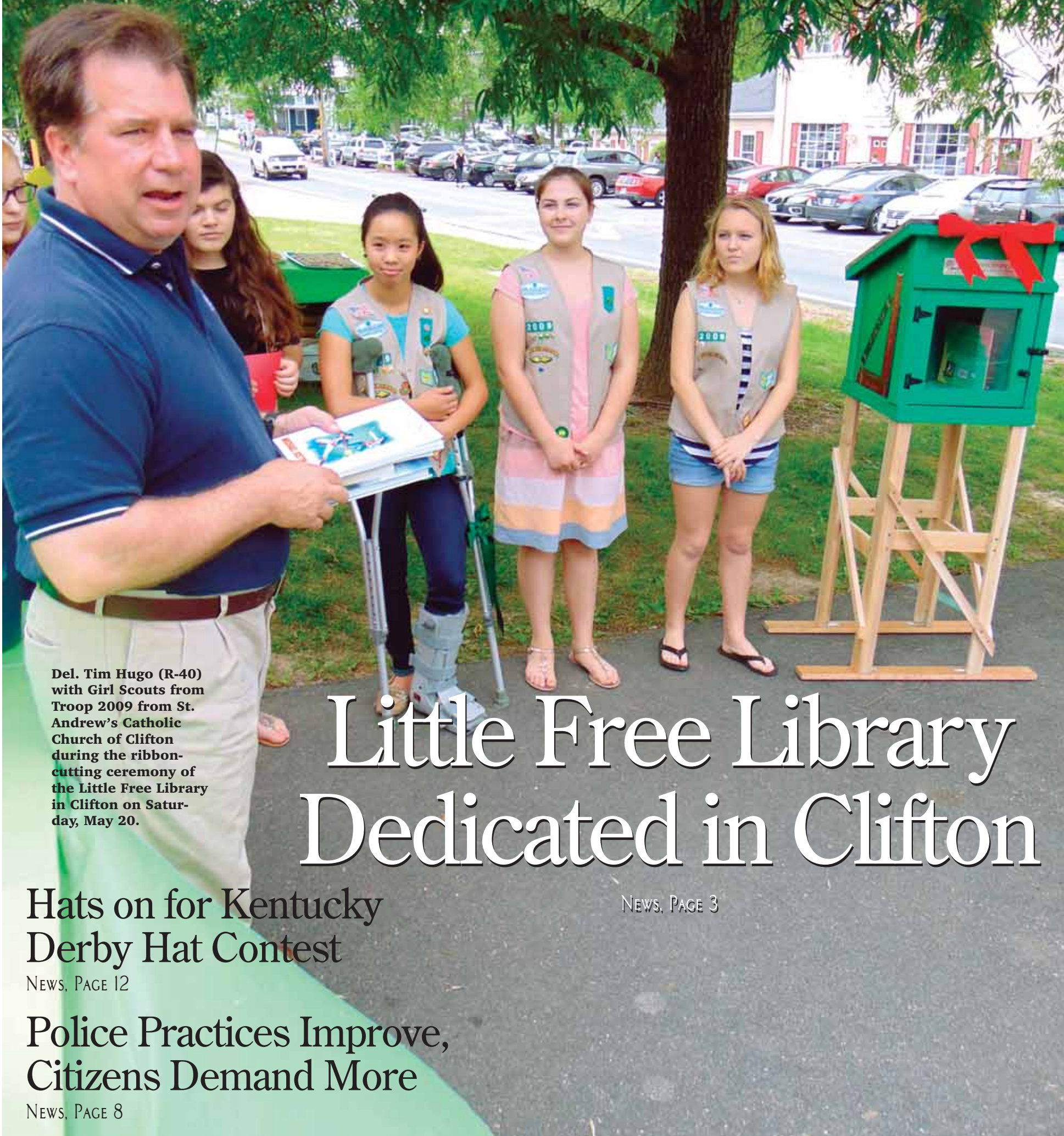




# Fairfax Station CONNECTION Clifton & Lorton



Del. Tim Hugo (R-40) with Girl Scouts from Troop 2009 from St. Andrew's Catholic Church of Clifton during the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Little Free Library in Clifton on Saturday, May 20.

## Little Free Library Dedicated in Clifton

Hats on for Kentucky  
Derby Hat Contest

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Police Practices Improve,  
Citizens Demand More

NEWS, PAGE 8

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5

VIRGINIA

2017

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PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

**Members of Girl Scout Troop 2009, Brownie Troop 797, and Junior Troop 3530 at the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Little Free Library in Clifton.**



**Girl Scouts from Troop 2009 of St. Andrew's Catholic Church and Del. Tim Hugo cut the ribbon during the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Little Free Library in Clifton.**

## Little Free Library Dedicated in Clifton

**Ribbon-cutting ceremony Saturday at the Clifton Community Meeting Hall.**

**T**o earn their Silver Award, Girl Scouts from Troop 2009 of St. Andrew's Catholic Church in Clifton built the Little Free Library — a small, green, birdhouse-looking box — which will be displayed in front of the Clifton Community Meeting Hall on Chapel Road. From now on, members of the Clifton community will be allowed to check-out free books at any time. On Saturday, May 20, they held their ribbon-cutting ceremony with local dignitaries, including state Del. Tim Hugo (R-40) and Mayor Bill Hollaway.

"They wanted to have a lasting impact on their community and they loved to read, so they decided on the Little Free Library," said Carolyn Machado, Girl Scout Leader of Troop 2009. "All of the books are donated; you take out the books and return them here, so the library is always turning over books."

On the opening day, the library had about 100 donated books that promote reading and literature. The five Girl Scouts have worked on the project since last May 2016, to get it up and running. Anyone in the Clifton community can drop off books at the



**Book authors R. David Fulcher of Ashburn, who wrote "The Cemetery of Hearts" and author Ed Ehlers of Clifton who wrote "Lily and Lucy, An Easter Story."**

free library. For those who donated books on Saturday, Peterson's Ice Cream Depot gave away coupons for free ice cream.



**Del. Tim Hugo (R-40) with Girl Scouts from Troop 2009 from St. Andrew's Catholic Church of Clifton during the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Little Free Library in Clifton on Saturday, May 20.**

Hugo said, "I am so proud of Girl Scout Troop 2009 as they present Clifton with this Little Free Library and earn their Silver Award. These girls have demonstrated a true commitment and interest in their town and are the future leaders of our community."

Clifton Mayor Hollaway said the Scouts had to go through a number of governmental steps to get approvals, including from the Clifton Town Council, the Architectural Review Board, and the Planning Commission. "With this whole project, it's been under discussion for four months. What a great learning process for the girls to go through," he said.

Also on hand for the event were book authors R. David Fulcher of Ashburn, who wrote "The Cemetery of Hearts" and author Ed Ehlers of Clifton who wrote "Lily and Lucy, An Easter Story."

— STEVE HIBBARD



**Girl Scouts from Troop 2009 of St. Andrew's Catholic Church, (in no particular order) Isabella Shaher, Lucy La Croix, Samantha Talbot, Allie Stuebner, and Adelaide Machado Ulm, with Del. Tim Hugo and Clifton Mayor Bob Hollaway, at the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Little Free Library in Clifton.**

**From left: Lucy La Croix, 14, and Adelaide Machado Ulm, 14, both of Clifton, who are the artists who painted book designs on the Little Free Library in Clifton.**





# COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

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## SCHOOLS

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

**Jeffrey Dinackus**, of Fairfax Station, a senior at Randolph-Macon Academy (R-MA), was inducted into the National Honor Society on April 13, 2017. Jeffrey is the son of Tom and Lisa Dinackus of Fairfax Station.

**Shelby Franz**, of Fairfax Station, a senior sport management major at York College of Pennsylvania, has been named to the dean's list for the spring 2017 semester.

**Rene Valentine**, Marine ROTC, was recognized with the The National Sojourners Award at The Citadel (Charleston, S.C.).

U.S. Air Force Reserve Airman 1st Class **Abraham L. Castillo** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Castillo is the son of Alejandro C. Castillo of Lorton, and Doris S. Aguilar of Hollywood, Fla., and brother of Christopher L. Castillo of Lorton. He is also the brother of Alexander L. Castillo.

The airman graduated in 2015 from South County High School.

## FAITH NOTES

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

**St. Matthew's United Methodist Church**, 8617 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, offers a traditional service on Sundays at 8:15 and 11:15 a.m. and a contemporary service on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. [www.stmatthewsumc.org](http://www.stmatthewsumc.org)

**The Immanuel Bible Church MOPS group** meets on Mondays at 7 p.m. at Immanuel Bible Church, 6911 Braddock Road, Springfield. MOPS is for pregnant or parenting mothers of children from infancy to kindergarten. 703-922-4295 or [www.MOPS.org](http://www.MOPS.org).

**First Baptist Church of Springfield**, 7300 Gary St., Springfield, has traditional and contemporary Sunday services at 10:30 a.m., Sunday school at 9:15 a.m. Special worldwide services offered at special times throughout the year in English, Spanish and Ethiopian. The pastors are Jim Weaver and Jason Mitchell. 703-451-1500 or [www.fbcspRINGfield.org](http://www.fbcspRINGfield.org).

The following is a list of events at **Mount Calvary Baptist Church**, 4325 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax:

❖ Adult Bible Study every Wednesday starting at 7 p.m., Youth Bible Study at 7:15 p.m.

❖ Full Praise and Baptism Service at 7 p.m., the last Wednesday of every month

❖ Sunday School at 9 a.m.

❖ Sunday morning service at 10 a.m., the 4th Sunday of every month

❖ Men's Ministry Bible Class, the Saturday before the 4th Sunday of every month

❖ Commonwealth Care Center ministry every first and third Thursday night. 703-273-1455.

**The Cranford United Methodist Church**, located at 9912 Old Colchester Road, Lorton, hosts prayer and healing services on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Worship service is at

SEE FAITH NOTES, PAGE 7

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Saturday, June 3rd

10:30am - 12pm





PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS

Old Town Square is jammed to the brim for the season's first Rock the Block concert.

## Thousands Throng to Rock the Block

Old Town Square was the place to be, last Friday night, May 26, for the City of Fairfax's first Rock the Block of the season.

The perfect spring night, food and beverage vendors, plus live rock music by the

Darby Brothers brought a couple thousand people to downtown Fairfax to make the event a huge success. Weather permitting, Rock the Block is held on the fourth Fridays of the month, 6:30-9:30 p.m., from May through October.

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Saturday & Sunday, June 3-4

- Springfield 5K
- PetFest
- Craft & Fun Fair
- Car Show
- Book Sale
- Cardboard Boat Regatta

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# Remembering on Memorial Day 2017

On Memorial Day, we remember all of those who have died in military service, more than 400,000 in World War II, more than 30,000 in Korea, more than 50,000 in Vietnam.

As many as 620,000 soldiers died in the Civil War, stunningly about 2 percent of the population at that time. To compare, while more than 2.5 million soldiers have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, that number is still less than one percent of the U.S. population.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 6,880 U.S. military service men and women have died in support of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

On Memorial Day, there are many ways to remember the fallen, including a visit to Arlington National Cemetery, or many other local commemorations. But at a minimum, wherever you are, you can observe a moment of silence at 12:01 p.m. along with Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), or you can set your own moment at some point during the day.

More than 52,000 U.S. military service members have been wounded in action, although that number is likely to be revised upward. In 2013, the military confirmed traumatic brain injury in more than 220,000 of the more than 2.5 million troops who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. The long-term consequences of many of these injuries, including mental health consequences, are unknown, but they will require a national commitment to excellence in health care and services for both active duty military personnel and veterans. Virginia's U.S. Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine continue to advocate for better service from the Veterans Administration.

Cuts proposed to health care, food assistance and other aspects of the social safety net in the proposed budget would disproportionately harm veterans.

**EVERY YEAR** around Memorial Day, this newspaper names the local men and women who have died in military service since Sept. 11, 2001.

Marcus D. Prince, 22, of Norfolk, Virginia died April 26, 2016 in Juffir, Bahrain. Prince was a U.S. Navy civilian who was supporting Operation Inherent Resolve.

Blane D. Bussell, 60, of Virginia, died Jan. 26, 2016 in Manama, Bahrain; Bussell was a U.S. Navy civilian who was supporting Operation Inherent Resolve.

Sgt. Charles C. Strong, 28, of Suffolk, died Sept. 15, 2014 in Herat Province, Afghanistan while conducting combat operations. Sgt. David H. Stewart, 34, of Stafford, was one of three Marines who died June 20, 2014 while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

Seaman Philip Frazier Manes, 21, of Fairfax, died Sept. 27, in Manama, Bahrain. He was supporting Operation Inherent Resolve.

Army Sgt. Lyle D. Turnbull, 31, of Norfolk, died Oct. 18, 2013 in Kuwait, from a medical emergency. Capt. Brandon L. Cyr, 28, of Woodbridge, was one of four airmen who died April 27, 2013, near Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, in the crash of an MC-12 aircraft.

1st Lt. Robert J. Hess, 26, of the Kings Park West neighborhood of Fairfax, was killed by enemy fire on April 23, 2013, Afghanistan. Hess was known as "RJ" and graduated from Robinson Secondary School in 2005, where he played football, lacrosse and was the captain of the swim team. He was a U.S. Army Blackhawk helicopter pilot who deployed to Afghanistan on April 11, 2013. His family remembers his sense of humor and his natural leadership ability.

Master Sgt. George A. Banner Jr., 37, of Orange, died Aug. 20, 2013, of injuries sustained when enemy forces attacked his unit with small arms fire in Wardak Province, Afghanistan.

Spc. Caryn E. Nouv, 29, of Newport News, was one of two soldiers who died July 27, 2013 in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked their vehicle with an improvised explosive device and small arms fire.

Lance Cpl. Niall W. Coti-Sears, 23, of Arlington, died June 23, 2012, while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. Coti-Sears loved music, played the guitar, composed songs and entertained family and friends at holiday gatherings. Niall was very close to his grandfather, William Coti, who was a Marine. "He was always my protege," William Coti told the Arlington Connection. "He always wanted to be a Marine and he followed my example. It weighs heavily on me that this had to happen."

Chief Warrant Officer Five John C. Pratt, 51, of Springfield, died May 28, 2012 in Kabul, Afghanistan, when his helicopter crashed.

Staff Sgt. Jessica M. Wing, 42, of Alexandria, died Aug. 27, 2012 in Kuwait City, Kuwait.

In February 2012, Brig. Gen. Terence J. Hildner, 49, of Fairfax, was the highest ranking military officer to die in the war. Hildner died Feb. 3, 2012 in Kabul province, Afghanistan.

Sgt. Aaron X. Wittman, 28, of Chester, Virginia, died Jan. 10, 2013 from small arms fire. Sgt. David J. Chambers, 25, of Hampton, Virginia, died Jan. 16, 2013 from a roadside bomb. Sgt. Robert J. Billings, 30, of Clarksville, Virginia, died Oct. 13, 2012 when enemy forces attacked with an improvised explosive device. Staff Sgt. Jonathan P. Schmidt, 28, of Petersburg, Va., died Sept. 1, 2012 from enemy small arms fire. 1st Lt. Stephen C. Prasnicky, 24, of Lexington, Virginia, died June 27, 2012, from a roadside bomb.

Aaron Carson Vaughn, 30, was one of 30 American service members and 22 Navy SEALs killed Aug. 6, 2011 when their Chinook helicopter was shot down in Afghanistan. Vaughn's family has ties to McLean and Burke. He was survived by his wife, Kimberly, and their two children.

Spc. Douglas Jay Green, 23 of Sterling, died Aug. 28, 2011. when insurgents attacked his unit using a roadside bomb in Afghanistan. Green enlisted in 2007, after attending Potomac Falls High School.

Pfc. Benjamin J. Park, 25, of Fairfax Station, died June 18, 2010 at Zhari district, Kandahar, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device.

May 12, 2010, Donald J. Lamar II, 23 of Fredericksburg, was killed in Afghanistan. Christopher D. Worrell, 35 of Virginia Beach, was killed in Iraq on April 22, 2010. Steven J. Bishop, 29 of Christianburg, was killed March 13, 2010 in Iraq. Kielin T. Dunn, 19 of Chesapeake, was killed Feb. 18, 2010 in Afghanistan. Brandon T. Islip, 23 of Richmond, was killed Nov. 29, 2009, in Afghanistan. Stephan L. Mace, 21 of Lovettsville, died Oct. 3, 2009 in Afghanistan.

Bill Cahir, 40 of Alexandria, died Aug. 13, 2009 of a gunshot wound while conducting combat operations in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. After Sept. 11, 2001, Cahir decided to leave his career as a journalist and join the Marine Corps. His application to become a Marine was denied because of his age, but he successfully lobbied members of Congress to get a special exemption.

Lance Cpl. Daniel Ryan Bennett, 23 of Clifton died Jan. 11, 2009, in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. 2nd Lt. Sean P. O'Connor of Burke died Oct. 19, 2008 while stationed at Hunter Army Air Field, Savannah, Georgia. O'Connor was an athlete in soccer, baseball and football who attended Fairfax County Public Schools and was a 1999 graduate of Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School in Arlington.

Pfc. David Sharrett II, 27 of Oakton, died Jan. 16, 2008 in Iraq. On Oct. 24, 2008, his father, David H. Sharrett, was on hand as the Oakton Post Office on White Granite Drive was renamed to honor his son. But the senior Sharrett has battled to learn the truth about his son's death, that he was killed by his lieutenant in a "friendly fire" incident. In April, 2012, Sharrett Sr. obtained documents confirming some of the details of his son's death and a subsequent cover-up.

Army 1st Lt. Thomas J. Brown, 26, a George Mason University graduate and Burke resident, died on Sept.

23, 2008, while serving in Iraq, from small arms fire.

Sgt. Scott Kirkpatrick, 26, died on Aug. 11, 2007, in Arab Jabour, Iraq. Kirkpatrick, who graduated from Park View High School in Sterling, and also considered Herndon and Reston as his hometowns, was a champion slam poet.

Ami Neiberger-Miller lost her brother, U.S. Army Spc. Christopher Neiberger, in August 2007 when he was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq. He was 22.

Staff Sgt. Jesse G. Clowers Jr., 27, of Herndon, died when an improvised bomb exploded near his vehicle in Afghanistan on Aug. 12, 2007. Jonathan D. Winterbottom, 21, of Falls Church, died in Iraq on May 23, 2007, when an IED exploded near his vehicle.

Nicholas Rapavi, 22, of Springfield, died Nov. 24, 2006, during combat in Anbar province in Iraq. Army Cpl. Andy D. Anderson, 24, was killed by enemy fire in Ar Ramadi, Iraq on Tuesday, June 6, 2006.

Spc. Robert Drawl Jr., 21, a 2003 graduate of T.C. Williams High School, was killed by a bomb in Kunar, Afghanistan, on Aug. 19, 2006.

U.S. Army Specialist Felipe J. Garcia Villareal, 26 of Burke, was injured in Iraq and flown to Washington Hospital Center, where he died Feb. 12, 2006. He was a graduate of Herndon High School.

Capt. Shane R. Mahaffee, 36, a 1987 graduate of Mount Vernon High School, died May 15, 2006. He was a lawyer, married, with two children.

U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas Kirven, 21, was killed in Afghanistan in 2005 during a firefight in a cave with insurgents. He enlisted while still in high school after Sept. 11, 2001.

Fairfax Station resident Pfc. Dillon Jutras, 20, was killed in combat operations in Al Anbar Province of Iraq on Oct. 29, 2005.

Maj. William F. Hecker III, a 1987 graduate of McLean High School, was killed in action in Iraq, Jan. 5, 2005. Staff Sgt. Ayman Taha, 31, of Vienna, was killed Dec. 30, 2005, when an enemy munitions cache he was prepping for demolition exploded. Army Capt. Chris Petty of Vienna was killed Jan. 5, 2006.

Staff Sgt. George T. Alexander Jr., the 2,000th soldier to be killed in Iraq, was literally born into the Army here in Northern Virginia, at DeWitt Army Hospital at Fort Belvoir. Alexander died at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, Oct. 22, 2005, of injuries sustained in Iraq five days earlier.

Lt. Col. Thomas A. Wren, 44, of Lorton, died in Tallil, Iraq on Nov. 5, 2005. Marine Capt. Michael Martino, 32 of the City of Fairfax, died Nov. 2, 2005, when his helicopter was brought down in Iraq.

1st Lt. Laura M. Walker of Oakton was killed on Aug. 18, 2005, in Kandahar, Afghanistan. CW4 Matthew S. Lourey of Lorton died from injuries sustained on May 26, 2005 in Buhriz, Iraq. Operations Officer Helge Boes of Fairfax was killed on Feb. 5, 2003, while participating in counterterrorism efforts in eastern Afghanistan.

Among other local lives lost: Lance Cpl. Tavon Lee Hubbard, 24, of Reston; 1st Lt. Alexander Wetherbee, 27, of McLean; 1st Lt. Jeff Kaylor, 25, of Clifton; Coast Guard Petty Officer Nathan B. Bruckenthal, 24, of Herndon; Army Chief Warrant Officer Sharon T. Swartworth, 43, of Mount Vernon; Command Sgt. Maj. James D. Blankenbecler, 40, of Mount Vernon; Capt. James F. Adamowski, 29, of Springfield; Sgt. DeForest L. Talbert, 22, of Alexandria; Marine Cpl. Binh N. Le, 20, of Alexandria; Staff Sgt. Russell Verdugo, 34, of Alexandria; Army Capt. Mark N. Stubenhofer, 30, from Springfield; Marine Gunnery Sgt. Javier Obleas-Prado Pena, 36, from Falls Church; Marine Sgt. Krisna Nachampassak, 27, from Burke; Army Staff Sgt. Nathaniel J. Nyren, 31, from Reston; Marine Lance Cpl. Tenzin Dengkhim, 19, from Falls Church, Navy Chief Joel Egan Baldwin, 37, from Arlington; Maj. Joseph McCloud, of Alexandria, and Major Gloria D. Davis, 47 of Lorton.

Capt. Jesse A. Ozbab, 28 of Prince George, Virginia, died on May 20, 2012 in Afghanistan from a roadside bomb. Constructionman Trevor J. Stanley, 22, of Virginia Beach, died April 7, 2012 while deployed to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. Pfc. Michael W. Pyron, 30, of Hopewell, Va., died Jan. 10, 2012 in Afghanistan. Maj. Samuel M. Griffith, 36, of Virginia Beach, died Dec. 14, 2011 in Afghanistan. Staff Sgt. James Ronald Leep Jr., 44 of Richmond, died Oct. 17, 2011 at Forward Operating Base Kalsu in Iraq. Spc. Levi Efrain Nuncio, 24 of Harrisonburg, died June 22, 2011 in Afghanistan. Capt. Michael Wray Newton, 30 of Newport

SEE MEMORIAL DAY, PAGE 15





## COMMENTARY

# Join Us for 'Back to the Bay!'

BY DEL. DAVID L. BULOVA (D-37)  
AND  
DEL. L. SCOTT LINGAMFELTER (R-31)

**M**ost of us in this region have seen cars with a "Save the Bay" bumper sticker. But have you ever stopped to think about what you can do to turn that simple, yet powerful slogan into reality? The answer is that each of us can make a real difference. To find out how, we hope you will join us for the first annual "Back to the Bay" on June 10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Mason Neck State Park.

As members of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, a tri-state legislative commission representing Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia, we work to advance policies to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay. Last year the Chesapeake Bay Commission established the second week of June as Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week.

We did this to engage residents about what is being done to combat polluted runoff and what more needs to be done to restore this precious resource for the enjoyment of future generations. Fewer pollutants in local streams, rivers, and other tributaries means cleaner water, thriving underwater grasses, and rebounding fish, crabs,

and oyster stocks in the Chesapeake Bay. Everyone, seafood producers, the sporting community, and those who use the Bay for recreation will benefit.

The good news is that we have much to celebrate! Virginia has made measurable progress toward reducing nutrient and sediment pollution and we are on track to reach our 2017 milestones. Thanks to these efforts, underwater grasses are at highs not seen in decades. Summer dead zones, places where the water has no oxygen to support fish and shellfish, have been decreasing.

To be sure, the work of restoring the Chesapeake Bay is not complete. In fact, the last phase of effort toward our 2025 deadline will almost certainly be our toughest. And Virginia can't do it alone! With a drainage area of approximately 64,000 miles, restoring the Bay can only be accomplished through a collaborative approach. Virginia, along with our partner states, the District of Columbia, and local governments must continue to prioritize the programs and funding necessary to better manage runoff from farmlands and suburban and urban development.

Virginia has strong bipartisan support for the Chesapeake Bay. Our fellow legislators work "across the aisle" and with the Governor to implement pragmatic solutions. Local

governments, private businesses, farmers, and conservation organizations have all joined the effort.

The federal government must also continue to be a key partner. Funding at the federal level goes toward critical monitoring and modeling programs to ensure that our efforts are based on real science and not political science. Federal funding is also used to leverage state and local resources for on-the-ground best management practices that are necessary to meet our targets on time.

At "Back to the Bay" participants will literally be asked to turn their back to the Bay during the program. Why? It is a symbolic gesture to highlight how most of the work to restore the Bay is about what is upstream – that is, literally where we live and work. Ordinary people, by making small changes, can make big differences!

At Back to the Bay, you'll be able to explore history and better understand the living resources of the Bay and our local rivers. You'll see practical ways to reduce pollution going to the Bay, including how to join a stream clean-up project, purchase a Chesapeake Bay license plate (with proceeds dedicated to Bay education and restoration), build a rain garden or a rain barrel at your home, test your soil before fer-

## Back to the Bay

Del. L. Scott Lingamfelter, Republican State Delegate representing parts of Fauquier and Prince William counties and Del. David L. Bulova, Democratic State Delegate representing the City of Fairfax and part of Fairfax County are both members of the bi-partisan Chesapeake Bay Commission. They are encouraging Virginians to take part in the "Back to the Bay" event that will be held June 10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Mason Neck State Park, 7301 High Point Road in Lorton. For more information about Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week and Back to the Bay, visit [www.vcnva.org/chesapeake-bay-awareness-week/](http://www.vcnva.org/chesapeake-bay-awareness-week/) and follow the event on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/events/249460912171565/](https://www.facebook.com/events/249460912171565/).

tilizing the lawn, along with many other actions. Over 30 organizations will be there and are excited to share what they know while having lots of fun at the same time!

We hope you will join us and bring family and friends. Help us to ensure that our children will grow up with the joys of swimming and fishing in a clean Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay.

## VOLUNTEER EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Fairfax County's free **Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group** meets by phone on Tuesday, June 13, 7-8 p.m. This month's topic is Vacationing: How to Make it Work When You're a Caregiver. Register beforehand at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults) and click on Telephone Caregiver Support Group. Call **703-324-5484**, TTY 711.

Fairfax County is offering a free **Medicare 101 presentation** on Wednesday, June 21, 10-11:30 a.m. at Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Find out more at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Medicare and Insurance Counseling- VICAP.

The **Fairfax Commission on Aging** meets on Wednesday, June 21, 1 p.m. at the Falls Church City Community Center, Teen Center, 223 Little Falls St., Falls Church. 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](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/coa.htm). Call **703-324-5403**, TTY 711 for meeting access needs.

The **Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program** needs volunteer advocates for residents

in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Training provided. Contact Lisa Callahan at **703-324-5861**, TTY 711 or email [Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov). Go to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/).

The **Chronic Disease Self-Management Program** needs volunteer leaders to facilitate workshops in Fairfax County. Training is planned for summer or fall. Contact ElderLink at **703-324-5374**, TTY 711, or go to [www.FairfaxCounty.gov/DFS/OlderAdultServices/chronic-disease.htm](http://www.FairfaxCounty.gov/DFS/OlderAdultServices/chronic-disease.htm).

**Respite Care** volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can shop, attend appointments or meet friends. Training provided. Contact ElderLink at **703-324-5374**, TTY 711. Go to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/caregiver.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/caregiver.htm).

**Fairfax County's Volunteer Solutions** needs volunteer drivers to drive older adults to medical appointments, Meals on Wheels drivers and coordinators, and recreational assistants at senior centers. Call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

## FAITH NOTES

FROM PAGE 4

11 a.m., and fellowship is at 12:30 p.m.

**Beth El Hebrew Congregation**, 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria, has services on Fridays, 7:30 p.m. with a pre-service wine and cheese social at

6:30 p.m., and Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. with a pre-service Torah study at 9 a.m. Religious school is on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. Adult learning takes place throughout the year. Tot Shabbat is on the first and third Saturdays at 11 a.m. Kolot Shabbat, a musical service, is the first Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. 703-



PHOTO BY JEANNIE LESON

## Cleaning Up the Historic Site

On Saturday, May 6, members of Anna Maria Fitzhugh Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR), spent a few hours cleaning up the area around the Mason Family Burying Ground at Gunston Hall. The eighteenth century mansion, located on Mason Neck near the Potomac River, was the home of George Mason, author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights. Not deterred by the cool, rainy weather, chapter members removed leaves, twigs and sticks from the path leading to the burial ground and around its encircling wall.



# Police Practices Improve, Citizens Demand More

**Board cites progress on Police Practices improvements, but some citizens demand more.**

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

John Lovaas admitted that he was a bit of a skeptic. Speaking at the May 22 meeting to update Fairfax County residents on the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission's recommendations, the Restonian acknowledged that he hadn't been expecting all that much to come from the 32-member commission established by Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova — in spite of the fact that Lovaas had actually been chosen as an alternate representative.

"But I am more and more impressed by what's coming out of the implementation stage," said Lovaas.

Lovaas may now be cautiously optimistic, but the meeting that highlighted progress, also subjected its panelists to criticism, shouts, protest signs, and a dose of expressed disbelief from many in the small, but vocal audience.

To provide the update and take questions from the audience were Bulova; Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock); Police Chief Edwin Roessler, Jr.; Richard Schott, independent police auditor; Adrian Steel, Ad Hoc Commission vice chair; Shirley Ginwright, Communities of Trust chair; and David Rohrer, deputy county executive for public safety.

Bulova opened the session at the Government Center by announcing that the board had already approved and implemented or put in motion 172 of the 202 recommendations that the commission presented in its final report on Oct. 20, 2016. "I am proud ... that in the first year 88 percent of the recommendations have been approved," said Bulova, stressing that the board had taken the commission's findings seriously, and worked in collaboration with the Sheriff's Office, as well, to ensure the best possible results.

**TWO NEW FORMS** of independent oversight for the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) were established because of the Ad Hoc Commission. The supervisors recently named nine members — chosen from more than 140 applicants — to the Civilian Review Panel, to be chaired by Steel. In addition to the Review Panel, Schott has been named as the independent police auditor, to report directly to the Board of Supervisors.

The Civilian Panel will have the authority to review completed FCPD internal administrative investigations regarding civilian complaints against an officer. They may hold meetings to inform the public on how investigations were conducted. They may review complaints of harassment or discrimination, reckless endangerment of a detainee, or serious violations of Fairfax County or police procedures, and misuse of



**Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), as chair of the board's Public Safety Committee, co-hosted a public forum updating citizens on the recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission.**



**Caycee Utley of Fairfax stands amid protest signs and fellow members of Showing up for Racial Justice. The group doesn't think any real progress has been made to "end racism and brutality, particularly against minorities" and hold law enforcement accountable for their actions.**

authority, as part of their duties.

The independent police auditor will handle the cases of police use-of-force that result in serious injury or death.

The Ad Hoc Commission, made up of private citizens and members of the law enforcement, legal, and academic communities, as well as members of the media and public relations arena, divided their review responsibilities into five categories: Use-of-force, independent oversight, mental health and crisis intervention training (CIT), com-

munications, and diversity and recruiting.

Cook chairs the board's Public Safety Committee, and had the task of bringing the recommendations to the committee and seeing that they were "worked through, not just rubber stamped one way or the other."

The majority of the recommendations — 34 percent — came from the use-of-force sub-committee. Even though review of police practices had been on-going before, the impetus for the establishment of the Ad Hoc Commission itself came after the 2013 fa-

tal shooting of John Geer of Springfield, by then Fairfax County Patrolman Adam Torres, while Geer stood unarmed in his own doorway.

After Geer's death, with no information being made available to the public, several community groups formed and petitioned for reforms and more accountability from county law enforcement agencies. In early 2015 protests demanding "Justice for John Geer" were held outside police headquarters and the county government center.

The public did not learn the name of the officer involved in the shooting, or many of the relevant details until 17 months after the incident, when the information was released by a court order. The demand for more transparency did not fade away. In March of 2015, Bulova received the board's support to create the Ad Hoc Commission with the mission to "review FCPD policies and practices related to critical incidents, use-of-force training policies, threat assessments, as well as those within the Internal Affairs Division."

While insisting that avoiding any loss of life during police-public interaction had always been the guiding standard, at the meeting Cook said that one result of the commission's efforts was a re-commitment to the "Sanctity of Life" philosophy. Cook referenced revisions made to FCPD policies. Last updated in 2013, revised General Order 540 on the subject of the use-of-force by county law enforcement personnel took effect on March 31 of this year. The order will be reviewed again in January of 2019, to determine its effectiveness and make any additional revisions if necessary.

Roessler also made mention of the revised policies, explaining that a number of policies had been consolidated into "one concise document" to clarify the appropriate actions to be taken while carrying out their duties, and the proper reporting required after the use of force by county police officers.

Roessler also praised the establishment of the Diversion First program, which is designed to divert persons with mental health issues and intellectual or developmental disabilities from detention to treatment wherever possible.

Since its launch in January of 2016, Diversion First has seen 375 individuals transferred for appropriate treatment options, instead of being arrested and detained for non-violent offenses.

To make Diversion First truly successful, Roessler said that law enforcement personnel had to be trained to handle citizens with these challenges. To that end, "de-escalation" training was begun for all FCPD officers last year.

**WITH 52 ADVISEMENTS**, the communications sub-committee of the commission came in second, targeting the transparency complaints and addressing the timeline gap between a use-of-force event and the public's access to the details.

SEE SCRUTINY, PAGE 9

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



# NEWS

## Under Public Scrutiny

FROM PAGE 8

Roessler announced the establishment of a Public Affairs Bureau within the FCPD. The chief also mentioned pages on the FCPD's website where information on use-of-force incidents are made available, including links to press conferences and briefings by Roessler and other officials.

Shirley Ginwright is the chair of the Fairfax County Communities of Trust Committee (COTC), a diverse citizen group "focused on strengthening and building positive relationships between public safety agencies and the communities they serve." Since its inception in December, 2014, COTC has been looking for ways to connect law enforcement with the residents they serve. They have a particular interest in programs that focus on the county's youth, and cutting off the "supply" of youngsters in the school-to-prison pipeline. Ginwright invited the audience to attend the COTC's upcoming "Public Safety Day" on June 3 in Lorton.

Despite the numerous high notes in the one-year Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission's report card, things got heated during the public commentary session.

Caycee Utley, lead organizer with Showing up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Northern Virginia, castigated all of the panelists over the death of 37-year-old Natasha McKenna, diagnosed with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and depression from the age of 14. The 5' 4," 130-pound African-American McKenna, in custody at the Fairfax Adult Detention Center on an outstanding warrant for attacking a police officer, was tasered multiple times when sheriff's deputies tried to put her in a wheeled restraint chair. At the time, McKenna was handcuffed behind her back, shackled around the legs with a bobble strap connecting the restraints, and had a spit mask placed over her face.

McKenna went into cardiac arrest shortly after being tasered. She was revived, but died five days later when it was determined that she had no brain activity, and life support was discontinued.

"Whose side are you on?" shouted several members of the SURJ group, waving their posters and pointing to an empty seat with a sign reading "Natasha McKenna" placed upon it.

"We don't want to be on sides," answered Cook.

The new police internal auditor, Schott, added, "This is what I have been hired to address."

Both Roessler and Bulova tried to explain that the case of McKenna and some of the others being referenced by the SURJ supporters were not within their direct purview, citing that the Sheriff's Office does not report to the Board of Supervisors.

"So nobody protects us from them?" Utley

replied. "What pressures have you put on the sheriff?"

Attendee Jenifer Hitchcock "couldn't understand how they cleared the deputies" involved in McKenna's death.

**AT ONE POINT** during the public comment phase, Cook refused to respond to "people yelling out of turn" and Bulova threatened to adjourn the meeting.

After Utley said, "There can't be any trust until there is justice," Bulova invited her to "talk personally" after the meeting.

Several of the citizen speakers described the Civilian Review Panel and the police auditor as "toothless" — lacking in the power to do anything. "Smoke and mirrors," said Mary Tracy of Alexandria. "The county has a long way to go on this. What about body cams? The Department of Justice was offering \$1 million grants, but we made no efforts to get them."

Several of the panelists explained that the auditor is prohibited under Virginia Law from investigating or conducting interviews. Citizens responded that they were willing to help the board get those changes made at the General Assembly, "just show us what to do. Support us."

Kofi Annan, president of the Fairfax NAACP, took a more conciliatory approach in his remarks, calling the work done so far "a good start," but he challenged the county to look into the disparity in the treatment of blacks versus whites within the legal system and in detention. Annan called for measures to track such information and make it easily available to the public.

George Becerra of Burke, a community advocate and familiar face at public meetings on diverse issues around the county, asked a different kind of question of the panelists. He glanced around the large auditorium, then, pointing to the small numbers in attendance, Becerra asked "How will you change your outreach efforts?"

In response, Ginwright with Communities of Trust referred again to her organization's Public Safety Days campaigns. After the meeting, Becerra expressed his disappointment with the answer. He acknowledged that citizens were equally responsible for informing themselves and in becoming engaged, but said that the information is often hard to find and overwhelming. With so many media relations personnel and staffers, Becerra thinks just a bit more of the work should fall on the county's side of the fence.

"During campaigns, politicians find a way to bombard your email with information and requests for donations and support." Becerra wants to know why something similar can't be done for these important issues and meetings. "There's maybe 40 people here tonight. Forty people out of a population of 1.1 million. That's a lot of voices going unheard."

**"There's maybe 40 people here tonight. Forty people out of a population of 1.1 million. That's a lot of voices going unheard."**

**George Becerra, of Burke**

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**Fairfax Divorce Workshop.**

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**Date:** Saturday, June 10, 2017  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. – Registration  
9:30-1:00 p.m. – Workshop  
**Place:** **Duff Kronfeld & Marquardt P.C.**  
Fair Oaks Commerce Center  
11320 Random Hills Road/Suite 630  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
**Fee:** No Fee

Please join us for our Second Saturday Divorce Workshop and get the information, support and guidance from professionals: a family law attorney, a financial advisor, a family therapist and a representative from the Fairfax County Women's Shelter.

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

Online Registration: [www.secondsaturdaynova.com](http://www.secondsaturdaynova.com)  
Email: [nancy@secondsaturdaynova.com](mailto:nancy@secondsaturdaynova.com)  
Phone: (703) 591-7475



# ENTERTAINMENT

Send entertainment notes to the Connection at [connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://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

**Senior Line Dancing** 1-2 p.m. Little River Glen Senior Center 4001 Barker Court, 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 per 8 week session. [barbriba@hotmail.com](mailto:barbriba@hotmail.com) 703-524-3739

**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](http://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](mailto:moorefitt@yahoo.com) or 703-499-6133.

**Exercise Program** Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 a.m. year-round at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. The exercises are for strength, balance and maintaining limberness. Contact SCFB office at 703-426-2824 for more information.

**Cafe Ivrit (Hebrew Cafe).** Wednesdays. 8:15-9:15 a.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Shalom (hello) Did you always want to converse in Hebrew? Join Na'ama each week for conversational Hebrew. You will learn and practice Hebrew in a fun and interactive way while learning more about Israel. Free, however we ask that you try to attend regularly. RSVP [Naama.Gold@jccnv.org](mailto:Naama.Gold@jccnv.org).

**English Conversation Groups** weekly at George Mason, Burke Centre, and Lorton

Libraries Practice and improve your English. Day and start times vary. Visit: [va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp](http://va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp)

**Kingstowne Farmers Market opens.** 4-7 p.m. every Friday through Oct. 27, at Kingstowne Giant Parking Lot, 5870 Kingstowne Center, Alexandria. Freshly picked, producer-only vegetables and fruit, from-scratch bread (including gluten free), baked goods, kettle corn, salsa, hummus, cake pops, fruit popsicles, and ice cream. Email [Chelsea.roseberry@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Chelsea.roseberry@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703-642-0128.

## CAMPS & CLASSES

**Art Camp.** Various times July 3-7, July 24-28, and July 31-Aug. 4 at the Woods Community Center, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke or the second location is Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. Lessons by Carol Zeitlin. Call 703-250-6930 or visit [www.czartlessons.com](http://www.czartlessons.com) for more.

## THURSDAY/JUNE 1

**Hometown Thursday's Kickoff.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. The Back Pages Band is the first of a series of local bands that play on Thursday nights. Free. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov](http://www.fairfaxva.gov) for more.

## FRIDAY/JUNE 2

**Bingo.** 7 p.m. at 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. The Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department hosts smoke-free Bingo every Friday night. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit [www.fairfaxvfd.com](http://www.fairfaxvfd.com) or call 703-273-3638 for more.

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JUNE 2-3

**"The Mad Adventures of Mr. Toad."** Friday, at 7 p.m., and Saturday, at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Thomas A. Edison High School, 5801 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Performance by Rose Hill Elementary School's Rose Hill Players. Visit [edisonhs.fcps.edu/](http://edisonhs.fcps.edu/) for more.



## Rose Show

**The 61st annual Rose Show is this weekend at Merrifield Garden Center - Fair Oaks, at 12101 Lee Highway. Hours are Saturday, June 3, 1-6 p.m. and Sunday, June 4, 11-4 p.m. Elements of the show include a photography, design and horticulture competition, hosted by Arlington Rose Foundation at Merrifield Garden Center- Fair Oaks. Rosarians will be on duty to answer any questions at this free event. Call 703-371-9351 or email [arfiinformation@aol.com](mailto:arfiinformation@aol.com) for more.**

## FRIDAY/JUNE 2

**Music on the Plaza.** 7 p.m. at the Old Town Plaza, 3955 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Music and dance performances. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov](http://www.fairfaxva.gov) for more.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 3

**Fit Foodie Festival and 5K.** 8-11 a.m. at the Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Benefit run for No Kid Hungry. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov](http://www.fairfaxva.gov) for more.

**Walking Tour of Old Town Fairfax.** 10-11:30 a.m. at Historic Fairfax Courthouse, 4000 Chain Bridge Road. Tours lasting approximately 90 minutes will begin in front of the Historic Fairfax County Courthouse, corner of Chain Bridge Road and Main Street, and include a short tour of the Ratcliffe-Allison House, \$10/adults; \$5/youth, ages 6-12, children 6 and under are free. All proceeds benefit the preservation of the City of Fairfax's public historic properties. Call 703-385-8414 for more.

**Scent Workshop.** 10:30-11:30 am at Fair Oaks Mall, 11750 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax. Family Workshop opens with Lawrence F. Lowery's illustrated book, "Fragrant as a Flower," and includes hands-on sensory experiences that help children and their grown-ups learn about our sense of smell. \$25. Children in grades pre-K to 1. Visit [www.shopfairoaksmall.com](http://www.shopfairoaksmall.com) for more.

**Kidz Korner Summer on the Square.** 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive. A variety of children's activities and entertainment in Old Town Square. Free show. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/) for more.

**Fido Fest.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/) for more.

**Climate Change Documentary.** 1 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Center, Alexandria. The Kingstowne Cares Conservation Club hosting a post-screening discussion with special guests State Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36) and Seth Heald, Chair, Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club. Free. Space is limited, RSVP to [jessicabowser@gmail.com](mailto:jessicabowser@gmail.com).

**Sounds of Pohick.** 4 p.m. at Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. St. Francis Choir and St. Cecelia/St. Alban Choir, both for children; the Pohick Pickers, the Pohick Bell Choir, the Pohick Early Church Music Ensemble, Choir of Pohick will perform. Call 703-339-6572 or visit [www.pohick.org](http://www.pohick.org) for more.

**SATURDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 3-4**

**Civil War Living History Weekend.** Various times at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Demonstrations of camp life, musket firings, candle making, Civil War re-enactors from the Victorian Dance

Ensemble of the Civil War Dance Foundation in formal ball dress of the time dancing and teaching authentic dance steps of that period. Admission: museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; 16 and older, \$5. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), or call 703-425-9225 for more.

**Springfield Days.** Various times, in Springfield Plaza, 7206 Old Keene Mill Road. Events begin with a fun run and conclude with a cardboard boat regatta. Visit [www.springfielddays.com](http://www.springfielddays.com) for more.

**"Mulan" Performance.** 12:30, 4:30, and 7:30 p.m. both days at the GMU Center for the Arts, Harris Theatre, 4400 University Drive. Acting for Young People acting school is doing a stage adaptation of Disney's animated film. Visit [www.afyp.org/](http://www.afyp.org/) for more.

## SUNDAY/JUNE 4

**Yoga on the Square.** 10 a.m. at the Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive. Bring a yoga mat and a water bottle. Call 703-385-7858 for more.

**Historic Sydenstricker Celebration.** noon at the Historic Sydenstricker Schoolhouse, 8511 Hooes Road, Springfield. Fairfax County Historic Marker dedication and celebration at the Historic Sydenstricker Schoolhouse. Free. Call 703-455-2935 or email [info@sydenstrickerschoolhouse.org](mailto:info@sydenstrickerschoolhouse.org).

**Wine, Whiskers and Wags.** 1-5 p.m. at Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. Benefit hosted by Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. Wine tasting, food, a Silent Auction, raffle and much more. Well-behaved children and dogs welcome. Admission is \$40/person in advance and \$45 at the door. Visit [ffcas.org](http://ffcas.org) for more.

## WEDNESDAY/JUNE 7

**West Springfield High School Wind Symphony.** 7-9 p.m. in the West Springfield High School Auditorium, 6100 Rolling Road. Concert commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the high school. Free. Visit [wshsspartanband.org](http://wshsspartanband.org).

## FRIDAY/JUNE 9

**Meet the Author.** 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Springfield Golf & Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Great Harvest Bread Company Jeff Connelly, will share how they may be a national company, but they have the spirit and heart of a locally owned small business. Also Keith Clemons, will be speaking about the book he authored. Call 703-922 6438/703-913-9844 or visit [SpringWmConn@yahoo.com](mailto:SpringWmConn@yahoo.com).

**Music on the Plaza.** 7 p.m. at the Old Town Plaza, 3955 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Music and dance performances. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov](http://www.fairfaxva.gov) for more.

## JUNE 9-11

**Celebrate Fairfax.** Various times at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy., Fairfax. Community-wide celebration with art, musical performances, and rides. Everclear is on the main stage on Saturday night. Visit [celebratefairfax.com/](http://celebratefairfax.com/) for more.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 10

**FootGolf National Qualifier.** 1:30-9 p.m. at Pinecrest Golf Course, 6600 Little River Turnpike. Pinecrest Golf Course will host the U.S. National Qualifier for the American FootGolf League. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/pinecrestgc/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/pinecrestgc/) or call 703-324-8782.

## SUNDAY/JUNE 11

**Tiny Dancers Ballet Recital.** 10:15 a.m. (Fairfax studio); 1:15 p.m and 3:45 p.m. (Mosaic studio) at W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. Call 703-785-5580 or visit [www.tinydancers.com](http://www.tinydancers.com) for more.

## TUESDAY/JUNE 13

**Women Only Golf Tournament.** 9 a.m. at Greendale Golf Course, 6700 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. It's Captain's Choice on the front 9 and better ball on the back 9 for two-person teams. \$45. Call 703- 971-6170 for more.

**BHS Research Seminar.** 7-9 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road. "Using the Washington Library at Mount Vernon" is the topic. Visit [www.burkehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.burkehistoricalsociety.org).

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# FAMILY CONNECTION



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Children's Science Center Executive Director Nene Spivy with Roto President and CEO Joseph Wisne.**

## Community Members Share Ideas for the Future Science Center

The Children's Science Center, the nonprofit organization that operates the Children's Science Center Lab and other community programs focused on hands-on learning in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), hosted a series of eight workshops across the region to gather community input for the future full-scale science center planned for Dulles, Va. Held on May 21-23, the workshops included targeted sessions for elementary and middle school students, community and business leaders, government officials, STEM professionals, educators, as well as, open community sessions for families.

More than 250 people participated in interactive workshops to help create future exhibits and experiences.

The sessions were led by Roto, a nationally recognized design firm with special expertise in

emerging museums and science centers.

"We encouraged the participants to 'think big' about the experiences they would like to have and to look at science themes broadly in order to engage the entire community," said Roto President and CEO Joseph Wisne. "This museum will be full of interactive, immersive experiences that you can't do at home or on the Internet."

"We want to design the future science center to meet the region's greatest needs and reflect what is unique and amazing about our community, so hearing from so many people from across the region, of different ages and perspectives was wonderful," said Children's Science Center Executive Director, Nene Spivy. "We were thrilled with the level of community involvement in the design effort!"

Learn more at [www.childsci.org](http://www.childsci.org).

### SCHOOL NOTES

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

Fairfax resident **Camille Gullotta**, was named to the spring 2017 dean's list at Bob Jones University (Greenville, S.C.).

**Kamryn Leoncavallo**, of Fairfax, was named to the dean's list for the spring 2017 semester at Emerson College (Boston, Mass.). Leoncavallo is a writing, lit and publishing major.

**Joshua Clark**, of Fairfax, was named to the dean's list for the

spring 2017 semester at Emerson College (Boston, Mass.). Clark is a media arts production major.

**Leonard Kosta Jr.**, of Fairfax, was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Kosta was initiated at United States Military Academy.

**Susan Brancato**, of Fairfax, graduated from Champlain College (Burlington, Vt.) with a B.S. in integrated studies.

**Michael Walker**, of Fairfax, has been named to the Champlain College (Burlington, Vt.) dean's list for the spring 2017 semester.

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## COMMUNITY

**Jennifer Garner Fleming dons her Derby Day best using fresh flowers for a Simple Changes Kentucky Derby Party at George Mason University's School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution's Point of View in Mason Neck on May 6.**

PHOTOS BY  
NICOLE FERGUSON  
THE CONNECTION



## Hats on for Simple Changes Kentucky Derby Party Hat Contest

Supporters of Simple Changes Therapeutic Riding Center gathered on May 6 for the Annual Simple Changes Kentucky Derby Party fundraiser event at George Mason University School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution's Point of View, in Lorton on Belmont Bay. Everyone received a raffle ticket, picked a horse, tried to choose the top winners of the Kentucky Derby to be entered into the drawing for a chance to win a prize, and placed bids on their favorite silent auction items.

The guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, wine, beer, and mint juleps before dining from the gourmet dinner buffet during the 143rd Kentucky Derby horse race

show, which was broadcast on several television screens during the event. The raffle winners were called while guests perused the dessert table and checked on their bids at the silent auction.

To top off the evening, women wearing their Kentucky Derby Day hats participated in a Derby hat contest. Everyone applauded and cheered for the hat they liked most. Barbara Rizer and Elmyra Kearns wore the top two favorite Derby Day hats, and the best hat prize went to Kearns, who received the loudest cheers and applause, after Lynwood Gorham declared, "This is for the tie-breaker, everybody!"

SEE PARTY, PAGE 13



**From left: Barb Rizer and Roxana Cammarata, stunning in their Derby Day best at the Simple Changes Kentucky Derby Party in Mason Neck on May 6.**

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## COMMUNITY

**Women wearing their Kentucky Derby best lining up for a Derby Day hat popularity contest at Simple Changes Annual Kentucky Derby Party in Lorton on May 6.**



PHOTOS BY NICOLE FERGUSON/THE CONNECTION

## Kentucky Derby Party

FROM PAGE 12

Operating out of the Stables at Meadowood on the Bureau of Land Management's 800-acre Mason Neck property, Simple Changes is a non profit organization that provides equine assisted activities to individuals with disabilities. Clients range in age from 2 years old to over 60 and have challenges including autism, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, Down syndrome, developmental delay and stroke. As a 501c3 organization, Simple Changes depends on donations to offset the cost of services to participants.

Contact Simple Changes at 703-402-3613 or [simplechanges@hotmail.com](mailto:simplechanges@hotmail.com) if interested in receiving services. To volunteer or donate funds to sponsor a horse or rider, more information can be found at [www.simplechanges.org](http://www.simplechanges.org).

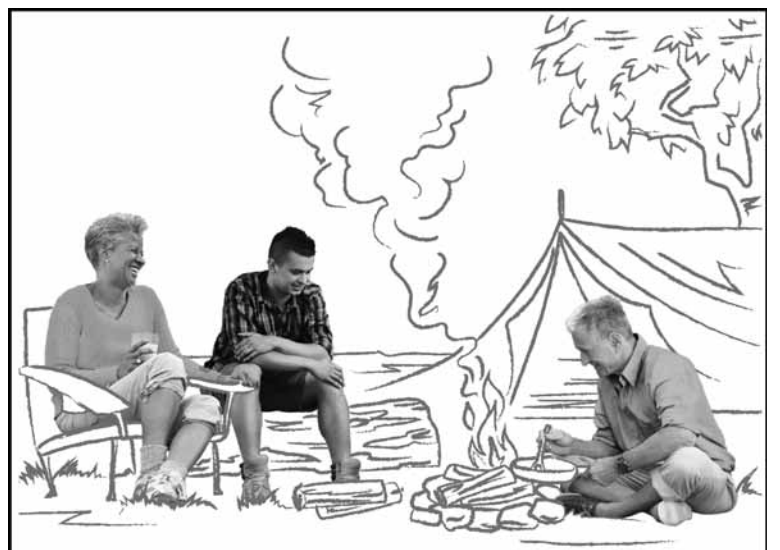
— NICOLE FERGUSON



**From left: Gina Cavallaro and Mindy Harbin enjoying the dessert table at the Simple Changes Kentucky Derby Party.**



**Meadowood Stables - Simple Changes Therapeutic Riding Center.**



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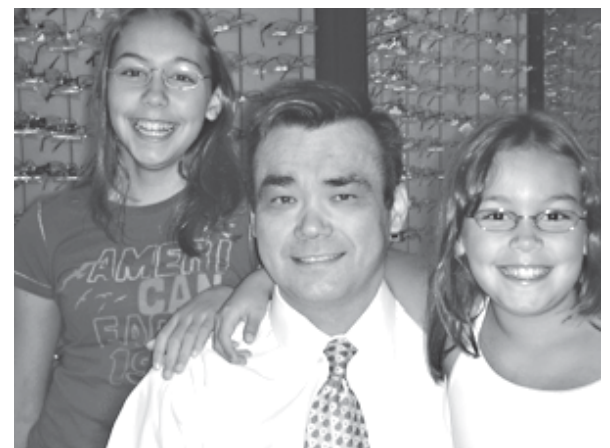
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## NEWS

**Simone  
Dinnerstein  
(center in white)  
in Cuba with the  
Havana Lyceum  
Orchestra during  
their recording  
of "Mozart in  
Havana."**



PHOTO BY ARIANNA DOMINGUEZ/  
COURTESY OF FAIRFAX SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

## Fairfax Symphony Launches New Series

**"FSO Presents" features guest  
artists and ensembles in venues  
throughout Fairfax County.**

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

### Where & When

**I**n honor of the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra's (FSO) upcoming 60th Anniversary and the 275th Anniversary of Fairfax County, we are proud to expand our commitment to the community with the creation of a new series, FSO: Presents," said Jonathan Kerr, Executive Director of the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. "The new series feature guest artists and ensembles in an intimate concert setting in venues throughout Fairfax County."

"The series will bring unique performing arts experiences to Fairfax, further strengthening the FSO's contribution to the cultural, educational, and economic vitality of the community," added Kerr. "We at the FSO want to engage our audiences with world-class music and innovative arts education programs."

"FSO: Presents" will launch with the return of the acclaimed New York-based and Northern Virginia audience favorite pianist Simone Dinnerstein. Dinnerstein will perform with the Havana Lyceum Orchestra in their American debut and the first stop on a national tour. The tour will be the first time a Cuban orchestra of this size has traveled to the U.S. in more than 50 years. Dinnerstein and the Havana Lyceum Orchestra will perform works from her new album, "Mozart in Havana." The album was recorded in Havana last June.

Dinnerstein and the Havana Lyceum Orchestra will begin their Fairfax residency on Thursday, June 15 with a chamber music performance by the Havana Lyceum Orchestra Woodwind Quintet with Simone Dinnerstein at the piano. The performance will be at the Jewish Community Center of

Fairfax Symphony and the JCCNV present Simone Dinnerstein with the Havana Lyceum Woodwind Quintet in concert at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Performance Thursday, June 15 at 7 p.m. Tickets: \$35 (Reserved seating), \$25 (General Admission). Purchase tickets on-line visit [www.fairfaxsymphony.org](http://www.fairfaxsymphony.org)

Fairfax Symphony presents pianist Simone Dinnerstein with the Havana Lyceum Orchestra in concert featuring works from Dinnerstein's album, "Mozart in Havana" at George Mason University's Harris Theatre, 4440 University Drive, Fairfax. Performance: Sunday, June 18 at 5 p.m. at George Mason University's Harris Theatre, 4440 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets: \$45, \$38, \$30. To purchase tickets on-line visit [www.fairfaxsymphony.org](http://www.fairfaxsymphony.org) or by phone at: 888-945-2468. Note: Following the concert, Classical WETA's David Ginder will host a discussion with the artists on stage.

Northern Virginia. Dinnerstein and the full Havana Lyceum Orchestra will next perform at George Mason University's Harris Theatre on Sunday, June 18. Beyond the two performances, there are education programs and Fairfax County school visits planned.

José Antonio Méndez Padrón is the founding music director of the Havana Lyceum Orchestra. The Orchestra was founded in 2008.

Dinnerstein spoke of the Havana Lyceum Orchestra as youthful musicians with a "desire to explore music which can too often be worn away by familiarity, as well as by their beautiful sound — a sound they made despite the fact that even the simplest supplies, like strings and reeds, have been hard to come by in Cuba."

"FSO: Presents" patrons will experience not only the debut of the new series, but a unique collaboration and historic event. "It will be a testament to music's ability to cross cultural and language barriers," said Dinnerstein.

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## Memorial Day 2017

FROM PAGE 6

News, died June 11, 2011 in Afghanistan. Capt. Charles A. Ransom, 31, of Midlothian was one of eight airmen who died April 27, 2011, at the Kabul International Airport, Afghanistan, from gunfire. Sgt. Sean T. Callahan, 23, of Warrenton died April 23, 2011 in combat in Afghanistan. Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Venetz Jr., 30, of Prince William died Jan. 28, 2011 in Afghanistan, after being seriously wounded months before. Spc. Sean R. Cutsforth, 22, of Radford, died Dec. 15, 2010 in Afghanistan. Spc. William K. Middleton, 26, of Norfolk died Nov. 22, 2010 in Afghanistan. Staff Sgt. Christopher F. Cabacoy, 30, of Virginia Beach died July 5, 2010, in Afghanistan.

If you know of someone who should be included in this list, or if you would like to share how you are honoring the memory of a family member or friend lost, or about the progress of someone injured, please let us know.

— MARY KIMM

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## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke** serves those 50 and older who no longer drive.

**Volunteer drivers** are needed for trips (Monday-Friday) to medical appointments and companion shopping within the Fairfax/Burke area. **Office workers** are needed to answer phones in the SCFB office (Monday-Friday) to match drivers and those who need rides. Call 703-323-4788.

### THURSDAY/JUNE 1

**Burke Road Realignment Meeting.** 7 p.m. at the West Springfield Governmental Center, 6140 Rolling Road. The meeting will begin with time to review the project plan and display boards and a formal presentation at 7:15 p.m. FCDOT staff will then host a question and answer period with attendees. Visit [fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot).

### SATURDAY/JUNE 3

**Sexual Trafficking Walk.** 8 a.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Help raise awareness and prevent teen sex trafficking by participating in the Just Ask Walk/Run for Freedom. Sponsored by Just Ask Trafficking Prevention. Visit [justaskprevention.com](http://justaskprevention.com) for more.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 10

**Hypothermia Skills.** 11 a.m.-noon at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Mark Chapin, the founder of the Mountaineer Wilderness outdoor program in Virginia and West Virginia, an Air Force veteran and graduate of the Wilderness Survival School and Sea Survival School will be sharing his knowledge with teens and adults. \$10. Call 703-323-6600 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burkelakepark/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burkelakepark/) for more.

**Autism Speaks.** noon-3 p.m. at the Fairfax County Criminal Justice Academy Range, 3721 Stonecroft Blvd., Autism Safety Fair in Fairfax county, in collaboration with the Fraternal Order of Police, the Autism Society of Northern Virginia, and Parents of Autistic Children Northern Virginia. Visit [act.autismspeaks.org/fairfaxsafetyfair](http://act.autismspeaks.org/fairfaxsafetyfair).

### JUNE 9-11

**White Elephant Sale.** Various times at St. Mary's Church, 5200 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Jewelry, antiques, furniture, sports, housewares, electronics, games and toys. \$5 admission Friday; free both Saturday and Sunday. Call 703-978-4141 for more.

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them. <b>-Werner Heisenberg</b>			

## Price Points — In the Wrong Direction



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not that I need a pound bag of M&Ms to weigh 16 actual ounces (it's now down to 10.70 oz.) or a half gallon of ice cream to weigh 64 ounces (rather than the 48 oz. it currently is) or the "family" size bag of Utz potato chips to measure more than its current/meager/non-typical-family size of 9.5 ounces (down from 14 ounces that I remember), nevertheless, I do need to feel the love, and right now I don't. I sort of understand price points and the business models ingrained to retain customer loyalty (price matters more than size, generally), but I am hard-pressed to ignore the fact that even though I'm spending the same amount of money as I always have, I'm not getting anywhere near the same amount of product as I always have.

Not that the few items I've listed here are staples (well, maybe not to you they aren't), or the necessary building blocks of a healthy diet, they are pieces to a puzzle which characterizes some of my eating habits — and probably some of yours, too. After all, we are all victims of advertising messages which bombard us 24-7, on television, on radio, in print and on devices. In a way, we're all sitting ducks targeted to quack accordingly because some entity/marketing strategist knows who we are, what we're doing and when we're doing it. It's not exactly "Big Brother," but it's a bit more than "Little Sister."

My brother, Richard and I grew up in the 50s. We ate cookies, candy and snack cakes until the cows came home, and we didn't even live on a farm. Quite the opposite, we lived in suburbia, seven miles from Boston, according to the sign on Rte. 9. We ate dessert after breakfast, lunch and dinner and a few times in between: after school and before bedtime. Why? Because my mother had been non-stop advertised-to about the importance of calcium and the best way for children to get calcium was to drink eight glasses of milk per day to "build strong bones and healthy bodies." And the only way to get us boys to drink that much milk was to feed us something for which milk was a kind of elixir: cookies, cakes, snack cakes, etc. So we ate and drink to our hearts content, but more importantly, we ate and drank to the development of our bones and bodies. And so it continues to this day, sort of, mostly. As my sister-in-law, Vanessa says and then laughs after listening to Richard and I talk about our dessert issues: "Boy, your mother did some job on you two."

I'm exaggerating, a bit, with respect to our current daily consumption. I mean, who could keep up that pace? Moreover, given certain age/weight/cancer realities (particularly concerning yours truly), it would be totally, extraordinarily irresponsible to continue to snack-cake and cookie our way through the day. Still, the urge to splurge seems hard-wired into our brains and when the moment is right, it might not be Cialis that we always think of. (Do you remember the Seinfeld episode when George was determined to combine sex and eating and brought a sandwich to bed? For the record, the thought has never crossed my mind.)

I imagine as you've read this column you've developed a sense that given the Lourie's long-standing — and sitting commitment to such hedonistic pursuits, pennies, nickels, dimes or quarters on the dollar are unlikely to dissuade either one of us from our Santa-like appointed rounds.

Still, we're not idiots. We're aware of the effects on our bodies if we devolve into the snack cake eating machines of our youth/adolescence. We're not getting any younger nor are we likely getting any thinner or healthier. I'd like to think we've gotten smarter and more respectful of what foods go in and by association what money goes out.

But as difficult as it is to turn an ocean liner around after it's headed out to sea, so too is it difficult for yours truly to care less about what I've spent my entire life caring more about: desert/sweets. However, I do anticipate a reaction to this most recent size reduction. As my mother, Celia, used to say: "It's enough already."

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# Debate Can Be Civil, Too

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

**A**t the May 23 lieutenant governor candidates' forum at George Mason University (GMU), there was none of the verbal fireworks or often embarrassing vitriol that has come to characterize the political debating arena of late.

Instead, the six major party candidates — three Republicans and three Democrats — sometimes passionately, but always politely, fielded questions posed to them by moderator Mark Rozell, dean of the co-hosting GMU Schar School of Policy and Government. So civil toward each other were the candidates that there were only two occasions when any of them took advantage of the 30 second “opportunity for rebuttal rule.”

The fact that the forum was split into two sessions, with the GOP hopefuls taking the first shift, followed by the Democratic contenders after a brief recess, may have influenced the tone of the event.

**THE REPUBLICANS** seeking the position are all current office holders and they took the opportunity to discuss some of their governmental accomplishments during opening statements. The Democrat candidates have never held elected office.

State Sen. Jill Vogel (R-27) is an advocate for rural economies and a supporter of school choice legislation. She also introduced bills to strengthen the enforcement of immigration laws.

Sen. Bryce Reeves (R-17) is a former Army Ranger and police officer. Describing himself as “Pro-Life and Pro-Gun” Reeves says he seeks to “protect our values and outlaw sanctuary cities” and grow the state’s economy.

Del. Glenn Davis (R-84) says he is the one with a “plan to unleash Virginia” with tax reform, attracting “21<sup>st</sup> century jobs, modernizing education” and cutting “government red tape.”

**ON THE DEMOCRATS’ SIDE**, Justin Fairfax is a former assistant U.S. attorney and businessman.

Gene Rossi spent 27 years as a federal prosecutor. Rossi told the audience that he led the largest investigation ever to address the opioid epidemic, helping to secure 200 convictions of “unscrupulous pain doctors, pharmacists, health professionals, and drug dealers.”

Susan Platt served as chief of staff to former Vice President Joe Biden and serves on the Virginia Tourism Board as an appointee of Tim Kaine.

**ALL SIX TROD CLOSELY** along their party’s lines. The Republicans focused on economic development in the Commonwealth via tax reform, defending Virginia’s “Right-to-Work” status, exploring other options before increasing taxes, and reducing what Reeves called the “regulatory burdens placed on businesses.”



**State Sen. Jill Vogel (R-27), Sen. Bryce Reeves (R-27), and Del. Glenn Davis (R-84) answer questions posed at the Lieutenant Governor’s Candidate Forum at George Mason University.**

Reeves sees the “constant change in the regulatory environment” as an inhibitor to economic health. “We need some stability,” he said, and a process to appeal to business investors.

Vogel agreed. “For the first time, more people are leaving Virginia than coming here. We need tax reform and financial stability and predictability.”

“We used to be the number one state for business, now we are 13th,” added Davis, “and we need to better market ourselves” and tout the resources and advantages of the state.

Again, all three candidates stuck with the GOP platform on issues like opposing state regulation of utilities, the expansion of Medicaid, and the notion of collective bargaining for workers, and protecting gun rights.

Davis said he voted six times against expanding Medicaid, stating that the monies spent on Medicaid in the Virginia budget have already doubled in less than 10 years and needed to be reined in.

Regulating utilities like Dominion Power is not to their liking, either. “Competition solves the issues,” according to Davis, while Vogel maintained that with government, “less is usually more.”

A simple, but emphatic “No,” was how Vogel, Reeves and Davis all “voted” on the subject of collective bargaining.

“I’m flabbergasted, why would anyone choose to make the state less competitive?” was Vogel’s comment when asked if Virginia should turn away from its Right-To-Work status and more toward unionization.

“I would fight that tooth and nail,” said Reeves.

“That would mean a negative outlook for our credit rating,” predicted Davis. Recent indicators that suggest a less-positive outlook on the state’s future credit worthiness is of significant concern to the Republican trio of candidates.

When the Democratic candidates were seated for their session, the overall tenor of the forum remained unchanged. Dean Rozell asked similar — and sometimes iden-

## Party platforms and civil discourse highlight forum for Lieutenant Governor candidates.



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

**The Democratic candidates seeking the position of Lieutenant Governor: Justin Fairfax, Gene Rossi, and Susan Platt.**

tical — questions of the second candidate panel, with Fairfax, Rossi and Platt usually agreeing with each other in principle and disagreeing with the GOP approach offered during “Round 1” of the forum.

Fairfax does not subscribe to the more dire economic picture painted by his Republican rivals. “Unemployment has declined from 5.4 percent to 3.4 percent. Our economy is strong,” he said, but admitted that more work, especially in developing “middle skill jobs” needs to be done. He is a particular proponent of lessening the burdens of student debt, saying that freeing young workers from this obligation would benefit everyone as these graduates could “start their financial lives sooner ... buying homes, starting families and getting the capital to start and grow their own businesses.”

On the subject of collective bargaining and Virginia’s Right-to-Work laws, the three would support unions and changes to the laws, but none of them saw this issue as a fight that could be easily won. “Let’s concentrate on filling the 175,000 jobs that are open because our workers are not trained or qualified for them first,” said Fairfax. Platt agreed, saying she supported unions, but realistically sees Virginia as a Right-to-Work state. “It’s entrenched here.”

**THE EXPANSION** of Medicaid was another area the three firmly supported, in contrast to the GOP line. “Not doing so, that’s \$10.4 billion lost to our economy, plus more jobs and healthcare coverage for another 400,000 Virginians,” said Fairfax.

Rossi told the audience of his daughter’s battle and victory over a form of lymphoma, as well as his own more recent blood disorder. Saying Virginia needs a brand new blood supply, “and I am the candidate with new blood,” Rossi pledged that he would “fight like a dog for Medicaid.”

All three Democrats approved of the regulation of utilities as emphatically as the Republican candidates were against it.

Solving the woes that plague Metro also served to highlight the differences between

the two camps, but the unity within each party. Vogel, Reeves and Davis are not in favor of a proposed 1 percent regional tax to subsidize the ailing Metro system.

The Democrats, on the other hand, see Metro as vital to the area’s economic health and growth and all are convinced that a dedicated and sustainable revenue source is needed. “Metro was a great story, but we kept kicking the can. You reap what you sow,” said Fairfax.

Platt suggested going after more federal funds to support Metro, coupled with better planning of communities to avoid “two-hour commutes,” while Rossi said this was another issue he was willing to fight for. Rossi also warned that the Trump administration’s cuts would devastate Northern Virginia.

The two groups came closest together when it came to the subject of tax reform. While the Republicans placed the greater emphasis on its need and the shape it should take, the Democrats did not disagree that tax reform should be on the table, and that Virginia’s budget should be more predictable.

Platt was the only one, however, to tie this issue to the “need for income equality and an increase in the minimum wage.”

They also all agreed, Democrats and Republicans alike, that each would make more of the position than it has been traditionally viewed in the past, looking for ways to more actively engage and to be real advocates for Virginians and the state’s economic development. All stated that whichever party took the Governor’s Mansion in the fall, they were ready, willing and able to work with colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

**THE PRIMARIES** for both parties will be held on June 13 and voters will choose who goes forth to the election on Nov. 7. “Whoever wins,” said attendee Joe Spellicy of Herndon, “this has been a really great forum. I like this process, and it was good to hear from both sides, all candidates, answering the same questions.”