

Reston CONNECTION

Volunteer
Fairfax

From left, Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), Reston resident Jean Pacelli and Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chair Sharon Bulova after Pacelli was given a Volunteer Service Award Friday, April 27. Pacelli volunteers at the Embury Rucker Community Shelter.

Reston Volunteers Recognized

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Retiring in June

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AREA ROUNDUPS

Police Investigate Attempted Bank Robbery

Police were called to the Bank of America, located at 748 Walker Road, around 10:53 a.m. on Tuesday, March 20, for an attempted bank robbery. An investigation determined a man approached a teller and demanded money. The suspect then fled the bank without any money. No one inside the bank required medical attention.

The suspect was described as white, 25 to 30 years old. He was about 6 feet tall, 200 pounds and was wearing a white T-shirt and an orange construction vest.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, email at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

Three Horses Wounded

Police are asking for the public's assistance in identifying the person or persons responsible for wounding three horses. The incident occurred on a property in the 2600 block of Centreville Road, adjacent to Frying Pan Farm Park, sometime between 9 p.m. on Wednesday, April 25 and 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 26. All three horses were cut and required medical attention. The wounds appear to be non life-threatening.

A man was seen by park employees stumbling around Frying Pan Park around 11 a.m. on Thursday, April 26. He was described as white, about 5 feet 8 inches tall and 160 pounds. It is unknown if he was involved with the incident.

Anyone who may have been in the area of the park during that time frame and recalls seeing anything or anyone suspicious is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, email at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to reston@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

THURSDAY/MAY 3

Registration Open House. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Clifton Children's Academy, 14315 Compton Road, Centreville. For fall 2012

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 4

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Members of the Fairfax Board of Supervisors recognize Richard and Peg Brown with a Volunteer Service Award Friday, April 27 for their efforts volunteering with several local nonprofits.



Members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors present Marilyn Silvey of the United Christian Parish with a Volunteer Service Award on behalf of her organization.

PHOTOS BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Reston Volunteers Recognized

Local residents, organizations honored at annual Volunteer Service Awards.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Several Reston residents and organizations were honored at the 20th annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards Friday, April 27. The United Christian Parish, a faith-based group consisting of four denominations as well as Richard and Peg Brown, Sarah Samuel and Jean Pacelli were all awarded during the ceremony.

The United Christian Parish was given the Adult Volunteer Award. Consisting of members of the United Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church of the U.S.A., the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church, it donated more than \$150,000 to county causes and activities last year.

"The United Christian Parish congregation is a steadfast community partner that not only contributes time, energy and compassion, but even renowned culinary skills to our programs," said Mandy Guernsey, volunteer manager with Reston Interfaith. "The volunteers are so vibrant because of the committed involvement in their community... their spirit is a driving force behind our organization as well as so many other area nonprofits."

The parish also commits manpower in addition to their monetary contributions. They organize game nights at the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, performed improvements at the Ronald McDonald House at INOVA Fairfax and prepare dinners for

local shelters.

In 2011 they also commenced a partnership with Lake Anne Elementary School, providing lunch money for low-income students and implementing a tutoring program.

THE RISING STAR AWARD was presented to another Reston Interfaith volunteer, Jean Pacelli. Pacelli serves on the front lines of the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, distributing winter clothes, greeting donors, answering calls and more.

"Jean has the same calm demeanor in every situation, whether it's taking a call from someone in crisis who's sleeping in a car or replacing a lost toothbrush with a new one from the supply closet," said Susan Alger, volunteer manager with Reston Interfaith. "She's marvelous with children, patient and encouraging with clients who have mental health problems and good with almost every kind of volunteer. She just rolls with everything and that wonderful smile of hers never slips."

The shelter served more than 650 men, women and children last year, and Pacelli's knowledge and expertise has helped the staff focus more on clients.

Richard and Peg Brown have spent almost four decades serving the Reston area. They transport clothes and furniture to residents of Reston Interfaith Shelters and knit baby blankets for low-income families leaving local hospitals.

"The Brown family demonstrates the joy of giving firsthand to everyone with whom they interact," Guernsey said. "Whether car-

"The Brown family demonstrates the joy of giving firsthand to everyone with whom they interact."

— Mandy Guernsey, volunteer manager with Reston Interfaith



Members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors present Sarah Samuel, a volunteer with FACETS, a Volunteer Service Award.

rying cardboard from offices to be recycled adding a musical touch to an event or helping put together a donated bunk bed for a family transitioning from a homeless shelter, Richard and Peg invest their talents and compassion in any task they undertake."

In addition to their work with Reston Interfaith, the Browns volunteer with FACETS, Meals on Wheels, Senior Employment Resources and Volunteer Fairfax. They have also gotten their grandchildren involved in their various activities.


ANOTHER RESTON RESIDENT and FACETS volunteer, Sarah Samuel was given the Senior Volunteer award. Samuel has

worked in many aspects of the nonprofit since 2009, updating databases, working on donor acknowledgements and volunteering at local hypothermia shelters.

"When we are really busy, Sarah is always willing to come in an additional day to help us," said Stacy Boden, development coordinator for FACETS. "She helps me troubleshoot problems with the database so that I can accomplish all my work. Sarah has taught me so much, I don't know how I could do anything without her help."

Showing up is one thing, but Samuel is also known for her warm personality while volunteering, and a go-to consultant with almost all of the FACETS programs.

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FROM PAGE 2

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SUNDAY/MAY 6

The Use and Abuse of Sacred Narrative. 12:45 p.m. Fairfax Unitarian Church, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Sacred texts such as the Bible or the Koran provide a narrative of God's role in the world, and man's place in it. Unfortunately sacred texts can also be used to justify a skewed and toxic view of life.

TUESDAY/MAY 8

Care Giving: Burden or Blessing? 7 p.m. Reston Interfaith, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston. Panel discussion hosted by Giving Circle of HOPE. info@givingcircleofhope.org or 703-665-9334.

NARFE Chapter 1116 Vienna-Oakton. 1:30 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., Vienna. Ice cream social. With Buckley Fricker, author of "Elder Care: The Road to Growing Old is Not Paved," a reference manual on elder care topics. Free. 703-698-1838.



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NEWS

South Lakes Principal Retiring in June

After 31 years as teacher and administrator, Butler is stepping down.

BY AMIEE FREEMAN
THE CONNECTION

After 31 years as teacher and administrator, South Lakes Principal Bruce Butler is retiring. Butler's last day will be June 29.

Butler came to South Lakes as an assistant principal in 1998 after being a science teacher and then assistant principal at Herndon High. In 2005, when then-principal Realista Rodriguez retired, Butler applied and was selected for the post.

"When Rodriguez retired, it seemed like a logical challenge," said Butler referring to his decision to apply to be South Lakes' principal seven years ago. "Outside of family, being principal here has been the greatest, most rewarding experience. It has been unbelievably engaging and rewarding."

During Butler's tenure as principal, South Lakes was faced with some high profile challenges and some day-to-day triumphs.

In 2007, Fairfax County Public Schools began holding town hall meetings to discuss the re-drawing of South Lakes' boundaries. During these meetings South Lakes' low test scores and the high number of students receiving free or reduced lunches, an indicator of poverty, was criticized. FCPS decided to re-draw South Lakes' boundaries despite the opposition. Since 2007, enrollment has increased by nearly 800 students.

At the same time as the redistricting debate, South Lakes was undergoing a \$48.2 million renovation. Renovation altered the interior space from the ineffective "open classroom" design of the original construction to a more conventional and less distracting classroom space. Renovations were complete in time for the 2008/09 school year.

The International Baccalaureate program, a rigorous pre-university course of study offered at eight FCPS high schools, has continued to grow. Every year students transfer into South Lakes to take part in these classes.

Butler has also attracted highly-skilled and motivated teachers to the school, such as the teacher of the Geo-Spatial Information Systems (GIS) class. This college-level course was offered for the first time at South Lakes this year. The former science teacher in Butler shines through when he talks about this newest addition to South Lakes' curriculum.

During the year-long class, students learn about the GIS program and design a project. As the school year wraps up, the GIS students are currently putting the



PHOTO BY AMIEE FREEMAN/THE CONNECTION

South Lakes Principal Bruce Butler talks with Geo-Spatial Information Systems students about their end-of-year projects. Students will present their projects to George Mason professors in May. Students who successfully complete the course will receive college credit. Butler recruited the teacher of this class to come to South Lakes.

finishing touches on their projects which include topics such as analyzing the scale of destruction of a nuclear blast using projected wind patterns, the impact of sea-level rise on agricultural production in the Chesapeake Bay region, and tornado density maps. On May 23, the students will present their projects to George Mason professors. Students who successfully complete the course will receive college credit.

"Some of these kids have changed what they want to do in university because of this class," said Butler.

Butler says the spirit and kindness of community, give him hope.

"We've made some great strides as a school. The key has been the dedication of the teachers, our incredibly strong assistant principals, the parents who contribute so much, and the spirit of our kids," said Butler. "The kindness of the community and the kindness of the kids is inspiring and an affirmation. It gives me great hope for the future."

Butler said that he will continue to work with FCPS, not as an employee, but as an adviser and liaison for other county school renovation projects. FCPS will begin the hiring process by holding a community meeting with Cluster VIII Superintendent Fabio Zuluaga.

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OPINION

Reminders to Press Ahead for Housing

Spring discussion on hypothermia shelters could help preparations for winter.

In February, 2007, 59-year-old Robert Bruce Miller was found dead outdoors in Chantilly. Miller was homeless, known to businesses and residents in the area. He died of hypothermia, exposure to the cold.

Since that time, houses of worship and non-profit organizations have stepped into the gap, providing shelter from the storm on a “no-turn-away” basis from November to March.

In Fairfax County, about 35 houses of worship provide shelter to approximately 1,000 homeless men and women 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. Similar programs operate in Arlington and Alexandria.

An alarm went up over the past month as some churches that have been providing hypothermia shelter heard that they could be barred from providing the service due to fire-code violations. While some faith leaders said they had heard as many as 18 would be unable to reopen, Sharon Bulova said that just four might have insurmountable fire code violations for serving as emergency shelters. Obviously no one wants to put both church volunteers and those seeking shelter at risk.

EDITORIAL “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.

It’s important to recognize that providing shelter from life-threatening conditions is in fact a government function. Faith-based organizations and nonprofits are stepping in on this issue and many others to provide leadership, inspiration and services, saving local governments enormous sums of money.

The county should consider if it might be appropriate for firehouses with capacity might be open in rotation as hypothermia shelters,

staffed with church volunteers, if some churches cannot make the changes needed by fire code regulations.

More important is to recognize the need for hypothermia shelters as an indicator that we have not ended homelessness. Providing housing first to people who need a variety of services saves money and makes the most effective use of scarce resources.

Amanda Andere, head of FACETS, Catherine Hudgins, member of the Board of Supervisors, and others reminded the group concerned about the shelters that the real issue is housing.

“Shelter is a temporary solution. We need housing,” Andere said.

It is telling that many services are provided to the homeless men and women who come to the hypothermia shelters.

Housing advocates continue to press for more affordable housing. It’s a goal that is urgent to keep in mind as Fairfax County looks at what is likely to be its last massive growth in development, the increased density and building around the county’s coming Metrorail stations.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

COMMENTARY

Funding Squeeze

BY KENNETH R. “KEN” PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

A favorite target for budget cutters in Virginia and other states during the economic recession has been higher education. While public institutions of higher education rely on state funding, there are other sources of funds available to them, the most obvious being tuition and fees. As the number of wealthy alumni grows, there is the potential for increased endowments. Fundraising campaigns at the University of Virginia, for example, have goals in the billions of dollars and exceed many private institutions. Contracts with the private sector and government agencies help to grow university research budgets.

There is no denying the fact that colleges and universities in Virginia have been hard-hit with budget reductions. Some schools find themselves operating at the level of 2004 state funding when they must meet inflationary cost increases and expected student growth. There appeared to be hope for the colleges and universities when Governor McDonnell announced a goal of 100,000 more graduates and in December of last year communicated that he was going to seek additional monies for higher education.

With the Governor’s support the General Assembly did increase funding for higher education. Last week, however, the Governor sent college

presidents a letter asking them to limit in-state tuition and fee increases to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). While keeping tuition down is a legitimate concern of parents and students, the limitation means that efforts to expand programs and services will likely be curtailed.

The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis in Richmond found in its study that during the time Governor McDonnell has been in office state funding for higher education has not kept up with the CPI. In addition, the FY 2013 increase in state support for higher education is not even enough to make up for declines in support in FY 2011 and FY 2012 when inflation is factored in. While the decline in state support for higher education has been a key factor in institutions having to raise tuition and fees in recent years, the limitation of keeping tuition and fee increases to the CPI means that something else will have to go, whether it is programs or classes. According to the Institute, if Virginia’s funding for higher education had kept up with inflation since FY 2010, then FY 2013 and FY 2014 general fund support for higher ed would have been \$1.76 and \$1.79 billion, respectively. Instead, the levels were \$1.67 billion per year. Clearly, higher education is caught in a funding squeeze that is likely to result in a reduction in programs if funding is not increased.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Never Enough

To the Editor:

Once again the Democrat-majority Fairfax County Board of Supervisors gives the hard-pressed taxpayer one in the eye. With the nation’s public debt heading into the stratosphere, yet more money is to be taken from those that actually pay taxes (primarily homeowners) to sate the supervisors’ appetites. But wait, Supervisor Hudgins (Hunter Mill District) has come up with a novel justification.

“I don’t think taxes are a burden,” she opined, “they’re a price we pay for a civilized community.” So that’s all right, then. The higher the taxes, the more “civilized” the community? Not a penny, apparently, can be cut from the overall budget covering the county’s “essential” services. The Citizen Handbook listing the county’s myriad offices, “services,” and assorted taxes gets bigger by the year. Don’t drop it on your foot!

Harry Locock
Reston

Learning from Mistakes

To the Editor:

In response to Ms. Elaine Montgomery’s letter (Letters to the Editor, The Reston Connection, April 25-May 1, 2012), I make two points. One, reproductive rights are given to us by our Creator – a point of view not necessarily as-

cribed to by those with the existential mindset that sex is paramount and reproduction of the human species secondary. It is disingenuous on the part of Ms. Fluke to include recreational sex as a part of reproduction rights. I believe we are learning that reproduction is critical to maintaining a viable democracy – something our offspring may face by 2050. There is usually a downside to advances in science. It is also disingenuous on the part of Ms. Montgomery to infer that those opposed to the birth control pill advocate the denial of drugs prescribed by competent authority to alleviate human suffering.

Secondly, it must be pointed out that President John F. Kennedy inherited his wealth, Presidential-candidate John Kerry married his wealth and gave nothing to charity. Presidential- hopeful Mitt Romney earned his wealth and, in accordance with his religious beliefs tithes his income. He further donated the entire legacy his father willed to him to charity. I do not believe we will see Mitt and Ann Romney spending millions of tax-payer dollars for a “date” in New York City.

I agree with Ms. Montgomery, it is sad that our discourse cannot question the policies that have resulted in the Entitlement Generation - a product of the failed War on Poverty. Why cannot we learn from our mistakes?

Jack Kenny
Past President, Republican Club of Greater Reston

Reston CONNECTION

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COMMUNITY

From left - Luehrs; D'Addario; Sue Beffel, Vice President of the Reston Lions Club and Steve Reber, President of the Reston Lions Club.



Reston Lions Meet

Paul D'Addario, who is blind from a condition called Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP) caused by damaged nerve cells in his eyes, spoke to the Reston Lions Club at their meeting on Wednesday, April 18. He discussed the effects of the condition and a study he is participating in at Johns Hopkins Hospital that is helping to improve the technology needed to provide relief to those who have the same condition. He

lives in Arlington and is President of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the American Council for the Blind. Davida Luehrs, President of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Foundation Fighting Blindness and lives in Reston, was a guest at the meeting and gave a status report on the Vision Walk sponsored by the Foundation Fighting Blindness being held on May 5.

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Northern Virginia Residents Honored for Volunteer Efforts

Four locals receive Community Champions Awards for Health Care and Social Services to the Community.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Four Northern Virginia volunteers were honored for their charitable efforts recently. Edward Shahin of McLean, Marie Markey of Alexandria and Mattie Palmore and Kari Warren of Mt. Vernon received the Molina Healthcare Community Champions Award during a ceremony at the at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center in Fairfax.

"We are pleased to celebrate Marie, Ed, Mattie and Kari — individuals who have made such a positive impact in the lives of others through their selfless work," said Dr. Jean Glossa, medical di-

rector of the Fairfax County Community Health Care Network (CHCN) for Molina Healthcare. "Each of their stories is so inspiring, and the work that they do to better the health and well-being of their communities is so important. It is our pleasure to not only recognize these four winners, but also to be able to support their worthy causes."

Palmore and Warren were honored for their work to support victims of domestic violence through their organization, the Women's Group of Mt. Vernon.

"This award means that the work that we do is not done in vain," said Palmore. "We don't do the work that we do for recognition. We do it to help the victims."

Markey, a volunteer at Annandale Christian Community for Action, is the coordinator and chair for the group's Family Emergency Assistance program. As a retired physical therapist, she also provides free physical therapy for clients at local free clinics.

"I believe that helping people is what one should do if one has the time and the opportunity," she said. "The 'haves' should help the 'have-nots.'"

Shahin is a senior citizen from McLean who advocates on behalf of other Fairfax County seniors through his volunteer work at Lewinsville Senior Center and as

one of the elected members of the McLean Community Center Governing Board.

"I retired three times," said Shahin. "I was afraid to retire until I could fill my life with worthwhile pursuits. I have taken up causes on behalf of seniors and it is the most worthwhile thing that I have done. I am more proud of

"We don't do the work that we do for recognition. We do it to help the victims."

— Mattie Palmore, Mount Vernon

this award than any award that I have received for anything in the past because it is giving of myself to help others."

The winners were nominated by community-based organizations



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Four Northern Virginia volunteers receive Community Champions Awards for their service to the community. Pictured are: Dr. Jean Glossa of Fairfax County Community Health Care Network; Mattie Palmore and Kari Warren of Mount Vernon; Marie Markey of Alexandria; Ed Shahin of McLean; and Gloria Calderon of Molina Medical Group.

and received \$1,000 grants to donate to nonprofit organizations of their choice. Markey donated her

grant to Annandale Christian Community for Action. Shahin gave his to the McLean Rotary Club Foun-

dation. Palmore and Warren gifted their grant to the Women's Group of Mt. Vernon.

Local Safety Net Clinics Seek a Few Good Doctors

Specialty care physicians and other medical professionals needed to serve low income, uninsured patients.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When Marie Markey of Alexandria retired from U.S. Air Force as a physical therapist, she rolled up her sleeves and went to work helping those in need. Markey works as a volunteer twice each week at the Arlington Free Clinic, offering physical therapy to the clinic's low income and uninsured patients.

"The clinic fills a huge gap," said Markey. "We have people who walk in who don't have access to medical care for basic illnesses like high blood pressure and diabetes."

Markey is motivated by a sense of responsibility to give back to the community. "If everyone did their part, the world would be better place," she said. "I had a patient once who was a construction worker. He'd had back surgery and needed physical therapy to recover fully. He didn't have insurance and couldn't afford to pay for therapy. If he hadn't received free therapeutic services to help him re-

cover, he would have lost his job."

NOVA SPECIALTY ACCESS, a project of the Northern Virginia Health Services Coalition is looking for more volunteers like Markey to provide medical services to low-income, uninsured patients from local "safety-net" clinics. The project matches patients with local medical specialists who volunteer their services.

The coalition has reserved several days in May and June for medical professionals, such as specialty care doctors, nurses, and nurse practitioners, to volunteer at Head to Toe Specialty Clinics. The clinics will give patients enrolled at area safety-net clinics an opportunity to receive specialty health care services, including diabetic eye screening, foot care, diabetic nutrition counseling and audiology testing.

"The event is ... an important initiative where community members have the opportunity to get the health screenings they need," said Sterling resident Karen Rudat, nurse manager for Fairfax Community Health Care Network.

Project officials say their most urgent

Volunteers Needed

"Head to Toe" Specialty Clinic for low income, uninsured patients.

❖ Saturday, May 19th : Loudoun Free Clinic, 224-B Cornwall St, Leesburg g.Va.

❖ Saturday, June 2nd-2: Community Health Care Network, Bailey's Crossroads - — 6196 Arlington Blvd, Falls Church, Va.

❖ Saturday, June 30: Prince William Area Free Clinic, St. Margaret's Clinic, (also for patients of the Family Health Connection) 13900 Church Hill Drive, Woodbridge, Va.

Two volunteer shifts: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. noon and 11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Volunteers needed to fill the following slots:

❖ Registration Volunteers
❖ Translators
❖ Audiologists
❖ Nursing Volunteers
❖ Podiatrists
❖ Ophthalmologist/Optometrists
❖ Volunteers must be 16 years or older. For medical professional roles, volunteers will need a valid Virginia license. On-site orientation provided. To volunteer, email

TO VOLUNTEER CONTACT:
manager@novaspecialtyaccess.org or call (571-) 235-3577

shortage is of physicians: "Our greatest volunteer needs are for audiologists, podiatrists and ophthalmologists," said

Ulrich. "If there are other specialists that come forward, we would add other services as well. The program is ongoing and we're hoping to generate interest even if it is not on these specific dates."

Health care professionals must hold a Virginia license and volunteer in an area that is consistent with their licensure.

VOLUNTEERS ARE CRITICAL to the mission of the clinics.

"We work with a fantastic group of volunteer physicians, mostly specialists. We are so grateful for their generosity as they give their time and talent to increase the quality and access to care," said Dr. Jean Glossa, medical director, Community Health Care Network of Fairfax County and Molina Healthcare. "Without them, I don't know how some of our most vulnerable patients would be able to get the specialty care they need when they need it the most."

Services and availability vary from clinic to clinic. To be eligible for service at the safety-net clinics, patients must be adults who have a household income of 200 percent or less than the federal poverty level and no health insurance. Ulrich suggested that those interested in the services visit <http://novaclinics.org> to find a clinic that is right for them.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Alexandria resident, Marie Markey, volunteers her time to low-income uninsured patients at the Arlington Free Clinic. Local safety-net clinics are looking for volunteers particularly specialty care doctors and nurses.

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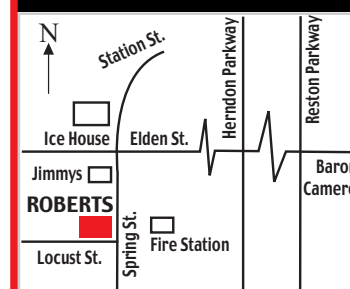
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ENTERTAINMENT

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/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.

Free Fridays with InterAct Story Theatre. 5-7 p.m. Greater Reston Arts Center, 11900 Freedom Drive, Reston Town Center, Reston. Family art-making, storytelling, and exploration. 703-471-9242 or restonarts.org.

Exhibit Opening. 10 a.m. ArtInsights Animation and Film Art Gallery, 11921 Freedom Drive, Reston Town Center, Reston. "Creature Comforts - Beloved Animals in Animation &

Film," art from Lady and The Tramp, 101 Dalmatians, Balto, Fox & The Hound, Winnie the Pooh and more. 703-478-0778 or artinsights.com.

SATURDAY/MAY 5

Reston Farmers Market opens for its 15th season Saturdays at Lake Anne Village Center, with 28 farmers/vendors and much more, 8 a.m.-noon.

Spring Festival. 1-5 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Live animals entertainment, children's crafts, fishing in Lake Audubon. Canoe and kayak rentals, \$3. Environmental displays and information. ha@reston.org or 703-435-7986.

❖ Raptor Conservancy: Live Animal Show. 1 p.m.

❖ Reston Historic Trust: Wildflower Hike. 1:30 p.m.

❖ Tom Bodine: Acoustic Music. 2 p.m.

❖ Bob Brown Puppets: World on a String. 4 p.m.

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.

Northern Virginia 5K VisionWalk. Lake Newport Swim Club at Brown's Chapel Park, 11601 Lake Newport Road, Reston. Registration 8:45 a.m., walk starts 10 a.m. Proceeds benefit the Foundation Fighting Blindness. www.VisionWalk.org.

Fairfax Civil War Day. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Historic Blenheim Estate, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Commemorating the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War. \$5 adult, \$3 age 12 and younger. Proceeds benefit the restoration of the Historic Blenheim Estate. www.fairfaxva.gov or 703-591-0560.

❖ Demonstrations on blacksmithing with an 1862 traveling forge, railroads, naval artifacts, medicine, jewelry, toys, slave life and soldier research.

❖ Re-enactors will portray General Robert E. Lee, General Ulysses S. Grant, General George B. McClellan, Colonel John S. Mosby, photographer Matthew Brady and a "Yankee Schoolmarm."

❖ Talks on generals Lee, Grant and McClellan; Germans; and soldiers' ID tags.

❖ Demonstrations of a Howitzer cannon artillery gun, "boot camps" for

children, author/vendor tents and more.

❖ Wagon rides through soldier camps, period music by Southern Horizon and period dancing.

❖ Guided tours of the first floor of the Blenheim house, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Social Justice Yard Sale. 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Proceeds benefit four charities. Cash only, no checks. www.uucf.org or lkozloff@verizon.net.

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.

Tails on Trails Dog Walk and Pet Adoption. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Pet Fiesta, live entertainment, face painting and caricature artists. Tails on Trails dog walk \$20 plus \$5 each additional dog. All proceeds benefit GoodDogz.org. www.petfiesta.org or 571-233-4557.

Ancient Technology Expo. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. Discover ancient Native American technology as seen by Captain John Smith in

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11

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SLHS Scores a Success with 'West Side Story'

BY MICHAEL MCKEE
THE CONNECTION

Romeo and Juliet are waiting for you to come see them at South Lakes High School. In addition to the "Star-Crossed Lovers," you'll also get to see and hear lavish production numbers with "A Cast of Thousands" and a lot of gorgeous music.

The SLHS Theatre Arts Department produced Leonard Bernstein & Stephen Sondheim's "West Side Story"

this past weekend and will again present it for Reston on May 3, 4 & 5. With ticket prices at \$10, it's clearly next weekend's attractive big bargain.

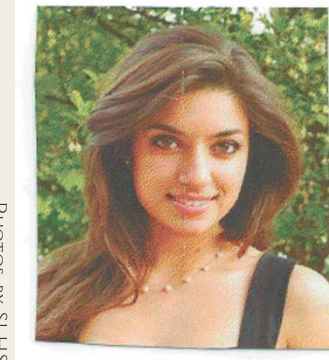
Faithfully reproducing the Broadway musical, the audience was treated to the beautiful melodies of Bernstein and the wit and smart lyrics of early Sondheim. Fine choreography was found throughout, done once more by SLHS alumna Lisa Girdy, while the orchestra, placed to one side as there is no "pit," was conducted by her husband, Air Force veteran Michael Girdy, doing his fourth show for SLHS.

The production numbers, with a large cast of energetic and appealing students, were especially well done. They were perfectly prepared, vibrant, engaging and the audience just loved them.

Although the spotlight was literally on Maria (Juliet) and Tony (Romeo) for a good deal of the night, Riff, the leader of the Jets gang played by Sean McCoy, and Bernardo, the leader of the Sharks, played by Mitchell Parker, were both spot-on, powerful performers all night.



Michelle Slivinski, a Junior who plays Anita, Maria's best friend.



Ariana Kruszewski, the Senior who plays Maria, the lead.

The lovely, graceful and fine soprano Michelle Slivinski, had an important role as Marie's closest friend Anita, and she extolled the virtues of America. But a friend, Rosalia, played by Megan Desisti, who sang and danced to perfection, kept remembering Puerto Rico more fondly. It was funny; it was well played; it was musical theatre at its best.

But the show belonged to Maria, played by an experienced singer-actress-dancer by the name of Ariana Kruszewski, who was cast perfectly. Her interpretation of "I Feel Pretty" was a knockout. A Senior this year, Ariana threw herself confidently into this huge role.

In addition, Tony was played by Ben Peter, Kenzy Forman was the Stage Manager, the lighting and sound was good and the entire production was directed by Maria Harris, the well known and widely experienced Theatre Arts Director who is also the Performing Arts Chair at SLHS.

Details regarding tickets, etc. are at www.southlakesdrama.com/wss/boxoffice.htm

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 10

1608 with hands-on and Make & Take activities. Make an ancient style pot, grind corn, try spear-throwing (atlatl), create shell/bone jewelry and more. Enjoy archaeological artifact exhibits and photo galleries. \$3, under age 5 free. 571-258-3700.

Squirreling Around on a Spring Day. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Children age 6 and up. Find squirrels throughout the historic house. \$5. 703-437-1794.

SUNDAY/MAY 6

Reston Town Center March of Dimes Walk. Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St., Reston. A 4-mile walk with a picnic, live band and children's activities to support March of Dimes. www.marchforbabies.org/team/rtcmarchers.

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.

May Bird Walk. 7:30 a.m. Bright Pond Lane, Reston. Age 16 and up. Beginning and expert birders welcome. 703-476-9689 or naturecenter@reston.org.

Towne Square Singers Spring Concert. 2 p.m. Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Tickets \$12, available at the Herndon Community Center or 703-787-7300.

MONDAY/MAY 7

Spring Tee with FCAC Deltas Golf Tournament. Reston National Golf Course, 11875 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Fairfax County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., present Captain's Choice, 4 person best ball. \$125. www.FCACGolf.info or Golf@fcacdst.org.

TUESDAY/MAY 8

Battle of Ox Hill Lecture. 7 p.m. Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. David Welker on the Sept. 1, 1862 Civil War battle near present-day Fair Oaks. \$5. Register at 703-437-1794.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 9

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 10

Classical Saxophone and Piano. 2

Northern Virginia FineArts FESTIVAL

The 21st Annual Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival will take place at the Reston Town Center, 12001 Market St. in Reston on May 18-20, with handcrafted artwork, contemporary and original performances, artist demonstrations, children's activities and live music. Over 200 master artisans in 18 different categories, including oil and acrylic painting, photography, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, jewelry, metal, leather, wood, furniture, wearable and fiber art will be featured. Free admission; \$10 gift certificate for participating Reston Town Center restaurants available. www.RestonArts.org or www.NorthernVirginiaFineArtsFestival.org.

p.m. Reston Community Center, Hunters Woods, Center Stage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Saxophonist Richard Kleinfeldt and pianist Yuniko Rogers. Free. 703-503-3384 or -476-4500.

FRIDAY/MAY 11

An Evening with The Avett Brothers. 8 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. \$39, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 1-800-745-3000. Accessible seating is available for patrons with disabilities at 703-993-3035.

Sunset Splendors. 7 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. All ages. Sunset nature walk. \$4-\$6. 703-476-9689 or naturecenter@reston.org.

"The Happy Movie." 7 p.m. Unity of Fairfax Church, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. 703-300-1857.

SATURDAY/MAY 12

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax.

With pianist Adam Golka. Britten's Sinfonia da Requiem, Debussy's La Mer, Ravel's Concerto for the Left Hand, and Elgar's Enigma Variations. Free pre-concert discussion for ticketholders at 7 p.m. Tickets \$25-\$55. info@fairfaxsymphony.org.

Northern Virginia Chapter, International Plastic Modelers

Society Model Classic 2012. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Museum quality scale models, a modeling contest consisting of over 80 categories, model kit, book and supplies vendors. Raffle prizes, Make & Take event for children, doll houses, Lego, HO and N scale model railroads, radio control models and more. Food concession on site. \$8 adults, \$10 entire family. www.novaipms.org.

Celebrate Communication 2012. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The area's premier expo for the deaf and hard of hearing communities, with 50+ exhibitors on all topics relating to deafness and hearing loss, including the latest in hearing assistive technologies and wireless technologies. Free. boleary@nvrc.org.

Great Falls Garden Club Plant Sale and Flower Show. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Flower Show 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Plant Sale 9 a.m.-1 p.m. www.gfgardenclub.org.

Fairfax County Women in the NAACP Community Yard Sale. 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. 703-470-2137 or fairfaxvawin@aol.com.

Birds in Boxes. 11 a.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Nest box monitoring. \$4-\$6. 703-476-9689 or naturecenter@reston.org.

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South Lakes' Lacrosse Clinches a Winning Season

Despite being undermanned, Seahawk boys defeat Liberty foe Highlanders.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Despite being far from 100 percent healthy, the South Lakes High boys' lacrosse team assured itself of a winning record this season by defeating McLean High last Thursday night, April 26, by a 9-7 score in the Liberty District contest played at South Lakes.

With the late regular season win, South Lakes, under head coach Craig Lunde, improved its overall record this spring to 7-4. The Seahawks were scheduled to wrap up the regular season earlier this week on Monday, April 30 with a district home game versus Langley. South Lakes was set to celebrate its Senior Night that evening.

The postseason Liberty District tournament is scheduled to begin this Friday night with quarterfinals round games. Friday's first round winners will not only advance to the district semifinals, but also qualify for the upcoming 16-team Northern Region playoffs.

In last week's win over McLean, several South Lakes players - starting defenseman Freddy Lehner, midfielder Kyle Savage, Najee Lewis, starting attackman Alex Rofail, and captain Jeff Church - were unavailable due to injury or illness, or hurt during the course of the game.



Brothers Nick and Alex Tucker, seniors on the South Lakes High boys' lacrosse team, came up through the Reston Youth League. Both are three-year varsity starters for the Seahawks.

But other Seahawks helped pick the team up. Especially strong games for South Lakes came from: Nolan 'Nails' Boyle, who played almost the entire game at midfield and scored for the Seahawks; sophomore Ben Bush, who scored twice from the midfield; junior Peter Moran, who won most of his face-offs; and freshman Joe Flynn, who started on attack.

Sophomore Hank Madden and junior Srikar Kuppa, who filled in for the injured Freddy Lehner, played solid games. Junior Zach Smith stepped in for the injured Alex Rofail and scored a much needed goal. It was a total team effort, said coach Lunde, who went on to credit Tony Dickerson, Chris Jennings, Dave Mathews and Dough Esherick with playing stellar games as well versus McLean.

For the South Lakes seniors (Class of 2012), who have been a part of the Seahawks' program

over the course of their high school careers, the victory over the Highlanders was extra special because it was their 27th career varsity win, the most any South Lakes class has ever experienced. Five of South Lakes' 12th graders will be playing the sport at the collegiate level next school year. Those players are: John Oakes (Ohio Wesleyan); Harrison Drier, Jeff Church, and Freddy Lehner (all at Christopher Newport University); and Nolan Boyle (Frostburg State).

The win over McLean was a huge one for South Lakes.

"The guys were so excited to win considering we have had a tough year for injuries," said Lunde. "The younger guys stepped up and gave the seniors the record."

OVERALL, IT HAS BEEN an outstanding season for South Lakes, which opened the season



PHOTOS BY KAM FLYNN

South Lakes senior Nolan Boyle, nicknamed 'Nails,' was a First Team All-Liberty District selection last year. This spring he has once again been a big part of the Seahawks' strong season.

with three straight wins - 15-1 over visiting Falls Church (National District) on March 13; 11-7 at Yorktown (National District) on March 20; and a 12-8 triumph at Liberty District opponent Fairfax on March 28.

Over spring break, the Seahawks competed at the West Springfield Tournament. There, they lost their first game to defending Northern Region champion Chantilly High (Concorde District), 10-8, on April 2. The following day, however, the Seahawks edged tournament host West Springfield (Patriot District), 12-11. In its third and final spring break game on April 4, South Lakes lost to Westfield High (Concorde District), 9-5.

South Lakes, after going 1-2 over spring break, did not resume

its season again until April 13 when it hosted and defeated Liberty District opponent Marshall High, 15-12, to improve to 5-2 overall and 2-0 in the district (the prior district win coming over Fairfax).

The Seahawks, however, lost consecutive district road games - 8-7 in overtime at Jefferson on April 17, and 8-1 at Stone Bridge on April 19 - to fall to 5-4 and 2-2.

However, Lunde's squad bounced back strong last week with a district road victory at Madison, 8-7, on Monday, April 23, and then the home win over McLean four days later on Friday. The win over the Highlanders put McLean at 7-4 overall and 4-2 in the district going into its final game versus Langley.

Versus Madison early last week, both the South Lakes' varsity and JV teams were victorious in games over their Warhawk counterparts. South Lakes had never before beaten Madison. The Warhawks, for years, have been a stalwart member of the Liberty District.

One key to South Lakes' success has been a mindset of individual players stepping up to make things happen. That simple 'Do it Yourself' philosophy, cultivated by coach Lunde, has helped the Seahawks as a team.

Instead of reacting to the opponent or waiting for a teammate to initiate a play, Lunde encourages his players to make something happen, within the context of the team, with aggressive, but smart, controlled play. That mantra has helped lead the Seahawks to enjoy an exciting season - one in which Seahawks' supporters hope will extend deep into the postseason.

South Lakes Baseball Loses Tough One to Langley

For the second time this season, the South Lakes Seahawks baseball team battled the Langley Saxons (9-7 record) but came up just short in a 5-3 loss. The Liberty District game took place last Friday night, April 27 at Langley.

Despite knocking out eight hits, the Seahawks (4-11) couldn't get enough timely hits to pull this one out. It was a gritty effort by Seahawks pitcher Billy McLaughlin, who pitched a complete game. Offensively, South Lakes was led by Ryan Forrest, who had three hits, including a double to lead off the game. Unfortunately for the Seahawks, they couldn't move him around as they ended the inning leaving a runner in scoring position - the first of six for the night.

After falling behind 3-0 in the first inning, South Lakes broke through with an RBI single by McLaughlin in the third inning. The Seahawks' defense kept the game close - thanks to a diving catch by Hayden Hall at the wall in left field, and a leaping grab of a line drive by second baseman Matt Wojciechowski.

After the Saxons tacked on another run in the fifth to take a 4-1 lead, the Seahawks responded with two runs in the sixth inning. The inning started with a leadoff double off the left field wall by Kyle King, who eventually scored on an errant throw by the pitcher. Austin Gibbons' RBI groundout got South Lakes back within one run.

After an insurance run by Langley in the bottom of the sixth inning, the Seahawks

had two men reach base in the top of the seventh but stranded them to end the game.

EARLIER LAST WEEK, South Lakes defeated the Thomas Jefferson Colonials, 9-5, on Tuesday, April 24 in a district road game. The Seahawks got off to a fast start on a two-run home run by freshman Kyle King, his second homer in as many games.

Junior pitcher Bobby Rae Allen worked around two first inning hits by the Colonials (2-11), thanks to a double play started and completed by senior third baseman Austin Schweppe and a caught-stealing throw by freshman catcher Jared Abelson. Allen pitched four solid innings and helped his own cause by picking off two runners at first base.

The Seahawks scored in each of the first six innings and took a 4-2 lead in the third inning on an RBI single by Schweppe that scored sophomore JoJo Lear.

South Lakes extended the lead to 6-3 in the fourth inning thanks to doubles by Austin Gibbons and Ryan Forrest and an RBI by Lear. Allen gave up two earned runs in four innings and was relieved by Lear in the fifth inning. After the first two Colonials reached base, catcher Abelson picked off the runner straying too far from second base to halt the rally.

The Seahawks tacked on two more runs in the fifth inning, thanks to a two-run RBI double by Allen. In the seventh inning, South Lakes brought in senior Billy McLaughlin to preserve the win for Allen and the Seahawks.

News

Reston Community Orchestra Celebrates 'Caribbean Night'

By MICHAEL MCKEE
THE CONNECTION

"Well, that was fun, and it certainly was different!"

That's the comment that was often heard as the appreciative crowd left the Reston Community Center Saturday evening. Utilizing a different venue and a totally new theme, the Reston Community Orchestra put on a successful Annual Benefit that was pleasing to everyone.

Indeed, it was different not to see cellists Joellyn Kinzer in a black gown and Kurt Usowski in his tux. To see Maestro Dingwall Fleary and clarinetist Davyd Breeskin in wildly colored floral shirts instead of being formally attired was a rather radical departure from the usual. And that's precisely what the RCO desired. It was a casual night of island music, food, dancing, drinks and fun. The silent auction and the raffles were appreciated, as was the cash bar, and the "Resort Wear" contributed to this casual, happy evening.

The RCO will conclude celebrating their 24th season on Sunday, May 20, at 4 p.m. in the RCC with their always popular highlighting of young local talent, this year entitled "Embracing Youth."



Beverly Cosham, President of the Board of Directors of the Reston Community Orchestra, sings at "Caribbean Night."

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL MCKEE/THE CONNECTION



Joellyn Kinzer, a cellist, transformed the Reston Community Center into a Caribbean setting. She is pictured here with her husband Lloyd Kinzer, President of the Reston Chorale and Past President of the RCO.



Ellen Graves, organizer of Reston's Founder's Day the same afternoon, is always one of the major volunteers for the Reston Community Orchestra.

Ferrari Club Holds Annual Spring Thaw

The Mid-Atlantic Region of the Ferrari Club of America held their Annual Spring Thaw event in Reston Town Center on Saturday, April 14. The weather cooperated brilliantly and the cars, parked along Market Street as well as in the Pavilion itself, sparkled in the sunshine. The pedestrianized street was crowded with people checking out the vehicles and stopping to take photos of themselves and family members in front of cars both new and classic. There were many local entries, as well as cars from Maryland, Pennsylvania, and even Florida on display. The arrival and departure of the cars seemed to excite the crowds, as the distinctive sounds of sports car exhaust systems echoed through the Town Center.

Ferrari Red was the dominant color of the day, but long-time FCA members Doug and Phyllis Teague of Warrenton had their light blue Ferrari on display. Doug's first Ferrari, purchased in 1987 and shipped with him to Tokyo was originally owned by Richard Carpenter, one half of the 70s musical group The Carpenters. "It had a great license plate," said Doug. "It read SONG4U. Sadly that plate



Ferraris in a row on Market Street.

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/
THE CONNECTION



Laura Ebert, founder and organizer of the Regional Event.

went 'missing' during the shipment." Doug and Phyllis design and lead one of the Club's most

popular annual events, the Virginia Grand, a two-day run through the back roads and mountain areas of Virginia with interesting stops along the way and overnight stays at historic inns or active resorts.

Laura Ebert, the event's local founder and organizer described the turnout as a real success. "125 participants with 78 cars being exhibited. About 75 percent of the entries are Ferraris and the rest are mixed exotics like Lamborghinis and Maseratis," she reported from her station at Clyde's Restaurant where the registrants were about to enjoy lunch with door prizes and special Ferrari surprises.

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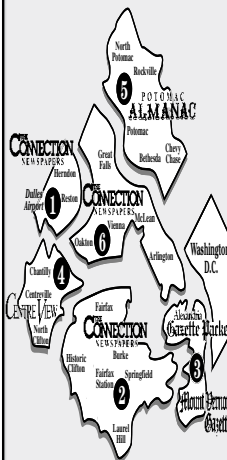
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21 Announcements

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News That's Fit To Print



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As our Publisher and fellow cancer survivor, Mary Kimm, e-mailed back to me last week: "Who knew 'stable' could be so exciting?"

Yes, 'stable,' as in the results of my most recent diagnostic scan after four heavy-duty chemotherapy infusions; even though I have been diagnosed with stage IV (meaning metastatic, meaning: moved already) lung cancer, nothing much is happening. For the moment, and that moment has now lasted three-plus years, I continue to be, fortunately for me, an anomaly: alive and reasonably well. Can I hear an "Amen?!"

Though I've tried, repeatedly, since June '09 when I first went public, column-wise, and confirmed my diagnosis/prognosis in print, it still remains nearly impossible to articulate exactly what bounces around in the head (figuratively speaking) of an otherwise healthy, then 54-year-old male (now 57), non-smoker, with no immediate-family history of cancer – or of even having ever smoked cigarettes, to be diagnosed with advanced-stage (IV; there is no V) "terminal" lung cancer. However, I continue to try, as you regular readers know. And thanks to the varied feedback I receive: cards, letters, e-mails, books, inclusions on prayer lists, and the expressions of encouragement and support typically contained, I am relatively healthy, in no small measure I believe, to the words and prayers – of hope and faith, directed to me.

Though I didn't start writing these "cancer columns," as I call them, for any greater good – it was simply what interested me, given my circumstances – they have evolved into a kind of cathartic exercise that perhaps has enabled me to still write them, if you know what I mean? If I didn't have this outlet (space) to indulge myself (thank you again, Mary Kimm), and subject you readers to the rigors – both physically and emotionally, of the ongoing struggles of a cancer patient living day by day, and writing about it week by week, I don't suppose I would be so proud of what I've accomplished/what I've endured.

That is not to imply that I have suffered any more than any other cancer patient and/or any other diagnosed-as-terminal patient; in fact, comparatively speaking, I think I've had it pretty easy (other than the reality of it all). Nevertheless, being diagnosed with cancer is all it's cracked up to be, despite one's relative good fortune in managing to outlive their prognosis ("13 months to two years"). I still can't get the characterization "incurable disease" as initially used by my oncologist, out of my head. As such, as good a result as what I recently received, it's still a temporary result, albeit it an amazing/great/miraculous one, but one subject to change, from what I understand. And as much as I want to receive and hear a permanent you're-cured-type of assessment from my doctor, apparently the chances are fairly unlikely. Still, I have to remain satisfied with the "stable" because the "stable" is all it's cracked up to be. And for a terminal patient, when you're no longer stable, generally speaking, you're no longer an anomaly.

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

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Cowboys participating in the 2012 Frying Pan Farm Park Professional Bull Riding event are introduced to a sold-out crowd inside the park's indoor arena on April 28. This is the second time the park has hosted the event, a collaboration between the Fairfax County Park Authority and the Friends of Frying Pan Park.



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

Bull Riding Comes to Frying Pan Park

On Saturday April 28, the Friends of Frying Pan Park, in partnership with the Fairfax County Park Authority, sponsored a professional Bull Riding Event at Frying Pan's Indoor Arena. Dozens of bulls and

riders entertained a sold-out crowd of 1,200 fans with their feats of athleticism. The event is a fund- and friend-raiser for the Friends of Frying Pan Park and is the second such event held at the Park.

— DEB COBB

Sixteen-year-old Leigha Willoughby of Charlottesville prepares for the chute to open on April 28, at the indoor arena at Frying Pan Farm Park during a professional bull riding event sponsored by the Friends of Frying Pan Park in partnership with the Fairfax County Park Authority. She has been riding bulls for ten months.

On Saturday April 28, a horsewoman trots an American flag around the indoor arena at Frying Pan Park at the start of the Professional Bull Riding event co-sponsored by the Friends of Frying Pan Park and the Fairfax County Park Authority. Dozens of bulls and riders entertained a sold-out crowd of 1,200 fans with their feats of athleticism.



A rider is bucked off a bull during a professional bull riding event at the Frying Pan Farm Park indoor arena on Saturday April 28. The event was sponsored by the Friends of Frying Pan Farm Park in partnership with the Fairfax County Park Authority.

A bull tries to throw off a rider during a professional bull riding event at the Frying Pan Farm Park indoor arena on Saturday April 28. The event was sponsored by the Friends of Frying Pan Farm Park in partnership with the Fairfax County Park Authority.



A bull comes out of the chute during a professional bull-riding event at the Frying Pan Farm Park indoor arena on Saturday April 28. The event was sponsored by the Friends of Frying Pan Farm Park in partnership with the Fairfax County Park Authority.