pretty sight, nor is droning on and being cancer-centric. Though I am mostly cancer-centric in my weekly column, I hope its contents provide enough context that it sheds some light on how one lives with a terminal disease rather than how that same one puts off death.

I don't mean to imply that being diagnosed with cancer is akin to having a bad roommate where you can sort of close their bedroom door or try to ignore their comings and goings except as it concerns rent and utilities, but similar elements have to be enforced. 'Enforced' may be too strong a word. Maybe ingrained would be a better word? You have to own the responsibility of living with a terminal disease, but somehow try and not believe it. It sort of invokes the quote about minor surgery: "Minor surgery is someone else having it." When it's me having it, it's major. Compartmentalizing one's cancer diagnosis/prognosis is crucial to its acceptance. Obviously, it dominates your thinking and awareness, but it can't be allowed to control it. You just hope when you peel away the emotional layers you impose to maintain an even/humorous keel (in my approach, anyway), it won't resemble the damage seen on the Oroville Spillway.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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News

**Michael Frey with
his former staff
members. From left
are Kathy Buckley,
Frey, Mike Coyle
and Virginia Eller.**

PHOTOS BY
BONNIE HOBBS



‘Something I Will Cherish’

FROM PAGE 3

lution into the high-performing facility it is today took time. “The original Animal Services Advisory Commission wouldn’t let the shelter staff into their meetings,” he said. “But I told them we’d see the day when the staff came and told them their budget need.”

Frey also told the commission the shelter would someday win an award for its animal services, and it did. In 2014, it received special recognition from the U.S. Humane Society. Saying the shelter leaders did “outstanding work” and still do, Frey mentioned some of its programs. For example, volunteers come in and take dogs home for the weekend, and the shelter is trying to end cruel “dog farms” in Korea.

“To think that we’re doing things like that and have progressed this far makes me feel so good,” he said. “And to think that my name will be on this building – with the Karen Diviney Hall and Susan Hall Dog Runs – is something I will cherish.”

Addressing everyone in the audience – friends, county colleagues and shelter personnel, alike – Frey said, “You all have been such a huge part of what I’ve been able to get done, and I thank you for your contributions. The Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter raised \$300,000 last year for animal care, and I’ve agreed to go on its board.”

After the ceremony, that entity’s president, Evelyn Grieve, said her group is the sole fundraising arm for the shelter, and the money is used for animals there needing emergency medical care and other care. It also supplements the funds the shelter gets from the county to help support its programs.

“We’re very excited about the dedication of the building to Michael because he’s been a champion of animals, his whole life,” said Grieve. “And we’re beyond thrilled that he’s going to join our board; it means the world to us.”

Diviney, who directed the shelter

from 2005-13 and is currently the interim director until a new one is named, also attended the festivities. “This is really a fitting honor for Michael, who has always been such a support for the animals and animal issues in the community,” she said. “He was instrumental in pushing through the bond referendum for this building’s renovation. And he was among the first on the Board of Supervisors to recognize the need for more advocacy for better treatment of animals and a better animal shelter.”

Diviney said it was through many of Frey’s efforts that the shelter was able to evolve from being perceived as a dog pound to the animal-resource center it is today. “I always knew that, if an animal issue was coming before the board, we’d have his support,” she said. “For example, he helped pass the county’s anti-tethering law in late 2015. It says to the community that animals’ lives matter and our government leaders recognize that.”

So, she said, “It was an honor to be part of this recognition for him. It’s truly well-deserved, and I look forward to working with Michael in the future in his role on the board of the Friends of the shelter.”

As for Frey, he said, “I did the things I did because I loved them. Animals have always been a huge part of my life and always will be. I never did anything for the recognition, but I really do appreciate that the Board [of Supervisors] named the building after me. When I think about all the people they could have done this for, the fact that they chose me is very humbling.”



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A host of elected officials, faith and community leaders stood together to condemn not just the Monday bomb threat and recent crimes against the Jewish community, but all acts of hate and intolerance. Attorney General Mark Herring (center) said the amount of hate crimes being committed is rising in Virginia and around the nation.

PHOTOS BY
TIM PETERSON

Standing Together Against Hate

Lawmakers, faith leaders respond to Feb. 27 bomb threat at Gesher Jewish School.

BY TIM PETERSON

Students at Gesher Jewish Day School in Fairfax started their week with a bomb threat. The call came in Monday morning, Feb. 27, the head of school Dan Finkel said. Nearly 100 similar threats have been received at Jewish community centers and schools nationwide, amid recent instances Jewish cemeteries being vandalized and desecrated.

Finkel said the morning was scary, but that the school received rapid response from the FBI and local law enforcement.

"The ensuing moments were filled with love and support," he said, allowing them to more quickly get back to the primary goal of providing "outstanding education for Jewish children across northern Virginia."

Finkel spoke at a news conference Friday afternoon on March 3 at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia in Fairfax. The event was organized by the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington.

Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia executive director Jeff Dannick said in response to the crimes of hate, there's a question of whether to be outwardly strong or keep a low profile.

"History has taught us always stand up against hate," he said. "There was a time when Jews did hide in fear, we'll not do that again."

Dannick and Finkel were joined by a host of elected officials, faith and community leaders standing together to condemn not just the Monday bomb threat and recent crimes against the Jewish community, but all acts of hate and intolerance.

Attorney General Mark Herring said the amount of hate crimes being committed is rising in Virginia and around the nation.

"There is something deeply wrong in our national climate, that individuals feel empowered to take action against houses of worship, against children," Herring said. No matter what you look like, where you're



Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova used her speaking opportunity to advertise a "United Response to Hate Speech, Bias Incidents and Hate Crimes" event, scheduled for Sunday, March 26. The event will take place from 3-5 p.m. at The Ernst Cultural Center of Northern Virginia Community College, located at 8333 Little River Turnpike in Annandale.

from, or how you pray, he continued, "You have a place in Virginia."

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) said the 2016 Presidential election represented a sliding back in the history of America. As a consequence hate groups are feeling emboldened, he said.

Support, inclusion, opportunity and acceptance are basic American values,



Students at Gesher Jewish Day School in Fairfax started their week with a bomb threat. The call came in Monday morning, Feb. 27, the head of school Dan Finkel (right) said.

Connolly continued, which "can only grow because of these incidents."

U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) brought up the prevalence of the Internet in helping hate groups organize and radicalize members online. She called for providing solutions to that connectivity through law enforcement, as well as parents understanding how dangerous the web can be for impressionable children.

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) called anti-semitism "a scourge on the human community," and encouraged people to "respect, lift up, love the Jewish friends and neighbors we have."

The politicians also used their speaking out to call out President Trump for a response.

State Senate Minority Leader Dick Saslaw (D-35) echoed Connolly saying that the 2016 campaign "emboldened virtually every bigot in this country." And that it didn't help with Trump encouraging supporters to violently remove protesters from his rallies offering to pay their legal expenses.

Responding to these hate crimes, Saslaw said, "the buck stops at the White House. The most forceful act needs to come from

the White House, and it needs to come in a hurry."

The Rev. Scott Sammler-Michael of Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church in Burke shared a message after the conference that he has been spreading in synagogues, mosques, his own congregation, and anyone else: embodied faith. "Take steps into the world," to counteract hate, he encourages. "Take your time, your talents, your treasure."

To the Jews and Muslims and others who have felt targeted, Sammler-Michael said he's told them, "we will stand where you need us," whether it's behind in support, arm-in-arm, or in front, as a "holy defense line."

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More information is available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/cic.