

Aggie Lancaster brought her 4-year-old guinea pigs, Willow and Darby, to King of Kings Lutheran Church on Sunday for a blessing. Here she is with Darby.



Blessing of the Animals

NEWS, PAGE 3

Learning about Street Gangs

NEWS, PAGE 3

Walking For Alzheimer's

NEWS, PAGE 9



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Jadee, a 10-year-old English Bulldog, owned by Dee Stanley, is happy to be petted by the Rev. Lynn Miller.



Murphy, 18 months, an Australian cattle dog, sniffs a bag of dog treats after being blessed by the pastor.

Blessing of the Animals

In honor of St. Francis, a lover of animals, members of King of Kings Lutheran Church in Fair Oaks brought their animals to a spot outside their church, Sunday afternoon, Oct. 1, to receive a blessing from the Rev. Lynn Miller. She made the sign of the cross, placed oil on each animal's forehead and gave their owners a certificate of blessing.

PHOTOS BY
BONNIE HOBBS



Billie, a Beagle mix, 16, after being blessed.



Clare Colburn, 8, hugs her 4-year-old Lab mix, Lexi.



Ozzie, 2, an Italian Greyhound mix, eyes a dog bone while being blessed.

Learning about Street Gangs

“Sully is quieter than the other districts.”

BY BONNIE HOBBS

Criminal street gangs crave nothing more than attention, notoriety and power. They want other gangs to fear them and, often, they leave public graffiti as their calling card, to mark their territory or to send a message to rival gangs.

But knowing this, Fairfax County police have always had a policy of washing off or painting over gang graffiti as soon as it's discovered. They also make a concerted effort not to advertise the gangs by using their specific names in public.

There are some 14 gangs in this county, including the Fair Oaks and Sully districts.

Sgt. Merrit Cassell with the Gang Intelligence Unit and Det. Keith Baker with the Gang Investigations Unit both addressed a recent meeting of the Sully District Police Station's Citizens Advisory Committee. They also noted that, when it comes to gang activity, “Sully is quieter than the other districts.”

“Gangs want to make a name for themselves and people to be scared of them,” said Baker. “All their leadership is in prison in Central America, but they run the prisons there, have phones and give people here their orders. They also tell people there what to do when they get here.”

Gangs often try to recruit new members from schools, particularly middle schools. But they try to do so under the radar and not bring unwanted attention to their efforts. Said Cassell: “They don't want to get caught by the police and be in trouble.”

He was born in El Salvador, but came to the U.S. when he was 5 or 6. “El Salvador is very turbulent,” he said. “A lot of people initially come here to escape a war-

torn country. Kids, 12-17 years old, see a lot of stuff here that they didn't grow up with. At home, they were seeing gang wars and dead bodies on a daily basis. So when a 12-year-old boy comes here, he may already have the mentality of a 23-year-old, hardened, savvy person who may have already killed two people and seen a lot of violence.”

“They don't need papers or visas to cross the border because they're juveniles — or say they are,” added Baker. But, he stressed, “Not every kid from there does [gang activity] here — it's a small percentage.”

To determine whether a person has a possible gang connection, he said, “We don't focus on just race or clothing. Gang members can come from any region of the country or any socioeconomic class.”

Fairfax County's gang unit was formed in 1993 and began the next year with three members. It now has 10 detectives and two supervisors. “We gather intelligence and pass it on to other officers and investigative entities,” said Baker. “We assist local, state and federal agencies and share information.”

He said a criminal street gang is defined as having three or more people, with a sign or symbol, involved with criminal activity. In addition, each member has committed two or more crimes, with at least one of them

being an act of violence. Then, if caught, police can charge them with criminal gang participation.

“There are more than 100 identified gangs in the National Capital Region, with some 2,000-3,000 gang-associated people living here,” said Baker. He also noted that the number of gang-related crimes in this county rose from 1,338 in 2015 to 2,056 in 2016 — an increase of 65 percent. And, he said, “Most of them stem from drug-related incidents.”

However, added Cassell, “They sometimes do crimes having nothing to do with a gang, such as hit-

SEE STREET GANGS, PAGE 11

OPINION

Challenges Remain for Police Reform

Including communications and body cameras.

BY PHILLIP NIEDZIELSKI-EICHNER

Oct. 8 will be the second anniversary of the 2015 release of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission Final Report. The catalyst for the Ad Hoc Commission's formation by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors was the August 2013 shooting death of John Geer. The commission was charged with assessing the Police Department's performance against national best practices.

GUEST EDITORIAL

The commission made more than 200 recommendations for transforming an excellent Police Department into one that is "best in class" and for strengthening the public's trust and confidence in the department.

I served as commission member and as the chairman of Use of Force Subcommittee. I am also a member of a loosely configured Implementation Committee, a group of former commission members dedicated to helping to see that our recommendations are effectively implemented.

I commend both the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and Police Department for their progress implementing the commission's recommendations. Significant reforms are underway that when fully realized will generate increased accountability and public confidence. Major reforms already in place include:

- forming the Office of the Independent Police Auditor to determine the thoroughness, completeness, accuracy, objectivity and impartiality of investigations of death or serious injury cases.

- convening a Civilian Review Panel to review civilian complaints regarding "abuse of authority" or "serious misconduct" by a police officer;

- creating "Diversion First," which offers alternatives to incarceration for people with mental illness or developmental disabilities; and

- recrafting the Use of Force General Order to enshrine sanctity of human life as an organizing principle, with de-escalation as the strategy of first resort when confronted with a threat rather than the use of deadly force.

WHILE MUCH HAS BEEN accomplished, more is work is needed. For example, the commission advocated in strong terms for information-sharing reform to promote timeliness, completeness and transparency. In this regard, a revised Police Department Communication Policy is still in process.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Step Forward For Women's Rights

To the Editor:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has taken steps to allow women to drive.

While this is a monumental step forward for



The commission also called for all officers to be outfitted with body worn cameras, contingent on the enactment of laws, policies and procedures that protect individual privacy. These cameras are to complement the dashboard cam-

eras now mounted in each Fairfax patrol vehicle.

While a potential aid to criminal prosecution, the body-worn camera's equally important contribution is to foster greater transparency and the accountability of all parties during the interactions of the police with the public. As the American Civil Liberties Union noted in an October 2014 report, body-worn cameras "[have] the potential to be a win-win, helping protect the public against police misconduct, and at the same time helping protect police against false accusations of abuse."

While the county leadership has committed to deploying this technology, its approach has been appropriately methodical. Key considerations are operational, privacy, data security and cost. For example, the supervisors have approved a pilot project that will deploy cameras in two of the county's nine magisterial districts and the department is currently evaluating proposals from prospective suppliers.

THIS PILOT PROJECT needs to generate answers to following questions, among others: the county needs to establish when cameras will be running and how will the public know the cameras are on? When can biometric technology – such as facial recognition – be used? How will the video footage be secured from hackers? Who will have access to the data and under what procedures?

How will the massive amount of video data be stored and for how long? As the county understands and appreciates, the cost of deploying body-worn cameras is not in the cameras themselves, but the storage of the massive amount of data that is generated. As reported by the Center for Digital Government and Government Technology magazine, "When it comes to [body-worn cameras], data storage is the 800-pound gorilla in the room. Video ... is a data hog."

This reality generates cost-driven data-retention policy considerations. How long should non-evidentiary video be maintained? Some police departments say it should be 60-90 days,

women's rights in the country, this only follows in the vein of what Muhammad sought to bring about 1,400 years ago.

The Arabia of his time was violently anti-woman. Muhammad ended the barbaric practice of female infanticide. He gave women the right to property and inheritance. He brought about women's rights in marriage and in soci-

ety at large. He went so far as to say that, "Paradise lies under the feet of your mother." (Ibn Majah)

As Ahmadi Muslims and Americans, we routinely benefit from the countless freedoms provided in this nation. Thus we encourage Saudia

others say less or more. With regard to evidentiary data used in criminal prosecutions, the Virginia Commonwealth requires that evidence be stored for 99 years. Finally, who controls access to the data? This question is becoming an increasingly significant issue nationally. Protecting evidence chain-of-custody for purposes of criminal prosecution is a necessary but not sufficient role to warrant the cost and the data protection risks inherent in the deployment of body-worn cameras. The real return-on-investment is the potential for influencing the behavior, through greater transparency and accountability, of all parties in a law-enforcement engagement. The drive to use this technology is inexorable. A recent CATO Institute/YouGov poll found that 92 percent of the public supports the use of body-worn cameras. Implicit in this level of support are high public expectations that this technology will make a difference in law enforcement practices. Heightened expectations alone should give our policymakers pause, particularly when we know that no technology deployment is free of all mistakes and errors. The only thing worse in today's context than not collecting the data during a controversial use-of-force incident, is for the public to learn that video data under the Police Department's control is missing.

We should therefore challenge the assumption that video-camera data must be maintained under the sole access control of the Police Department. Options that should be given explicit consideration by the Board of Supervisors, Police Department and Commonwealth's Attorney include assigning video data access control to the Independent Police Auditor or alternatively assigning this role to a board composed of the Police Chief, Independent Auditor and Commonwealth's Attorney.

On this second anniversary of the Ad Hoc Policy Review Commission Report, the county and Police Department have many accomplishments to be proud of with regard to implementing the commission's recommendations.

Quality-driven change is hard; some changes are especially difficult. Body-worn camera deployment is one that requires careful study and diligent attention to complex legal and operational details. I commend the county for taking the appropriate measured response to meeting this recommendation and, especially with regard the matter of access to video data, challenge the conventional wisdom that access control to such data must be under the sole purview of the Police Department.

Phillip A. Niedzielski-Eichner is a member of the Fairfax County Planning Commission, served on the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission and a former member of the Fairfax County School Board.

SEE LETTER, PAGE 11

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
centreview@connectionnewspapers.com

Steven Mauren
Editor, 703-778-9415
smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

Mike Salmon
Assistant Editor
msalmon@connectionnewspapers.com

Bonnie Hobbs
Community Reporter, 703-778-9415
bhobbs@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Worker
Reporter
aworker@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,
Ali Khaligh
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher
Jeanne Theismann
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

CIRCULATION
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

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From left: Etheldreda Tsashua, Mark Ako-Takang, Audrey Ako-Takang, Maria Isabel Resende, Laura Rodrigues and Florence Awoukeng represent two West African nations — the Republic of Cameroon and the Republic of Angola. Guests enjoyed fufu and eru — a wild, leafy vegetable dish made with chicken, flavored with hot pepper and served with cooked oatmeal in the St. Timothy Catholic Church gymnasium.

International Day at St. Timothy's

BY MARTI MOORE

At least 1,500 parishioners and guests attended the 5th annual International Day celebration Saturday, Sept. 30 in St. Timothy Catholic Church at 13807 Poplar Dr. Event planner Terri Miller,

said the event showcased 35 nationalities Sept. 30 for this annual church fundraiser that pays for the chapel expansion and more meeting rooms. At this time, Miller says St. Timothy has more than \$2 million to begin the construction project in November and needs another half million to complete within a year.

Although the women of the Chantilly Cenacle Group at St. Timothy Catholic Church hail from the Philippines, they kicked-up their heels and showcased skills they learned in a Western Line Dance class they took together at the Oak-Marr Recreation Center in Oakton.

PHOTOS BY MARTI MOORE



Andrew Curtis Engaged to Sarah Martin

Steve and Sandie Curtis of Little Rocky Run are pleased to announce the engagement of their son, Andrew Curtis to Sarah Martin. Drew graduated from Centreville High School in 2003 and received a Civil Engineering degree from UVA in 2007. Drew is a civil engineer at Dewberry in Fairfax. Sarah graduated from Western Branch High School in Virginia Beach in 2004 and received a systems engineering degree from Virginia Tech in 2009. Sarah is a senior consultant with Ernst & Young. A Sept. 8, 2018 wedding is being planned.



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SENIOR LIVING

A Household Re-Forms, and Looks Forward

Sun Design Remodeling's in-law addition complements existing architecture.

BY JOHN BYRD

Julia grew up in the Fort Hunt section of Alexandria in a close-knit family. She started dating a neighbor's son, Jack MacInnis, while still in high school and, in time, the two friends married. In the late 1990s Julia's father, Don Clark, died leaving her mother, Lita Clark, alone in the family home. A survivor of the Japanese occupation of the Philippines, Clark (as always) remained upbeat, independent; a loving mother and friend.

Fast forward a few years and Jack and Julia MacInnis own a house not far from Clark with whom they are in daily contact. Then, in 2010 — with two sons growing quickly — the couple purchased a four-bedroom contemporary on a 1.5 acre lot in Fairfax. It's only a half hour drive from Clark, but the timing for a larger house was just right.

In the intervening years, Clark (who turns 84 this month) would visit the MacInnis residence regularly, often staying over one or two nights a week. At this stage, the three of them began actively planning ways to augment the household by building an in-law suite on some part of the existing property. Eventually, attention focused on a side elevation of the existing house which offered views of surrounding wooded acreage.

THE LOT ITSELF presented challenges. The grade sloped radically on the northeast side where the lower-level (the intended site for the new in-law addition) exited from a pair of sliding glass doors to a small deck. Because of the slope, there were potential water run-off problems; also, Fairfax County's building code required that any new construction had to allow for a full 25 feet of "set-back" from the rear of the property.



At 580 square feet, the new suite is seamlessly married to the original house. Lead designer John Benedetto's "massing" of the new construction preserves proportionality and scale. Vinyl siding, fascia, soffits, gutters and downspouts are all matched to the existing home.



PHOTO BY JULIA MACINNIS PHOTOGRAPHY

Lita Clark (who just turned 84) in the master bedroom of the in-law suite recently added to the home of her daughter Julia MacInnis and son-in-law, Jack. The room was designed to accommodate several heirlooms, including the twin beds under a course of Mi windows that assure privacy, yet allow abundant natural light.

"We knew an addition of this size on this grade was going to require careful engineering," said Craig Durosko, whose firm Sun Design Remodeling found both the design and structural solutions that would make the project feasible. "Still, it's helpful when the homeowners are proactive in the decision-making process at every juncture."

Added Julia MacInnis: "We were looking for a plan that would provide privacy and independence for Mom, yet also fully incorporate her into the household. We've functioned as a family for our entire lives. Mom helped to raise the boys, and she was raised in a multi-generational culture. We saw this change as a way of creating an expanded environment that would work for everyone far into the foreseeable future."

Clark's new suite would be a 580-square-foot annex constructed outside the existing house directly parallel to the lower level. A sliding glass door that accesses the outside would be converted into an interior pocket door that opens into a downstairs recreation room.



Grab bars and a comfort-height elongated toilet are among aging-in-place considerations in the master bathroom. Shower walls and flooring are finished in porcelain tiling.

The space plan would consist of a 17-foot-by-17-foot master bedroom surrounded by windows on three sides, a master bath with a walk-in shower and heated floors, and a sitting room/kitchenette equipped with a small refrigerator, a sink and a microwave. The sitting area includes a bistro table for four with a view of the surrounding woodland. The entire household, nonetheless, share meals and kitchen duties together every day. By the same token, Julia and Jack MacInnis and sons (Jackson and Harry) are free to drop-in on Clark just about any time.

"It's a very comfortable, harmonious arrangement," Clark said. "Very much what we hoped for."

That said, engineering the suite's durable footprint was something of a feat.

"Because of the site's grading, we ended up designing a slab foundation with both stem walls and integral footings," said John Benedetto, the addition's lead designer. "To assure structural integrity, there were two concrete pours: one to form the stem walls on the new addition's left side; a second to

form the slab with integral footings on which the addition is built."

Footings are placed 30-inches below grade; the slab itself is approximately one foot above grade. The goal: assure that the weight of the new structure is adequately supported — soil compaction being a key part of the equation.

FOR ALL THE DEFT engineering, it's the suite's interior that proves memorable. The three primary living areas were designed specifically to profile heirlooms, furnishings and other personal items that Clark brought from the Fort Hunt residence.

"There were two twin beds that had been in the family for years," Julia MacInnis said. "A chest of drawers, an old vanity. Sun Design used these pieces as focal points for shaping the bedroom and sitting room. And it's not just that everything fits well ... but also that the floor plan is well-rationalized. The twin beds, for instance, fit perfectly under high windows that assure privacy, yet allow a lot of natural light. Overall, the entire suite is spacious, and quite comfortable."

On that note, the new addition has been fitted with a mini-split HVAC unit that allows Clark to adjust the suite's temperature to her requirements. Meanwhile, the bathroom has a heated floor with its own thermostat.

The addition's exterior elevations are blended with the existing house. Vinyl siding, fascia and soffits, gutters, and downspouts are all matched. Low-E Argon glass vinyl windows allow for abundant natural light and views while keeping temperatures where the thermostat requires.

In all, a comfortable accommodation ... within a thriving household.

Sun Design Remodeling frequently sponsors tours of recently remodeled homes as well as workshops on home remodeling topics. Headquartered in Burke, the firm has a second office in McLean. For more information, call 703-425-5588 or visit www.SunDesignInc.com.

John Byrd (byrdmatx@gmail.com) has been writing about home improvement for 30 years.

PHOTOS BY GREG HADLEY



BEFORE: A sliding glass door exiting from a lower-level rec room was identified as a potential link between the existing house and new in-law suite. The exterior egress was converted into an interior pocket door that enters Lita Clark's sitting room.

SENIOR LIVING

Volunteering and Keeping Young

Finding the right volunteer opportunity.

BY ROB PAINE
RSVP NORTHERN VIRGINIA

RSVP Northern Virginia volunteer Ken Kozloff moves through the pool at Providence Recreation Center encouraging the child with special needs he is teaching to swim, to “stroke, breathe, and kick.”

Kozloff high-fives his students at the end of each lap and asks, “Are you having a good time?” All the while he is keeping an eye on two other volunteers he is mentoring during a Fairfax County Park Authority Adapted Aquatics class.

Kozloff will continue to do this for about 90 minutes on a Sunday morning without much of a break. Sometimes he lifts students half his weight into the air so they can experience the joy of splashing into the pool. One would never guess that the former INOVA Alexandria Hospital CEO turned 70 years old in August. “I don’t feel 70, I feel like 25,” he said.

Kozloff donates more than 40 hours of his time each month as an RSVP Northern Virginia volunteer, helping autistic children learn how to swim, mentoring economically disadvantaged citizens to manage their finances, and directing other volunteers at large events for RSVP, including the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics in September.

RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) is the region’s largest volunteer network for people 55 and older and provides individualized support to seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria.

When he is not volunteering for other organizations, he is a volunteer engagement leader for RSVP, acting as a nonprofit evangelist of sorts, spreading the word on why RSVP is such a great program. “What’s unique about RSVP is the approach it takes to new volunteers, helping them to find what they’re looking to do, not where we are looking to place them,” he said.

RSVP asks each prospective volunteer, “How can we help you find that volunteer opportunity that is going to mean something to you?” Kozloff said. He has been with RSVP for over a year and a half.

Five years ago, he began volunteering with the Fairfax County Park Authority’s Adaptive Aquatics program, teaching children on the autism spectrum to swim. He later added another afternoon of classes at Spring Hill Recreation Center in McLean, teaching special needs adults to swim, including those with neurological issues or physical impairments. The park authority honored Kozloff in 2015 as the Adaptive Aquatics Outstanding Volunteer of the Year.

He then started working with Our Daily Bread (now called BritePaths) where he has volunteered for four years as a financial mentor. He is also a volunteer classroom instructor with Junior Achievement in Fairfax. He teaches business principles to elementary, middle, and high school students. He also teaches students with special needs in this program.

In an eight-day span in September, the RSVP volunteer managed volunteers at several community projects including the NVSO’s indoor track meet in Arlington and its swimming championships in Sterling and a gardening project at River Farm in Alexandria.

“I love to help others,” Kozloff said. “I enjoy vol-



PHOTO BY ROB PAINE/RSVP NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Ken Kozloff, center, instructs volunteer timers at the NVSO swim meet.

unteering with RSVP, not only for what I do as a volunteer, but also for the social aspect of working with other people.” During the senior Olympics he managed anywhere from 10 to 30 volunteers at the different events.

WHAT SEPARATES RSVP from other volunteer organizations is its leadership and the approach it takes, treating each volunteer as an individual, according to Kozloff. As an engagement leader, Kozloff tells prospective volunteers: “We are going to show you things and talk to you about specific opportunities that you can relate to.”

RSVP offers an array of opportunities for volunteers including providing rides, support and meals to older neighbors, assisting local veterans in need and helping prepare communities for disasters. RSVP also recruits volunteers for various community events.

RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings.

“The big thing that I get out of volunteering is the satisfaction of helping others,” he said. “I love to help others, find out what their goals are and help them achieve them, whether it is teaching an autistic child to swim from one side of the pool to the other, or teaching a stroke patient who would like to learn to swim again.”

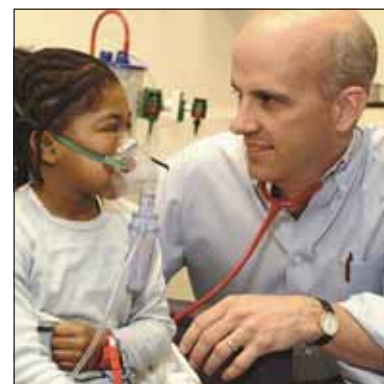
He also enjoys working with other volunteers and letting them know how important it is to make other people feel good. He tells them that they will feel twice as good because they are helping people.

“Ken is one of our most active volunteers and a great example of what it means to stay active after retirement,” said Nadia Hoonan, program manager for RSVP Northern Virginia. “He truly exemplifies the diversity of opportunities that our program offers, from leading a variety of service projects for our volunteers to cleaning up garden grounds at American Horticultural Society. No task is too small for Ken. We want more volunteers like Ken to be willing to be on the front lines of volunteering in Northern Virginia and share their lifetime experience to make a great impact in our community,” Hoonan said.

RSVP has several upcoming opportunities during which those interested can learn more about the program including orientations at the Fairfax Regional Library, Oct. 10 and at the Beatley Central Library in Alexandria, Oct. 25. RSVP will hold a special meet and greet event for current and prospective volunteers at Huntley Meadows Park, Oct. 13.

Those interested in learning more about RSVP or in signing up for any of these events should contact RSVP Northern Virginia Volunteer Specialist Carly Hubicki at 703-403-5360, email Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or visit the RSVP website at rsvpnova.org.

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The Uncertain Land of the DACAs What happens next?

BY SHIRLEY RUHE

“We live in the land of the DACAs. No one else really understands what this means.” Katherine Garcia-Ortiz came into the United States illegally with her father when she was 7-and-a-half years old. “My mother left me in Bolivia when I was 4 years old to make a better life for the family in America.” She says her mother worked at a doughnut shop and a lot of other places with 3-4 jobs at the same time to make this possible.

Garcia-Ortiz remembers when she arrived in America she thought, “who is that lady; is that my mother? I had pictures of her but this wasn’t really my mother.” Garcia-Ortiz expected a house like they had in Bolivia, but her mother lived in a small apartment. The family situation is complicated with her mother and father entering the country illegally, her sister born here and thus an American citizen and her own DACA status.

Now due to the Executive Order issued by President Obama in 2012, Garcia-Ortiz has Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status that temporarily protects her from deportation and allows her to get a work permit. In addition, the state of Virginia has issued an opinion advising Virginia colleges and universities that DACA students who meet Virginia’s domicile requirements are eligible for in-state tuition. Also she is allowed to apply for a driver’s license. All of this ends when her current DACA status expires. Then it’s “no license, no in-state tuition, and hiding.”

This will affect over 800,000 DACA recipients nationwide with 12,000 in Virginia. Since DACA is not a path to citizenship for immigrants who entered the country illegally, it will take legislation to allow them to apply for permanent status.

On Sept. 5 U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced President Trump’s decision to rescind the DACA program. Garcia-Ortiz says when she heard this she cried for three days but she decided she had to get over it and do something.

Garcia-Ortiz sits in a room at the Arlington Community High School on Walter Reed with Lizzett Uria, from Fairfax, executive director of the Dream Project. This program was established in 2010 to assist students with immigration barriers to education. Seventy-one percent are eligible for DACA status. The Dream Project provides mentoring, financial assistance for college and moral support to immigrant students to help them be successful. Garcia-Ortiz lives in Arlington and has just graduated from high school and received a \$1,500 scholarship from the Dream Project. She is enrolled in NOVA, majoring in biomedical engineering, and hopes to transfer to George Mason.

However, things are not easy for her family. “Our parents give up everything for us and then things in America are not easy for them. People back home in Bolivia think we are walking on petals. They say ‘why don’t



Lizzett Uria, executive director of the Dream Project



Katherine Garcia-Ortiz, scholarship recipient



Chelssi Jimenez-Flores, scholarship recipient

you do more for your dad who has a hernia?” Hospitals here are so expensive we can’t afford it.” Garcia-Ortiz says she is paying for school out of her pocket because her parents can’t help her. “I work so much. The scholarship from the Dream Project makes a big difference.”

“But with things the way they are now my parents are saying, ‘let’s just go back home.’ They are trying to convince me to go with them because of everything that has happened. It’s scary. Police officers are detaining people here and over here and over here. Life is better in Bolivia my parents say.” But if they return to Bolivia because of their illegal status, they won’t be able to return to America.

The culture in America is different, often most of the remaining family is still in the native country and financial struggles are common.

So why do they do it? Why do they decide to risk life in America? Sometimes it is because there is violence in their home country or conditions are bad but often the answer is reflected in a comment by Uria: “It’s about being able to be free.”

This year the Dream Project provided financial assistance to 76 students, and their goal is to increase the number each year. The program includes mentoring of high school students followed by application for a scholarship and visits to different colleges.

Uria says, “It’s important to the students that they know they have support.” As their brochure says, “Behind every student there is a personal story of struggle and commitment.” Uria says, “the students are our voice. They tell their stories and it helps people understand.”

Uria’s own story began when she arrived from Bolivia at the age of 12 on a tourist visa with her one-year-old sister and her parents. She said her parents told her they would just visit their grandparents in America and then stop at Disney World. That seemed great to her. But they didn’t return to Bolivia. “I really didn’t know I was undocumented until I was a senior in high school and asked to get my driver’s license. My parents stalled because they didn’t know what to tell me.”

She said, “My friends were all driving. They didn’t know. They saw me as a cheerleader.”

“It was a family secret. You couldn’t tell anyone. No one else knows the struggle you

go through.” Uria continues, “in Bolivia my mother was an architect and my father was in politics.” But here her mother owns a cleaning company, and her father is a cashier. “My mother is not happy about who she has become.”

“But the one I feel most guilty about is my little sister. When she was young she would ask ‘where was mom?’ Mom was always working. ‘Where was dad?’ Dad was always working, too. She would ask could she have this and the answer was no because we couldn’t afford it. A birthday party is important to a 3-year-old. Now that she is 17 she says she can understand.

“I started working at 14 with no documentation but people believed in me.” She says, “that’s what I tell my students. Don’t give up.”

Uria knows people who have gone back to Bolivia to stay but regret it. In fact, she made a trip back recently. She was able to make this trip out of the country legally because she is now married to a U.S. citizen and has a temporary green card. “People think we got married for this reason but we were together for 8 years.” But after taking a trip back to visit, Uria says she couldn’t return to live in Bolivia. “Here you work all week but you get what you need. In Bolivia it is a struggle. But,” she stresses, “it’s not all financial; it’s about being able to be free, the American dream.”

Chelssi Jimenez-Flores, another DACA recipient and Dream Project scholarship recipient also sits at the table. She arrived from Bolivia when she was 6 years old to join her dad who had been here a long time. She is currently a freshman at Marymount University in nursing and plans to add on

Definitions

Immigrant: A person who is not a citizen or a national of the U.S. and who is lawfully granted the privilege of residing in the U.S.

Illegal immigrant: A person who crosses a country’s border, in a way that violates the immigration laws of the destination country, with the intention to remain in the country.

Refugee: A person who is outside his/her country and who is unable or unwilling to return because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution due to race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA): Status granted to immigrants who meet certain age and education requirements, have lived continuously in the U.S. since June 15, 2017 and haven’t committed serious crimes.

biology. Her grandfather was in America legally and had brought over the grandmother and other uncles. She says conditions in Bolivia are bad. “There are a lot of drugs. Teenagers drink at 12.”

Now she has finished her first year at Marymount and is a mentor to younger students in the Dream Project. “I feel like in America we can all walk (anywhere we want).” Although she lives in Arlington her parents have bought a house in Maryland in order to get a driver’s license. Maryland allows a driver’s license for undocumented immigrants who live in, and pay taxes, in Maryland. In Virginia a Senate Committee killed a bill in January 2017 that would have allowed illegal immigrants to get a driver’s “privilege card.” Jimenez-Flores says if nothing permanent gets passed, “we’ll see how it goes.” She pauses and says, “I’m somewhat worried,” then wipes her eyes, “there’s nothing we can do.”

But Uria encourages her. “There is something we can do. I believe this has given us an opportunity to focus on enacting permanent legislation. We’ve been through this before DACA and we know what to do.” Although DACA protects immigrants from deportation, it is not a path to legal citizenship which can only be guaranteed through the enactment of legislation.

In the meantime they live with the uncertain future and the upcoming expiration of their status. Uria says, “That small piece of paper, it’s like magic.”

This is the second article in a series focusing on DACA.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

IN-PERSON, TV DEBATES

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) will hold four in-person forums and three televised forums for the public and the press to learn about the candidates who are running for election to the Virginia House of Delegates. The League invited all certified candidates campaigning for office in their respective districts. At the in-person forums, question-and-answer sessions will be followed by an opportunity for informal conversations with individual candidates. The public and press are

encouraged to attend. For more information about the candidates’ priorities and positions, visit www.vote411.org.

In-person forums:

❖ **Wednesday, Oct. 25** at 7:30 p.m. at Sully Government Center: 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly.

MONDAY/OCT. 16

Assistance League Meeting. 10 a.m.-noon at Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Assistance League of Northern Virginia invites community members to their October meeting. Learn about programs, including opportunities for a few new members to tutor in the Reading Express program. Free. Contact Mary Gronlund at gronbiz@aol.com or visit www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org.

Walking for Alzheimer's

Thousands gather to raise money and awareness.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

More than 1,000 people pounded the pavement in Reston last month and raised more than \$267,000. The 2017 Northern Virginia Walk to End Alzheimer's, held at the Reston Town Center, exceeded its fundraising goal of \$250,000.

Held each year in more than 500 communities around the country, The Alzheimer's Association's Walk to End Alzheimer's seeks to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research.

Ilissa Belanger of Fairfax walked to raise money and awareness of the disease.

"Both my mother and mother-in-law had Alzheimer's and it's a difficult thing to go through," Belanger said. "I want to help other families who have to go through it. I hope to raise money for treatment to slow it down or find a cure so that no one has to go through it."

This was Belanger's 10th year participating in the walk. This year she was part of a 15-member team, Walkers for Miriam and Anita, named in memory of her mother and mother-in-law respectively.

"We do walk in honor or memory of our loved ones, but also their caregivers," she said. "It's important to support the caregivers as well. In my case, it was my father and father-in-law who were wonderful as their wives were going through it."

Debbi Johnson of Centreville joined the walk for a second year in honor of her former mother-in-law. Her team consisted of members of her church, New Life Christian Church in Chantilly and her employer, Freddie Mac (Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation).

"I do charity walks because I feel that it's important to serve," said Johnson. "I felt that I should do something for Alzheimer's because there are many people I know who have been affected."

Janet Davis of Burke walked in honor of her 83-year-old father who has been living with Alzheimer's for 10 years. Both her mother and her father joined the walk this year.

"The disease has happened gradually and it's very sad to watch," she said. "My dad still has function and can dress and feed himself, but sometimes he can't remember my mom's name or my name. We're very vocal about our support of Alzheimer's."

Elizabeth Klemens, a 27-year-old nurse who lives



PHOTO COURTESY OF DEBBI JOHNSON

Debbi Johnson of Centreville joined the 2017 Northern Virginia Walk to End Alzheimer's. Her team consisted of members of her church, New Life Christian Church in Chantilly and her employer, Freddie Mac, including Ange Roeske, Denise Hargand, Kevan Fareed, Vandana Sharma, Christina Kangelaris, Elizabeth Gibson, Kathy Perrow, Keshia Jackson Joanne Macomber, Aslynn Hogue, William Hogue, Debbi Johnson, and Kristen Johnson.

"I hope to raise money for treatment to slow it down or find a cure so that no one has to go through it."

— Ilissa Belanger

in Arlington, participated in the walk for the first time this year. "My personal experience is that my grandfather had Alzheimer's and he died five years ago at 78, but he suffered for about 10 years," she said. "I'm a nurse at Reston hospital and I volunteer at the Walter Reed Adult Day Health Center, and I see the effect of Alzheimer's or dementia on almost a daily basis, so I'm very familiar with the disease."

Caryl Grant of Alexandria walked in memory of her mother who died in 2009. Her team also consisted of her husband, daughter and son-in-law. "My mother had Alzheimer's and I watched her deteriorate and it was heartbreaking," she said. "The hardest thing about it for us and other people is watching them disappear and trying to figure out the best thing to do."

The Promise Garden ceremony is a walk day event that helps illustrate the diverse reasons for participation. Participants received a Promise Garden flower in a color that represents their connection to the disease.

Blue represents someone with Alzheimer's or dementia. Purple is for someone who has lost a loved one to the disease.

Yellow represents someone who is currently supporting or caring for someone with Alzheimer's. Orange is for everyone who supports the cause and vision of a world without Alzheimer's.

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VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

Transform 66 Outside the Beltway Fairfax County & Prince William County Design Public Hearings

All hearings at 6-8:30 p.m. Brief presentation at 7 p.m.

Monday, November 13, 2017
for project segment from **Route 50 to I-495**
Oakton High School Cafeteria
2900 Sutton Road, Vienna, VA 22181

Tuesday, November 14, 2017
for project segment from **Route 29 to Route 50**
Stone Middle School Cafeteria
5500 Sully Park Drive, Centreville, VA 20120

Thursday, November 16, 2017
for project segment from **Gainesville to Route 29 in Centreville**
Piney Branch Elementary School Cafeteria/Gym
8301 Linton Hall Road, Bristow, VA 20136

Find out about plans to transform 22.5 miles of I-66 from I-495 (the Capital Beltway) to University Boulevard in Gainesville to provide congestion relief and enhanced safety, as well as new travel choices and reliability. The project will include two new express lanes alongside three regular lanes in each direction, new and expanded transit service and park-and-ride lots, and interchange improvements. For exact locations of project segments, see design plans.

Stop by between 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to view the design plans submitted by I-66 Express Mobility Partners, VDOT's selected partner for the project, and learn more about the proposed improvements. Attend the formal presentation at 7 p.m., followed by a public comment period. VDOT and I-66 Express Mobility Partners staff will be available to answer your questions during the open house.

Review project information, including design plans, project schedule, and environmental, right of way and civil rights information, at www.Transform66.org, at the hearings, or at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 beginning October 13, 2017. Please call 800-FOR-ROAD (800-367-7623) or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure the availability of appropriate personnel to answer your questions.

Give your oral or written comments at the hearings. You may also email comments to Transform66@VDOT.Virginia.gov or mail them to Susan Shaw, P.E., Megaprojects Director, at the VDOT Northern Virginia District Office address above. Please reference "Transform 66 Outside the Beltway" in the subject line. Comments must be postmarked, emailed or delivered to VDOT by November 29, 2017 to be included in the public hearing record.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Civil Rights at 703-259-1775 or TTY/TDD 711.

State Project: 0066-96A-497 UPC: 110741

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Announcements

Yard Sale

Sully Station 2 Community Wide Yard Sale

Saturday October 14th

More Information on Sully2.com

Legals

ABC LICENSE

3S Food Fair Inc trading as Choongman Chicken & Beer, 6349 Multiplex Street, Centreville, Fairfax County, VA 20121-5327. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Sung Park/President. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

SPORTS



PHOTOS BY WILL PALENSCAR

Westfield Victory

Bizzet Woodley catches one of his five receptions. Woodley would score on one of his receptions and total 90 yards. Westfield defeated Patriot High School 46-33 on Thursday, Sept. 28.



Westfield QB Noah Kim #10 runs for positive yardage in game with Patriot.



Dylan Winesett #49 pulls down Bo Giwa #6 in Westfield's win over visiting Patriot.



Taylor Morin takes this kickoff return 93 yards for a touchdown in the 4th quarter for his Westfield team.

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NEWS

Street Gangs

FROM PAGE 3

ting a girlfriend. So it would be a gang-related incident, but not gang-motivated. And the above numbers reflect both types of offenses."

He said individual gangs identify themselves by their particular type of graffiti, hand signs, drawings, tattoos, weapons and style of dress. But, said Cassell, "Nowadays, they're not wearing certain colors like they used to, so it's harder to identify them."

Their graffiti does provide some information, though. "It tells you what gangs are in an area or are claiming an area as their turf," said Cassell. "It also indicates what gangs are fighting, arguing or have a beef with each other."

As for their names, he explained, numbers in them are associated with their corresponding alphabet letters. Local gangs or crews have less members and no set chain of command. "They want to make names for themselves, are usually neighborhood- or school-specific and generally have younger members," he said.

Cassell said signs that a person is involved in a gang include many things, such as withdrawing from their family and declining school performance and attendance. "They may also dress the same way all the time, or on specific days of the week, or wear certain attire," he added. "Or they may refuse to wear certain colors of clothing. They often throw hand signs back and forth with other gang members to communicate with them, and every tattoo has a meaning."

The National Gang Center advises parents to discourage their children from associating with gang members and to let them know that death or imprisonment is a very real possibility of their involvement. Parents should also get to know their children's friends and their friends' parents and should familiarize themselves with their children's online activity and popular slang terms.

They're also encouraged to discuss with their children ways to deal with pressure from friends. Also important is making time for the family to play, eat meals and take trip together, as well as holding family meetings where children may openly talk about their plans, feelings and complaints. For more information, go to www.nationalgangcenter.gov.

LETTER

FROM PAGE 4

Arabia to continue marching towards a truly Islamic society in which all citizens are equal.

Men and women are equal in the sight of God, but in view of the differences in their nature, they have been assigned different roles for the smooth functioning of the human society. Women have the unique ability to bear children and to nurture them. Men are physically stronger. In the eye of Allah they both will be judged upon their deeds not their physical or emotional differences

Zahid Yousaf
Centreville

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A Question Which Begs What Answer



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Twice recently, in print, I have been asked the same question. Once on an evaluation of a previous doctor appointment, and within the last week, on a pre-registration form for an oral surgeon.

The question: "How is your health?" "Excellent." "Good." "Fair." "Poor." The two times I saw this question, I snickered. I mean, I have cancer: Stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer in fact, the terminal kind.

And even though I've lived way beyond my original "13 month to two-year" prognosis, (eight and a half years and counting, always counting), I'm still undergoing treatment. I see my oncologist every three months. I'm not in remission. My tumors, so far as I've been told, are not necrotic (dead). I'm still scheduling CT Scans, brain MRIs and PET Scans quarterly, semi-annually and yearly, respectively. And while amazingly thrilled to be still alive, my fate turns on the results of any one of these diagnostic scans so I wonder aloud: how is my health?

In the two most recent opportunities (I've had others) to answer this question, I have erred on the side of reality (my reality) and answered "Poor." Whether I'm up and about or down and out, cancer is sort of the definition of 'poor,' isn't it? Let's be honest: who wants to receive a diagnosis of cancer, regardless of type and/or stage. Moreover, it's hardly the gift that keeps on giving. Quite the opposite. It's like the houseguest who never leaves. It's always there and the more it's around, the worse it's likely to get.

As much as one tries, a cancer diagnosis is hard to forget. Whether you're still undergoing treatment as I am, or have been told you're cancer-free/in remission/N.E.D. (no evidence of disease), the prospect of a life unaltered by the experience is unrealistic, especially so when questions are asked pertaining to your health. It's not as if you become stigmatized by your cancer diagnosis and/or medical history, but you do become a lifetime member of a club you'd rather not have joined (the more serious and exact opposite of a feeling expressed by Groucho Marx when he so famously joked that he wouldn't want to belong to a club that would have him as a member). If only it were that simple - and funny.

A straight forward question about one's health which requires a thoughtful and honest answer. Yet, an answer which somehow must, in my opinion, educate the asker. I'm not a normal respondent (no comments from the peanut gallery). I'm a cancer patient/survivor. Presumably, my immune system is somewhat compromised. What's good for the goose is probably not good for the gander. My life expectancy is all fouled up. Cancer is likely in control.

As much as I want to delude myself otherwise, the writing, if not necessarily on the walls, is certainly in multiple books and journals. And not that there aren't exceptions to every rule (my survival is proof of that), generally speaking, a cancer diagnosis "spells trouble with a capital 'T,'" if I may invoke the late actor, Robert Preston, from his career-defining role as Harold Hill in the 1962 movie, "The Music Man." Still, life is going on, and not too badly, I may add. But on any given day ...

I suppose the solution then is an asterisk. But how does one add an asterisk to a standardized form. And given the evolving nature of our almost-entirely inhumane (non-human) electronic contact, where does one go/what does one say, to separate and be heard. I want to be treated equally, but as a cancer patient, I'm not. I'm different. If there's a box for that, I'll gladly check it. I want the best outcome, naturally. But not giving me the opportunity to properly define myself/my circumstances doesn't help either one of us. And does even less for the next respondent.

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

ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

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

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

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

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

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

Lego Block Party. Every other Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Legos will be provided for an afternoon of building. Grades 3-6. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Duplo Storytime. Every other

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

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

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

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

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

PET ADOPTIONS

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

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

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

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



www.lostdogrescue.org.

THURSDAY/OCT. 5

Cancer Cure Fundraiser. 6-9 p.m. at Centreville High School, 6001 Union Mill Road, Clifton. All monies raised will benefit the National Foundation for Cancer Research and donated in memory of former coach, Laura A. Beaver, and other community members that have influenced the program. Visit www.nfcr.org/p4tc/.

SUNDAY/OCT. 8

Family Golf Festival. 1 p.m. at Westfields Golf Club, 13940 Balmoral Greens Ave., Clifton. An afternoon of free golf instruction, clinics, fun activities, interactive golf games, family programs, a chance to win a variety of prizes. After 5 p.m., families and children can play for free as part of Marriott Golf's Kids-Golf-4-Free program. Email westfieldsgolfclub@cybergolfcentral.com.

Table Top N Gauge Model Trains. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station

Senior Exercise

Beginning Balance Class starts Saturday, Sept. 30 from 10:45-11:45 a.m. at Sully Senior Center, 14426 Albemarle Point Place, Chantilly. Certified Instructor Amanda Kelley teaches a SAIL Class, Stay Active and Independent for Life is a fitness class designed to promote balance and stability and improve cardiac conditioning. The class is 12 weeks long and is offered on Mondays and Thursdays at 10:45 a.m. There will be a pre and post class assessment survey. \$15. Email amanda.kelley@fairfaxcounty.gov for call 703-322-4475.

Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Children 4 and under and Museum members, free; ages 5-15, \$2; ages 16 and older, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, or call 703-425-9225.

FRIDAY/OCT. 13

Live Music with Hall Vote. 1-5 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway. Call 703-815-2233 or visit www.wineryatbullrun.com.

SATURDAY/OCT. 14

Station 17 Fire Station Tour. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Station 17 Centreville, 5856 Old Centreville Road. In celebration of Fire Prevention Week, all Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Stations will be hosting an Open House, stop by the local station that day to meet the firefighters, see the fire trucks, join in the activities and learn about fire safety. Visit fire.gis@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Station 38 Fire Station Tour. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Station 38 West

Centreville, 6001 Oday Drive, Centreville. In celebration of Fire Prevention Week, all Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Stations will be hosting an Open House, stop by the local station that day to meet the firefighters, see the fire trucks, join in the activities and learn about fire safety. Visit fire.gis@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Station 15 Fire Station Tour. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Station 15 Chantilly, 14005 Vernon St., Chantilly. In celebration of Fire Prevention Week, all Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Stations will be hosting an Open House, stop by the local station that day to meet the firefighters, see the fire trucks, join in the activities and learn about fire safety. Visit fire.gis@fairfaxcounty.gov.

SUNDAY/OCT. 15

N Gauge Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Children 4 and under and Museum members, free; ages 5-15, \$2; ages 16 and older, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, or call 703-425-9225.

SATURDAY/OCT. 28

Vendor Fair Fundraiser. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Liberty Middle School, 6801 Union Mill Road, Clifton. School fundraiser and raffle. Email lularoekellylisa@gmail.com.

Reptiles and Night Ride. 5-8 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Participants will be able to touch, see, smell and hear snakes, turtles, and salamanders at hands-on stations and demonstrations. This campfire program concludes with a wagon ride through a moonlit meadow and s'mores. \$10. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence or call 703-631-0013.

SUNDAY/OCT. 29

Halloween on the Rails. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Costumes welcome and goodie bags handed out. Children 4 and under and Museum members, free; ages 5-15, \$2; ages 16 and older, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, or call 703-425-9225.

NOV. 3-7

Fall Festival. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Cox Farms, 15621 Braddock Road, Centreville. Featuring Foamhenge and more. Visit www.coxfarms.com.

MONDAY/NOV. 20

Westfield Cares. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Westfields Marriott, 14750 Conference Center Drive, Chantilly. Prominent presenters, whose expertise in the areas of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, share their knowledge about their respective topics. Call 703-488-6300 or TGBragg@fcps.edu.

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