

Oak Hill & Herndon CONNECTION

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Catherine, Alexander, 3, and Lauren Murphy, 6, cover various dessert items with chocolate at the Chocolate Chick display at the 21st annual Taste of the Town at Worldgate Thursday April 19.

Taste of Herndon Celebrated

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Coming In from The Cold
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Nine Run for Council, Three For Mayor
NEWS, PAGE 3



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APRIL 18-24, 2012

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Michael Lee Pope

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, FIRST PLACE, Breaking News Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, FIRST PLACE, Government Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, FIRST PLACE, Health, Science & Environmental Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, FIRST PLACE, In-Depth or Investigative Reporting, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, FIRST PLACE, Public Safety Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Montie Martin**, FIRST PLACE, Business & Financial Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Montie Martin**, FIRST PLACE, Personal Service Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*



Montie Martin



Deb Cobb

❖ **Deb Cobb**, FIRST PLACE, Photo Illustration, *Burke Connection*

❖ **Deb Cobb**, FIRST PLACE, General News Photo, *Fairfax Connection*

❖ **Deb Cobb**, FIRST PLACE, Online Slide Show, *Fairfax Connection*

❖ **Bonnie Hobbs**, FIRST PLACE, Education Writing, *Centre View North*

❖ **Bonnie Hobbs**, FIRST PLACE, Feature Writing Portfolio, *Centre View North*

❖ **Michael O'Connell, Victoria Ross, Deb Cobb, Robbie Hammer, Bonnie Hobbs,**



Bonnie Hobbs



Victoria Ross

Amber Healy, FIRST PLACE, Multimedia Feature Report, *Fairfax Connection*

❖ **Alex McVeigh**, FIRST PLACE, In-Depth or Investigative Reporting, *Great Falls Connection*

❖ **Kenny Lourie**, FIRST PLACE, Local Column, *Potomac Almanac*

❖ **Kenny Lourie**, FIRST PLACE, Sports Column, *Potomac Almanac*

❖ **Ken Moore, Mary Kimm, Robbie Hammer**, FIRST PLACE, Continuing News Coverage, *Potomac Almanac*



Alex McVeigh



Mary Kimm

❖ **Staff**, SECOND PLACE, General Makeup, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Staff**, SECOND PLACE, Lifestyle or Entertainment Pages, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*



Robbie Hammer

❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, SECOND PLACE, Headline Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, SECOND PLACE, Business & Financial Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, SECOND PLACE, Feature Story Writing, *Mount Vernon Gazette*

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, SECOND PLACE, Personal Service Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, SECOND PLACE, Health, Science & Environmental Writing, *Arlington Connection*

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, SECOND PLACE, Business & Financial Writing, *Mount Vernon Gazette*

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, SECOND PLACE, Business & Financial Writing, *Mount Vernon Gazette*

❖ **Lashawn Avery-Simon**, SECOND PLACE, General News Photo, *Arlington Connection*

❖ **Mike O'Connell, Victoria Ross, Deb Cobb, Robbie Hammer, Bonnie Hobbs, Amber Healy,**

SECOND PLACE, Special Sections or Special Editions, *Fairfax Connection*

❖ **Julia O'Donoghue**, SECOND PLACE, Education Writing, *Fairfax Connection*

❖ **Marilyn Campbell**, SECOND PLACE, Personal Service Writing, *Great Falls Connection*

❖ **Victoria Ross**, SECOND PLACE, In-Depth or Investigative Reporting, *Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection*

❖ **Jon Roetman**, SECOND PLACE, Sports Writing Portfolio, *Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection*



Kenny Lourie



Ken Moore



Jeanne Theismann



Lashawn Avery-Simon



Marilyn Campbell

LOCAL MEDIA
CONNECTION



Louise Krafft

❖ **Louise Krafft**, SECOND PLACE, Picture Story or Essay, *Mount Vernon Gazette*

❖ **Ken Moore, Laurence Foong**, SECOND PLACE, Infographics, *Potomac Almanac*

❖ **Carole Dell**, SECOND PLACE, Local Column, *Potomac Almanac*

❖ **Susan Belford**, SECOND PLACE, Feature Story, Profile, *Potomac Almanac*



Laurence Foong



Susan Belford

❖ **Louise Krafft**, THIRD PLACE, Pictorial Photo, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, THIRD PLACE, Breaking News Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, THIRD PLACE, Business & Financial Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, THIRD PLACE, In-Depth or Investigative Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, THIRD PLACE, In-Depth or Investigative Reporting, *Mount Vernon Gazette*

❖ **Mary Kimm**, THIRD PLACE, Editorial Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Mary Kimm**, THIRD PLACE, Editorial Writing, *Burke Connection*

❖ **Victoria Ross**, THIRD PLACE, In-Depth or Investigative Reporting, *Fairfax Connection*



Kemal Kurspahic

❖ **Kemal Kurspahic, Laurence Foong, Amna Rehmatulla**, THIRD PLACE, Special Sections or Special Editions, *Reston Connection*



Amna Rehmatulla

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Nine Run for Town Council

Candidates seek six seats on Town Council for two-year term.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Nine candidates will vie for six seats on the Herndon Town Council in the May 1 election. With three current councilmembers declaring their candidacy for mayor, three current members as well as five new candidates will run.

Newcomers Dave Webster, Melissa Jonas, Jeff Davidson and Eric Boll will run against former Councilmembers Charlie Waddell and Dave Kirby, as well as current Councilmembers Grace Wolf, Sheila Olem and Connie Hutchinson.

❖ Boll is a native of Montreal, Canada, and has been an electronic engineer for more than 30 years. His father was mayor of a small town that developed around a train station, and he grew up “in a home in which town issues were discussed at the dinner table.”

His work has taken him around world to 25 countries, and he has lived in the U.S., Canada and France. Boll said his experiences abroad has shown him what aspects are important to build a community.

“My travels allowed me to see firsthand how vibrant town centers and squares create a sense of community,” he said. “I’ve used subway systems around the world, seen how they tie communities together and support local business development and make life convenient for residents.”

Boll promised to be “an aggressive voice for downtown,” and said he supports Phase Two of Dulles Metrorail.

More information on Boll can be found at www.ericboll.com.

❖ Davidson has been a resident of Herndon since 1986. He has an engineering IT background, and is currently a division chief for the federal government. He said he hopes to create a town-wide traffic plan to address many issues familiar to people in the community.

“Almost everyone in Herndon can cite a particular traffic problem that they are familiar with. Cut through traffic avoiding the toll road and the coming of Metro are concerns. To date, most of the concerns have been addressed one at a time in a piecemeal fashion,” he said. “I have urged the town to address the traffic problem as a town-wide, systemic problem that involves both Fairfax and Loudoun County. The impact of increasing toll on the Dulles Toll Roads will make this worse as time goes on.”

More information on Davidson can be found at www.jeff4herndon.com.

❖ Hutchinson has served six total terms on the Herndon Town Council, including as vice mayor from 2008 to 2010. She is currently the secretary of the Dulles Area Transportation Association and has been a board member there since 2008. She has also served on the town’s Architectural Review and Heritage Preservation Board.



“Over the course of my tenure on council, I’ve worked to preserve the town’s heritage, unique character, exercise fiscal responsibility regarding the town’s spending and budgeting,” she said.

“I decided to run for re-election because two major plans that will greatly affect Herndon’s future will hopefully be finalized during the next two years. The downtown master plan and its form-based zoning code that has yet to be developed and the Metro area master plan and the zoning and transportation improvements that will be needed.”

More information on Hutchinson can be found at www.conniehutchinson.com.

❖ Jonas, a native of Chantilly and Herndon resident since 2002, was appointed to the town’s Planning Commission in the summer of 2010, as well as the town’s Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory committee. She said her experience on the commission has shown her what is needed to best take advantage of Metro.



“Now is the time to be working with our neighboring counties to make sure we are included in bus routes and Herndon is appropriately considered in transportation improvements,” she said. “The opportunity the Metro provides us is to become a gateway to the region and the world. We are blessed to have the station on the edge of our town, and we have the opportunity there to have billboard businesses along the toll road that welcome people to Herndon and will improve the commercial tax base for our town.”

More information on Jonas can be found at www.melissajonas.com

❖ Kirby, a native of Danvers, Mass., has been a Herndon resident since 1986. He is a retired government telecommunications officer and served two terms on the Town Council from 2006 to 2010.



“The day labor situation is something that a lot of people think has gone away, but it really hasn’t. I would like to see a more aggressive role for the Herndon Police and get the Town Attorney as well as the new police chief to see if there are any other methods we can use to abate the crowding of mostly illegal aliens in the area, hopefully come up with some better ideas than we have now.”

Kirby said he also supports the idea of building

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 10

Three Run for Mayor

Vice Mayor Lisa Merkel, Councilmembers Jasbinder Singh, Bill Tirrell seek election.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

With current Herndon Mayor Steve DeBenedittis deciding not to seek re-election, three current councilmembers will seek his spot in the town’s May 1 election. Vice Mayor Lisa Merkel and Councilmembers Jasbinder Singh and Bill Tirrell look to succeed DeBenedittis, who was first elected in 2006.

Merkel was elected to her first term in 2010. She has been a resident of Herndon since 2002, and was a teacher from 1996 to 2004.

In 2009, she was part of the Downtown Master Plan Citizens Advisory Group, and was appointed by Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) to represent the town on the Dranesville District Area Plans Review Task Force.

“One of my biggest priorities is to take our community-vetted plans and move forward into implementation,” she said.

She also said she would work with Fairfax County to make sure Herndon gets its share of transportation improvements.

“We need to be working with them now to discuss options for Herndon residents so we have reliable, frequent public transportation to the Metro on opening day,” she said. “We also need to be working with the county to improve the Spring Street-and Fairfax County Parkway interchange. These are services and amenities that the county owes to the Town of Herndon, that our tax dollars pay for.”

Merkel also said she hopes to be able to engage the county more while it is planning ahead for transportation options.

“I proposed to the council a couple months ago sending a letter to the county asking for a seat at the table while they were discussing our transportation options for the Herndon Metro station,” she said. “They are planning bus routes now and I don’t agree with letting the county plan it for us, we need to be advocating for our



Lisa Merkel



Jasbinder Singh



Bill Tirrell

residents... I do not think the town should be footing the bill for this, I’ve never advocated for that. I’m simply asking for a conversation.”

More information on Merkel is available at www.lisa4herndon.com.

TIRRELL is in the midst of his eighth term on the council, having first been elected in 1990. Prior to his election to council, he served two years on the town’s Architectural Review

SEE MAYOR, PAGE 4

Coming In from The Cold

Fairfax County hosts hypothermia meeting to address shelters' concerns.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County officials met with about 75 representatives from churches and other houses of worship Sunday, April 22, to address rumors and concerns that the County's Fire Marshal will shut down their hypothermia programs next winter - and shut out many homeless residents - because of fire code violations.

Held at St. Stephens United Methodist Church in Burke, the information session was hosted by county staff, elected officials and nonprofit partners. Panelists included Amanda Andere, executive director of FACETS; Kerri Wilson, executive director of Reston Interfaith and Deputy County Executive Patricia Harrison.

"I think the bottom line is that the fire marshal's office will work individually with houses of worship to make sure they are safe and up to code," said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large), who called Sunday's meeting.

"In some cases, it might be as simple as installing a smoke detector or carbon monoxide detector," she said.

Currently, about 35 houses of worship provide shelter to approximately 1,000 homeless residents during the winter months. Each year, various churches, synagogues, mosques and temples take turns providing space to provide food and shelter for the homeless population during the winter months. Last year, there were no hypothermia-related deaths reported during the season.

Supervisor Cathy Hudgins

(D- Hunter Mill), who has been a longtime advocate for the county's homeless population, said she wants to see the county maintain a partnership with the faith community in a safe environment.

"But the more critical issue is how will we eliminate or reduce hypothermia without the needed housing? Our faith partners are looking to us to do the heavy lifting by providing the housing so they can support the county by serving the clients," Hudgins said.

Sunday's meeting was prompted by concerns from some church leaders that they would be forced to shut down their programs due to fire code violations.

On Monday, April 16, the Rev. Keary Kincannon of Rising Hope Mission Church in Alexandria sent out a press release stating the county will close 18 of 36 churches that host a hypothermia program.

"Nine churches will not be allowed to bring the homeless in from the cold under any circumstances. An additional nine require extensive work to correct code violations that may cost hundreds of thousands of dollars," Kincannon said in the release.

Last week, Bulova said four houses of worship may be affected by their inability to comply with fire

Fast Facts about Fairfax County's Hypothermia Prevention Program

❖ During the 2010-2011 winter season, approximately 1,025 residents sought shelter through Fairfax County's Hypothermia Prevention Program, in partnership with other agencies.

❖ During the 2011-2012 winter season, partners opened their shelters to "no turn-away" status on Nov. 1, even if the weather was not at freezing temperatures.

❖ FACETS' Hypothermia Prevention Season is Nov. 21 through March 17. FACETS served more than 219 clients last season.

❖ Volunteers of America Chesapeake (VOA) Baileys Crossroad's Hypothermia Program served more than 442 clients last season and an additional 84 clients in their other winter seasonal programs for a total of 526 clients.

❖ Reston Interfaith's Embry Rucker Community Shelter (ERCS) operates three separate winter programs. The ERCS Winter North County Program and winter seasonal programs served over 298 clients last season.

❖ The Homeless Healthcare Program (HHP) has four nurse practitioners from the Fairfax County Health Department providing free flu shots during Hypothermia Prevention season.

For more information on Fairfax County's Hypothermia Prevention Program, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/partnerupdate/partnership-highlights-hyposeason2011-12.htm>

codes, not 18, and stressed Fairfax County's longstanding support of the Hypothermia Prevention Program.

"I have been working with County staff to make sure safety concerns that arose during this program year are addressed before the 2012-2013 program begins," Bulova said in an email announcing Sunday's session.

"I am committed to finding solutions that do not put undue burden on houses of worship but still provide adequate safety for the vulnerable population that relies on the Hypothermia Program during the winter months."

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), who attended Sunday's meeting and met with faith representatives last week, said part of the concern was that some churches heard they were on the list (for code violations), but didn't know why.

"There was a real interest in churches to counter the rumor mill," Cook said. "The meeting was a good step in that regard."

Cook said other localities, such as Richmond and Virginia Beach, have encountered similar issues because the fire code is a state-wide set of regulations enacted by the General Assembly but enforced by local jurisdictions. Tensions arise because each jurisdiction has some discretion when interpreting the codes.

"Everyone has to take deep breath, and recognize that we have to work through a process," Cook said. "But there's a significant commitment and confidence on the county's part that we can work through these issues."

"Fairfax County has a unique partnership with our faith communities and non-profits. We are committed to serving the homeless population in a way that is compassionate and ensures their safety," Bulova said.

"I think the bottom line is that the fire marshal's office will work individually with houses of worship to make sure they are safe and up to code."

— **Chairman Sharon Bulova,**
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Candidates for Mayor

FROM PAGE 3

Board, a year on the Board of Zoning Appeals and has served for six years on the Planning Commission, with the most recent stint being from 2002 to 2006. He also served 20 years in the Navy, from 1968 to 1988.

Tirrell says he has taken an attitude of caution when it comes to Metro planning, and though he has been painted as a possible obstacle, he said he is simply interested in doing his due diligence.

"My critics say I'm obstructive. In fact, I'm safeguarding the town. The town owns no land near the proposed Metro station. If we have to re-zone the area before we know if there will be a Metro station, we will vest developers with rights that we cannot take away."

When it comes to downtown development, Tirrell said he supports establishing zoning ordinance that will spell out to developers exactly what kind of development the town is seeking.

"We need a form-based zoning ordinance that will enable developers to actually see what it is that the town wants when it comes to building styles," he said. "We already told them densities and such, but a zoning ordinance would be more focuses on building style. The key to getting development done, in my personal opinion, is to have a plan. It was true for Fortnightly [Library] and it's going to be true downtown."

More information in Tirrell can be found at www.billtirrellformayor.com.

SINGH was elected to his first term on the council in 2010. He

has been a resident since 2001 and represents Herndon on the Phase Two District Commission and served on the Virginia Municipal League's Finance Policy Committee.

He is the founder and president of a company that focuses on analysis and reduction of the impacts of federal and state environmental, energy, transportation and health and safety programs on businesses, industries and municipalities.

He says he has spent his term on the council delivering hands-on assistance to constituents, and he would continue to do so.

"I have fielded every call for help from our citizens. I have showed up at their homes and businesses to listen to them, to pay attention to how they have been affected by our regulations and helped solve their problems. For the first time, they have hope that their government can be more responsive."

Singh said he hoped to learn from Phase One, and use that knowledge to better plan for Herndon's Metro station.

"One of the things we can do right now is pay attention to the amount of traffic going to and from the Wiehle Station," he said.

Singh said he had several issues with the downtown master plan, including the parking garage and the financial forecast.

"Nobody has justified to me that the demand for a garage is there. It could sit empty and we could be paying the money for something nobody uses," he said. "I reviewed the downtown master plan's financial analysis in detail, and the analysis did not have merit. There's no way you can tell that people will come from Reston and Ashburn to shop here."

More information on Singh can be found at www.singhformayor.com.

FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community, including special holiday services. Send to herndon@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday.

Trinity Presbyterian Church, 651 Dranesville Road in Herndon, has Sunday Worship Service at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery and childcare are available during worship services. Youth and Adult Sunday School is held Sundays from 9:40-10:45 a.m. 703-437-5500 or www.trinityherndon.org.

Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road in Herndon, has worship services at 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Sundays, with a Latino service on Saturdays at 7 p.m. 703-793-0026 or www.florisumc.org.

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center,

Brown's Chapel, 11450 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston, holds monthly classes for the general public. Gen Kelsang Varahi, an American Buddhist nun, will teach 'Living Meditation: Meditation for Relaxation,' teachings and guided meditations that teach students how to relax their body and mind. \$12. www.meditation-dc.org or 202-986-2257.

St. Anne's Episcopal Church, 1700 Wainwright Drive in Reston, holds Sunday services at 7:45 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and contemporary service at 5 p.m. Nursery, Sunday School and Adult Education available. Morning Prayer on Monday at 9:30, Holy Eucharist Wednesday at 8:15 a.m. 703-437-6530 or www.stannesreston.org.

SEE FAITH, PAGE 10



Guests browse a selection of desserts at the Chantel's station at the Taste of the Town event at Worldgate Thursday, April 19, an annual fundraiser for the Council for the Arts of Herndon.



Buzz Rider samples some jambalaya from Jimmy's Old Town Tavern during the annual Taste of the Town event at Worldgate Thursday, April 19.

PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Taste of the Town Celebrated

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Samantha Hendrie of Herndon knew she didn't have to worry about dinner for her family Thursday, April 19, she just had to bring them to Worldgate.

"It's a great night, because I just have to take a five-minute drive, and there's an entire world of food within 50 feet," she said. "It's one of the events that our family has come to for the last few years, and the kids know to ask about it every time we pass Worldgate."

The event was the 21st annual Taste of the Town, which featured more than 20 Herndon restaurants serving up their signature dishes to benefit the Council for the Arts of Herndon.

Guests could visit a variety of vendors, from American wings and burgers to international fare from Turkey, Thailand and the Mediterranean, among others.

"I enjoy Taste of the Town because it gives me a chance to try a few appetizers, a few entrees and dessert," said Sam Calvados, 10. "My favorites were: Jimmy's [Old Town Tavern] wings, the food at Tara Thai and the cake from Chantel's."

Drinks were served by Arts Council members, as well as Herndon Town Councilmembers and other officials, in their annual tradition.

"It's cool to go to an event with your friends and see the town leaders right at a table serving drinks and just hanging out," said Sara Hoover of Herndon. "Just one of those things that's only possible in a small town."

More information on the Arts Council can be found at www.herndonarts.org.

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OPINION

Connection Wins Public Service Award for Homeless Coverage

VPA Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service; plus 44 other awards.

The Connection Newspapers was awarded the Virginia Press Association Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service last Saturday, April 22, "for exhaustive coverage of homelessness in the newspaper's circulation area." The award was announced in Roanoke at the press association's annual convention.

The public service entries were judged by Robert Giles, former editor and publisher of The Detroit News and the immediate past curator of the Nieman Foundation.

Giles wrote of the Connection coverage: "Its stories gave voice to the homeless. Its stories effectively portrayed the plight of the poor living in tents and other makeshift shelters. It reported on how poverty and homelessness affects children. It examined the causes of homelessness and explained why people don't have a place to live even when some have a job. It reported on the role of government and groups that advocate for the poor.

WINNING ENTRIES, CONNECTION, CENTRE VIEW

See a complete list of winners on page 2

❖ Virginia Press Association 2011 Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service

❖ Michael O'Connell, Victoria Ross, Deb Cobb, Robbie Hammer, Bonnie Hobbs, Amber Healy, 1st Place, Fairfax Connection, Multimedia Feature Report, An End to Homelessness, Judges comments: Wow. This is an amazing endeavor. The print and digital components complement each other nicely, although I would have liked to see some aggressive promotion of digital from print. The video and photo gallery provide nice layers to the overall storytelling. The webpage featuring your original coverage will be an excellent home to keep following this important topic. Well done.

❖ Alex McVeigh, 1st Place, Great Falls Connection, In-Depth Or Investigative Reporting

❖ Bonnie Hobbs, 1st place, Centre View, Education Writing, Judges Comments: What the judges really appreciate about Bonnie's stories is that each one is a unique, interesting and very readable story that makes the sometimes dry subject of education coverage appealing to readers. Much more than the "school board did this and the school board did that" type stories that so many newspapers publish, not to say that this coverage is not important. Bonnie's work really made us want to read it. Good job, and congratulations.

❖ Bonnie Hobbs, 1st place, Centre View, Feature Writing Portfolio, Judges comments: These entries were fantastic. Great writing style really makes these unique stories shine. Nicely packaged final product. Well done!

❖ Deb Cobb, 1st place, Fairfax Connection, Online Slideshow, Wounded Warriors at Bat

❖ Deb Cobb, 1st place, Fairfax Connection, General News Photo, Warm Welcome, Judges comments: I love how every subject in this photo is engaged into a mo-

It provided extensive lists of community organizations with missions to help the poor and homeless, and told how individuals could volunteer.

"It invited knowledgeable citizens to contribute guest editorials that offered perspectives and fresh ideas for addressing the problems of homelessness."

EDITORIAL The online component of the homeless project also won first place in the multimedia category. Edited by Michael O'Connell, the project included stories, video and photos by Victoria Ross, Deb Cobb, Robbie Hammer, Bonnie Hobbs and Amber Healy.

The Connection Newspapers group, including the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and Centre View and Potomac Almanac, won 45 awards in all.

The Alexandria Gazette Packet won 17 awards.

The top award winner was Michael Lee Pope, who won 12 awards including first place for government writing; health, science and environmental writing; in-depth or investigative

ment. Wonderful.

❖ Deb Cobb, 1st Place, Burke Connection, Photo-Illustration, Vampire Feast, Judges comments: The intensity in the model's face combined with the high contrast photo make this a dynamic illustration for a story about vampires.

❖ Victoria Ross, 2nd place, Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton, In-Depth Or Investigative Reporting

❖ Jon Roetman, 2nd place, Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton, Sports Writing Portfolio, Judges comments: This entry exhibits solid sports reporting, plain and simple. The completeness of these stories is the name of the game here. The reporter demonstrates versatility, switching from feature to news writing within the articles themselves, giving the reader the whole story.

❖ Jeanne Theismann, 2nd place, Mount Vernon Gazette, Feature Story Writing, 10th Anniversary of 9-11, Judges comments: Good job of writing about the 10-year anniversary of 9/11 — many stories were written, this was one of the better ones. Nice work.

❖ Louise Krafft, 2nd place, Mount Vernon Gazette, Picture Story or Essay, Graduation Day in the Mount Vernon District, Judges comments: Good variety of a regular event in the community.

❖ Michael Lee Pope, 2nd place, Mount Vernon Gazette, Business and Financial Writing

❖ Lashawn Avery-Simon, 2nd Place, Arlington Connection, General News Photo, ribbon cutting at park, Judges comments: great expression and tight composition

❖ Michael Lee Pope, 2nd Place, Arlington Connection, Health, Science and Environmental Writing, Judges comments: Excellent writing. Diverse topics. Took what could be dry material and led me through it and kept me interested. Good work.

❖ Marilyn Campbell, 2nd Place, Great Falls Connection, Personal Service Writing, Beating the Holiday Blues, Great



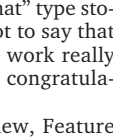
Victoria Ross



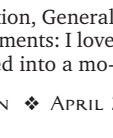
Jon Roetman



Jeanne Theismann



Louise Krafft



Michael Lee Pope



Lashawn Avery-Simon

Michael Lee Pope

Marilyn Campbell

Read the Winners

Many of the winning entries are posted at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/

reporting; breaking news and public safety writing.

In addition to her work on the homeless project, photographer Deb Cobb won individual first place awards for photo illustration for a cover depicting a vampire; for an online slide show of "wounded warriors at bat," and for general news photo.

Bonnie Hobbs won two first place awards, one for education writing and one for feature portfolio. Alex McVeigh won first place for in depth or investigative reporting for his coverage of a land use issue in Great Falls. Montie Martin won two first place awards, one for business writing, the other for personal service writing.

The Children's Connection won an award and judges said it was a "simple and elegant idea showcasing children's artwork, a great way to attract young readers."

While it is gratifying and fun to win awards, it reflects our mission to tell the stories of the local community. We welcome your ideas and suggestions about what we should be covering now.

MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM,

WWW.TWITTER.COM/MARYKIMM

American Smokeout, Getting into 'Right Fit' Private School; Judges comments: Trio of strong entries.

❖ Mike O'Connell, Victoria Ross, Deb Cobb, Robbie Hammer, Bonnie Hobbs, Amber Healy 2nd place, Fairfax Connection, Special Sections or Special Editions, End to Homelessness, Judges comments: "End to Homelessness" tab. It is nice to see a newspaper commit to a project such as this in the form of a special tab.

❖ Julia O'Donoghue, 2nd place, Fairfax Connection, Education Writing W2W06 31912 Judges comments: Very nice variety in these stories, again, like the first place winner, going much deeper into the multitude of possibilities available in coverage of education and schools.

❖ Kenny Lourie, longtime columnist and Connection advertising representative, won two 1st place awards from the Maryland Delaware DC Press Association, one for local column and one for sports column. Lourie has been writing about his odyssey with Stage IV lung cancer, and the judges noted: "Writer chooses tough subject, his own mortality, and handles it quite well. He gives us an honest look at a very personal issue."

❖ Kemal Kurspahic, Laurence Foong, Amna Rehmatulla, 3rd place, Reston Connection, Special Sections or Special Editions W2M08 30698, Children's Connection, Judges comments: Simple and elegant idea showcasing children's artwork, a great way to attract young readers.

❖ Victoria Ross, 3rd place, Fairfax Connection, In-Depth Or Investigative Reporting

❖ Mary Kimm, 3rd Place, Burke Connection, Editorial Writing, Judges comments: Mary Kimm's columns are strong, particularly the one taking to task a school board on its disciplinary procedures in light of a student's suicide. The community is better for her work.

❖ Michael Pope, 3rd place, Mount Vernon Gazette, In-Depth Or Investigative Reporting



Julia O'Donoghue



Kenny Lourie



Laurence Foong



Mary Kimm



Kemal Kurspahic



Amna Rehmatulla

Oak Hill & Herndon CONNECTION

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Herndon Elections: Vision and Action

To the Editor:

The Herndon Town Elections are coming up on May 1. I encourage everyone to check the candidates' websites and attend events to learn more about them and their vision for Herndon.

Although I love living in Herndon, I feel like the Town is "stuck in neutral" as far as making any improvements that benefit its citizens and increase the tax base. The last major improvement to the town was the building of the Municipal Center and Library shortly after I moved here 19 years ago.

Especially during the last six years, there has been a shift away from support for any major projects. Other than a number of consulting studies that have yet to result in anything being implemented, the emphasis has been on public safety with an expansion of the police department and shrinkage of other town services to keep taxes as low as possible.

Various Town Councils have talked about re-vitalization of the downtown, incentives for metro development and traffic issues, but seem to be stuck in the planning stage. I would like to see a Town Council that is willing to take some risks and forge ahead with implementation.

Since the incumbent is not running for Mayor this year, we will be electing a new Mayor. The individual elected will provide the leadership to move Herndon forward to make it an even better place to live. I think that Lisa Merkel is the only candidate running who has the drive to make that happen.

Sheila Olem and Grace Wolf are first-term Town Council members who are running for re-election. They have proven over the past two years that they want to restore and improve town services, spur economic development, improve relations with other jurisdictions in Northern Virginia and promote new projects in Herndon. They have my vote. Melissa Jonas has served for the past two years on the Planning Commission and before that representing Herndon on a critical task force. She is now running for Town Council, where she would stand up for our Town while also working to move projects forward.

Jeff Davidson is a long time Herndon resident who has shown his commitment by attending most of the Town Council meetings over the two years. He is nearing retire-

ment and is running for Town Council to give back to the community by using his extensive management experience. He is promoting a Town Wide Transportation plan that I believe is long overdue. Eric Boll is an engineer raising his children in Herndon and taking an active role in the Community. The actions outlined on his website show that he would be a strong Council member interested in implementing public improvements. Both Jeff Davidson and Eric Boll would be excellent new members of the Town Council and have my vote.

The candidates that I support all have a bias toward action and a vision that Herndon can retain its community spirit and home town atmosphere while implementing major projects that will benefit the citizens and bring in new tax revenues. I hope that you will consider these excellent candidates when you cast your votes on May 1 at the Community Center.

Nancy Myers
Herndon

Supporting Merkel for Mayor

To the Editor:

I am proud to support Lisa Merkel for Mayor of Herndon. Since Vice Mayor Merkel took office in 2010, she has succeeded in re-focusing the town away from the divisive issues of immigration and day labor, and put her energies where they needed to be: land use, economic development and budget.

On her watch, the downtown master plan and the metro area plan were passed. Business-friendly ordinances have been passed, such as a tax credit to new Herndon businesses and a sign ordinance which would relax limitations on Grand Opening signs. She has chaired a town branding initiative that will help market our town in a positive way beyond its boundaries. She had a Metro sign installed on Herndon Parkway, to attract prospective new businesses and residents.

She has helped to mend relationships between our town government and our Fairfax County representatives. On her watch, the Neighborhood Resource Center was taken over by the county, saving the town many thousands of dollars. She has led an effort to start studying an intra-town transit system, working with Supervisor Foust to garner his support for expanded Connector routes

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 13

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herndon@connectionnewspapers.com

Or to mail photo prints, send to:
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Pet Adoption 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Taste of Chantilly 11:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Car Show 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Children's Fair 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Main Stage Entertainment 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
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FAITH NOTES

FROM PAGE 4

Adult Sunday school will be held 9:30 a.m. Sundays at the Washington Plaza Baptist Church at Lake Anne Village Center. The group is studying the Gospel of Mark. Services follow at 11 a.m.

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

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the Jewish Outreach Institute offer the Mothers/Parents Circle, an umbrella of free educational events and resources. Jewish rituals, ethics and the creation of a Jewish home, regular meetings and group Shabbats and holidays. Participants include Sha'are Shalom, Congregation Beth Emeth, Temple Rodef Shalom and the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. ShalomDC.org.

The Baha'i community of McLean holds a weekly fireside, a meeting of discussion, devotion and fellowship, at 7500 Box Elder Court in McLean, at 8 p.m. every Friday. An

opportunity to learn about the Baha'i faith. 703-556-3400.

Epiphany United Methodist Preschool, 1014 Country Club Drive, N.E. in Vienna, is now enrolling 3-4-year-old students for the 2010/2011 school year. Contact 703-938-2391 or www.epiphanypreschool.com.

Hope Fellowship Church will temporarily be meeting at Woody's Golf Range, 11801 Leesburg Pike, Herndon. Sunday Worship Services for the Southern Baptist church are at 10:45 a.m. The public is invited to join a Bible believing, multi-ethnic/multi-cultural congregation, with Bible-based sermons and uplifting music. 703-599-3527 or www.hopefellowshipchurchloudoun.org.

Knitters needed the first and third Wednesdays of the month, at 7 p.m., at **St. Timothy's Episcopal Church**, 432 Van Buren St., Herndon. The church's Shawl Ministry is offering free knitting instruction while providing shawls, blankets and other knitted items for people in need. No cost and yarn can be provided. E-mail shawl@saint-timothys.org or visit the Pastoral Care page at www.saint-timothys.org.

NEWS

Meet Town Council Candidates

FROM PAGE 3

detached single family homes for senior citizens as part of the town's downtown development and that he would oppose any rezoning applications that would replace high-density housing where small town neighborhoods currently exist.

More information can be found at www.kirbyforcouncil.com

❖ Olem was elected to her first term on the Town Council in 2010. She said she ran on clear goals two years ago, and hopes to be re-elected so that she can follow them through to completion.

"In 2010 I ran on three main issues. Planning for Metro: we passed a plan. Downtown development, during my term, we passed a plan. Town services: during my term we have kept services that have meant so much to our residents, and even found funding to bring back some services that were cut," she said. "In 2012, planning for the Metro is still on the burner. We passed a plan, but now we need to move forward on zoning. We need to move forward on a downtown parking plan. Passing the downtown plan was only a step, but with nowhere to park, there's hardly any incentive for businesses to move downtown."

More information on Olem can be found at www.sheilaolem.com.

❖ Waddell is an 18-year resident of Herndon, and served two terms on the council from 2006 to 2010. He has chaired the town's Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory committee and the Herndon Crime Prevention Council and currently serves as chair of the Herndon Community Association Coalition.

Waddell says he is running as "the little guy," and that while popular opinion is that Metro planning must be completed right away, there is time to make a more thought-out plan.

"Two years ago, the rallying cry was 'metro is coming and we're not ready,'" he said. "Since that time we've seen a rush to put in place amendments to Herndon's comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance when in fact Herndon's stop on the new Silver Line is at least five years away and construction has yet to begin. The area of the town adjacent to the station will probably not be

developed for a few years after that."

More information on Waddell can be found at www.charliewaddell.com.

❖ Webster has lived in Herndon since 2004, and recently completed the Town's Citizens Police Academy. He volunteers at the Herndon Neighborhood Resource Center, giving legal advice and representation on domestic violence matters. Webster said he is also studying Spanish so he will be able to "better communicate with all of Herndon's residents."

An attorney for over 20 years, he says his experience will help guide Herndon through requirements that lie ahead.

"Herndon's mandated compliance with the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act is going to require a significant expenditure of money by our town," he said. "The Capital Improvement Program estimates \$12 million for stormwater management retrofits and new projects with the actual cost of compliance unknown at this point and will. I believe no other candidate comes close to matching my expertise when it comes to environmental law compliance."

More information on Webster can be found at www.davewebster.us.

❖ Wolf was elected to her first term in 2010. A 14-year resident, she is a former Wall Street trader and management consultant and now owns a small business. She is currently president of the board of the Council for the Arts of Herndon, and was awarded the town's Distinguished Volunteer of the Year award in 2006.

She said she is interested in making dealings with the town easier for businesses and residents.

"I would encourage a set of behaviors that would streamline town processes," she said. "One of the things I'm hoping to speak about as a success two years from now is a fast track program to make it easier for businesses to put up signs, homeowners to build decks and to make Herndon a user-friendly, customer service focused municipality, so that when you say 'I'm opening up a business in Herndon' you are the envy of the rest of the community."

More information on Wolf can be found at www.graceforherndon.com



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WEEK IN HERNDON

'Big Truck Days' in the Town of Herndon

The Town of Herndon's Department of Public Works hosts its annual "Big Truck Days," an opportunity for children – and their parents – to see the town's big trucks and heavy equipment on display. Light refreshments will be served and souvenirs will be provided to children.

Where: Public Works complex, 1479 Sterling Road, Herndon.

When: Thursday, May 3, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Friday, May 4, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.

The town is collecting non-perishable food donations for the needy; Big Truck Days attendees are encouraged to bring donations



PHOTO BY STEVE TOOLE

Space Shuttle Discovery on its final approach at Dulles on April 17.

ENTERTAINMENT

Send announcements to reston@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 25

Open Mic Night. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Jimmy's Old Town Tavern, 697 Spring St., Herndon. Every Wednesday. Register your band at BluesSlide@aol.com or 703-593-5206. www.jimmystavern.com.

THURSDAY/APRIL 26

Fenwick Fellow Lecture and Reception. 2 p.m. George Mason University, Johnson Center Instruction Room, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With Dr. Michael Chang, 2010-2011 Fenwick Fellow, on "Service at the Manchu Court: The Young Kangxi Emperor and His Personal Advisors." Refreshments served. 703-993-2491 or dhogan1@gmu.edu.

Comedy Night. 8:30 p.m. Sully's, 14513 Lee Jackson Highway, Chantilly. Every Thursday. 703-818-9292 or mysullys.com.

Soprano Hilary Park with David Lang. 2 p.m. Reston Community Center, Hunters Woods, Center Stage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Free. 703-503-3384 or -476-4500.

Friends Book Sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. All ages. 703-689-2700.

Singer/Songwriter John McCutcheon. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Folk music. \$22. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 27

Concert Pianist Joyce Yang. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Including pieces by Bach, Schumann, and Brahms. \$35. www.wolftrap.org.

Friends Book Sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. All ages. 703-689-2700.

SATURDAY/APRIL 28

Operation Care Package 5k. 9 a.m. Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Race to raise funds for postage for servicemembers, featuring finishers ceremony with refreshments, awards and raffle prizes. Register at www.active.com/running/reston-va/operation-care-package-5k-2012.

Friends Book Sale. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. All ages. 703-689-2700.

Cheery Chickadees. 10:30 a.m. Walker Nature Education Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Reservations required by April 25. \$5-\$8. For age 3-5 accompanied by an adult. Reserve at 703-476-9689 or naturecenter@reston.org.

Virginia Ballet Company: Swan Lake. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College Ernst Cultural Center Theater, 4001 Wakefield Chapel Road, Annandale. Tchaikovsky's four-act full-length classic ballet, with local dancers Christine Gilmore and Eleni Thomas alternating in the role of Odette/Odile. www.virginiaballetcompany.org.

Arts Reception and Performance. Reston Community Center, Lake Anne Plaza, Reston. "Play," an exhibition of sculpture by six regional artists, at 5 p.m., followed by "Out of Place," a site-situated installation and contemporary dance performance, at 7:30 p.m. www.restoncommunitycenter.com or 703-476-4500.



The International Chamber Soloists will perform at the Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road in Reston, on Sunday, April 29 at 2 p.m. Founded in 2004 by violinist Dmitri Berlinsky, they are a group of young string players from all over the world. www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

Folk Duo The Nields. 7:30 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Traditional folk music. \$18. www.wolftrap.org.

Artists' Reception. 5-7 p.m. Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE), 12001 Market St., Suite 103, Reston. "Play" features six artists linked by imagination and a childlike engagement with materials and concepts. www.restonarts.org or 703-471-9242.

Yard Sale and Car Wash. 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. South Lakes High School, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston. Yard sale proceeds benefit the Choral Arts Department, car wash proceeds benefit the class of 2015. wallertraci3@gmail.com.

Puppy Prance Fun Walk and Canine Carnival. 10 a.m. Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. For families and dogs over 4 months old, followed by demos, contests, vendors, food, games and prizes. Proceeds benefit paws4people/paws4vets.com. www.puppyprance.com.

SUNDAY/APRIL 29

Virginia Ballet Company: Swan Lake. 2 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College Ernst Cultural Center Theater, 4001 Wakefield Chapel Road, Annandale. Tchaikovsky's four-act full-length classic ballet, with local dancers Christine Gilmore and Eleni Thomas alternating in the role of Odette/Odile. www.virginiaballetcompany.org.

Friends Book Sale. 1-3:30 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. All ages. 703-689-2700.

How to Make a Solar Oven. 1 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Recommended for children age 10 and up. Supplies provided. \$5-\$8. 703-476-9689 or naturecenter@reston.org.

April Bird Walk: Twin Branches. 7:30 a.m. Twin Branches Trail, intersection of Twin Branches and Glade Drive, Reston. Age 16 and up. Beginning and expert birders welcome. 703-476-9689 or naturecenter@reston.org.

International Chamber Soloists. 2 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. A group of young string players from all over the world. www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 2

Nature's Altered Seasons. 7 p.m. USGS, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive Reston. Free public lecture with Dr.

Jake Weltzin. The USA National Phenology Network, a program sponsored by USGS, is a national effort to help track the timing of plant and animal activity as an indicator of environmental variation and climate change. This presentation describes current results. Federal facility, photo Id required. www.usgs.gov/public_lecture_series.

Open Mic Night. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Jimmy's Old Town Tavern, 697 Spring St., Herndon. Every Wednesday. Register your band at BluesSlide@aol.com or 703-593-5206. www.jimmystavern.com.

THURSDAY/MAY 3

The Phoenix Winds Trio. 2 p.m. Reston Community Center, Hunters Woods, Center Stage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Jane Hughes on oboe, Bill Jokela on bassoon and Allan Howe on clarinet. Free. 703-503-3384 or -476-4500.

Lupe Fiasco. 8 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$35-\$45, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 1-800-745-3000. Accessible seating is available for patrons with disabilities by calling 703-993-3035.

FRIDAY/MAY 4

ValeArts Spring Show. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Vale Schoolhouse, 3124 Fox Mill Road, Oakton. "Full Spectrum," featuring nine local artists. Reception, 7-9 p.m. Free admission. www.valearts.com.

Towne Square Singers Spring Concert. 7:30 p.m. Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Tickets \$12, available at the Herndon Community Center or 703-787-7300.

SATURDAY/MAY 5

ValeArts Spring Show. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Vale Schoolhouse, 3124 Fox Mill Road, Oakton. "Full Spectrum," featuring nine local artists. Free admission. www.valearts.com.

New Dominion Chorale. 4 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Mendelssohn's Elijah, featuring soprano Esther Heideman, alto Laura Zuiderveen, baritone Timothy LeFebvre, tenor Issachah Savage and the New Dominion Chorale. Tickets \$5-\$30, available at cfa.gmu.edu/tickets, 703-993-2787, www.tickets.com or 888-945-2468.

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Oakton Baseball Trying to Regain its Footing

Since 6-1 start, Cougars have struggled in Concorde District play.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

A tough stretch of the season has hit the Oakton High baseball team since the start up of play within the Concorde District schedule a few weeks ago. The Cougars, who were 6-1 at one point this spring, entered this week in the midst of a tough five-game losing streak.

Four of the losses during the recent skid were against district opponents, putting Oakton (6-6 overall, 0-4 in the district) in dire need of a victory against a Concorde opponent. This week, the Cougars were scheduled to play district games at Westfield on Tuesday, April 24, before coming home this Friday, April 27 to host Herndon High. Friday night's game with the Hornets is set to begin at 6:30.

"We have struggled in the win-loss column recently, but overall, our guys play hard every time they step on the field," said Oakton head coach Justin Janis. "I've been pleased with their effort and preparation.

We just need to make a couple of plays here and there and that will turn our momentum back in the right direction."

Oakton's first two district games were both one-run setbacks - road losses at Herndon, 4-3, on April 10, and Chantilly, 3-2, on April 13. A day following the loss to the Chargers, Oakton lost a non-Northern Region affair at Loudoun Valley (Cedar Run District), 9-1.

In its third and fourth district games, both at home on April 17 and 19, the Cougars lost to Robinson, 6-4, and also fell to Centreville, 10-6. That put Oakton at a disappointing 0-4 record in district games.

Oakton has received a particularly strong season thus far from junior starting pitcher Matt Gregor.

"Matt has been pitching very well," said Janis. "Every time he has pitched he has given us a quality start."

Mitchell Carroll, a junior, has played well at shortstop defensively and is batting .300. The Cougars' leading hitter is junior Joey Bartosic, who is hitting .342.

OAKTON BEGAN the season with a flurry with victories in its first five games. The Cougars opened the season with a home game on March 15 versus Yorktown High of the National District and defeated the Patriots by an 8-3 score. Two days later in an early season tournament at McLean High



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Oakton junior shortstop Mitchell Carroll has played well for the Cougars this season both at shortstop and at the plate.

School, Oakton won both ends of a doubleheader - defeating the host McLean Highlanders 8-7 before handling West Potomac High (Patriot District) by a 15-4 score later that afternoon/evening.

On March 23, Oakton traveled to Richmond for a Friday evening game at St. Anne's-Belfield. In that outing versus the

private school team, Oakton improved its record to 4-0 with a 9-2 win.

The next week, the Cougars hosted McLean on a Saturday afternoon on the final day of March and won, 7-4.

Over spring break week, Oakton, competing in a local tournament, played a pair of games. The Cougars, on Monday, April 2, lost at Lake Braddock Secondary (Patriot District), 2-0, for their first setback of the season. But they defeated visiting West Springfield, another Patriot District opponent, 3-1, the following day in a mid-afternoon game played at Oakton to improve their record to 6-1.

Since the win over the Spartans, Oakton has struggled with the four straight district losses. Over the next several weeks leading up to the Concorde District Tournament (May 15-21), the Cougars will look to earn as many regular season district wins as possible in order to give themselves the best possible seeding for the district tournament.

A year ago, Oakton entered districts as the top seed and went on to win the district tournament title with a finals win over Westfield. At the ensuing Northern Region playoffs, the Cougars advanced to the second round quarterfinals before seeing their season end with a barn-burner, 13-12 loss to Lake Braddock. Overall, Oakton finished 18-6 in 2011.

SPORTS NOTES

The **Northern Region's 30** varsity high school girls' lacrosse teams will each compete in their respective first round district tournament games next Friday, May 4. The region is made up of four districts - the Liberty, Concorde, Patriot, and National Districts.

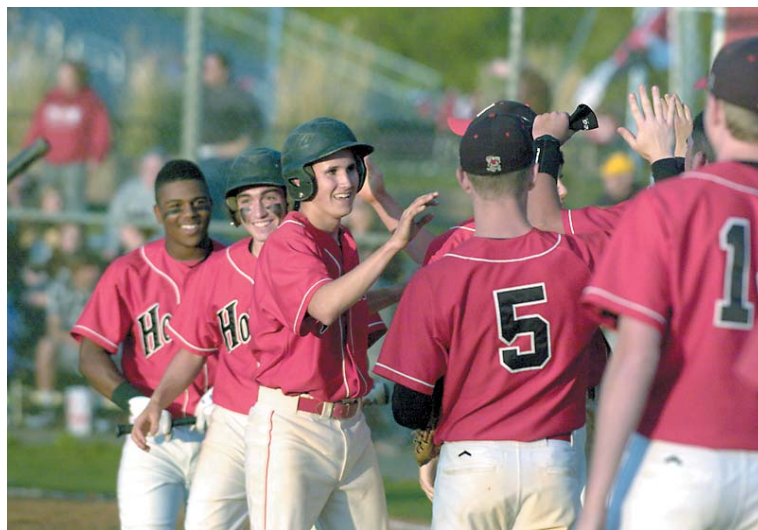
But the first round district postseason games will be extra special this spring because they will benefit breast cancer research. The Friday night of district tournament field hockey is being dubbed the first annual 'Virginia High School League (VHSL) Tournament for a Cure.'

VHSL is the governing body of high school sports in Virginia.

Each of the Friday night district first round contests will be played at different locations in support of, and for the awareness of, breast cancer research and its cure. Proceeds from the postseason games will be given to the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

More than 625 girls' lacrosse players from the region will take the field for the postseason showcase wearing the same 'pink' attire, unified in their support for the breast cancer awareness cause. All of the players will be wearing pink hair wraps, pink ribbon shoe laces, and pink ribbon pins.

The multi-site, multi-team,



Herndon lost its Concorde District home game to Centreville last Friday, 5-4. Even so, there were good moments for the Hornets during the evening game.

near simultaneous effort is the first of its kind and one in which the Northern Region Girls Lacrosse Coaches Association hopes will become an annual event.

"It is a unique and first of its kind tournament in support of breast cancer awareness, its research and cure," said Lindsey Linden, the head coach of the South Lakes High girls' lacrosse team.

Fundraising for this year's district tournaments was left to each team. In the future, possible unified fundraising is under discus-

sion as well as expanding the tournament by joining together with the 30 boys lacrosse teams of the Northern Region.

This **week's Northern Region Top 10** Baseball Coach's Poll is as follows: Lake Braddock of the Patriot District remains at the No. 1 position, with a trio of Concorde District clubs - No. 2 Centreville, No. 3 Chantilly, and the No. 4 Herndon Hornets - following. The five through seven slots are filled by teams from the



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Herndon senior Matt Smith follows through on a swing during the Hornets' game against the Wildcats. Herndon (8-3) will play at Oakton High this Friday night at 6:30.

Liberty District with the McLean Highlanders at No. 5, the Madison Warhawks No. 6, and the Stone Bridge Bulldogs No. 7. The next two teams in the poll are defending Northern Region champion South County (Patriot District) at No. 8 and Oakton (Concorde District) at No. 9. Two teams, Langley High (Liberty District) and Westfield (Concorde) are tied for the No. 10 position. Other teams receiving votes were: W.T. Woodson, West Springfield, Robinson, and Marshall.

The **Oakton High girls' basketball team**, which went unbeaten last winter and captured the Virginia State AAA championship, will be presented with the Army National Guard National Ranking Trophy - as part of the fifth annual MaxPreps Tour of Champions for Girls Basketball - this Friday at the school's spring pep rally. Oakton, under head coach Fred Priester, is one of 10 schools across the nation earning this honor.

Herndon Honors Volunteers

Town holds the 28th Annual Mayor's Volunteer Appreciation Night.

On April 15, 425 volunteers were honored for their service to the Town of Herndon from 38 different service organization and groups. Each of the honorees contributed 100 hours or more of volunteer service in the community last year. The 28th Annual Mayor's Volunteer Appreciation Night was held at the Herndon Community Center.

Citizens joined Herndon's Mayor, Steve J. DeBenedittis, members of the Town Council, Supervisor John W. Foust, and Delegate Thomas Rust in celebrating the spirit of volunteerism. The evening's keynote speaker was Andrew Horn, Social Entrepreneur and Advocate.

The Distinguished Corporate Service Award was added this year to honor up to two businesses or corporations that contributed to the town through outstanding commitment to, or promotion of, the town for the greater good of Herndon.

The awards were presented to Maude's Hair Salon located in the heart of Herndon to Virginia Dominion Power for their 20-year partnership with Herndon-Reston FISH to prevent the electricity in the homes of people in crisis from being discontinued.

Each year the town honors up to three Distinguished Volunteers.

The first Distinguished Service Award was presented to Bob Ashdown, who has served in several



Tim Sargeant of Virginia Dominion Power accepts the Distinguished Corporate Service Award presented by Herndon Mayor, Steve J. DeBenedittis. Standing to his left: Peggy LeReche of Herndon-Reston FISH, while Council member, Grace Wolf (seated) looks on.

capacities for 40 years as a LINK volunteer and helped propel LINK to succeed and grow into an organization that serves over 7,000 individuals in Herndon, Sterling, and Ashburn. The second Distinguished Service Award was presented to the husband and wife team, Anthony and Marcia DiTripani who have been active in the communities of Herndon and Reston since they first moved to the area in 1969. Both have worked tirelessly for Herndon Reston FISH, including Marcia's service as President for five years. The third Distinguished Service award winner, Dave Kirby, currently volunteers planning the American Legion's Memorial Day and Veteran's Day services, managing the Legion's festival booth and volunteering for Friday Night Live for over five years, plus serving as a Board member of Herndon Hospitality Association.

For more information, visit the Town's website at www.herndon-va.gov, and click on parks and recreation, or call 703-787-7300.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 7
around Town.

Vice Mayor Merkel is not one to sit on her hands and wait for things to happen to the Town. She has the energy, experience and initiative to be pro-active and to insist that Herndon has a place at the table when it comes to regional planning. Vice Mayor Merkel has proven herself to be an effective leader, moving Herndon forward while respecting its heritage.

I enthusiastically support Lisa Merkel for Mayor.

Barbara Glakas
Herndon

Merkel for Mayor

Dear Herndon Voter:

On May 1st, at our Community Center, you will pick a new team to guide our Town for the next two years. The leader of that team, our next Mayor, will set the agenda

and represent our community at the local, county and state level.

We feel the best qualified candidate is our current Vice Mayor, Lisa Merkel. We need to elect a true leader with a positive vision for our Town.

Lisa realizes that a sound working relationship at the County level will benefit Herndon's citizens greatly. She has demonstrated her leadership ability and reached out to our elected officials at the County level to re-establish the Town of Herndon as respected partner with Fairfax County. Those efforts have resulted in Lisa receiving the endorsement of our Dranesville District Supervisor, John Foust, and Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman, Sharon Bulova.

As former Mayor and Town Council Members, we have our 47 years of collective experience in leading the Town of Herndon. We know what it takes to be an effective leader, and have watched with pride as Lisa has worked tirelessly

to improve and promote our Town. Lisa is the right candidate at the right time to move Herndon forward.

Please join us in our commitment to sound leadership, with a positive vision for Herndon, by making Vice Mayor Lisa Merkel our next Mayor on May 1st.

Yours for a better Herndon,

Michael O'Reilly
Mayor 2004-06
Town Council 2000-04

Darryl Smith
Vice Mayor 2004-06

John De Noyer
Vice Mayor 1990-2, 2002
Town Council 1988-2004

Harlon Reece
Town Council 2000-08

Richard Downer
Town Council 1971-74, 1990-2000, 2008-10

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Centreville

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Clifton

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Fairfax

4110 Oxford Ln \$293,000 Sun 1-4 Barbara Blumer Coldwell Banker.. 703-405-5993
5430 Ashleigh Rd \$899,000 Sun 1-4 Kinder Saund Long & Foster.. 202-369-5597
12460 Blissful Valley Dr \$530,000 Sun 1-3 Laura Davis Samson Props.. 703-282-8112

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1347 Butter Churn Dr \$479,000 Sun 1-4 Carolyn Pennington RE/MAX.. 703-283-9346

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Leesburg

43180 Eleni St \$425,000 Sun 1-4 Jo Ann Prociw Long & Foster.. 703-968-7000

McLean

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1497 Teague Dr \$1,750,000 Sun 1-4 Pat Buck McEneaney.. 703-738-9537
1822 Dalmation \$675,000 Sat 1-4 Casey Samson Samson Props.. 703-508-2535

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2964 Palmer St \$1,150,000 Sun 1-4 Beth Anspach Long & Foster.. 703-938-4200
3403 Lyrac St \$775,000 Sun 1-4 Jeremy Cunningham Redfin.. 703-955-1832

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20249 Water Mark Pl \$979,000 Sun 1-4 Marianne McKittrick RE/MAX.. 703-444-3111

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1692 Moorings Dr \$549,900 Sun 1-4 Matthew Chae Keller Williams.. 703-222-3300
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2491 Freetown Dr \$429,000 Sun 1-4 Troy Sponaugle Samson Props.. 703-408-5560
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1567 Autumn Ridge Cir \$399,500 Sun 1-4 Connie Crosby Long & Foster.. 703-790-1990
1624 Fieldthorn Dr \$324,900 Sun 1-4 Frankie Raybould Weichert.. 703-264-0000

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9874 Sweet Mint Dr E \$434,000 Sun 1-4 Moses Mazloon Keller Williams.. 703-338-1154

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Really?



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

Having recently upgraded my cell phone, I have finally, due to its larger keys and simplified data-entry process, learned how to enter "contacts" and their phone numbers as well as select some of these key contacts for speed-dialing. This relatively basic function, which had eluded me for years, has opened up a slew of possibilities, that even I can see will lessen the burden on my brain to remain engaged. Now I won't have to think nearly so much about what I've spent 40-plus years doing: dialing a phone number from memory and/or referring to a phone/address book for that number. Thanks to my new phone, I have finally turned the corner of technology. I have passed "Go." Next we'll see where I land: "Boardwalk" or "Baltic" and see if there is a monopoly of my time as a result.

One week into my new communication life, I have entered 16 contacts, some with only one phone number, others with mobile, home and work. In addition, I have entered/selected two speed-dial numbers. Obviously, I have ample space remaining for future contacts and certainly more space for speed-dials. Going through the list of prospective "speed-dialers" and "contacts-to-be," I have now reached a point where I'm sort of looking for people/numbers to add; I suppose you could say I've reached the second tier. I've already entered/allocated from the top tier (most called, most familiar, most logical: friends, family and business). Yet spots remain, so I've begun a mental search of who/what numbers might be cell phone-worthy (meaning whose phone numbers might I want to include in my cell phone) either as a "contact" or a "speed dial" since the process of doing so is now clearly within my rather limited abilities.

Two numbers that I've thought about adding – and which relate directly to this column's title, are my car's auto repair shop and my oncologist. I have most definitely entered them as contacts. However, given the semi-precarious nature of driving a car with 137,000 miles on the odometer, perhaps it would be prudent to assign a speed dial number to my mechanic. Not that I want to be calling him that often or have the circumstances be so time-sensitive that speed – in our ability to connect with one another over the phone – is of the essence but, hoping and praying don't necessarily make it so. And let's be honest, my car is not getting any newer.

I have similar feelings toward my oncologist. I don't want to have to/need to call him that quickly, but again, let's be realistic; I'm probably not getting any healthier. As such, if I did call him, presumably it wouldn't be to inquire about the weather; more likely it would be to inquire whether a new symptom or a deterioration of some kind relating to my being a stage IV lung cancer survivor (who has now outlived his original "13-month-to-two-year prognosis" by years) is significant. But if I'm being honest about my life/health circumstances, who better to call – and be able to call quickly and efficiently, than the doctor who is primarily responsible for my well-being/treatment? I don't want to feel this way, but if there's anything that seems increasingly more relevant (as I continue to live beyond my original prognosis), it would be to plan for circumstances that are beyond my control (although I'm not saying/admitting to their inevitability), especially if there are other people (close to me) who might need some assistance attempting to control those circumstances, should they occur.

Admitting to their significance – and need however, and in turn acting/planning on their behalf, so to speak, are tough pills to swallow. Never do I want to give credence to my original diagnosis and accept my fate, sort of. Nevertheless, organizing my phone to prepare for the worst, while still hoping for the best, might be the best way – for me, to take care of myself and those closest to me as well. But thinking that technology, specifically my phone, would play a major role in that task, is a really big surprise, all things considered.

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

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Fairfax County Public Schools: Visual and Performing Arts

Coming Next Month: Summer Activities and Programs

The Power of Art

"If I were a rich man, ya ha deedle deedle, bubba bubba deedle deedle dum."

"If I Were a Rich Man," *Fiddler on the Roof*

A catchy show tune, a mesmerizing photograph, stunning computer graphics, a stirring orchestra rendition, an eloquent pencil drawing, or the graceful movements of a modern dance performance – each has the power to move audiences and transport them to a moment in time.

This Just In:

Fifteen Fairfax County Public School students received national medals for their entries in the 2012 Scholastic Art Awards sponsored by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers.

Whatever the talent or interest, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) provides students with a comprehensive arts education.

Students in grades K through 6 receive music and art instruction taught by certified art teachers. Middle school and high school students may choose to enroll in a variety of elective course offerings in all fine arts disciplines to include dance, music, theatre, and visual art. Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) art classes are offered for students in grades 11 - 12.

Art engages students in a process that helps them develop the self-esteem, self-discipline, cooperation, and self-motivation necessary for success in life.

"Art making involves critical thinking and problem solving to create a product," said Aaron Stratten, art education specialist at FCPS. "In this sense, art is an authentic approach to providing students with essential skills they will need in the 21st century to

develop creative solutions to challenges. Creativity and problem solving are essential components of innovation which will feed the economy and industries of the future."

Art All Around Us

Students can explore many forms of art including art, music, photography, computer graphics, dance, orchestra, theatre, band, and more. Beginning in elementary school, students are introduced to concepts and processes that nurture creative thinking and problem solving through art and music classes.

"As they advance to the next grade level, students are exposed to recognized works of art and become actively involved in finding connections between images and ideas," said Stratten. "Emphasis is placed on exploring themes and concepts related to family and a sense of place. By participating in real and meaningful art experiences, students increase their understanding of the value of the visual arts to themselves, their family, and to the world in which they live."

Music to Your Ears

More than 40,000 FCPS students are enrolled in the music elective programs of band, chorus, general music, orchestra, and guitar. The vocal and instrumental ensembles are seen and heard worldwide. Locally, the ensembles perform at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, George Mason Center for the Performing Arts, and the White House among others.

"Music, through its inherent ability to develop intellectual and emotional communication skills, encourages cultural awareness and enriches society," said Tamra Ferreira, fine arts coordinator at FCPS. "The FCPS music curriculum provides opportunities for students to attain the knowledge and skills necessary to become musically literate, well-rounded individuals."

Let the Shows Begin!

Springtime theatre productions bring performance spaces alive throughout Fairfax County Public Schools. The study of theatre provides students opportunities for personal and academic growth, ways to create bridges to other subject disciplines and other cultures, and the development of skills which provide lifelong enjoyment. In middle school, FCPS students discover and explore the basic elements of theatre, and augment that study with a variety of theatre presentations and special events. At the high school level students develop and expand their knowledge, skills, and resources to create a high level of accomplishment in the classroom and in performance.

Go see a show at a Fairfax County Public School. Many events are free or inexpensive. Find out more at www.fcps.edu and click on the blue Events tab.



Getting to Know Us:

Herndon High School Theatre Teacher
Zoë Dillard

Zoë Dillard grew up around theatrical personalities, so it was an obvious choice when it came time to decide on a career. Theatre, of course.

Though she initially pursued acting roles, it was a request in 1982 from Falls Church High School to help them choreograph a musical that confirmed her love of working with young people in the theatre.

Today, she serves as the theatre director and teacher at Herndon High School.

Dillard believes theatre offers students a chance to discover themselves.

"High school is all about finding your niche. Some students come into the theatre to see what's

here and what's going on. Once they are here, they realize there are many opportunities," said Dillard. "They can direct children's theatre or participate in improv. They can be part of the ensemble or put their technical skills to work building sets. They can work with 5th and 6th graders in the children's theatre. They can also use their computer graphic design skills for publicity."

"I try to offer students many different kinds of opportunities in the theatre so they will grow," she said. "It's not just about acting."

"I love their energy," she continued. "By the time they are seniors, they've changed and grown. I find that inspiring to watch."

Did You Know?

More than 33,000 secondary students enrolled in fine and performing arts courses during the 2011-12 school year:

- Visual art – 12,400
- Music – 12,600
- Theatre – 2,600
- Dance – 200



Cappies: Award-Winning Performances



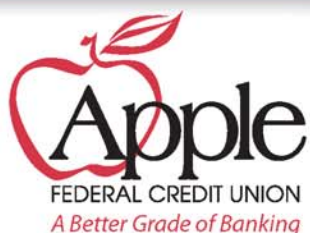
For those who would rather critique than perform, the Cappies, or Critics and Awards Program, is designed for high school theatre and journalism students who are trained as theatre critics, attend shows at other schools, write reviews, and publish the reviews in local newspapers and online. The international program was launched by FCPS in 1999.

Each spring, Cappies critics nominate actors and technicians for Cappies awards, which are presented, along with awards for critics, at the annual Cappies Gala at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

"The Cappies Gala showcases the amazing artistic talents of our high school students," said Judy Bowns, co-founder of Cappies and theatre arts and dance specialist at FCPS. "Student actors, backstage technicians, singers, dancers, and musicians are honored with a Cappie by their peers who acknowledge this excellence by their votes. It's the only student theatre awards program that is student-driven with no awards decided by adults."

The gala draws more than 2,000 theatre students and their families. For more information visit www.cappies.com.

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