



Soccer Field Compromise Still Challenged

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PHOTO BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION



An excavator sits behind the memorial for Vanessa Péan on Saturday, June 24. The Fairfax County Park Authority reached a compromise on Thursday, July 27, to convert the field at the Great Falls Nike Park from Bermuda grass into synthetic turf.

Behind the Badge

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Companions for Independence Raised in Great Falls

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Compromise on Soccer Field Still Challenged

Use of crumb rubber challenged countywide, local soccer club to bear cost increase.

A version of Gail Péan's letter appears on the Great Falls Connection Opinion page.

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Park Authority reached a compromise on Thursday, July 27, to convert the Vanessa Péan # 7 soccer field at the Great Falls Nike Park from Bermuda grass into synthetic turf.

The deal was struck when the county agreed to abandon installing a field that used a crumb rubber and cork infill system from the FieldTurf company called CoolPlay. In its place, the county will still purchase the materials from the FieldTurf company, but instead of its CoolPlay system, the compromise field will use the company's EcoGreen system, which uses an infill system made entirely of TPE, or thermo plastic elastomer.

TPE is a non-toxic, heavy-metal-free infill that is 100 percent recyclable and reusable when the field is replaced, according to the Synthetic Turf Council, a trade association for the synthetic turf industry. TPE infill uses virgin-based material, while crumb rubber is composed of used tires.

Construction for the new 360-yard-by-210-yard synthetic turf field could begin as soon as this week so it can be completed in time for the fall soccer season by the end of September or early October, according to David Bowden, director of the Fairfax County Park Authority Planning and Development Division.

Community Blocks Crumb Rubber in Great Falls

The plans for the renovation, announced to the public in May, were met with a steady stream of opposition as the news trickled throughout the Great Falls community, first from the Great Falls Citizens Association, then local advocates with the national Safe Healthy Playing Fields Coalition and Gail Péan, the mother of the late teen whose name graces the sign and memorial on the field.

The opposition to the renovation spouted from the materials the park authority and the Great Falls Soccer Club initially agreed to use on the field: crumb rubber.

This is the second time the citizens association intervened on plans to convert a natural grass field into artificial turf in Great Falls. In 2012, the GFCA prevented the Great Falls Lacrosse Association from using crumb rubber when it was converting the Nike Field # 4 from natural grass to synthetic turf, according to Glen Sjoblom, a member of the GFCA Environment, Parks and Trails Committee. The compromise for that dispute was to use a TPE field as well.

"In 2012 the Park Authority started a pilot project at Great Falls Nike Park [field # 4] to evaluate the performance of an alternative rubber infill product known as TPE throughout the 10-year lifecycle of the



The Vanessa Péan Nike Field # 7 sits next to a grass field behind the Forestville Elementary School with its length running parallel to Utterback Store Road at the corner of Leesburg Pike. A stormwater management pond sits to the east of the field at the top right corner of this photo.



Vanessa Péan, a junior at the Potomac School in McLean, died in October 2005 after she lost control of her car and crashed when she was just 16 years old. She was captain of the Great Falls Strikers team and had played soccer since she was 5, and was also on varsity soccer at the Potomac School.

field," said a press release announcing the deal from the park authority on July 27. "This is our opportunity to continue that evaluation process using TPE infill on field # 7."

However, since then, concern over the safety of crumb rubber and synthetic turf has grown nationwide.

Last year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Consumer Product Safety Commission launched a multi-agency "Federal Research Action Plan on Recycled Tire Crumb Used on Playing Fields and Playgrounds" to study environmental and human health concerns around artificial turf.

The agencies have not published any findings on whether crumb rubber is carcinogenic yet. However, a status report was released on Dec. 30, 2016, that identified chemicals found in tire crumb.

Chemicals of concern used in tire manufacturing range from polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in carbon black to zinc oxide (ZnO), which is used as a vulcanizing agent and could contain trace amounts of lead and cadmium oxides, according to the status report.

In the meantime, research continues and the agencies are collecting and analyzing samples of tire crumb material collected from tire recycling plans and synthetic turf fields around the country.

Community members aren't waiting for the results.

The GFCA Environment, Parks and Trails Committee approved a resolution on May 5 opposing the Nike # 7 conversion using crumb rubber; Amy Stephan, a Great Falls resident and advocate with the Safe Healthy Playing Fields Coalition, spoke against the conversion of the field during a community meeting about the plans at the Great Falls Grange on May 25; Gail Péan protested the turf renovation on Saturday, June 10, at the park during a "Family Fun Day" event hosted by the Great Falls Soccer Club to raise funds for the conversion and has collected more than 300 signatures (161 online and the rest in person) in a "Keep Nike # 7 a Safe Soccer Field" petition on iPetitions.com; and the GFCA Executive Board approved a final resolution on June 29 and sent a letter by email to Supervisor John Foust, who represents Great Falls and the Dranesville District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, asking him to:

- * support the construction of the soccer field without delay by selecting an alternative infill that did not include tire crumb rubber;

- * continue to oppose the use of crumb rubber on playing fields in Great Falls; and

- * ask the county to conduct further studies into the safety and functional characteristics — lifecycle cost, durability, warranty validity and functionality — of alternative playing field surfaces, including both artificial and natural grass.

Community Challenges County's Use of Crumb Rubber

In addition to banishing crumb rubber from being used on fields in its community, the citizens association's final resolution also asked the county to immediately ban the installation of fields using crumb rubber throughout the county, which the county recently refused to do earlier this year.

In a Feb. 2 "Update on Synthetic Turf Fields" memorandum to the board, County Executive Edward Long, Jr., who retired in May, stated that "currently available research on artificial turf has not shown an elevated health risk from playing on fields with crumb rubber. As such, the county will continue its standard practice of using crumb rubber as a synthetic turf infill until new scientific evidence or guidance about the public health risk of crumb rubber emerges."

Kirk Kincannon, the park authority's executive director, was appointed acting county executive effective Sept. 16 by the board on July 25.

There are 48 athletic fields in Fairfax County that are composed of crumb rubber and synthetic turf material that are used by public schools and parks, according to the park authority website. However, that number has grown.

SEE LEGAL ACTION, PAGE 13

GREAT FALLS CONNECTION ♦ AUGUST 2-8, 2017 ♦ 3

FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday at noon.

Youth Activities at Wesley United Methodist Church. Activities are open to all 6th-12th graders. Youth Sunday School meets every Sunday at 10 a.m. in the upper room. Youth Bible Study will meet every Sunday at 4:30 p.m. off-site. Following bible study, ride together to the church for youth group. Email the Youth Ministry Staff for the address. The Anchor meets every Sunday from 6-8 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Join us for dinner, games, worship, and diving deeper into the Word. During the summer, Youth Sunday School meets

most Sundays at 9 a.m. in the upper room.

To receive the newsletter or for more information contact youth@wesleyvienna.org.

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, at the intersection of Lewinsville and Brook roads in McLean, invites you for a casual Saturday Service at 5 p.m., followed by conversation and fellowship or for Sunday Services at 8 a.m. or 10 a.m. Sunday School for Youth and Children takes place during the 10 a.m. Service. Check www.stthomasmcleanva.org for special events and services through the year. St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, 8991 Brook Road, McLean, 703-442-0330.

Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna, offers a monthly Healing Eucharist with the Laying on of Hands and Anointing for Healing (first Sunday of the month, 5 p.m. at St. Mary's Chapel). The Healing Ministry is led by the Rev. Valerie Hayes and Alexandra MacCracken and includes a team of lay healers who have gone through intentional training and formation. Contact the Rev. Valerie Hayes at vhayes@holyccomforter.com.

Yoga Class with a Christian Focus is held Saturdays, 3-4 p.m., McGill Hall or the Library at the Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna. This group is suitable for those

with beginner and/or intermediate yoga experience. Dress comfortably and bring a mat. Feel free to bring a towel, block(s) or strap. Contact the Church Office at 703-938-6521.

Mom's Group meets second and fourth Thursday of the Month, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna. Join the group for coffee and fellowship. The group meets in the Lillian Croy Room, near the Church Office. Childcare will be available just across the hall in the Childcare Center. If you are interested in joining the group, contact the Church Office at 703-938-6521 so that we can plan appropriately for materials and

childcare.

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, has Sunday services at 7:45, 9 and 11 a.m. with nursery care provided. In the summer, they offer musical, educational, outreach and fellowship ministries in addition to worship services, including an 8 a.m. worship service without music and a 10 a.m. worship service with nursery care. 703-759-2082.

The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) offers a wide variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges.

SEE FAITH, PAGE 4

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SCHOOL NOTES

Send school notes to north@connectionnewspapers.com by noon on Friday.

Adam Heilbrunn, of Great Falls, who is studying film and animation, made the dean's list for the 2017 spring semester at Rochester Institute of Technology (Rochester, N.Y.).

Rosemary Moran, of Great Falls, earned dean's list honors at Saint Joseph's University (Philadelphia, Pa.) for the spring 2017 semester. Moran studies marketing in the University's Haub School of Business.

Andrew Pashoian, of Great Falls, made the

dean's list at University of Kentucky for the spring 2017 semester. Pashoian is a junior majoring in arts administration.

Katerina S. Banks, of Great Falls, made the dean's list at University of Kentucky for the spring 2017 semester. Banks is a junior majoring in music.

Amanda Whaley, of Great Falls, graduated from Randolph-Macon Academy (Front Royal, Va.). Amanda will be attending Adelphi University (School of Nursing) this fall.

Amanda is daughter of Richard Whaley and Laura Hoernig of Great Falls and Gretchen Gray of Stafford, Va.

FAITH NOTES

FROM PAGE 4

www.jssa.org/growth-learning.

HAVEN of Northern Virginia offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org.

McLean Bible Church. Fitness Class at Body and Soul Fitness. Gain balance, energy and strength at 10 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Free childcare for registered students. Email bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org.

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, 1830 Kirby Road, McLean, holds traditional services every Sunday at 8:15 and 10:15 a.m. Visit www.stdunstans.net.

Vienna Christian Healing Rooms are open every Saturday, 1-4 p.m., at 8200 Bell Lane. A team of Christians is available to anyone requesting prayer. Free and open to the public. Call 703-698-9779 or visit www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com.

Chesterbrook United Methodist Church is

at 1711 Kirby Road, McLean. Worship service is at 11 a.m. Call 703-356-7100 or visit www.ChesterbrookUMC.org.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna, is holding Sunday evening worship service in a less formal atmosphere and more intimate setting to help you get ready for the week ahead. Sundays, 6 p.m. Communion offered. No childcare. Call 703-938-2119 or visit www.elcvienna.org.

Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church holds Centering Prayer Group Fridays, 9:30 a.m. at 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. The hour begins with a 20-minute prayer period, followed by a brief reading related to Centering Prayer. E-mail Chris Mason at derce@cox.net or call the church at 703-759-3509.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the Jewish Outreach Institute offer the Mothers/Parents Circle, an umbrella of free educational events and resources. Jewish rituals, ethics and the creation of a Jewish home,

SEE FAITH, PAGE 9

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SPECIAL PULLOUT TAB

Newcomers & Community Guide


August 23, 2017

The annual Newcomers and Community Guides for each of our 15 communities with inside facts on what makes each community special, their secret places, the real power players, how to get involved and more.

Including the history, schools, parks, libraries, local people, elected officials, county/city offices, how decisions are made, a calendar of events and other vital community information.

Due to the popularity and long shelf life of this issue, an overrun of the publication is made to meet demand. Extra copies are delivered to select Chambers of Commerce, Realtors, Citizens' Associations and local government.

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So Many Chances to Vote

Next up, Fairfax County School Board At-Large, Aug. 29.

Do we have election fatigue? Or are we still reeling from last November's election? Every year is an election year in Virginia, and some years offer multiple opportunities.

Either way, every voter in Virginia had a chance to choose a Gubernatorial candidate from one party or the other in the primary election on June 13.

Now in Fairfax County, a countywide special election for School Board at-large will take place on Aug. 29, with absentee in-person voting already underway. Four candidates are on the ballot, Chris S. Grisafe, Sandra D. Allen, Karen A. Keys-Gamarra and Michael H. Owens. To read our story about the candidates, see www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/jul/31/low-turnout-high-stakes-special-election-school-bo/

Absentee voting for the special election is by mail or at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy., Suite

323, Fairfax, through Aug. 25. Times: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Thursday, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Then comes the General Election on Nov. 7, with every House of Delegates seat on the ballot along with the race for governor. Lieutenant governor and attorney general are also on the ballot.

To vote in the General Election on Nov. 7, the deadline to register to vote, or update an existing registration, is Monday, Oct 16. In-person absentee voting begins Sept. 22, with the last day of Nov. 4.

For Fairfax County information: Voter Registration: 703-222-0776, TTY 711; Absentee Fax: 703-324-3725, Email: voting@fairfaxcounty.gov

Virginia Voter ID

You will need to show one acceptable photo identification card (photo ID) whenever you vote in person. This is Virginia law for all voters.

Photo IDs can be used to vote up to one year after the ID has expired.

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Details

To see what's on your ballot: www.elections.virginia.gov/voter-outreach/whats-ballot.html

To check that you are registered to vote at your current address: vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/PublicContactLookup

To find a registration office where you can obtain photo ID, even on the day of an election, visit: vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/PublicContactLookup

To read about candidates for the Aug. 29 special election for Fairfax County School Board: www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/jul/31/low-turnout-high-stakes-special-election-school-bo/

❖ Student photo ID issued by a school, college, or university located in Virginia

❖ Other U.S. or Virginia government-issued photo ID

❖ Tribal enrollment or other tribal photo ID

❖ Virginia Voter Photo ID card

If you don't have an ID, go to a voter registration office to get a free Voter Photo ID, even on Election Day. You will be required to complete a photo ID application, have your photo taken and to sign a digital signature pad.

If you get to your polling place without acceptable photo ID, ask to vote a provisional ballot. You will be given instructions on what to do so your vote can count.

— MARY KIMM

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Renaming to Proceed

To the Editor:

An open letter to the community. The Fairfax County School Board voted last night [July 28] that the name of J.E.B Stuart High School be changed no later than the start of the 2019 School Year. The School Board further directed staff to start the renaming process this fall and that as part of that process — in the spirit of compromise and in recognition of the need to minimize costs as well as the desire for continuity by alumni — request that the Stuart community consider "Stuart High School" as the new name. The Board further directed staff to create a mechanism for private funding with the expectation that private funding will pay for a substantial portion of the costs.

I've met with both sides on this issue and it has yielded strong feelings and strong passions. Now that the Board has spoken, we will continue to follow the process as outlined by the School Board regulation for name changes. We will execute the renaming process in a fair, transparent, and expedient manner.

In this spirit, I invite you to join me on Saturday, Sept. 9, at 10 a.m., at J.E.B Stuart High School, where we will hold an open public meeting — per Regulation 8170

www.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/files/A6Z2RN6CA270/%24file/R8170.pdf — to gather names for consideration along with the opportunity for presentations, questions, and discussion. We will share further details with you ahead of the meeting.

As outlined in the regulation, voting for the school name will be limited to those participants residing in the school's attendance area and a weighted point system will be used to determine the top three choices. Voting will take place on Saturday, Sept. 16, at J.E.B Stuart High School and will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

After review of the community's recommendations, the Division Superintendent will formulate a recommendation consisting of one or more of the most popular choices according to community input. The Division Superintendent shall then transmit the recommendation to the School Board for consideration and action.

The deadline for the Division Superintendent to submit a formal recommendation to the School Board shall be three weeks prior to the date scheduled for School Board action.

It is clear that this issue has impacted our community and it is my

hope that we can work together to find common ground and embrace the diversity of our friends and neighbors to strengthen our bond around what we all hold true — that every student succeed and that we provide them the support necessary to be successful.

The most important name, I

think we can all agree, is that of the teacher in front of them, and we are committed to ensuring whatever name is chosen that we have the best possible education for every student.

Scott Brabrand
Superintendent

Fairfax County Public Schools

PEOPLE & PETS



Emilia and Stella: Storytelling

Arlene Corrado of Great Falls submitted this photo titled Emilia and Stella at story telling.

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LETTER

Call for an 'Informed Decision'

To the Editor:

I was just informed that deconstruction and construction of a TPE Turf field on the Vanessa Péan Field Nike #7 will begin on Monday, July 31, 2017. More than 300 signatures have been collected online and on handwritten petitions to keep Nike # 7 a grass field to protect players and the environment from carcinogenic chemicals in our water and soil and dangerous soccer TPE turf heat levels. On July 27 at 12:55 Amy Stephan measured and tested the field temperature of Nike #4 a TPE turf field at 151 degrees while the outside temperature is only 81 in the sun and 75 in the shade.

These actions disregard the fiduciary responsibility of Fairfax County taxpayers and violate their rights to know the environmental impact of a TPE field built in 2012. A new one will cost them more than \$1,000,000. They are reckless and do not represent the voters who pay substantial property taxes to live in a healthy safe well water and clean air community in Great Falls.

I plan to take legal action if I do not receive a written guarantee that The Fairfax Park Authority

and GSA will not begin construction of a TPE field on Nike # 7 July 31, 2017 without an informed Great Falls resident community vote. GFSA did a forced and careless vote using the GSA Soccer registration software provided by the Turf company which will profit from the conversion to turf from natural grass.

According to Will Simonds, GSA President, 20 percent of the soccer player registries voted. Only 70 percent of them approved of conversion so less than 100 people should not and cannot represent the interest of over 8,000 residents affected by this financial debt and environmental hazards.

I ask the FCPA and Health Department to release to the Great Falls community environmental air water and soil studies done since 2012 on Nike # 4 so the entire community can make an informed decision whether a TPE turf is something they want to take financial and environmental responsibility for. This information should be given to the local papers to publish for the entire community to read before a decision is made to remove the grass Vanessa Péan

SEE LETTER, PAGE 15



You're Invited!

The Big Move: Downsizing and Liquidating Your Valuables
A Special Lunch 'n Learn Event

Thursday, August 17
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Is a move in your future? Do you need to downsize? Are you feeling overwhelmed as you contemplate paring down all the things you've accumulated over the decades? If so, join us for this informative two-part program:

- Beckyanne Theriot, BIS in Gerontology, will offer tips on downsizing and preparing for a move.
- Mark Grove, Accredited Senior Appraiser, will discuss how to liquidate your valuables, how to spot treasures (versus trinkets!) and how to estimate the market value of heirlooms, including art and antiques.

Complimentary lunch provided. Space is limited. RSVP by August 15 to 703-956-6311 or email sfields@arborcompany.com.



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Wearing sunscreen offers the best protection from sun damage.

PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Saving Your Skin

How to prevent sun damage while enjoying summer vacation.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

August approaches and many head out for sun-drenched vacations with a skin-baring wardrobe. This much anticipated time of year doesn't come without danger, primarily in the form of sunburn which can lead to skin damage, skin cancer, wrinkles and dark spots. Skincare gurus offer suggestions for protecting skin without sacrificing time outside.

"Sunscreen is the best protection from the sun," said Cheryl A. Oetjen, DNP, FNP-BC, assistant professor of nursing at George Mason University. "This can be from lotions that are SPF 30 or higher or from skin-protective clothing. Wearing a hat can also protect your face to some degree. Sunglasses should also be worn."

To maximize the effectiveness of sunscreen, Oetjen advises being aware of some of the most commonly made application mistakes. "Ideally sunscreen should be applied 30 minutes prior to sun exposure," she said. "This gives it time to soak into the skin. Avoiding the water for this time is also important."

Avoid the sun between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. when it's most intense and use at least one ounce of sunscreen per application, says Oetjen. "The important part of applying sunscreen is ensuring that you are

using enough," she said. "Fair complexions, red hair and blonde hair often are indicators of a higher risk of sunburn, so it's important to reapply often."

Make sunscreen part of one's daily skincare regimen, advises Colleen Sanders, RN, FNP, Marymount University in Arlington. "The recommendation is that you wear sunscreen every day if you're going to be outside even for a short period of time," she said. "It should be part of your everyday routine."

Relying solely on the SPF found in some cosmetics like foundation or powder is unwise, says dermatologist Dr. Lisa Bronstein. "Makeup doesn't necessarily provide the protection that it claims to provide," she said. "There are a lot of tinted sunscreens out now that match a variety of skin tones and also give amazing protection from sun damage."

"Wearing sunglasses with UVA and UVB protection as well as a hat will help prevent damage, says Sanders.

"Sunscreen is the best protection from the sun."

— Cheryl A. Oetjen,
George Mason University

"Common areas that people often forget to cover, and where we often find skin cancer, are the tops of ears and the backs of their hands," she said "These are places where people forget to put sunscreen."

"Make sure the most sensitive areas are covered ... these areas include the top of the ears, lips [and] the nose, added Oetjen. "Zinc oxide can be applied to sensitive areas."

Infants who are younger than six months old should have limited exposure to the sun, says Oetjen.

"The FDA has not approved a sunscreen for infants under 6 months so it is best for them to stay in the shade and wear sun protective clothing and hat," she said. "The skin of infants is thinner and more sensitive to the sun and sunscreen."



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FAITH

FROM PAGE 5

regular meetings and group Shabbats and holidays. Participants include Sha'are Shalom, Congregation Beth Emeth, Temple Rodef Shalom and the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. Visit ShalomDC.org.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton, offers the Religious Exploration program for all children, from pre-K toddlers through high school seniors, emphasizing exploration of all religious traditions while developing a personal spiritual path.

The program offers classes on Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings. 703-281-4230.

Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. Sunday worship services are at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for young adults follows the 10:30 a.m. worship services and for children at 9:30 a.m. Youth Group for grades 7-12 meets Sundays at 5 p.m. A 20-minute service of Holy Communion is held each Wednesday at noon. 703-356-3312 or umtrinity.org.

Passages DivorceCare. For those experiencing the pain of separation or divorce, the caring community at Vienna Presbyterian Church offers Passages DivorceCare.

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Vienna Presbyterian Church is located on the corner of Maple Avenue (Rt. 123) and Park Street in Vienna. Cost to cover materials is \$20, scholarships available. For more information or to register call 703-938-9050, go to www.viennapres.org, or send an email to Passages@ViennaPres.org.

The S.P.O.T for Youth, Wednesday's at 7 p.m. A place where youth can come together and pray, ask questions about the faith and receive mentorship.

The spot is a ministry of First Baptist Church of Vienna, 450 Orchard Street, NW Vienna.

First Baptist Church of Vienna located at 450 Orchard St., NW, Vienna. Sunday services are held at 7:45 and 10 a.m. weekly.

Wednesday Night with the Family service is held at 6 p.m. followed by corporate singing at 7 p.m. Bible studies take place Tuesday's at noon.

For those struggling physically or spiritually, on the first Sunday of each month, **Christ the King Lutheran Church** offers a rite of healing as part of worship; the opportunity to be anointed with oil and prayed over. During the healing rite, the pastor or another person says a short prayer while two people lay hands on the recipient. Then the pastor or helper anoints them with oil as a sign of God's healing and forgiveness.

Christ the King Lutheran Church, 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call 703-759-6068 or visit www.gflutheran.org.

Wesley United Methodist Church located at 711 Spring St., SE, Vienna, Virginia 22180, at the corner of Spring Street and Moore Avenue. 10:30 a.m. fellowship time in the fellowship hall; 11 a.m. traditional family worship in sanctuary.

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Despite his best efforts, NBC4's David Culver eventually had to pull his "weapon" to bring the angry bar patron under control with the aid of his partner Officer Reem Awad in the de-escalation exercise.



Kathy Stewart from News Radio WTOP gets some pointers from 2nd Lt. Dan Pang in how to conduct a traffic stop.

Behind the Badge Police offer members of the media insight on a "Day in The Life" of local law enforcement providers.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Think you know what you would do if you were dispatched to handle a domestic dispute? Or if you were handling a "routine" traffic violation and the driver, sitting behind darkly-tinted windows wouldn't obey your instructions? Or you were called to the scene of a horrific accident where lives have been lost? With the exception of those who officially work these situations, members of the press probably get a closer look at these events than the average citizen, but a group of area media personnel were put to the test by several Fairfax County's police officers who gave them a glimpse of life behind the badge at the inaugural Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) Media Police Academy.

"It's our first-ever academy for the media," said Julie Parker, FCPD Media Relations director, who came to her position from a background in journalism. The department currently runs a Citizens' Academy and a Teen version, but as Parker said, it's the media that "cover us ... we felt that there isn't enough education ... for reporters covering very serious topics." Parker also said that the FCPD was looking for feedback from the media.

THE BRAINCHILD of 2nd Lt. Dan Pang, who served as co-host, instructor, mentor and supervisor of the media rookies, the July 20 all-day session was held at the Fairfax County Criminal Justice Academy in Chantilly — the same facility where police recruits start their training in hopes of passing muster and eventually hitting the streets to "serve and protect."

Making it into those ranks in Fairfax County requires eight hours of psychological testing, extensive background checks, and six months of Academy training comprising lectures, practicals and skills training in defense, driving and firearms training. "You have to get each skill right, respond appropriately in each scenario," said Pang. There's coaching and counselling to correct mistakes, but the newbies are sub-



Fairfax County Police Chief Ed Roessler takes a working lunch with the Media Police Academy class and answers questions about new policies and police training, use of force, release of information, and more.

ject to a "three strikes and you're out" rule.

If the recruits make it that far, they move on to 90 days in the real world, with a field officer partner. Pass that test, and the recruit is now a rookie and it's time to do the job solo, or as a partner.

Pang took his "students" into the emotional life of a police officer. "It's a roller coaster," he said. "You try to turn it off and on, but it's not always so easy to do. We are in a constant state of elevated alertness. Failure to do so could kill us."

Pang used the terms "hypervigilance" and "stimulus habituation" and referenced the book "Emotional Survival for Law Enforcement, A Guide for Officers and their Families," by Kevin Gilmartin, Ph.D. to describe what life is like for himself and his fellow officers.

According to Gilmartin and other research, when law enforcement personnel get home, they may actually experience a "chemical dump" of the adrenaline and other chemicals that have kept them in this state. It can be such an overpowering relief to the brain and body that the officer almost literally shuts down. Pang and several of his colleagues who participated in the session spoke about times when they have



"Sir, put down the hammer!" NBC4 news anchor and reporter David Culver tries to calm an angry man in the de-escalation exercise.

PHOTOS BY
ANDREA WORKER/
THE CONNECTION

come home and "just hit the couch and went out like a light."

There are other effects on a police officer's personal life that have been noted. "Cops tend to like toys," said Pang. Things like boats, ATVs and electronic gadgets "can compensate for the high when you're not on duty. Cops can become impulse buyers." He acknowledged that it's a trait that is not always conducive to a harmonious family life.

There are also societal effects resulting from a police officer's daily lifestyle. Alienation from friends and family can occur as some law enforcement personnel feel only their fellow officers can really relate to them. Amp that feeling up over time and that alienation can cause some officers to see everyone around them as untrustworthy.

With all that they see and that they do, and with the personal toll that their work can take on them, it's probably no wonder that 85 percent of law enforcement personnel have experienced some kind of negative mental health symptoms. Almost 84 percent have been witness to, or involved in a traumatic event. More than 20 percent have suffered from some level of Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome and 27 percent have

admitted to depression. The suicide rate for those working in law enforcement is three times the rate of the general population.

A veteran officer agreed to share a personal story with the attendees, having been involved in more than one fatal shooting encounter during [his/her] career. The condition for opening up in this way was a request for anonymity. No recording. No note-taking. "As you can perhaps understand," said the officer, "these were difficult situations and experiences — for me, my family and for the families of the victims." The officer did not wish to bring new attention to these events and cause additional pain or concern for anyone involved.

Both events were ultimately declared as justified uses of force, and, in fact, in one case the officer's actions saved further loss of life or injury to other officers and members of the public. But the scrutiny, the investigations, the sudden removal from the job and the familiar surroundings and support from fellow officers, as well as the fear of retaliation against the officer or family members, made for "the most difficult time of my life" — and through it all you have to deal with the gravity of your own actions.

SEE FAIRFAX POLICE, PAGE 11

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Fairfax Police Host Media Academy

FROM PAGE 10

TO ILLUSTRATE HOW QUICKLY a situation can turn deadly — regardless of training or preparedness — the class reviewed some bodycam videos that also highlighted the “power of perspective.” Watching real-life scenes of traffic stops and one of an eviction from different angles and sources, and in one case, with and without sound, gave everyone pause for thought. Viewed from just one perspective, or in silence, judgments were quickly made as to who was responsible for the violent outcomes. As more sources were layered in, or sound introduced, that certainty quickly faded, or positions even reversed.

“I think you get the point,” said Pang.

Kathy Stewart, an attendee from WTOP, agreed, saying the video exercise just emphasized the importance of “getting the whole story” and of the power that lies in the hands of those reporting.

Next on the agenda was strapping on 30-plus pounds of gear (holster, “gun,” handcuffs, etc.) to perform some “traffic stops” in the back parking lot, after some tips on where to stop a vehicle, how to approach it, what to look for, how to address the driver and other occupants, and how to stay as safe as possible.

PFC Mark Pollard of the Motor Squad, who helped run the exercise, was an approachable and thorough instructor, but hadn’t much sympathy for complaints about heat. “We’re out here, no matter what. Sun, snow, rain. That’s our job.”

“Driver” Fred Sanborn of Springfield has attended the Citizens Police Academy and seemed to relish his role as one of the difficult citizens being stopped. Waving-off the “officers” who approached, Sanborn just kept on with his cell phone conversation and then argued every step of the way.

Pollard was pretty matter-of-fact when some of his media students looked back in hesitation at Sanborn’s failure to cooperate. “Deal with it if they don’t listen to you,” was his response. “Stay polite,” he added, “and use your ‘command control’ voice.”

The debrief from this exercise showed that in their anxiety to do things right and not miss a step, everyone overlooked something potentially deadly — like a knife on the dashboard, or a small handgun hidden alongside a driver.

OTHER HANDS-ON EXERCISES had the faux-recruits responding to a call of a domestic dispute, or being dispatched to calm an increasingly violent individual. “These are very much every-day occurrences,” said Pang, “and the often the most dangerous.”

Even in these controlled circumstances, with cameras recording and at least a few of their peers silently watching, many of the participants admitted that the situations still had a physical effect.

David Culver, an anchor and reporter with Washington’s NBC News 4, was one of the media students who successfully diffused an escalating situation without injury or worse, but when he felt forced to draw his



The role-playing volunteers seemed to enjoy putting the media recruits through their paces. Driver Fred Sanborn of Springfield, a Citizen’s Police Academy graduate, said that he and his cohorts – front seat passenger Gabe Goldberg of Falls Church, and backseat potential baddie Ed Pouncey of Sully – were actually “taking it pretty easy on these guys. We’d be tougher on the real recruits.”

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION



Brian Trompeter from the Sun-Gazette Newspapers steps out of the patrol car, ready for action. “It’s a little unnerving,” he said. Most of the media “cops” found it difficult to approach the vehicles without their hands on their “guns.”

“weapon” to control the “suspect” he said that during the “encounter” he still felt his heart racing.

In between stepping in and out of the role of law enforcers, there were portions of the program designed specifically for those in attendance. Police Chief Ed Roessler joined the group for a working lunch and answered questions about increasing efforts to infuse the department with transparency, the recent formation of the Citizen’s Police Review Board, the effect of social media on policing, and other issues.

Transparency and an additional outlet for citizens to turn to are the right way forward, according to Roessler, who acknowledged that the changes are difficult for many. “There is a certain level of fear and anxiety among the troops,” he said. So many recent deadly incidents that have occurred in police departments around the country are not only tragic for the victims, but they add another level of stress and difficulty for the officers who are just trying to do the right thing and protect, even to the extent of

putting their own lives on the line.

Despite the obstacles, Roessler remains committed to supporting changes in training, departmental policies and furthering community engagement. The chief pointed to the department’s strong relationship with the All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS) Center that straddles the line between Fairfax and Loudoun counties.

“That’s a relationship that both parties have been building since the ‘90s” and has served the community well many times since then, most recently during the investigation into the murder of 17-year-old Nabra Hassanen of Reston, who was a member of the mosque. While many were immediately categorizing Hassanen’s death as a hate crime, even in the midst of their shock and grief, ADAMS Center released a statement thanking FCPD and the Loudoun County Sheriff’s department for their “diligent efforts in investigating and apprehending a suspect.”

Major Christian Quinn, Commander Division III, Patrol Bureau and Assistant



2nd Lt. Dan Pang of the Fairfax County Police Department served as the Media Police Academy co-host and primary trainer.

Commonwealth’s Attorney Casey Ligan, joined Parker in a further Q&A session. The timing and the amount of information being released to reporters was the predominant issue.

Human nature may make some hesitant to speak to media outlets. “No one likes to be humiliated. There is definitely a growing sense that people are looking for that ‘gotcha’ moment,” said Quinn.

Parker said that the Media Relations Bureau was dedicated to making accurate information available as quickly as possible. All three gave examples where information had to be held for legal reasons, or should be held to protect the investigation or the rights of those involved.

ABC7 newsman Sam Sweeney questioned circumstances where reporters are “pushed back from a scene” while neighbourhood residents were allowed to move more freely around the area. The trainers answered that there could be legitimate reasons for holding back reporters and others — particularly in scenes where the presence of more people might make it even more difficult for the police to keep an eye on all activities — but Parker reminded that the police information officer on scene is available. “And if you think you are having a problem, you can always call our office. We will do our best to get you information and access.”

Media Police Academy ended with a “Shoot-Don’t Shoot” simulation. In the controlled exercise, Peggy Fox with WUSA9 and John Aaron with WTOP “saved the day” even though in the stress of the situation, they failed to notice innocent bystanders walking in the background. “It’s a real eye-opening experience,” said Aaron.

The Police Department plans to make the Media Police Academy an annual event to keep the dialogue open between law enforcement and the people who bring their stories to the public.

Citizens interested in getting a more in-depth look at policing in the community may consider applying for the Citizens Police Academy at www.CPA@fairfaxcounty.gov. The department also has a Facebook page with information about current police actions and tips for safety.

Legal Action Threatened Over Soccer Field Conversion

FROM PAGE 3

“Just in Fairfax County alone, we have over 80 between us and schools, over 80 turf fields,” Bowden said.

Though Kincannon has not responded to the GFCA resolution’s request, the county’s fields are among the pool of fields that the federal, multi-agency study is testing, according to Bowden.

“The ones that have been done, and we haven’t conducted one ourselves, but the ones that have been done nationally, again, have come out and said that there’s no reason not to use synthetic turf,” Bowden said. “And, of course, that’s with the crumb rubber. And in this case [Nike # 7], we don’t plan on using that.”

While Great Falls takes on the county, other jurisdictions are shying away from using artificial turf until the federal multi-agency investigation publishes its final determination on whether artificial turf fields are safe or not.

Across the Potomac River in Maryland, the Montgomery County Council approved a resolution in 2015 banning crumb rubber fields by requiring all new artificial turf playing fields use only plant-derived infill materials in projects where county funds or contracts for the installation are used.

Not All Pleased With Compromise

While the county’s top official defended crumb rubber, Foust took action to help his concerned constituents by urging the county to find alternative materials for the field and to prevent any costs the new materials would incur from increasing the soccer club’s financial obligations to the project.

Foust sent an email on June 30 with the instructions to Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova; GFCA President Bill Canis and the association’s executive board; Park Authority Board Chairman William Bouie and Dranesville Member Timothy Hackman; Kirk Kincannon, who led the park authority at the time, and David Bowden, the director of its Planning and Development Division; and Will Simonds, the soccer club’s commissioner, and Fred Rothmeijer, the soccer club’s vice president of fields.

“I understand your concerns with crumb rubber, especially given the heavy reliance on well water in Great Falls,” Foust’s email said. “I agree with your recommendation that the park authority move forward expeditiously to select an artificial or natural grass alternative for Nike 7 that does not include crumb rubber. By copy of this email, I am requesting that the park authority not use crumb rubber at Nike 7. Instead, I request that the park authority, in consultation with Great Falls Soccer Association, select an appropriate artificial or grass alternative as soon as possible to avoid any further delay. I am also asking that the park authority attempt to mitigate any impact on GFSA if the alternative selected is more costly than the crumb rubber alternative would have been.”

The new materials increased the cost of the project by \$30,000, which the soccer club agreed to take on, since the TPE mate-

Gail Péan protested the turf renovation on Saturday, June 10, at the park during a “Family Fun Day” event hosted by the Great Falls Soccer Club to raise funds for the conversion and has collected more than 300 signatures — 161 online and the rest in person — in a “Keep Nike # 7 a Safe Soccer Field” petition on iPetitions.com. She is now threatening legal action if the county proceeds with the conversion of the field from Bermuda grass to turf with a TPE infill system.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GAIL PÉAN

rial is what it had been pushing the county to use for its new field from the beginning.

“We actually don’t want the crumb rubber,” said Simonds, commissioner of the GFSC. “We had said that right at the beginning to the county, but there’s a cost associated with [TPE] that’s a bit more than the crumb rubber.”

Mom on a Mission

Though the parties who are funding the project agreed with the compromise, Gail Péan and anti-turf advocates are still demanding the field only use natural grass systems.

Péan was invited to meet at the Great Falls Library on Tuesday, July 18, to talk with David Bowden from the park authority, Jane Edmondson, Foust’s chief of staff, and Simonds from the GFSC, where Bowden explained the compromise that had been reached between the county, GFCA and the soccer club.

Bowden began the meeting by apologizing to Péan for not reaching out to her and including her in the project sooner.

“We’re not touching the memorial to your daughter and we have no plans not to keep the field named after your daughter,” Bowden said.

“OK, thank you,” Péan replied.

When Péan was told that the field would use a TPE infill system, she asked that the TPE field that already existed at the park be studied to ensure the synthetic materials didn’t have any adverse impact on the environment and nearby neighbors’ well water quality.

Bowden responded by reiterating the county’s stance on turf fields and that they are safe and by assuring Péan of the park’s stormwater management system.

He told Péan that the water coming off the field would first drain through the field itself, then travel through an overland relief drainage system and then empty into a stormwater management pond adjacent to the field.

“It’s basically treated three times before it leaves the site,” he said.

“It is a huge concern of citizens in Great Falls, that anything that’s artificial is going to have with the sun baking on this, there are going to be chemicals that are released into the water, and what are these chemicals?” Péan said. “And it may not show up the first year, but it will soon show up and I think they should test the water that’s nearest to Nike.”

Bowden told Péan that the virgin plastic material would pose no threat and that the county’s well water is tested each year.

“We can provide the chemical makeup of the TPE, which is really pretty much sterile,” Bowden said. “It’s designed to a standard of stormwater that’s way above the normal county stormwater management requirements,” he added.

Edmondson also told Péan that her request would not be considered because it isn’t required for the project.

“I think what you’re asking for as one citizen is something that, right now, is not required of the county when they put in a turf field, regardless of whether it’s grass,” Edmondson said. She also told Péan that the compromise accomplished its goal of avoiding the use of crumb rubber.

“I think they have practiced due diligence,” she said. “I think that the park authority and Great Falls Soccer have in good faith responded to the GFCA resolution and to suggest perhaps that there be a test and that somehow the results of that test might stop this project, I don’t think is appropriate.”

Péan refused to accept their answer and isn’t giving up on pushing the county to conduct an environmental study on TPE.

In an email to Foust and Bowden on Thursday, July 27, Péan threatened legal action if the county did not conduct a referendum and turn the decision over to the residents of Great Falls, stating the use of TPE disregarded the county’s fiduciary responsibility to taxpayers.

“I plan to take legal action if I do not receive a written guarantee that you will not begin construction of a TPE field on Nike # 7 July 31, 2017, without an informed Great

Falls resident community vote,” her email said.

She also demanded the park authority release any environmental studies conducted on the TPE field # 4 that exist.

“Please release to the Great Falls community environmental air water and soil studies done since 2012 on Nike No. 4 so the entire community can make an informed decision whether a TPE turf is something they want to take financial and environmental responsibility for,” the email added.

The Connection asked the park authority for the data of any tests that were performed on the TPE field # 4. Judith Pedersen, a park authority spokesperson, said she was not aware of any studies but would check to verify. She said she did not think she could get a final answer in time for the deadline of this paper, but is working on the request.

Péan and anti-turf advocates also worry about the heat-related safety risks involved with people playing on synthetic turf, which they claim become “superheated to temperatures from 120 to 180 degrees Fahrenheit” on warm days.

Péan’s email provided data collected from the Nike TPE field # 4 on July 27 by Amy Stephan, a Great Falls resident and advocate with the Safe Healthy Playing Fields Coalition.

“Today at 12:55 [p.m.], Amy Stephan measured and tested the field temperature of Nike # 4, a TPE turf field, at 151 degrees [Fahrenheit] while the outside temperature is only 81 [degrees Fahrenheit] in the sun and 75 [degrees Fahrenheit] in the shade,” her email said.

Péan’s email also said the Great Falls Soccer Club vote on whether to convert the # 7 field only received participation from 20 percent of the club’s 600-family membership with approximately 1,200 children, and only 70 percent of the 20 percent voted in favor of the conversion.

Simonds confirmed these numbers during the meeting at the library.

“That’s a typical sort of number when you do a survey,” he said during the meeting.

“So less than 100 people should not and cannot represent the interest of over 8,000 residents affected by this financial debt and environmental hazards,” Péan’s email said.

While Simonds sympathizes with Péan, he stands by the turf field and says his players’ safety is at stake.

“She pulled my heart strings, and I get it, but from a club perspective and from a survey that we took from our memberships, they really want a synthetic grass field,” he said. “We’ve only got that one field and it’s not doing her daughter any service,” he added. “It’s in terrible shape and kids are going to roll their ankles. It’s become actually dangerous to play on because it’s in such bad shape.”

“We would love to keep it named after [Vanessa] if [Gail] wants to,” Simonds added. “We definitely need to turf the field and if she doesn’t want her daughter’s name associated with that, that’s too bad, we’d love to keep it, but if that’s the case, I’d understand that too.”

ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

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Great Falls Farmers Market.

Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Music, vendors, fresh produce, fresh prepared food, delightful bakery, spices from around the world, wild-caught fish, grass-fed, free-range meats, organic-fed poultry and eggs. Email kathleen@greatfallsfarmersmarket.org for more.

The Light of Day Paintings. Through July 15, various times Broadway Gallery, 1025-J Seneca Road, Great Falls. Featuring landscape paintings by Michael Godfrey, Christine Lashley, Tricia Ratliff, and Rajendra KC. Call 703-450-8005 for more.

Julie Cochran Photography. Various times through July 29 at the Vienna Arts Gallery, 513 Maple Ave. W. Exhibit called "Lotus-Palooza." Call 703-319-3971 or visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org for more.

Sunny Days Art. Artists exhibition through July 29 at the Vienna Arts Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW. Sunny Days exhibition. Call 703-319-3971 or visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org for more.

"Summer in the City" Art Show. Normal business hours through Aug. 15 at Brightview, 10200 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Members of Great Falls Studios will exhibit their work in a show. Call 703-759-2513 for more.

Stories and Sprinklers. Wednesdays through Aug. 2, 1:30 p.m. at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna (behind the Freeman Store). Hear a story. Visit www.viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.

Free Tai Chi. Every Saturday, from 7:55-9 a.m., Introduction and Beginners' Practice, meet on the outdoor basketball court located directly behind the Dolley Madison Public Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. in McLean Central Park, McLean. Call 703-759-9141 or visit www.FreeTaiChi.org for more.

First Sunday Jazz Brunch 11-2 p.m. Recurring monthly on the 1st Sunday at Bazin's on Church 111 Church St N.W., Vienna. Enjoy brunch accompanied by the soft jazz sounds of Virginia Music Adventure. Visit www.fxva.com/listing/bazins-on-church/1686/

The Freeman Store & Museum Wednesday through Sunday noon-4 p.m. 131 Church St. NE, Vienna. The Freeman Store & Museum is dedicated to Preserving and promoting Vienna's heritage through the identification, preservation, and interpretation of history significant places, events, and persons. Historicviennainc.org

Bingo Night. Sundays. 4 p.m. Flame Room, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. S., Vienna. \$10. www.vvfd.org/bingo.html.

Gentle Yoga. Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. Emmaus United Church of Christ, 900 E Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Gentle Kundalini Yoga, one free introductory session, senior discounts. Increase flexibility, improve breathing and health, reduce stress. Ravi Kaur has 15 years experience teaching yoga. \$15 per session. www.edimprovement.org. 571-213-3192.

Fishing Rod Rentals 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Rentals available during visitor center hours. Fishing tackle and live bait are available for purchase. Reservations required for group rentals. \$6/rental



'Hair'

Hear classics like "Aquarius" and "Let the Sunshine In" at the Vienna Youth Players production of "Hair." Aug. 4-5 and again Aug. 11-12, 7:30 p.m. at Vienna Baptist Church, 541 Marshall Road SW. \$14. Visit viennava.gov/webtrac for more.

(2 hour max). Valid driver's license required. Rod/reel combinations are perfect for beginners and children. A Virginia or Maryland freshwater fishing license is required for those 16 years or older. The park does not sell fishing licenses. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/

Colvin Run Mill open 11 - 4 p.m. daily, closed Tuesday. 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Fairfax County's operational 19th century water powered gristmill, offers recreational and educational activities for all ages through daily tours, school programs and special events. Fees: \$7/adult, \$6 students 16+ with ID, \$5 children & seniors. Admission to park is free except for some special events.

AUGUST

Fairfax Family Golf Month. At Oak Marr Golf Complex is located at 3136 Jermantown Road, Oakton. In August, parents pay for their 9-hole round of golf and accompanying children and teens (ages 8-17) will receive a round at no charge. This is also good at Jefferson District Golf Course is located at 7900 Lee

Highway, Falls Church, and Pinecrest Golf Course, 6600 Little River Turnpike, Alexandria. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf for more.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 2

Skward Story Concert. 6 p.m. at Jammin Java, 27 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Baltimore-based pop rock trio. Visit jamminjava.com/ or call 877-987-6487.

Understanding Political Polarization. 7-9 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. A "Meetup," where people from diverse backgrounds will try to better understand their own and others' values and beliefs across the usual political boundaries. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/gf/ or email billrfj09@gmail.com.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/AUG. 4-5

"Hair." 7:30 p.m. at Vienna Baptist Church, 541 Marshall Road SW. Vienna Youth Players (VYP) is putting its own spin on what youthful frustration with society looks and sounds like in its production of

1968 Broadway musical "Hair," which features classics like "Aquarius" and "Let the Sunshine In." \$14. Visit viennava.gov/webtrac for more.

SUNDAY/AUG. 6

Colonial Mill Demonstration. Noon-3 p.m. at Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Demonstration on how grains were milled in years past. \$7 for adults, \$6 for students 16 and up with ID, and \$5 for children and seniors. Call 703-759-2771 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.

Big Bang Boom Concert. 5 p.m. at McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd. Children-friendly music. Part of The Alden at the McLean Community Center's 2017 Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park. Call the Center at 703-790-0123 or visit www.aldentheatre.org.

Concerts on the Green. 6-8 p.m. at Great Falls Village Centre Green. Diamond Alley are playing contemporary and classics. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org for more.



Summer Sunday

Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park featuring Big Bang Boom, Sunday, Aug. 6, at 5 p.m. in McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd. Free. Call the Center at 703-790-0123 or visit aldentheatre.org.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 9

Understanding Political Polarization. 7-9 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. A "Meetup," where people from diverse backgrounds will try to better understand their own and others' values and beliefs across the usual political boundaries. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/gf/ or email billrfj09@gmail.com.

FRIDAY/AUG. 11

Pair of Plays. 5 p.m. at The Madeira School, 8328 Georgetown Pike, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Traveling Players perform Shakespeare's "Comedy of Errors" at 5 p.m., and "Atum's Eye: the Dawn of Time," by Judy White at 7 p.m. Guests are invited to bring a picnic dinner. \$10. Visit www.madeira.org for more.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/AUG. 11-12

"Hair." 7:30 p.m. at Vienna Baptist Church, 541 Marshall Road SW. Vienna Youth Players (VYP) is putting its own spin on what youthful frustration with society looks and sounds like in its production of the 1968 Broadway musical "Hair," which features classics like "Aquarius" and "Let the Sunshine In." \$14. Visit viennava.gov/webtrac for more.

SATURDAY/AUG. 12

Dan Navarro Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Jammin Java, 27 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$20-25. Call 877-987-6487 or visit www.jamminjava.com for more.

SUNDAY/AUG. 13

Concerts on the Green. 6-8 p.m. at Great Falls Village Centre Green. Tom Principato in concert. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org for more.

Aztec Two-Step Concert. 6 p.m. at Jammin Java, 27 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Folk-rock duo celebrates the release of their new album "Naked." \$25 Visit jamminjava.com/ or call 877-987-6487.

TUESDAY/AUG. 15

"Dining with Dorothy." 12:30 p.m. at the Westwood Country Club, 800 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Dining with Dorothy events are Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna events held periodically throughout the year as opportunities for mature adults to meet and socialize with new people along with old friends. Call 703-281-0538 for more.

Surviving Your Split Lecture. 7:30-9 p.m. at the Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Martha Bodyfelt how to reduce breaking-up stress, avoid the most common mistakes, and gain clarity on what to expect. Call 703-938-0405 for more.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 16

Understanding Political Polarization. 7-9 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. A "Meetup," where people from diverse backgrounds will try to better understand their own and others' values and beliefs across the usual political boundaries. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/gf/ or email billrfj09@gmail.com.

SATURDAY/AUG. 18

Chillin' on Church. 6:30 p.m. at Church St., Vienna. Water games, Mudlark band playing rock and blues. Visit www.viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.

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THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS



Left to right, top to bottom: Hamlet II, Solar III, Midnight, Welling II, Romer III, Agent, Bishop IV and Ekina.

Raising Companions for Independence in Great Falls

The Cheshire family of Great Falls has been volunteer puppy raisers for Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) for more than eight years. These dogs, when they finish training are given to people with disabilities for free. Ben Cheshire has submitted some photos of animals the family raised (eight so far). For further information, go to CCI's web site at cci.org.



Solar III turning on lights.



JJ IV, the family's ninth puppy, in his training vest.



Midnight in his service vest.

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BULLETIN

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

MEMBERS WANTED

Great Falls Friends and Neighbors (GFFN) invites women living in the Langley High School District or The Estates of Lowes Island to learn more about the group. The purpose of GFFN is to establish and foster an atmosphere in which new and current residents can develop new friendships and community contacts through social, educational and cultural activities. In addition, the club provides service, support and donations to philanthropic and civic organizations in and around the Great Falls community. Email info@gffnva.org or visit www.gffnva.org.

AUG. 2-30

Fit for Life Classes. 11 a.m.-noon at the Bruen Chapel United Methodist Church, 3035 Cedar Lane, Fairfax. Fairfax Fit for Life Classes are sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna to improve strength, balance and mobility for older adults. Call 703-281-0538 or email eileentarr1@verizon.net.

THURSDAY/AUG. 3

Support Group for Caregivers. 10-11:30 a.m. at the UUCF Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. This support group is designed for caregivers of adult family members. Contact facilitator Jack Tarr at 703-821-6838 or jtarr5@verizon.net.

THURSDAY/AUG. 10

Fairfax Connector Bus Changes. 6-8 p.m. (7 p.m. presentation) at Stenwood Elementary School Cafeteria, 2620 Gallows Road, Vienna. Fairfax Connector proposes service adjustments for implementation in September 2017 to improve the customer experience through increased on-time performance, improved service reliability and reduced crowding. In order to serve the greatest number of riders as effectively as possible, improvements target high-ridership corridors and partially address the elimination of Metrobus 2T. Routes in the proposal include: 171, 231, 232, 321, 322, 333, 334, 335, 395, 462, 463, and 551. Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/connector/news> for more.

THURSDAY/AUG. 17

Support Group for Caregivers. 10-11:30 a.m. at the UUCF Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. This support group is designed for caregivers of adult family members. Contact facilitator Jack Tarr at 703-821-6838 or jtarr5@verizon.net.

THROUGH AUG. 18

Artist Application Deadline. Visual artists who wish to participate in the 17th Annual Reston Multicultural Festival art exhibit "Art Mirrors Culture" should visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com. The festival will be held Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017 at Lake Anne Plaza in Reston. Interested groups or individuals should fill out the appropriate Vendor Application Form, available at www.restoncommunitycenter.com/mcf.

LETTER

FROM PAGE 7

Field, Nike # 7. Since many residents are traveling in the summer months this should occur in September, not during the summer recess time.

Gail Péan
Great Falls

See the related story by Fallon Forbush on page 3 of the Great Falls Connection or at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com.

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Week to Weak



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

And speaking, a few weeks late, of my "whirled," (see July 5, 2017 column, "Not an Auto-Matic Fix"); at least as it relates to my next week or so: 24-hour urine collection on Tuesday, pre-chemotherapy lab work on Wednesday, in the Connection office on Thursday, chemotherapy infusion on Friday, continuing anxiety concerning the previous Wednesday's CT Scan/awaiting results from my oncologist followed by our usual post-scan appointment with him Friday a week later to discuss my future: status quo or the great unknown; coinciding with the typical eating challenges/post-chemo side effect which lasts a week to 10 days after treatment. If this cycle of gloom doesn't sound like fun, you're right, but it's a living/my life and I'm extraordinarily (I didn't want to say "damn") lucky to be able to live it.

And recently having spoken to a new stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer "diagnosee," who's on a 24-hour morphine drip and Percocet every four hours because he's in constant pain, I know how amazingly fortunate I am/have been since being originally diagnosed in late February, 2009. Sure, I've had my share of pain and discomfort, but in the medical-measuring system I'd give it a "1." Hardly the stuff with which nightmares are made (see column in a few weeks, as yet untitled).

I've always been a great believer in context. Not so much comparison because what you see and what you get are not necessarily relevant, comparatively speaking, but more that the circumstances are all relative. It takes me back to Popeye the Sailor Man, who apologizing to no one, always said: "I 'yam what I 'yam." And so am I. When I see other cancer patients at the Infusion Center, when I talk to cancer survivors, when I hear or read of other cancer patient circumstances, I try to live and learn, not take it personally, and count my blessings. Given the hand that I was dealt back on Feb. 27, 2009 I wouldn't say "Wild" Bill Hickok (and his black aces and black eights) came to mind, but my life, according to the "11 month to two-year" prognosis I was given, certainly passed before me - and much sooner than I had anticipated.

In spite of my diagnosis/prognosis, and the miscellaneous ups and downs that I and most cancer patients endure, I've never given in to my oncologist's initial assessment. It was so unbelievable hearing such grim news, especially considering that I was age 54 and a half, that it almost seemed like an out-of-body experience, sort of like Scrooge in Charles Dickens "novella," "A Christmas Carol." Sure we were listening attentively and asked our share of questions, but it didn't seem real or even about me, sort of. I mean at this juncture, I had no pain and no symptoms and no family history of cancer - and I was a life-long non-smoker. Yet here I was, in the bulls eye of a dreaded disease with no known cure receiving a modest life expectancy/two percent chance of living beyond five years.

But eight years and five months later, here I sit, breathe and try to write some wrongs about a life mostly unexpected, and one in which I haven't sweated too many details nor concerned myself with the "nattering nabobs of negativism," to quote former Vice President, Spiro T. Agnew, specifically as it relates to lung cancer outcomes. Which are dramatically improving.

New drug approvals and increased funding for lung cancer research has infused hope into lung cancer patient's lives. Routines with which us lung cancer patients/survivors have become accustomed will be less routine and will make our lives more fulfilling. It might not be perfect, but it's definitely a life worth living.

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



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