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# Two Sides to Two and a Half Cents

**Supervisors to vote on proposed budget, possible real estate tax increase on May 1.**

BY KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

**J**ames Parmelee was the seventh speaker before the Board of Supervisors on the proposed budget. Following school personnel, county employees and a speaker from the PTA, Parmelee was the first to oppose the proposed real estate tax increase.

"I figured somebody in the room should try to speak for the average taxpayer," said Parmelee, a perennial opponent of taxes, when he gave his opinion of the proposed budget on the first of three days of public comment.

More than 150 speakers testified, 158 signed up to speak, during the three days the Board of Supervisors allotted to hear from the public on the FY 2019 budget and proposed tax rate. The public comments lasted more than 11 hours and 20 minutes.

Advocates voiced passion on topics ranging from the environment, health and human services, people with disabilities and who are aging, early childhood education, fire and rescue services, pay for public safety personnel, the opioid epidemic, affordable housing, diversity, mental health treatment, school bonds and capital improvements, the triple A bond rating, the arts, libraries, competitive pay for teachers, and more.

But the issue for the board to decide on May 1 is whether to support County Executive Bryan Hill's proposed budget including a two and a half cent real estate tax increase. The board can accept the real estate tax increase or vote for a smaller amount but can not raise Hill's suggested increase.

"When the voters in Fairfax County have had an opportunity to vote on tax increases, you saw what happened last time," said Parmelee. "The voters of Fairfax County, on the very same day that they overwhelmingly voted for Hillary Clinton, they also overwhelmingly voted against the tax hike."

If the Board of Supervisors were to adopt the full two and a half cent tax rate increase, it would amount to an additional \$268 on the average homeowner's annual tax bill.

Only four speakers, and approximately 21 minutes, divided Parmelee from speaker No. 12, Kimberly Adams, of Clifton.

"Aa a mother, taxpayer and employee here in Fairfax County, my life and livelihood are impacted by every budget that this country adopts," said Adams.

"We have to remember that we are preparing the future for more than 185,000 students each year. I would encourage the



**Helen Kelly, Herndon, League of Women Voters**



**Louise Epstein, McLean, Citizens Association**



**Dale Stein, McLean, Citizens Association**



**Kay Larmer, McLean, Commission on Aging**



**Leann Alberts, Springfield, Disability Services Board**



**James Parmelee, Centreville**



**Kimberly Adams, Clifton**



**Arthur Purves, Vienna**



**Phil Niedzielski-Eichner, Oakton**



**Kofi Annan, Fairfax County NAACP**

## Their Own Words, A Glimpse

### Kofi Annan, Fairfax County NAACP

"Fairfax County's demographics are rapidly changing as you know. It is becoming increasingly diverse, and with these changes often come a unique set of challenges.

"The county's revenue outlook is the most promising it's been in years. However the rate of revenue increase is not reflected in the rate of investment in the poor and working class communities. The low income Fairfax residents, a disproportionate amount of whom are minorities, will not automatically benefit from the improved economy. Thousands will remain reliant on low-wage service sector jobs and many will not receive pay increases. Many of them will not be able to provide for their kids with pre-K education or have access to affordable housing. Therefore, we request that the county direct greater attention and resources to serving the needs of the less fortunate among us."

Annan expressed concern that the county is underfunding Pre-K education for needy families.

"This opportunity gap eventually turns into an achievement gap, and that widens over time.

"Fairfax County NAACP calls on the county to commit the resources to enroll at least 300 additional kids into Pre-K in 2019 budget and devise a long-term plan to fund at least 2,000 over the next five years.

"Expand access to affordable housing. Many low income residents will not be able to afford to live in Fairfax County. Many of these families will spend up to half or more of their annual budget" on housing.

"For the past few years, 40 percent of police use of force has been directed toward African Americans, who only make up about 10 percent of the county.

"And for the past few years, we have been asking the county to fund an outside organization to conduct a study to determine the causes of this disparity, so we can begin the process of reversing that trend."

### Helen Kelly, Herndon, League of Women Voters

"We support the new property tax rate because we believe it gives you more flexibility in meeting unexpected challenges and we applaud your increased contributions to the reserve funds to satisfy the bond rating agencies. As taxpayers we appreciate your efforts to the county's triple A rating."

Kelly supported Diversion First, gang prevention, the opioid task force, the South County police station and the Office of Elections.

### Dale Stein, president, McLean Citizens Association

"MCA is concerned about the context of the increases in spending and the apparent lack of cost savings. MCA feels that each budget should include new efficiency, in operations particularly in budgets of \$4.3 billion. ... "

### Louise Epstein, chair, McLean Citizens Association's budget and taxation committee

"We really support teacher raises" while also expressing concern about allotting millions for raises for administrators in the school system.

### Kay Larmer, McLean, Commission on Aging

"We applaud your commitment to making Fairfax a livable community for people of all ages.

"Currently in Fairfax County, about one in seven residents are older than 65. By 2020, the proportion will nearly be one in five.

"We will need more affordable and accessible housing, improved and more creative transportation services, increased home based and community based services, new communications technology, programs that promote ethnic and cultural diversity."

### Leann Alberts, Springfield, Disability Services Board

"Working age people with disabilities make up nearly 15 percent of the Virginia's population and are far more likely to be unemployed and to live in poverty than people without disabilities. Supports for people with disabilities are vital to the fabric of our community. They are every bit as essential to Fairfax County as our roads, emergency first responders, schools and environmental services. They are value added services that empower people with disabilities to live and prosper in the community."

### Enrique Carrero, Fairfax County employee

"I am proud to be the first one in my family to graduate from college, and I feel it's important to give back to the community through my job as a public employee. I help families in need get heating in the winter and air conditioning in the summer. I've heard some people say millennial workers don't care about retirement. So, let me clear that up. As a 23-year-old millennial, I care deeply about my future and believe that we all deserve to live comfortably when we're too old to work."

school system to go under a similar lines of business review that the county has gone through," said Adams, who suggested that savings from collaboration between schools and the county could be identified.

"If at the end of that exercise, savings are not identified, then we must move forward in a responsible manner that may mean raising taxes once more or looking for possible alternatives to property taxes that we have found to be so elusive here in the county," said Adams.

**THE PROPOSED \$4.29-BILLION** budget would transfer 54 percent of the total to the school system to fully fund FCPS's budget request. It would also fund pay increases for teachers and county employees.

Adams spoke for many others when she addressed quality of life.

"Like so many here, I am happy to have amazing schools, fire and rescue professionals, human services, parks and libraries within my reach. It is why my family lives here," she said, in the three minutes given to each individual speaker.

"All residents deserve an equitable opportunity to succeed if they work hard, but families that cannot afford homes in this area are a growing group. Many families are working hard but there are not enough good-paying jobs, not enough affordable care options, and certainly not enough affordable homes in this area. ... I appreciate it when you spend my tax dollars to support many who live in need alongside those of us who are doing well. We are Fairfax County and the people who live here want an inclusive and welcoming community for all."

**BECAUSE OF VIRGINIA LAW**, Fairfax County depends almost entirely on real estate taxes for revenue, putting a burden on homeowners in particular, whose increasing property values don't always demonstrate an ability to pay more.

"For nearly 20 years, this board has been raising real estate taxes two or three times faster than household income," said Arthur Purves, of Vienna.

"This goes on year after year," said Charles McAndrew, of Oak Hill.

Phil Niedzielski-Eichner is the Providence District Planning Commissioner and former school board member. But last week, Niedzielski-Eichner spoke as an individual from Oakton and was the 23rd speaker.

"The key, of course, is attracting and retaining high-quality personnel to both [schools and county]. This budget begins to recover our competitiveness in relation to compensation offered by other governmental jurisdictions. I also support the \$25 million annual increase in FCPS bonding authority to expedite its school renovation and support new construction that will alleviate severe overcrowding in some of the

SEE VOTE, PAGE 15



# Teaching Money Management

## April is Financial Literacy Month.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

**I**n an era when consumers can purchase merchandise and deposit money into a bank account using a smartphone, teaching money smarts to children can be fraught with complications. April is Financial Literacy Month and local financial advisors say teaching children how to manage their money responsibly is a necessary part of becoming a financially responsible adult.

"How a parent treats cash is the way their kids will treat cash; lead by example," said Andrea Foster, professor and department chair of Business, Economics, Accounting, Computer Applications and Paralegal Studies (BEACAPS) at Montgomery College. "If your kid sees you cutting coupons and budgeting, when they grow up they will do the same. They will see the benefits and the value of your thriftiness."

One of the most important financial lessons that a parent can teach is how to save, advises Foster. "Teach them how to budget so that they can learn how to save for what they want," she said.

Children pay attention to and learn from the ways in which their parents manage money and it's critical that they learn financial literacy at home, suggests Victoria G. Henry, assistant vice president at West Financial Services, Inc. in McLean.

"Explaining the concept of savings early to children is key," added "It is natural to want to spend everything right away, so it may be hard to understand why it is important to set a little aside for future expenses. Perhaps it could be explained by saying the savings will come in handy if a favorite toy breaks or is lost."

An ideal time to offer a lesson in saving is when a child receives money as a present for a birthday or other occasion, says Henry. "It is a good practice to have them save even 10 or 20 percent of the gift, and let them have the rest to spend how they want," she said. "If they decide to spend their fun money on something and then quickly return asking

for money for something else, it is a good to remind them that maybe they should think more carefully about how they want to spend their money in the future. This will help them get into the practice of making wise choices with spending and saving down the road when they start earning money as well."

Foster also suggests helping children develop savings goals. "[Whether] by piggy bank, envelope, can, or jar, a vessel is an important tool for teaching kids how to save for major milestones," said Foster. "Identify a goal for the saving and have them save towards that goal."

Transparency builds enthusiasm, adds Foster. "Using a clear jar for saving creates enthusiasm and motivation as the kids see it fill up with the coins," she said. "[Saving] also teaches then self-reliance and not counting on their parents to help them for everything. By giving a reward, kids can learn the value of money and how to spend money."

Foster also suggests encouraging children to keep a spending diary and limiting the amount of money they can spend or the number of items they can purchase when shopping for themselves. "Show them that stuff costs money," she said. "Have them keep track of all the money that mom and dad spend on them in one month, from food to clothing and other things. They will real-

ize how much it costs to maintain them and how much all the stuff that they want costs."

Involve children in a family's charitable donations, advises Henry. "Ask your children to think about what kinds of charitable efforts the family should support," she said. "Have them research and pick a charity and then make a small contribution to that organization on their behalf."

"Have children earn their allowance and let children experience the pain of not having enough money if they don't budget correctly," said Dr. Brian Hollar assistant professor of Accounting, Economics & Finance at Marymount University. "Experience is a good teacher and learning when the stakes are low is invaluable."

Hollar underscores the importance of teaching solid math skills. "It's hard to develop strong financial literacy without understanding exponential growth," he said.



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

**Teaching young children about the concept of saving money is a critical part of financial literacy.**

**"Explaining the concept of savings early to children is key. It is natural to want to spend everything right away, so it may be hard to understand why it is important to set a little aside for future expenses."**

**— Victoria G. Henry,  
West Financial Services, Inc.**

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# NEWS

## Robbery Suspect Arrested After Seeing Himself on Social Media; Second Suspect Identified and Charged

A robbery suspect who saw himself and his accomplice in surveillance photos released by FCPD detectives has turned himself in. Rodrigo Mercado Rifarace, 19, of Springfield, called the number listed in April 4 release after seeing photos from the robbery scene circulating on social media. An investigation determined the suspects, Mercado Rifarace and 20-year-old Ariel Alvarado Camacho, of Alexandria, took the game from the victim and implied they had a weapon as they walked away.



**Rodrigo Mercado Rifarace**

The robbery happened in Annandale on the morning of April 4 near Patriot Drive and Heritage Drive. It was reported right away, and police canvassed the area looking for any witnesses and surveillance cameras. Detectives released photos to the public asking for anyone with information to come forward. One of the suspects reached out to the police after seeing those photos.

FCPD thanks to everyone in the community who helped by sharing and retweeting the photos, and calling in tips.



**Surveillance photos**

**CALENDAR**

			1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31		

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# Send in Mother's Day Photos

**M**other's Day is Sunday, May 13 this year, and as every year at this time, This newspaper calls for submissions to our Mother's Day photo gallery.

Send photos of mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, with children or without children in the photos. Please name everyone in the photo, the approximate date taken, describe what is happening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. We will not print your full address or contact information.

You can upload photos and information directly to [www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday/) or email to [editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com).

Mother's Day is just one of many occasions throughout the year that we would love to receive photos from our readers. Send us photos and notes when anything of note is happening in your family, neighborhood, school, club ... Be sure to include basic information: Name everyone in the photo, the approximate date taken, describe what is happening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. We will not print your full address or contact information. Send to [editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com)

Soon after we publish our Mother's Day

photo galleries, we will begin to ask for submissions for our Father's Day galleries. Father's Day is June 17 this year.

Each year we seem to receive many more photos for Father's Day. We're curious whether that is because it is the second of the set so readers are more aware or because mothers are more likely to send in images of the Dads.

Twice a year we ask you to send photos and tell us stories about your pets and how they have come into, touched and left your lives, publishing the last week in July and the last week in February.

In late summer, we invite readers to share what they know about their community for neighbors and newcomers alike.

And wrapping up the year, we gather writing and art from local students to fill our holiday edition. Each year, through an enormous effort by area teachers and school staff we receive an amazing display of student talent.

Regular contributions to our entertainment calendars, community bulletin boards, school notes, and business notes help us to share news in your community. We also always welcome photos and captions from community organizations (Scouts, sports teams, faith groups, school activities, etc.) and local businesses.

Please start by sending in photos for Mother's Day, preferably by May 4. [www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday/).

## Virginia Press Association Winners

Connection writers and photographers garnered awards at the Virginia Press Association annual award banquet. Here is the list of our winners, with more details to come in the future:

First Place, Michael Lee Pope, Business and Financial Writing, Great Falls Connection  
First Place, Bonnie Hobbs, Public Safety Writing, Chantilly Connection  
First Place, Mark Mogle, Pictorial Photo, Great Falls Connection  
First Place, Mark Mogle, General News Photo, Arlington Connection  
First Place, Eden Brown, Public Safety Writing, Arlington Connection  
Second Place, Dan Brendel, Government Writing, Alexandria Gazette Packet  
Second Place, Vernon Miles, Feature Series or Continuing Story, Alexandria Gazette Packet  
Second Place, Fallon Forbush, Breaking News Writing, McLean Connection  
Second Place, Fallon Forbush, General News Writing, Reston Connection  
Second Place, Bonnie Hobbs, General News Writing, Fairfax Connection  
Second Place, Marilyn Campbell, Education Writing, Great Falls Connection  
Third Place, Shirley Ruhe, Personality or Portrait Photo, Arlington Connection  
Third Place, Fallon Forbush, Education Writing, Great Falls Connection  
Third Place, Mary Kimm, Editorial Writing, Great Falls Connection

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## It's Time to Give Volunteers the Credit They Deserve

To the Editor:

This week, April 15-21, is National Volunteer Week, an opportunity for organizations across the country to pause and recognize the importance and impact of the millions of selfless individuals who volunteer in our communities. Governor Northam recently honored some of Virginia's most remarkable individuals and organizations that have committed to service across the Commonwealth at the 2018 Virginia Governor's

Volunteerism and Community Service Awards. Their stories of service were touching, uplifting, and an inspiration for all of us to do more for others. I encourage you to read more about these remarkable volunteers at [VirginiaService.virginia.gov](http://VirginiaService.virginia.gov).

And yet, this amazing group of volunteers are just a fraction of the more than 2 million who serve annually in Virginia. Each day, individuals give their time and talents to make our communities

safer, healthier and stronger. Whether it is the parents and grandparents volunteering in our schools, community members collecting and donating food to our food banks, or busy professionals utilizing their skills to help individuals and organizations in times of need — volunteers are the force behind addressing our greatest challenges.

On behalf of the Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism, I would like to

thank these fantastic volunteers. Thank you for caring. Thank you for committing. Thank you for understanding the power of service. We want you to know that we see you and we hear stories of how you are changing communities for the better. You provide hope to so many and inspire others to follow your lead to serve.

**Jessica Bowser**

Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism

## BULLETIN BOARD

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

#### STEM Professionals Needed.

Help assist K-12 STEM teachers as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, [stemvolunteers.org](http://stemvolunteers.org), during the 2018-19 school year. In the 2017-18 school year, there are 85 volunteers in six Northern Virginia school districts. Contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488, or [donaledge@aol.com](mailto:donaledge@aol.com).

#### Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed.

Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriendA-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact

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

Ibrahim Khalil at [Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov) or 703-324-4547.

**Volunteer Victims Needed.** Virginia Task Force 1 (VA-TF1) is holding a full scale exercise and needs volunteers to act as victims in need of rescue. The exercise will take place from the evening of Monday, April 23 through afternoon of Thursday, April 26. A minimum shift of six hours is expected, overnight volunteers are especially needed. "Victims" will need to be able to crawl in and out of rubble piles, capable of sitting or lying in place for extended periods of time, and not mind getting dirty. Contact Christopher Yorty at [christopher.yorty@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:christopher.yorty@fairfaxcounty.gov).

**PARENTS HELPING PARENTS**  
**Parent Support Partners**, a service

of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax) or [www.nam-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html](http://www.nam-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html).

### KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

**Child turning 5 years old by Sept.30?** If so, contact your child's school to make arrangements for kindergarten enrollment. Most schools begin getting information together now for parents of incoming

kindergartners, and many host an orientation or open house. All kindergarten programs are full-day and located in FCPS elementary schools. Check your school's webpage or contact the school directly for specific enrollment information and dates of orientation or visit [www.fcps.edu/registration/kindergarten-registration](http://www.fcps.edu/registration/kindergarten-registration).

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED

**The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum** needs volunteer docents on Sunday afternoons from 1-4 p.m. Greet museum visitors and tell them about the exhibits, the Museum and the its railroad and Civil War history.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

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## COMMENTARY

# Affordable Housing Must Be Part of U.S. 1's Remake

BY SCOTT SUROVELL  
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



**U**.S. 1's revitalization, called Embark, is generating some legitimate questions about the future of affordable housing for current and future members of our community. The first part of the Embark plan envisions building 14 miles of bus rapid transit and extending the Yellow Line to Hybla Valley. This is a long-overdue plan that can bring new life, opportunities and jobs to our area.

From the beginning, I have been concerned about Embark Route 1's impact on affordable housing and have raised concerns in the planning meetings. The South County Task Force led by Mary Paden recently convened a panel discussion on affordable housing after it was largely omitted from the Embark Route 1 recommendations.

The Route 1 Multimodal Alternative Analysis Study developed by Virginia's Department of Rail and Public Transit — the study that started the planning process — was premised on the assumption that 50 percent of transit capital funding would come from the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) "New Starts" Program. New Starts is a five-year process that

brings federal co-investments in transit projects that meet certain criteria.

The FTA's published 2016 policy guidance is clear that obtaining federal funds is contingent upon high population densities and pedestrian accessibility within one-half mile of transit stations and "legally binding affordable housing" within the one-half mile area around each station. It says:

"This definition, includes, but is not limited to, state or federally supported public housing, and housing owned by organizations dedicated to providing affordable housing. For the land use measure looking at existing affordable housing, FTA is seeking legally binding affordability restricted units to renters with incomes below 60 percent of the area median income and/or owners with incomes below the area median that are within a half mile of station areas and in the counties through which the project travels."

One reason FTA chose to include affordable housing in the land use criteria was to ensure that neighborhoods surrounding proposed transit stations have the fundamentals in place to ensure that as service is improved over time, there is a mix of housing options for existing and future residents.

One measure of the readiness of a community to accept a new transit investment and avoid significant gentrification that can occur over time is the presence of "legally binding affordability restricted" units. These units have protections in place to ensure that they will continue to be available to low- and moderate-income households as changes in the corridor occur.

The FTA makes clear that plans that wipe out existing lower-and-moderate-income populations will not be funded.

Therefore, as U.S. 1 upgrades move forward, if we want to see them funded, we need to find a way to move 80,000 additional people into the U.S. 1 Corridor, using new development and infrastructure without displacing all of our existing residents.

Fairfax County's existing affordable housing ordinance and program are not adequate to address this issue and must be strengthened. In recognition of that, the Board of Supervisors has set up a committee to study the affordable housing issue and recommend solutions so that we can meet these objectives with Embark Route 1, obtain federal funding and maintain affordable housing for everyone.

As someone who has lived in this area for 46 years and whose family first came to eastern Fairfax County in 1941, I strongly

believe that the U.S. 1 Corridor's economic and cultural diversity is what makes our community special. As a student at West Potomac High School, I had friends from many neighborhoods and we did not care where you grew up or whether you lived on the river, in a rambler, in a split level or in a manufactured home.

As we prepare for U.S. 1's modernization, we can have the benefits of high-density, transit-oriented development, walkable communities, protection of natural assets and revitalization of the U.S. 1 Corridor without losing its character. Decision-makers have to address these challenges to get the project funded.

It is an honor to serve as your state senator. You can reach me at [scott@scottsuovell.org](mailto:scott@scottsuovell.org) if you have any feedback.

## Volunteers Needed

Volunteer Solutions provides meaningful volunteer opportunities to improve the lives of older adults and adults with disabilities in Fairfax County. We update our Urgent Needs list regularly. If you don't see what you are looking for, consider another opportunity or call 703-324-5406, TTY 711. Apply online at [volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov)

SEE VOLUNTEERS, PAGE 14

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The official ribbon-cutting ceremony for the purchase of the Stribling property at Pohick Bay Regional Park.

# NOVA Parks Expands

Acquires 3.2-acre Stribling Property within Pohick Bay Regional Park.

By STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Saturday, April 14, 2018 for a new 3.2-acre parcel of land known as the Stribling property, which was purchased by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority and will be added to Pohick Bay Regional Park.

The waterfront property valued at \$2.1 million is situated on the Mason Neck peninsula in a lot located within the current park borders that had served as a private property before Pohick Bay was a regional park.

"We're really excited to add another piece of parkland to the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority System and also to the land that we've preserved on Mason Neck," said Paul Gilbert, Executive Director of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NOVA Parks). "It's a beautiful property overlooking Pohick Bay. It has water access; it's right near our camping facilities. And it's a great addition to the park and will serve the public for generations to come."

"We actually have 1,800 acres on Mason Neck – 1,000 acres is Pohick Bay Regional Park, and another 800 acres, which is part of the land that we lease to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service," he said. "So, we've been involved in preserving land on Mason Neck from the very beginning."

"We preserved the first piece of land here in the 1960s and have

been adding to it ever since. Having parkland is a critical part of having a good community and good resources for the public. A key test for any park agency is, is it growing? Because we have to be growing our land base of parkland as our population grows," he said.

**THE PURCHASE** was made possible through a series of conservation grants, including the Land and Water Conservation Fund as well as the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation. In addition to the grants, a below market rate loan was provided by the Virginia Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund, administered by Virginia Resources Authority. The property will also be protected by a conservation easement held by the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT) to further ensure the conservation vision for this parkland.

Michael Nardolilli, Chairman of NOVA Parks, said: "As our region's population grows, so does the necessity for more public parkland. The Board and staff of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority are committed to doing our part to provide for the increasing needs of park patrons."

He added: "The land portfolio of NOVA Parks has grown by 20 percent over the past decade or an additional 2,000 acres. So, if we put that in terms that we can all understand, 2,000 acres is about three-square miles of new public parkland over the past 10 years — or that would be three Arlington National Cemeteries. And in our area where land is a premium, that

really makes a difference."

Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mt. Vernon) added: "There's a lot of history here. A lot of the quality of life for this area is about the parks and the green space that we have here. Mount Vernon District has amazing numbers of options and resources and opportunities for people to enjoy the natural world. And even the parts of the natural world that man has intervened, even those are some amazing places along the Potomac and Mt. Vernon Estate, and the fact that we have woods and views like this."

According to Katie Weidenfeller, a NVCT Board member: "This property wouldn't be happening today if it weren't for the partnership.... The Northern Virginia Conservation Trust's role in this partnership is to make sure this land stays like this and it remains a place for wildlife — for people to enjoy nature in perpetuity."

That's what land trusts do. We are institutions that protect land forever. So, this land will be here for your grandkids and your great-grandkids and hopefully they'll be able to see this beautiful view as well."

Added Glenda Booth of the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation: "It's a rare opportunity and an honor to be able to preserve anything and especially a parcel here on the river. And the Foundation chose this project.... This was chosen and recommended by the staff and chosen by the Board because of its location on the Potomac River and its adjacency to a conserved area to a park. The

Board believed it could also contribute to public recreation in our area and to water quality of the river and to the overall integrity of the Mason Neck Peninsula."

According to Brian Bauer, Marketing and Communication Administrator with Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. "This was the Stribling property formerly when the park was created many years ago. This property remained a private residence and only recently did the owner decide that it was time to sell, and fortunately for us, she approached us first."

Gilbert said in the near future, the property won't change dramatically. The two existing houses on the Stribling property could be rented to park staff. In the longer term, he said it could be used for overflow camping.

"It's a beautiful site where folks could launch a canoe or kayak. We could have tent camping or small cabins that would be a nice addition to that because our camping facilities continue to be very popular. They're busier now than they've been for decades," said Gilbert.

**NOVA Parks** was founded in 1959 as a regional park agency with parks in Arlington, Fairfax, and Loudoun counties, and Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church. It has about 12,300 acres and 33 parks, much of it protecting the rivers and waterways of our region. Pohick Bay Regional Park offers a variety of amenities for its users, including camping (tents, cabins and RVs), trails, golf, boating, playgrounds and a waterpark.



(From left): Paul Gilbert, Executive Director, NOVA Parks; Michael Nardolilli, NOVA Parks Chairman; Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck; and Glenda Booth, Board Member with the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation.



Michael Nardolilli, NOVA Parks Chairman, addresses the crowd.



Paul Gilbert, Executive Director of NOVA Parks, addresses the crowd.



Mt. Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck addresses the crowd.



Kathie Weidenfeller, Northern Virginia Conservation Trust Board Member.



Glenda Booth, Board Member with the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation.



Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck talks with NOVA Park officials at the ribbon-cutting for the Stribling property.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## ONGOING

**Art Exhibit: Pulp Fiction.** Through April 29, gallery hours in Arches Gallery, Building W-9 of the Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Pulp Fiction showcases work by artist Anne Hollis, exploring mixed media art while focusing on moments in time from mythological stories to real life. Visit [www.workhousearts.org/](http://www.workhousearts.org/).

**Art Exhibit: The Scenic Route.** Through May 6, gallery hours at Warrior Way Gallery (W-16), Lorton Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Chester Kasnowski, a veteran of the United States Air Force, is a multi-disciplinary artist who believes in the power of tradition and history. In The Scenic Route, Kasnowski engages with the history of landscape imagery and modernizes the genre through his use of abstracted brush strokes. Free. Visit [www.workhousearts.org/event/chester-kasnowski-scenic-route/](http://www.workhousearts.org/event/chester-kasnowski-scenic-route/) for more.

**Art Exhibit: This and That.** Through May 7, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily at The Artists' Undertaking Gallery, 309 Mill St. in Historic Occoquan. "This and That." an features copper work by Anne Jordan of Fairfax; oil paintings by Steve Myles of Reston; and turned wood by Greg Wandless of Fairfax. Call 703-494-0584 or visit [www.theartistsundertaking.com](http://www.theartistsundertaking.com).

**Rock of Ages – The Musical.** Through May 20, Fridays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center, Building W-3 (Theatre), 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. This Tony-Award winning musical takes the audience back to the 1980s era of big: big bands, big egos big guitar solos and big hair. Amidst the madness, aspiring rock star Drew longs to become the next big thing in music, and longs for fresh-off-the-bus newcomer Sherrie, a Kansas kid with stars in her eyes. This musical comedy lovingly features hits from the time with music from Styx, Journey, Bon Jovi, Whitesnake and many more. Parental discretion advised. \$20-\$35. Visit [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org).

**FUN-Exercise** Thursdays, noon-12:50 p.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church Family Room, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Inova certified exercise instructor leads a moderate level exercise class with music and current events conversation. Muscle, Balance, Strength Training using stretch bands and weights both standing and seated exercises. Instructor donation is \$5. [moorefitt@yahoo.com](mailto:moorefitt@yahoo.com) or 703-499-6133.

**English Conversation Groups** weekly at George Mason, Burke Centre, and Lorton Libraries Practice and improve your English. Day and start times vary. Visit: [va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp](http://va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp)

## THURSDAY/APRIL 19

**FACETS' Opening Doors Breakfast.** 7-9 a.m. at Fairview Park Marriott, 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church. Free breakfast to educate the public and local businesses about FACETS' work to help families and individuals who are struggling in the Fairfax community. Several FACETS' clients will be sharing their stories about homelessness and efforts to overcome it. Contact Shawn Flaherty at 703-554-3609.

## THURSDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 19-22

**Library Book Sale.** Thursday, 3-9 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, noon-5 p.m. at George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Find thousands of high-quality books, CDs, DVDs, and video games at the George Mason Friends Spring Book Sale. Come early for the best selection, then come back on Sunday for half-price bargains. Visit [GeorgeMasonFriends.blogspot.com](http://GeorgeMasonFriends.blogspot.com).

## FRIDAY/APRIL 20

**Family Movie Night: Leap.** 7 p.m. at Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Leap (rated PG). An adult must accompany anyone under the age of 14. Lights go down at 7 p.m., and participants may bring their own snacks. Fairfax-based nonprofit organization Britepaths will accept donations of non-perishable food from 7-9 p.m. Admission is free. Call 703-385-7858.

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 20-21

**Volunteer: Healthy Strides 2018.** At Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Support those who are trying to make healthier



## 'The Front Page'

Set in a Chicago press room in the 1920s, reporter Hildy Johnson wants to break away from journalism and get married. All that changes when an escaped convict, Earl Williams, breaks out of jail and suddenly falls into the reporter's hands. Fast-paced and filled with crisp dialog and sharp humor, this classic comedy packs a wallop of nostalgic Americana. Through April 21; Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. at The James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Visit [www.providenceplayers.org](http://www.providenceplayers.org) for tickets.



Virginia Ballet dancer.

## Coppelia

Virginia Ballet Company And School will present the classic ballet Coppelia, professionally staged and fully costumed. Saturday, April 28, 2 and 7 p.m. in the Ernst Community Cultural Center Theater, Northern Virginia Community College Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. \$30 for adults and \$20 for children, students and seniors, plus a \$3 fee per each ticket at [www.vaballet.org](http://www.vaballet.org). A limited number of general admission tickets (\$12) is available for the Working Stage Rehearsal on Friday, April 27 at 6:30 p.m. Must be purchased in advance online.

strides in their lives by volunteering at the Healthy Strides 2018 Community 5K, 10K and Fun Run. Volunteers are needed Friday, April 20, 2:30-8 p.m. to distribute race packages. On race day, Saturday, April 21, volunteers will be needed 5:30 a.m.-noon, registration and bag check, staff the hospitality and refreshment tables, serve as course attendants, and help with water stops [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/healthy-strides/community-10k5k-run](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/healthy-strides/community-10k5k-run).

**Short Play Festival.** Mixer at 7 p.m.; show starts at 8 p.m. both nights at Epicure Café, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. An interfering mother attempts to "out" her gay son...A scientist creates the 'perfect' woman, who thinks she's too

good for him .... In the wee hours of Black Friday, two sisters plot, in military precision, their shopping strategy for the day.... Infinity Stage presents its 2018 10 x 10 x Infinity Short Comedy Play Festival. Seating is limited. Tickets \$20 at [www.infinitystage.com](http://www.infinitystage.com).

## APRIL 20-MAY 11

**Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts Festival.** The 33rd Annual Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts Festival kicks off with a glittering Gala evening Friday, April 20 at Old Town Hall celebrating three decades of arts in the City of Fairfax. Some events are free and some require a fee. Visit [www.fairfaxspotlight.org](http://www.fairfaxspotlight.org).

## SATURDAY/APRIL 21

**Pet Adoption Event.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Pet Supplies Plus, 11054 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Find a new forever animal friend with the help of the City of Fairfax Animal Control and Animal Shelter. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/government/police/programs/animal-control/adopt-a-pet](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/police/programs/animal-control/adopt-a-pet).

**Walk to End Sexual Violence.** 9:45 a.m. at Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 4th Annual Fairfax County Walk to End Sexual Violence and resource fair. Activities will include DJ, Zumba, raffles, and food trucks (11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.). Family-friendly event, children and pets are welcome. Free. Contact Angela Acosta at [Angela.Acosta@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Angela.Acosta@fairfaxcounty.gov) or 703-324-9484. Visit [bit.ly/2uZOi1i](http://bit.ly/2uZOi1i) for more.

**Benefit Buffet Luncheon.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Outback Steakhouse, 6651 Backlick Road, Springfield. The Springfield Outback Steakhouse will be presenting a fundraiser to benefit the Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance. Cover charge is \$35 and includes an all you can eat buffet including sliced steak, sliced chicken, side dishes, non-alcoholic beverages and dessert. Live music. Visit [www.curefa.org](http://www.curefa.org), or contact Donna Wilson at the Springfield Outback at [obs4713@outback.com](mailto:obs4713@outback.com) or 703-912-7531.

**Britepaths Artful Living: "Empowerment."** 7-10 p.m. at Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. An evening of Art, Wine and Strengthening Our Community in association with the Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts Festival. For more information and to register, visit [britepaths.org](http://britepaths.org).

**Art of the Draw.** 7-11 p.m. in the McGuire Woods Gallery at Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. COLLECT! Art of the Draw is the Workhouse Arts Center's annual Collector's Showcase fundraiser re-imagined as an exciting evening in vintage Vegas, with fine art, food, drink, music, and casino games. All proceeds support the visual arts, performing arts, arts education, and history programs at the Workhouse. \$75. Visit [www.workhousearts.org/event/collect-art-of-the-draw](http://www.workhousearts.org/event/collect-art-of-the-draw).

## SUNDAY/APRIL 22

**NTRAK Scale Model Train Show.** 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold an N gauge model train show. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR), or call 703-425-9225.

**Empty Bowls for ECHO.** 5-8 p.m. at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. "Empty Bowls" allows participating artists and groups to create and donate bowls, then serve a simple meal. Guests who attend "Empty Bowls" choose a handmade bowl to keep as a reminder of all the empty bowls in the world. 13 and older: \$35; 12 & Under, food donation (5 cans): free. Visit [www.pocplc.org](http://www.pocplc.org).

## TUESDAY/APRIL 24

**Storytime in the Park.** 10:30 a.m. in Old Town Square, 10415 North St., Fairfax. In association with Fairfax County Public Library. Weather permitting. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov](http://www.fairfaxva.gov) for more.

**Social Media Feeds – Emotional Conversations.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre Drive, Alexandria. Part of the Hot Topics: News, Blues and How to Defuse. An interactive workshop on media literacy and dialogue skills. Guided by experts from GMU's School of Conflict Analysis and Resolution and FCPL librarians. Visit [librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/3971589](http://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/3971589).

## FRIDAY/APRIL 27

**Assistance League Fundraiser.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Country Club of Fairfax, 5110 Ox Road, Fairfax. The Assistance League of Northern Virginia annual spring fundraiser will include a luncheon and silent and live auctions and feature Keynote Speaker Tony Perkins, Co-host MAJIC 102.3/92.7 and Anchor, Fox 5 News. Funds raised will support programs which touch the lives of 6,000 local children. \$65. Visit [www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org](http://www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org).

**Spring Concert.** 7:30-9 p.m. at St. Stephens United Methodist Church, 9203 Braddock Road, Burke. The St. Stephen's United Methodist Women Maranatha Singers will present an evening of music. Refreshments served afterwards. All Welcome, Free. Call 703-250-5013 or visit [www.ststephensfairfax.org](http://www.ststephensfairfax.org).

PHOTO BY DALE HUBBARD





PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME

**Linsey Wise from Alexandria, Susan Laume from Springfield, and Geri Nicolas and David Straber from Ft. Belvoir were among the more than 200 volunteers who helped clean up Lake Accotink Park for the annual Fairfax County Parks cleanup day with The Nature Conservancy on April 7.**

## Saving the Environment at Lake Accotink Park

This Spring Fairfax County is holding events to help preserve the beauty of area park environments. One such event, the Lake Accotink Park Volunteer Watershed Cleanup, sponsored by the Park Authority and the The Nature Conservancy, took place on April 7.

Many answered the call — 215 volunteers donated 450 hours of service and collected 150 bags of trash at an estimated weight of 2,000 pounds, from 9.5 miles of the Park and Accotink Creek. Unusual items found: plastic pink flamingo, 16-inch diameter corrugated plastic pipe, toilet, and a mongoose bike. Most common items found: plastic bottles and bags, and pieces of Styrofoam.

Several events are upcoming. Join volunteers at a park near you or on April 22, 9-11 a.m. for a Laurel Hill Park trash cleanup. 8780 Lorton Rd, Lorton.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**This volunteer found a way to act in support of two causes simultaneously: Saving the Environment and Banning Puppy Mills.**



PHOTO BY SUMMER LOCKERBIE

**An old bike was among the finds at Lake Accotink during the annual Fairfax County Parks cleanup day with The Nature Conservancy on April 7.**



PHOTO BY MATT KANE/TNC

**Girl Scout Junior Troop 3446 from Springfield helped clean up Huntley Meadows Park in Alexandria for the annual Fairfax County Parks cleanup day with The Nature Conservancy on April 7.**

## Lee High Library Receives National Recognition

Robert E. Lee High School, located in Springfield, is the American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) 2018 National School Library Program of the Year (NSLPY) Award recipient. Sponsored by Follett, the NSLPY Award annually recognizes a single school or districtwide school library program that meets the needs of the changing school and library environment and is fully integrated into the school's curriculum. The recipient receives an obelisk — the symbol of school library excellence — and \$10,000 toward its school library program. Robert E. Lee High School is an accredited International Baccalaureate (IBO) World School that serves more than 1,700 students in grades 9-12. The school's mission is to prepare students to be global citizens by challenging them academically; connecting school learning to their future; and providing a safe, supportive and nurturing environment.

**THE LEE SCHOOL LIBRARY** and school librarians Mimi Marquet and Lisa Koch are critical pieces of ensuring the mission succeeds. "Ms. Marquet and Ms. Koch ensure every student achieves the outcomes of our 'Portrait of a Graduate' framework by crafting student-centered, equitable learning experiences that address the needs and interests of each student," wrote Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Scott Braband in his letter of support. "Their use of an inquiry approach to learning and their leadership in blended learning has increased student engagement and fostered a deeply collaborative culture among instructional staff. They are leaders who create a dynamic library atmosphere that engages the entire school community." To engage learners, Marquet and Koch recently developed a school-wide Hour of Code event and went further by creating curriculum for classes with and without devices. Instructions for the event were provided in multiple languages so that every student

could fully participate. The co-librarians also recruited all social studies teachers and students to participate in a service-learning opportunity that included writing letters of gratitude to active duty military or veterans; the letters were sent to a non-profit to be included in care packages. Marquet and Koch were also responsible for coordinating the school-wide reading program designed to foster a sense of community. Every student and staff member was given a copy of Congressman John Lewis's Civil Rights memoir "March." Beyond leading book discussions, the school librarians developed monthly supporting lessons for teachers, created videos, and established an art installation. "It was such a great pleasure to be able to go and view such a strong and vibrant library program such as the one that Mimi and Lisa have developed at Robert E. Lee High School," said Ken Stewart, award committee chair. "When asked to describe the program, teachers and administrators both shared one common thought

— infiltrating! As they discussed the program, we could see how the library was infused — actually infiltrated — into every corner of the school community. It's seeing spirited and energetic school library programs such as this that makes me proud to be a school librarian!"

**AASL PRESIDENT** Steven Yates added his compliments, "Congratulations to Robert E. Lee High School on the rare achievement of being named the National School Library Program of the Year! This honor recognizes a commitment to excellence in providing equitable access to diverse collections and literacy leadership throughout the community. I look forward to celebrating with you this June in New Orleans!" The AASL award winners will be honored at the AASL Awards Ceremony & President's Program during the 2018 ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans. The ceremony will be held from 9 a.m. — 12 noon on Saturday, June 23.



# OLLI Talk on 'Beyond the Whispers'

With dog Angus, members of Virginia Task Force 1 give lecture to OLLI seniors.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION

Members of the International Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 1 gave the PowerPoint lecture and demonstration, "Beyond the Whispers," to a crowd of 50 seniors at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at George Mason University on Friday, April 13, 2018.

Paul Serzan, a Firefighter Paramedic and K9 Handler with Virginia Task Force 1, who brought his dog Angus, gave the presentation along with Capt. Alex Obert of the Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department, on the work they do to save people's lives. With the assistance from Angus, a 7-year-old American purebred Black Labrador Retriever, they demonstrated outdoors how dogs, through smell, can find people trapped under buildings or rubble.

Serzan, who has 10 years with the Fairfax County Fire Department and seven years on the Virginia Task Force 1, is certified in disaster and wilderness live find, so he's an expert on finding lost hikers, someone wandering with Alzheimer's or autism or anybody trapped in rubble.

Capt. Obert, who has been with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department for almost 17 years, and with the Task Force 1 for 12 years, works as Station Captain at the Fair Oaks Firehouse on Route 50. The Task Force has both international (USAR Team 1) and domestic (Virginia Task Force 1) disaster response experience.

They said the world-famous Task Force 1 Team is called into action during natural disasters like flooding, typhoons, tornadoes, tsunamis, earthquakes, hurricanes, and cyclones in addition to bombings. It has been deployed internationally to Nepal, Japan, and Haiti; as well as Hurricanes Irma and Maria in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands and to the bombing in Oklahoma City.

**THE TEAM**, which was established in 1986 after helping on an earthquake in Mexico City, relies on the expertise of its emergency managers, planners, physicians and paramedics and includes specialists in structural engineering, heavy rigging, collapse rescue, logistics, hazardous materials, communications, canine and technical search.

"We have 210 members to fill 19 positions. We are able to deploy multiple teams at any time. We can go out as a heavy team and medium team without a problem and still have people and firefighters, men and women, that are able to respond to emergencies here in Fairfax County," said Serzan. "We don't have to call for mutual aid. We have everybody that we need from our department. There's no putting units out of service. There will always be a fire engine at every single house fully staffed."

He continued: "We are highly trained and deployable at any moment's notice.... Our average deployment is supposed to last 10-



Paul Serzan, a Firefighter Paramedic and K9 Handler with the Virginia Task Force 1, works with his dog Angus during a talk at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute for seniors on Friday, April 13, 2018.



Stephanie Trachtenberg, OLLI Special Events Committee Volunteer.



Alex Obert, Captain, Fairfax County Fire & Rescue.

14 days; it's gone up to 21; and when we went to Puerto Rico it was 24. We are able to work 24-hours nonstop at two sites, and that's what the United Nations requires us to do in order to be certified with them to go to international deployments to be able to work. So, we have enough people, enough men and women to take care of that."

Founded in 1991, OLLI at GMU was inspired by the Fairfax County Commission on Aging and visionaries Kathryn Brooks,

Lilyan Spero, Ken Plum and Shirley Fox. It began as a learning in retirement nonprofit center with 100 members. Today the institute has blossomed into a multi-campus operation (located in Fairfax, Reston and Sterling) with 1,200 members across Northern Virginia.

Affiliated with George Mason University, OLLI offers classes for seniors and retirees but there's no age restriction, no homework, no exams, no grades, and no credit, said Karen Nash, Finance Associate with OLLI. The instructors come from GMU, the community, or are OLLI members themselves. Classes are free but the annual membership is \$425 or an introduction membership is \$150.

According to Rita Way, OLLI Board Member, OLLI offers 200 courses in its Spring catalogue including classes on music, art, philosophy, history, science, writing and more. In addition, there are OLLI clubs that members have formed, such as writing, needlework, classical reading or music, as well as special events like field trips to museums, plays and musical performances.

"OLLI is a wonderful institute for those of us that have either retired or have the



About 50 people attended the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute discussion.

time now to enjoy getting more education. There are marvelous courses that are authored," said Way.

"You can get involved as much as you want or as little as you want, and perhaps do things that you were never able to do when you had a job."

According to Stephanie Trachtenberg, OLLI Special Events Committee Volunteer, "OLLI is made up of people who want to continue learning. You become a member and you can take unlimited classes on any topic. There's a catalogue that's put out by term."

**EXAMPLES** of OLLI classes include speaker Amelia Draper, the weather person from NBC-4; Eye Health for Age 55 and Older with a local optometrist; and NBC-4 News Reporter David Culver.

"We had a breakfast this morning honoring the OLLI teachers and the main message that came out was we just love learning and we love to have fun, and that's what retirement should be about," said Trachtenberg, a member since 2013.

For more information on OLLI, visit the website: [www.lli.gmu.edu](http://www.lli.gmu.edu).



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**NEWS**

**Former NASA Astronaut Cady Coleman speaks to students at WashingtonExec's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual K-12 STEM Symposium.**

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



# STEM Symposium Held in Herndon

The event attracted nearly 4,000 participants.

On Saturday, April 14, WashingtonExec hosted its fifth annual K-12 STEM Symposium at The Nysmith School in Herndon. The event attracted nearly 4,000 students, parents, industry leaders, government officials, non-profit executives and educators.

Attendees enjoyed Altamira's "Girls in STEM" interactive wing, Vencore's flight simulator and a variety of other interactive exhibits. Among the biggest hits were the virtual reality showcase, 3D printers and slime creation stations.

In addition to the displays, attendees had the opportunity to hear from former NASA astronaut Cady Coleman, NASA Chief Information Officer (CIO) Renee Wynn and other STEM Superheroes.

New to the Symposium's programming this year, WashingtonExec presented several awards. The STEM Rising Star award was presented to Kavya Kopparapu and Kirthi Kumar, students at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology. Anne Swanson, U.S. education and workforce development coordinator at CGI Federal was named Most Inspiring STEM Executive of 2018. Boolean Girls, a non profit dedicated to educating girls to code, build, invent and animate took home STEM Non-Profit of the Year, while Business Women's Giving Circle and Northrop Grumman were awarded Best STEM-Supporting Businesses of the Year.

This year's WashingtonExec K-12 STEM Symposium brought together key players in the STEM field to enthrall students with the science and technology they learn in their classrooms. Elevating STEM education through events like WashingtonExec's K-



**Washington Nationals mascot, George Washington, greets children headed into WashingtonExec's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual K-12 STEM Symposium.**

12 STEM Symposium spurs the national conversation among leaders, parents and students about STEM's increasing importance to the future.

**VOLUNTEERS**

FROM PAGE 7

## Countywide Opportunities

❖ **Mealtime Companion:** Join a new and exciting endeavor to help ensure that Meals on Wheels recipients (who have memory loss) are appropriately heating and consuming their delivered meals. Volunteers are needed during lunchtime hours, 2-3 days per week, to assist participants with heating their food and to provide mealtime companionship. Guidance on working with older adults with dementia is offered.

❖ **One-Time Opportunity in May - The Helping Hands Program** provides an opportunity for individuals and groups looking for a time-limited community service project. Volunteers assist older adults with house and yard work including: deep cleaning, organizing and decluttering. Contact Emily Thomas at Emily.Thomas@fairfaxcounty.gov.

❖ Older adults are missing important medical appointments due to lack of transportation. Drive older adults Monday through Friday, generally between 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Opportunities available throughout Fairfax County.

❖ **Senior Centers - Technology Educators** to provide support to participants in groups and one-on-one. Basic knowledge of MS Word, Phone Apps, Facebook, Digital books, etc. Schedule and location will vary based on center location and volunteer availability. Centers are looking for support between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Apply online

❖ **Respite Care** volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact ElderLink at 703-324-5374, TTY 711. Apply online

❖ **The Chronic Disease Self-Management Program** needs volunteer leaders to co-facilitate 2-hour workshops that help people with chronic illnesses. The 6-week program meets in Fairfax County. A 4-day training is provided. The next training to be held in the Spring 2018. Contact ElderLink at 703-324-5374, TTY 711. Apply online



## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 6

Training and orientation provided. Other volunteer opportunities are gardening, publicity and exhibit planning. The Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Call Michael at 703-945-7483 for more information.

### THURSDAY/APRIL 19

**FACETS "Opening Doors" Breakfast.** 7-9 a.m. at Fairview Park Marriott, 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church. Free. To educate the public and local businesses about FACETS' work to help people who are struggling in the Fairfax community. Several FACETS' clients will be sharing their experiences with homelessness and efforts to overcome it. Register at [www.FACETScare.org](http://www.FACETScare.org) or contact 703-352-3268.

**Opioid Crisis Conversation.** 7 p.m. in the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. This community health emergency affects all ages, cultural backgrounds, income levels and neighborhoods. Join the city's conversation on the opioid crisis with an outreach panel discussion featuring first responders, educators, health-service providers, and public-safety officials. A question-and-answer period will follow. Call 703-385-7894.

# Vote on Budget on May 1

FROM PAGE 3

county's fast developing areas," said Niedzielski-Eichner.

"As one who was on the front lines advocating for passage of the Meals Tax, I find this reality ironic in light of the significant voices arguing against the meals tax due to its regressivity. Since each one percent of the property tax rate is projected to generate approximately \$25 million in revenue, the proposed 2.5 cent increase in the real estate tax rate will generate about \$62.5 million. The meals tax was projected to generate a \$100 million per annum, with almost a third of this revenue, \$28 million, to be paid by tourists and visitors to Fairfax."

Kofi Annan, president of the Fairfax County NAACP expressed concern that the county is underfunding services to low income families, including housing and Pre-K education for needy families.

"This opportunity gap [of not having access to PreK education] eventually turns into an achievement gap, and that widens over time.

"Fairfax County NAACP calls on the county to commit the resources to enroll at least 300 additional kids into Pre-K in 2019 budget and devise a long-term plan to fund at least 2,000 over the next five years."

Annan asked the supervisors to fund an outside study of racial disparities in police use of force.

"For the past few years, 40 percent of police use of force has been directed toward African Americans, who only make up about 10 percent of the county," Annan said.

"And for the past few years, we have been asking the county to fund an outside organization to conduct a study to determine the causes of this disparity, so we can begin the process of reversing that trend."

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## If Only It Were That Simple



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Though I immerse you regular readers in the excruciating details of my cancer-affected life, rarely do I bombard unsuspecting conversationalists who unknowingly yet sincerely wander into territory with which many of you are intimately detailed. Not that I don't have stories to tell, and/or perhaps even unsolicited advice to offer; generally speaking, if I can avoid it, I don't want to drag the conversation into a cancer-centric black hole.

It's not because I'm uncomfortable talking about cancer, or that I would feel it an inappropriate invasion of my privacy, or that I would feel the need to blather on non-stop. Hardly. But I would see it as the end of an innocent inquiry undone that then takes on a more empathetic, sympathetic and possibly even pathetic tone, some of which might make me uncomfortable.

The reason being: part of what feeds my self-preservation and sense of well-being is reading and reacting to the feedback I receive from others when the subject matter turns to cancer, however well-meaning their intentions may have been.

Sometimes the reactions I get aren't helpful ("Tell me Ken, how's it feel to know you're going to die?"). Sometimes, I find myself rationalizing, explaining and revisiting issues and experiences more helpful and of interest to the party that asked the question rather than to yours truly who's now having to answer the question. Not that I don't want to be helpful or have difficulty empathizing; nothing could be further from the truth.

It's more that I don't want to see their expressions/hear their apologies when their innocent question ("So what do you do?") elicits an extremely unexpected answer. "Not too much. I have stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer."

Then I have to decide how I involved I want to get them in my life. Since I'd just as soon not get them involved for all the reasons I've outlined, usually I deflect their questions and/or redirect them away from me and back to them. I don't exactly shut them down. It's more like a gentle closing. I'm not rude or the least bit off-putting. I'm more like a traffic cop re-routing emotions to avoid any accidents - for all parties engaged.

My experience has been that responding to an innocent question with a "I have terminal-cancer"-type bombshell tends to take the conversation in an entirely different direction than likely intended. The seriousness of my response/situation and the emotions - maybe even memories it stirs in the person who asked the question, can hijack an evening and cause at least for a few minutes anyway, a rather dreary dynamic. All of which I don't want to happen and more so, don't need to happen. As a cancer patient, I don't need dreary. I don't need pity. I don't need negativity. I need humor. I need encouragement and compliments. I need to be made to feel, as Tony the Tiger might say: "Not just good, but GREAT!"

When I assess my nine-plus years post-diagnosis; having lived now years beyond my original "13 month to two-year" prognosis, I can't quite attribute my amazing good fortune to anything in particular. However, I will admit to this: trying not think about my diagnosis/prognosis too much, trying to remain positive, trying to be funny and self-effacing, and trying to avoid people and situations where I might feel bad, are all components. Are they working to keep me alive more than the medicine, my pills and my miscellaneous non-Western alternatives are?

Yet another question or two I'd rather not answer.

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





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Barrington Community! 9' ceilings, 2 story family room, fenced back yard, updated kitchen with granite center isle & SS appliances, large home office, finished w/o basement, hwd floors, walk to community pool! 4BR, 3.5BA [www.9407BraymoreCircle.info](http://www.9407BraymoreCircle.info)



**N. ARLINGTON** \$1,149,900  
Premium corner lot! Short walk to the Virginia Square Metro. Perfect blend of vintage Ashton Heights architecture with a modern addition. Gorgeous cherry kitchen, tall ceilings, main floor master bedroom. Garage [www.309NLincolnStreet.info](http://www.309NLincolnStreet.info)



**David Levent**  
703-338-1388 [davidshomes@lnf.com](mailto:davidshomes@lnf.com)  
Experienced Agent - Amazing Results  
6 Year Member, NVAR Multi Million Dollar Sales Club



**Fairfax**  
Gorgeous 5 Bedroom, 4 Full & 1 Half Bath Colonial Home in Hampton Forest. Totally Remodeled Gourmet Kitchen, New Hardwood Flooring, Finished Walkout Basement, Screened In Rear Porch Overlooking Large Backyard. 1st Level Master Suite. Beautifully Landscaped. Much More. Call For Details.



**Lorton Town Center** \$599,999  
Totally Updated 4 Bedroom Colonial Wired With Smart Technology. Kitchen Has Stainless Appliances, Granite C-Tops, Huge SXS Top of the Line Fridge, Hardwood Flrs Throughout the Main Level, Fully Fin Basement w/Full Bath and Office, Master Bedroom Has Lux Master Bath & His/Her Walk-in Closets, 2 Car Garage, Gas Fireplace, & Much More. Call For Details.



**DIANE SUNDT**  
703-615-4626  
Military Relocation Specialist



**Judy McGuire**  
703-581-7679  
NVAR Multi-Million Dollar Club  
NVAR Top Producer



Winter is nearing it's end, and the market is beginning to bloom! Contact me today to help you spring into action and get your house sold for top dollar.

**Diane A. Sundt, ABR, GRI, SRES**  
703.615.4626  
Selling Homes for Over 20 Years!



**Gainesville** \$579,900  
Beautiful 3 BRs, 3-full BAs. Lakemont model in Heritage Hunt. This is a must see with built ins, hwdws, sunroom, gourmet kitchen, remodeled MBA, secluded lot, and much more. Call Judy to schedule a showing.



**Kathy O'Donnell**  
703-338-7696  
[Kathy.odonnell@LNF.com](mailto:Kathy.odonnell@LNF.com)  
Multi-Million Dollar Sales Club



**Centreville** \$575,000  
Backs to 17th hole of Chantilly National Golf and Country Club. Amazing 4 bed, 3.5 bath home w/ open kitchen and den, main level office, large rooms, beautiful HW floors and basement with a full bath and bonus room. Great golf course views from under the retractable awning.



**ELLIE WESTER**  
703-503-1880  
L&F Founder's Club  
Lifetime NVAR Top Producer  
Life Member, NVAR Million Dollar Sales Club  
[ellie.wester@longandfooster.com](mailto:ellie.wester@longandfooster.com)

**Haymarket/Dominion Valley Country Club - \$1,100,000**



The Hampton by Toll Brothers in beautiful Dominion Valley Country Club. Exquisite appointments and upgrades throughout the interior while the woods beyond offer wonderful views and privacy from your multilevel decking. Over 6000 finished square feet with 4 bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms, and spacious three car garage.



**SPRING OPEN HOUSE EXTRAVAGANZA**  
**April 21 & 22 - [LongandFoster.com/OpenHouses](http://LongandFoster.com/OpenHouses)**

