

Lisa Merkel is
sworn in as Mayor
of Herndon June 21
at the Herndon
Municipal Center.

Mayor, New Council Sworn In

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Boy Charged in Frying Pan Slashings

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Public Meeting Set to Present 2012 Park Bond

The Fairfax County Park Authority and the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority will hold a joint public comment meeting on Monday, July 9, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in Rooms 106/107 of the Herrity Building located at 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA. This meeting will provide an opportunity for residents to learn about plans for a bond referendum this fall and to comment on the bond program highlights.

In May, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors authorized a \$75 million Park Bond referendum as part of the Fiscal Year 2013 through 2017 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). This referendum, if approved by voters this fall, would provide \$12 million for the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority and \$63 million for the Fairfax County Park Authority.

The Fairfax County Park Authority has worked hard to create a balanced approach to capital improvements. Using the Needs Assessment 10-year capital plan, facility condition assessments, park master plans and stakeholder input as tools for project selection, the allocation of park bonds would fall into three categories: stewardship and land acquisition, facility renovations, and park development. The project list balances priority needs, reinvestment in aging facilities, advancement of phased projects and improving the park experience.

The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority utilizes a similar approach to allocating park bond funds, taking into account user needs, the capital improvement program, the strategic plan and existing facility conditions.

At the July meeting, staff will present the categorical highlights of the bond and will take public comment. Individuals and groups are welcome to speak. Individuals may speak for three minutes and representatives from groups may testify for five minutes. To sign up to speak in advance or for more information, contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662. You may also sign up to speak at the meeting. The public may also submit written comments to the Park Authority at 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 927 Fairfax, VA 22035-1118 or at parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

To submit comments to the Regional Park Authority write to 5400 Ox Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039 or pladev@nvrpa.org. All comments will be taken until August 10, 2012.



If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563, at least ten working days in advance of the registration deadline or event. TTY (703) 803-3354 703-324-8700 • ONLINE : www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks • E-mail: parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov



PHOTO BY JERRY KEYS

Members of the 2012-14 Herndon Town Council.

Mayor Merkel, New Council Sworn In 2012-14 Herndon Town Council to take office July 1.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The 2012-14 Herndon Town Council, as well as newly elected Mayor Lisa Merkel were sworn in at the Herndon Municipal Center Thursday, June 21. Connie Hutchinson, Sheila Olem and Grace Wolf are returning members, joined by Dave Kirby and Charlie Waddell who return from previous terms on the council and Melissa Jonas, who previously served on the town's Planning Commission.

"The campaigns are over, and that's the easy part. Now comes the governing, which is the tough job," said Del. Tom Rust (R-86), who spoke at the event, and has previously served as mayor. "The decisions this council will make over the next few years will shape the future of this community. They will affect every single person who lives, works and visits here."

Over the next two years, the council will continue the work of the previous council when it comes to planning for the two major components of Herndon's future, its downtown and the proposed Metrorail station.

"As a self-governed town, we control our destiny and have the power to set the stage for what it means to be a 21st century hometown. Your Mayor and council are passionate about maintaining Herndon's small-town character while capitalizing on the many opportunities before us here in the Dulles corridor," Merkel said. "Whether you're raising your family, starting your business, or enjoying retirement, Herndon has something for everyone and we want the world to know."

Merkel called Metro's arrival



PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Melissa Jonas takes the oath of office as she is sworn in as a member of the 2012-14 Herndon Town Council Thursday, June 21.



Charlie Waddell takes the oath of office as he is sworn in as a member of the 2012-14 Herndon Town Council.



Grace Wolf stands with her family after being sworn in for her second term on the Herndon Town Council.

"coming full circle as a rail town" citing the town's history as a rail stop in the 1800s and emphasizing its importance to Herndon's future.

"The eventual redevelopment around the Herndon station will attract world-class businesses to marquee spaces around the toll road, something we cannot currently offer," she said. "Of course, Metro is more than just a train, we need to be able to get to and from Metro by car, bus, or on our feet."

She said the town's future will be one that will welcome "innovators, risk takers and history seekers."

Merkel also praised the diverse

talents each member will bring to the council, from their involvement in the town's historical initiatives, to extensive knowledge of traffic studies and local neighborhoods.

Each councilmember, surrounded by family, took the oath of office individually. It was administered by Town Clerk Viki Wellershaus. The new council will officially take office Sunday, July 1, and will begin their work sessions the following Tuesday, July 3.

More information, including work session and public hearing agendas, can be found at www.herndon-va.gov.

Crews continue to use a huge bright yellow horizontal crane to build the bridges for rail from Route 7 to the median of the Dulles International Airport Access Highway/Dulles Toll Road. This work is expected to be completed in July.



PHOTO BY
CHUCK SAMUELSON/
DULLES CORRIDOR
METRO RAIL PROJECT

A Decision Time for Silver Line

Deadline approaches for Loudoun County Board vote on extending the rail into county.

BY NICHOLAS M. HORROCK
THE CONNECTION

Whoever coined the quip “like herding cats,” must have had in mind the financing of the Dulles Rail Project. It requires getting consensus from two county boards of supervisors, Fairfax and Loudoun, the Federal government, the Virginia government and therefore the governor and state legislature and the Washington Metropolitan Airport Authority.

The project’s course, so far, brings to mind another quip; “the perils of Pauline.” From an argument over a tunnel under Tysons Corner to disputes about underground facilities at Dulles Airport, the project has slipped from one crisis to another. Even if the rail project’s second phase were to go smoothly from here on out, it will take as long to build the 23 mile metro line as it took to build the Transcontinental Railroad.

However, the word “smoothly” does not seem applicable since the most recent “peril” is the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors.

In the 2011 elections, Republican candidates won every seat on the board in a voter rejection of the spendthrift actions of their predecessors.

THE NEW BOARD has approached the funding question with suspicion, but must make a decision to opt in or out of the project by July 4. If the board supports the project, the county will have to pay some \$270 million in construction costs and \$11 million a year to help finance Metro’s operating costs.

The members have met several times over the past few months trying, without success, to find methods to fund the county’s share.

The board has set one more meeting before the fourth.

Vice Chairman Janet Clark (R-Blue Ridge) wrote a letter to her constituents on June 7 setting out her concerns. She said although the line’s extension was considered for years, the “prior boards merely en-

dorsed the concept of rail to Loudoun, they did nothing to establish a means for paying for it.”

She said the original concept was that the rail line would be paid for by federal dollars and state funds, but now there are no federal dollars and Virginia’s one time contribution of \$150 million will only be enough to “buy down the Dulles Toll Road/267 tolls for two years,” she said. Some 54 percent of the funding must now come from Dulles Toll Road revenue, she said. The tolls, which will grow astronomically as the costs of the rail grow, are considered a tax on the people of Loudoun. There is a lawsuit in federal court that may threaten the tolls as a funding source for the metro. The class action suit challenged MWAA’s authority to level taxes under Virginia law and may be decided later this year.

Clark writes the Silver Line Metro won’t be running until 2017 so the county will have to build the stations before the revenue from station parking begins.

Clark warned her constituents that there could be tax districts formed in the rail areas and “possibly a county-wide tax on commercial and industrial properties.” In some incorporated towns, she said, there could be three levels of tax, a development “that could put some of our small businesses out of business.”

On Tuesday Clarke and two other board members said they wanted an extension of the deadline until December, but BOS chairman Scott York (R-At large) said there would be no extension and the decision must be made on July 4.

At this juncture, people who followed the debate believe that there are four members of the nine member board in favor of the Silver Line and four members against. Board member Suzanne Volpe of the Algonkian District, a Republican, is reportedly uncommitted. Volpe is a resident of Sterling, Va. The vote is so unclear, however, that nobody wanted to be quoted guessing the outcome.

AS THE DEADLINE NEARS, there is growing ire on either side of the debate. Right wing groups have attacked the Silver Line project as a tax. According to the Washington Post, a group funded by the Koch brothers, a pair of conservative Kansas billionaires, have conducted robo calls in the county saying that

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Virginia Bobby Mathieson, Executive Director of the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force Ray Colgan, Congressman Frank Wolf, Falls Church City Police Chief Harry Reitze, Leesburg Police Chief Joseph Price, FBI Special Agent in Charge Ronald Hosko, and U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia Neil MacBride attended the ceremony June 22, in which a check for \$850,000 was presented to the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force from the Department of Justice Assets Forfeiture Fund.

Gang Task Force Receives \$850,000

The fight against gang activity in Northern Virginia received a financial boost last week in the form of an \$850,000 check from the Department of Justice Assets Forfeiture Fund. U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Virginia Bobby Mathieson presented the check to Ray Colgan, executive director of the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force. The raid of an illegal gambling operation in Falls Church in August 2011 led to criminal asset forfeiture of more than \$1 million.

The Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force is a multi-jurisdictional partnership of local, state and federal law enforcement agencies that address gang activity in Northern Virginia through dedicated officers and resources, thereby making the region inhospitable to gang activity.

The funds received last week will be used for expenses such as a tattoo removal program, car leases, police overtime, equipment and training.

U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) attended the presentation and spoke about his appreciation for the hard work of law

enforcement officers on the task force and how their efforts have made the community a much safer place.

The Department of Justice Asset Forfeiture Program encompasses the seizure and forfeiture of assets that represent the proceeds of, or were used to facilitate, federal crimes. The primary mission of the program is to employ asset forfeiture powers in a manner that enhances public safety and security. This is accomplished by removing the proceeds of crime and other assets relied upon by criminals and their associates to perpetuate their criminal activity against society. Asset forfeiture has the power to disrupt or dismantle criminal organizations that would continue to function if we only convicted and incarcerated specific individuals.

Law enforcement equitable sharing payments, such as the one made to the task force last week, are paid to state and local law enforcement agencies for assistance in forfeiture cases. Equitable sharing payments are calculated using the degree of direct participation in law enforcement efforts resulting in forfeiture.

OPINION

Case Closed. Why the Secrecy?

No reason for police to exercise “blanket” approach, shielding every document in every case.

Connection readers know that we respect and appreciate our public safety professionals. Members of local police and fire and rescue departments are motivated by their deep commitment to serve and protect our local communities. We honor those with our coverage of valor awards, features on police efforts to curb drunk driving and distracted driving, and tragically sometimes a death in the line of duty.

While police earn and deserve a special consideration, police departments in Northern Virginia should let go of their relentless pursuit of secrecy. Police departments all over the country routinely allow access to police reports, incident reports and many other documents without harm, documents that police here refuse to allow the public to see.

The first paragraph of Virginia Freedom of Information Act, passed by the General Assembly in 1968, states that all public records “shall be presumed open.” But the legislation includes an exception that allows police to withhold

“complaints, memoranda, correspondence, case files or reports, witness statements and evidence.”

EDITORIAL

Police officials in Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria have adopted what they call a “blanket” approach to using their exemption. That means they have decided to withhold any document they can without any analysis of whether they should. Police chiefs and prosecutors from across the commonwealth have spoken out against any effort to undermine their broad power of exemption.

Senate Bill 711, originally introduced in 2010 by state Sen. John Edwards (D-21) and up for discussion again this week, would limit the blanket withholding of information to ongoing investigations. This could allow for the public release of documents in closed cases such as the one conducted by the Arlington Police Department about the death of Hailu Brook. In December, 2008, Fairfax County police officers chased 19-year-old Hailu Brook across the county line into Arlington and shot

him dead. Brook, a senior at Yorktown High School, had reportedly robbed a BB&T in McLean.

The autopsy report, one of the few documents his parents were able to obtain, shows that the teen was shot 20-25 times by three officers with large caliber handguns. Baffled by what happened to their son, the parents sought access to police reports and documents, but even now that the case is closed, their requests have been denied.

Police wield power unlike any other entity — the power to detain and question, the power to arrest, the power to respond with force when necessary, sometimes deadly force.

With that power, comes responsibility — the responsibility to operate openly and with transparency, the responsibility to make available the greatest possible amount of information, especially the responsibility to provide the public with a full picture of what happened when something goes wrong.

Somewhere along the way, police leaders in Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax have gone astray in their control of information.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Minds Wide Open for Arts

Arts play a vital role in educating children and preparing them for the future.

BY ELIZABETH MURPHY
PRESIDENT/CEO, FAIRFAX SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

As we all know, reading, writing and arithmetic are building blocks of childhood education. However, what is less widely acknowledged is the role that the arts play in educating children and preparing them for the future.

Knowledge of the arts benefits every child, whether the child grows up to be a scientist, artist or baseball player. Youngsters’ exposure to the arts supports the work of classroom educators by enhancing academic performance, nurturing a passion for learning, and providing an outlet for expression and creativity. A report from the National Governors’ Association states that children who study the arts are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement and three times more likely to win an award for school attendance. The findings also note that the benefits of a solid arts education are even more dramatic for at-risk youngsters. In recognition of how children and communities positively benefit, more than 200 not-for-profit arts organizations and hundreds of individual artists across Virginia, including the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, provide arts education activities for children in school, after school, and during the summer.

Virginia is fortunate that Minds Wide Open, a public/private partnership, was developed to recognize and celebrate the positive impact

of artists, arts organizations and cultural institutions across the commonwealth. All ten living First Ladies of Virginia serve as Honorary Chairs, and the high-profile initiative involves state government, business corporations, individuals and not-for-profit cultural organizations who understand the value of the arts in relation to our children’s education, as well as the community and economic welfare. In 2010, Minds Wide Open: Women in the Arts presented an unparalleled succession of plays, dances, musical programs, exhibitions, films and literature focusing on women in the arts. This year’s collaboration, Minds Wide Open: Children and the Arts, showcases impressive statewide events and cultural activities spotlighting programs on, by, and about children.

Here in Fairfax, the Fairfax Symphony’s May 12 concert fell under the Minds Wide Open umbrella. Prior to the concert, the orchestra held a family reception and instrument petting zoo for the members of its Student Passport Club, students ages 6-18 who receive \$5 tickets to every concert. Over 200 people attended, while in the lobby of George Mason University’s Center for the Arts, the FSO displayed artwork created by fourth grade students at Woodburn Elementary School in Falls Church. The artwork was created as a collaborative project — students listened to recordings of the music on the program during class time in school, and made art that reflected their

feelings about the music. They were invited to attend the concert, not only to be recognized for their hard work, but so they could hear the pieces played live.

In McLean, the McLean Project for the Arts held several celebrations around Minds Wide Open, for Youth Art Month in March. The first featured the colorful and exuberant artwork of students from nine McLean-area elementary schools: Chesterbrook, Churchill Road, Franklin Sherman, Haycock, Kent Gardens, Lemon Road, Spring Hill, Timber Lane and Westgate. The second displayed art from McLean middle and high school art students. The opening night reception attracted over 500 people.

Minds Wide Open (www.ArtsVA.com) clearly demonstrates Virginia’s commitment to the arts for the wellbeing of our children, citizens and communities. I join my colleagues in recognizing and thanking all who contributed to another Minds Wide Open success.

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444.

By e-mail: herndon@connectionnewspapers.com

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NEWS

Boy Charged in Frying Pan Slashings

Herndon boy, 17, charged in two animal attacks.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Police arrested and charged a 17-year-old Herndon resident Saturday, June 23 for two slashing attacks on and adjacent to Frying Pan Farm Park.

The boy, whose name has not been released, was charged with four felony counts of maiming animals, three misdemeanor counts of cruelty to animals and two counts of unlawful entry.

Police investigators received a tip Friday, June 22 and arrested the boy the following day. ABC7 reported Monday that police also recovered a 22-inch machete during the arrest.

The first attack took place April 26 in a nearby barn, where three horses were slashed. A month later, on May 26, two goats, a chicken and a calf were wounded in a similar manner.

"It literally made me feel sick to my stomach to think of someone approaching these animals, whose primary purpose is to entertain and educate young people, with the specific intent of inflicting ghastly injuries," said Tara Clay of Herndon, who visited the park Monday. "I'm so glad the police and park staff didn't let this go away, and I certainly hope the proper course of justice happens."

The animals were mostly used to people approaching them, and park staff said the animals should return to their normal form as the injuries heal. The



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Frying Pan Farm Park Manager Tawny Hammond feeds Henry, a calf that was wounded by an attacker May 26. Police arrested a 17-year-old boy Saturday, June 23 for that assault, as well as one on April 26

calf received stitches because of the attacks, other treatments weren't disclosed.

The Friends of Frying Pan Farm Park, as well as other anonymous donors from around the community, helped raise a \$7,500 reward for an arrest and conviction in the case.



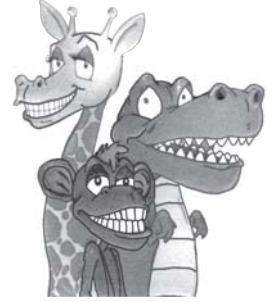
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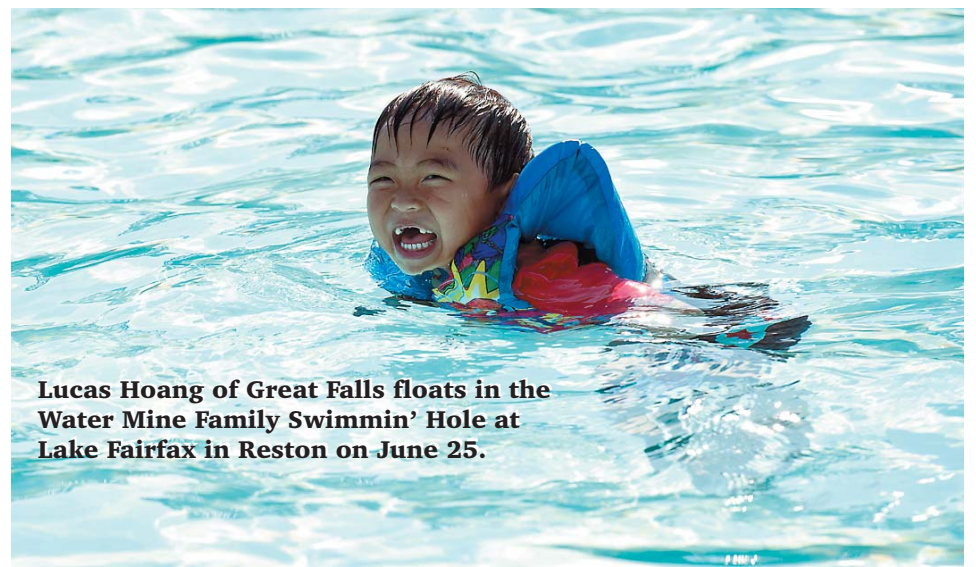


The Acevedo family enjoys the lazy river at the Water Mine Family Swimmin' Hole at Lake Fairfax in Reston on June 25. In addition to the lazy river, the park offers more than an acre of slides, flumes, sprays, showers, floatables, play structures and dumping buckets. Pictured from left: Sul Acevedo, Vladimir Acevedo, Sul Acevedo and Delmy Acevedo.

Families Find Fun at Lake Fairfax



Delcile Philippe of Herndon gets splashed as she rides the lazy river at the Water Mine Family Swimmin' Hole at Lake Fairfax in Reston under a waterfall on June 25.



Lucas Hoang of Great Falls floats in the Water Mine Family Swimmin' Hole at Lake Fairfax in Reston on June 25.

PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION



Luis Rivera of Sterling attempts to cross the floating bridge at the Water Mine Family Swimmin' Hole at Lake Fairfax in Reston on June 25. This obstacle is one of the many in the waterpark.

Great Stories for a Great Cause

Better Said Than Done, a community of professional storytellers based in Northern Virginia, hosted a night of storytelling for a cause. In "Our Bodies, Our Selves," storytellers shared personal tales of tattoos, dealing with Alzheimers, marathon running and other crazy things we do and have done with our bodies. The event was a fundraiser for Friends of Reston.

Katie Shaw, from Friends of Reston, said "This was the third storytelling event hosted by Friends of Reston and Better Said Than Done at Nature House, and the best attended. We look forward to a fourth! The storytellers represent the diverse community that the Reston area is home to. With their broad range of experiences, their stories connect with different segments of the audience in meaningful ways, evoking everything from laughter to tears, fond remembrances and eye opening revelations. This event was a great kickstart to the summer fundraising season. The nearly \$1,000 raised will be used to send Reston children from low income families to Reston Association Camps."

Despite living in one of the wealthiest counties in the U.S., childhood poverty rates are actually increasing in Fairfax

County. Twenty-eight percent of all children attending Reston's eight elementary schools qualify for free and reduced-priced meals, a nationally recognized benchmark for poverty.

If you'd like to contribute to the Friends of Reston's Camp Scholarship fund, please send your check to ATTN: Katie Shaw, Friends of Reston, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston VA 20191 and write "Camp Scholarship" in the memo section.

Better Said Than Done's next show is bringing the fireworks. Join storytellers for "Independence Day - stories of freedom, declarations, and fireworks!" on Saturday, June 30 at Epicure Café, 11213 Lee Highway, Fairfax at 6 p.m. \$10 tickets at door.

The performance will feature entertaining performances of true, explosive stories. Storytellers include: Geraldine Buckley, Lisa Kays, Jessica Piscitelli, Mojdeh Rezaeipour, Adam Ruben, Ellouise Schoettler, John Tong and Michael Zhuang.

A full dinner menu and full bar are available during the show. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. The show is intended for an adult audience.

For additional information or to see videos of past shows, visit www.bettersaidthandone.com.



PHOTO BY JAMIE WINDON/BLONDE PHOTO

Better Said than Done's Jessica Piscitelli.

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/JUNE 27

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.

Busia Bear's Sensational Summer Films. 7 p.m.

Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join Busia for an hour of family fun films. All ages. Sign up each child and adult separately. 703-689-2700.

THURSDAY/JUNE 28

"Flowers for Algernon." 8 p.m.

Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. After experimental surgery to dramatically increase his IQ, a man's life is changed forever. \$20. www.eldenstreetplayers.org.

Culkin School of Traditional Irish Dance. 10:30 a.m.

Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Young dancers accompanied by Celtic music.

Wolf Trap Opera Company: Vocal Colors. 6:30 p.m.

Wolf Trap Center for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Filene Young Artists perform. Preshow talk one hour before performance. www.wolftrap.org.

Larnell Starkey and the Spiritual Seven. 7:30 p.m.

Frying Pan Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. African-American gospel. Free. 703-



PHOTO BY DAVID SIEGEL/THE CONNECTION

Matt Baughman as Charle Gordon and Lauren Kiesling as Alice Kinnian in the Elden Street Players production of "Flowers for Algernon," which runs through June 30 at the Industrial Strength Theater.

324-7469.

Rocknoceros Presents: Colonel

Purple Turtle. 2:30 p.m.

Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Join Coach Cotton, Williebob and Boogie Woogie for a rockin' good time. All ages. Sign up each child and adult separately. 703-437-8855.

Take a Break Concert Series: Satyr

Hill. 7-9 p.m. Lake Anne Plaza. Live music with friends and neighbors. Free. 703-476-4500.

"Flowers for Algernon." 8 p.m.

Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. After experimental surgery to dramatically increase his IQ, a man's life is changed forever. \$20. www.eldenstreetplayers.org.

Eric Brace and Peter Cooper. 10:30

a.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Country melodies and lyrics. \$8-\$10 at 1-877-WOLFTRAP or www.wolftrap.org/TITW.

Wolf Trap Opera Company: Don

Giovanni. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Center

FRIDAY/JUNE 29

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 9

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PHOTOS/COURTESY OF RSTA

**North Hills' Emily Deker goes all out in the girls 15-18, 50-meter butterfly event.****Focused and ready for her event is North Hills' 8-and-under Alison Wan as she prepares for takeoff.**

After the Storm RSTA Swimmers Rumble

Sun-drenched day produces more records.

Friday night, June 22 brought some very bad weather to Northern Virginia. Torrential downpours, flooding and high winds were prevalent through much of the area. It made those associated with Reston Swim Team Association (RSTA) wonder about the possibility of a postponement of the following day's meets. Those concerns ended up being without merit as the sun came out the following morning and the third week of the RSTA season commenced without issue. And the meets went forth with gusto as seven more pool records were set.

The two preeminent female swimmers in the 11-12 age group continue to be Joanne Fu of Lake Anne and Emily Landeryou of Glade. Their head to head rivalry continued on Saturday with both girls setting new pool records. In the girls 50-meter freestyle, Joanne lowered her own mark (set the prior week) of 30.79 to 30.44. And in the girls 50-butterfly she broke her old record (also set the week before) with a new time of 32.68. Emily's record-breaking day included a time of 29.81 in the girls 50-freestyle which bettered the mark of 30.24 that was set back in 2001 by Mei Christensen. And in the girls 50-butterfly, Emily broke her own record of 31.55 set on June 9th of this year with a new time of 31.44. But the record-breaking performances didn't stop there.

In the girls 13-14, 50-freestyle, Emily Meilus of Lake Anne broke a pool record that was set back in 1996. Her time of 28.81 shattered the old mark of 30.41 which was set by Julia Fox on August 1 of that year. Philip Pan of Hunters Woods also continued his record setting ways. His time of 16.68 in the boys 9-10, 25-butterfly broke the old pool record of 16.97 that was set back in 2002 by Nicholas Hazelton.

And Tyler Ellis of Glade broke a record that had stood for 30 years! In the boys 11-12, 50-freestyle, his time of 29.93 bested the old mark of 30.03 set by Chris Hines back in 1982.

Scores and highlights from last Saturday's meets' follow:

**North Hills' Landan Grange, boys 8-and-under, gets ready to hit the water in his event while competing against Hunters Woods.**

Lake Newport Lightning 540, Autumnwood Piranhas 414: For Lake Newport, triple event winners were Jack Edgemon, Anna Redican, Casey Storch, Katie Storch, Nathan Williams and Alan Yu. Double event winners were Kathleen Boyce, Matt Colturi, Nash Hemrajani, Alana Hull, Lindsey Jacobson, William Kohn, Mary Grace Long, Meghna Sharma, Zach Wang and Omar Zaki. For Autumnwood, double event winners were Paolo Arbid, Joanie Belo, Ava Godfrey, Griffin Harrington, Delaney Kirr, Mikayla Kirr, Sarah Overton, David Robertson, Andrey Smiryagin and Kathleen Wilson.

Lake Anne Stingrays 573, Glade Gators 477: For Lake Anne, triple event winners were Patrick Dealey, Patrick Fouse, Emily Meilus and Tope Oladimeji. Double event winners were Evan Daughtry, Victor Espinoza, Emily Fouse, Bryan Marquet, Maxwell Mescall, Peyton Raphael and Sophia Young. For Glade, triple event winners were Kathryn Danaher, Hunter Ellis, Tyler Ellis, Andrew Huang, Emily Landeryou, Sophia Landeryou and Yangian Xu. Double event winners were Meghan Benedetto, Lainie Davison, Andrew Draganov, Mackenzie Evans, Dean Hartke, Srikar Kuppa, Clara Landeryou, Monica Lannen, Kellie McCrea and Reagan Tobias.

Lake Audubon Barracudas 600, Ridge

Heights Sharks 464: For Lake Audubon, triple event winners were Natalie Abbey, Dean Huber, John Hughes and Julia Sofia Nassau. Double event winners were Olivia Abbey, Max Daum, Winston Evans, Matthew Fritz, Sabrina Groves, Spencer Harris, Matthew Hughes, Nathan Ide, Conor McBride, Michael McDermott, Julia Nielsen, Jeremiah Noser-Munoz, Bryce Onozuka, Aidan Scanlan and Griffin Scanlan. For Ridge Heights, triple event winners were Mac Sogandares, Paige Sogandares and Hailey Wang. Double event winners were Elodie Decker, Tessa Hawley, Kati Imel, Samantha Lowe, Charlie Moore, Julia Thomas and Maggie With.

Hunters Woods Blue Marlins 554, North Hills Hurricanes 487: For Hunters Woods, triple event winners were Matthew Beach, Alex Li, Philip Pan and Shine Peng. Double event winners were Mary Byron, John Evans, William Harvey, Mallari Jender, Allen Lee, Richard Song, Eric Tang, Ashley Thai, Gloria Wang, Chris Yang and William Yao. For North Hills, triple event winners were Lindsey Hill, Rachel Swarts and Miles Yang. Double event winners were Ellen Barker, Ilayda Boucher, Katie Czenas, Devan Fink, Nicole Flint, Ishan Ganjoo, Aveesh Kachroo, Joseph Livaudais, Samantha Sciortino, Emma Tierney and Alison Wan.

SPORTS NOTES

All-District Baseball: The following Herndon High and South Lakes High baseball players earned All-District accolades this past 2012 spring season. From South Lakes (Liberty District), Billy McLaughlin earned First Team recognition at first base, and Ryan Forrest notched Second Team honors as an outfielder. From Herndon (Concorde District), Austin Schnarrs was named Second Team at catcher position; Tyler Reif made Second Team in the outfield; and both Addison Wright and Zach Wallace were named Second Team Pitchers.

From Oakton High (Concorde), First Team selections were Dale Good (Third Base); Brian Burns (Outfield); and Matt Gregor (Pitcher). Cougars named to the Second Team were Mason Hauser (Outfield); Joey Bartosic (Utility); and RJ Garcia (Pitcher).

Herndon High School announced on June 4 that the legendary Gary Hall has returned as head coach of the boys' basketball team. Hall, a 1979 graduate of Herndon, was head coach of the Hornets for 18 years (1990-2007), leading the varsity program to 319 wins, six district titles, a Northern Regional Championship, and an appearance at the 2006 Virginia State AAA Tournament Finals. With his return to the helm, Coach Hall and the Herndon Hornets look to continue the tradition of excellence that is Herndon basketball.

The Fairfax County Women's Sports Awards Committee sponsors several awards that honor outstanding female athletes, coaches, and supporters. They include the Donna de Varona Spirit of Sport Award, the High School Sports-woman of the Year Award, Coach of the Year Award, and Sports Journalist of the Year Award. Each school recognizes winners at the local level and submits nominations in each of the categories for the countywide awards as well. Congratulations to the following Herndon High nominees: Coach Phyllis Pearce (Coach of the Year), Carina Peter (Spirit Award), and Jenna Van Camp (Sportswoman of the Year). All three Hornets were honorees at the recent Women in Sports Banquet, which was held at Oakton High School.

NEWS

Board to Vote on Silver Line

FROM PAGE 3

funding the Silver Line will mean a "bailout for developers."

Clark and other opponents claim they have faced "strong-arming and veiled threats by some developers and elected officials."

Stephen S. Fuller, the director of the George Mason University's Center for Regional Analysis, prepared a report in March which warned, if Loudoun does not go along with the Silver Line, "the county's economy will grow more slowly, driven by gains in lower value added employment and imported income earned by residents commuting to jobs located outside the county." He saw a loss of \$11.2 billion in foregone economic activity in 2030 and \$25.6 billion lower gross county product in 2040 "than had Metrorail been extended to the county as planned."

Throughout there has been major criticism by Republicans of the MWAA's unwillingness answer to any level of government. MWAA was forced to abandon an extensive underground welcoming facility at Dulles and late last week agreed to cancel a labor rule that favored organized labor under pressure from the governor and Rep. Frank Wolf, (R-10). Wolf has urged a federal inspector general be appointed to oversee MWAA's finances.

But Wolf said earlier this month that he firmly supports the Silver Line serving Loudoun County. He called it the most important project since the original Metro system.

Fairfax BOS chairman Sharon Bulova has called upon Fairfax's federal representatives to work harder to reopen the question of federal funds for Phase 2. Some \$900 million in federal money contributed to Phase 1 of Dulles Rail which runs through Wiehle Avenue in Reston and will be completed in 2013.

She quoted Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood saying that Metro is "America's system providing millions of riders to the nation's Capital" and the federal government needs to find money in its 2013 and 2014 budgets to complete the project.

Jack Potter, president and the chief executive officer of MWAA, has said that even if Loudoun opts out of the project the Silver Line will be built.

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 7

for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Preshow talk one hour before performance.
www.wolftrap.org.

King Teddy. 8:30-9 p.m. drop-in beginner swing lesson; 9 p.m.-12 a.m. dance. Hilton Washington Dulles Airport, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon. At the intersection of swing, rockabilly and jump blues is where you'll find King Teddy, happily hanging out and humming Beatles tunes. \$15.

SATURDAY/JUNE 30
Family Fun Entertainment
Series: Mark Lohr's Classic

Comedy Show. 10-10:45 a.m. Reston Town Square Park, Corner of Market Street and Explorer Street. A fast-paced, side-splitting family vaudeville show filled with audience participation and circus skills with a sprinkling of magic. Free. 703-476-4500.

"Flowers for Algernon." 8 p.m. Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. After experimental surgery to dramatically increase his IQ, a man's life is changed forever. \$20. www.eldenstreetplayers.org.

Eric Brace and Peter Cooper. 10:30 a.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Country melodies and lyrics. \$8-\$10 at 1-877-WOLFTRAP or www.wolftrap.org/TITW

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COMMUNITY

William Mueller Engaged to Ramona Layne

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Mueller of Clifton are happy to announce the engagement of their son, LCDR William Kenneth Mueller, USNR to Ramona Ruth Layne, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Layne, Jr of San Antonio, Texas.

Will graduated from the University of Virginia in 2000 with a Bachelor's Degree in Finance and received his Master's Degree in National Security Policy from the Naval War College in Newport, RI. Will is currently stationed in Norfolk, Va. working as a Training Officer.

Ramona graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 2000 with a Bachelor's Degree in Public Relations and is currently employed with AgustaWestland North America in Reston, Va. She is the Senior Manager of Communications.

An October 13, 2012 wedding has been planned at the Fort Belvoir Officer's Club in Virginia.



Will and Ramona



PHOTO BY ELVIRA WASHBURN

Reston Lions Club Installs New Officers

Vice District Governor James Ryan, fifth from right above, and a member of the Reston Lions Club, inducted officers of the Reston Lions Club at the club's installation banquet held at Mamma Lucia Restaurant in Reston on June 20. The new president is Sue Beffel, ninth from the left. Steve Reber, eighth from the left is the retiring president. Others in the picture are officers of the club.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 27

Evolution of Fairfax Series. 7:30 p.m. The Mason Inn and Conference Center, George Mason University, Fairfax. Last of a three part series on where we were, where we are, and where we want to be. Presented by Chairman Sharon Bulova in partnership with the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce and Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations. Free and open to the public. Reserve at 703-324-2321 or chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov.

THURSDAY/JUNE 28

Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. Hyatt Regency Reston, 1800 Presidents St., Reston. Presentation of Annual Awards for Chamber Excellence (ACE Awards) to the member companies that have demonstrated excellence, innovation and

community involvement over the past year and transition of Chamber board leadership from Tim Sargeant of Dominion to Michael Ferraro of Training Solutions. With speaker Paul Hewitt, Head Coach of George Mason University's Men's Basketball team. 703-707-9045 or communications@restonchamber.org.

The Early History of Reston - The Building of Lake Anne Village Center and Construction of the Dam at Lake Anne. 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Reston Community Center, Lake Anne, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston.

SUNDAY/JULY 22

Cat Adoption. 1-4 p.m. PetSmart, 11860 Spectrum Center, Reston. Every Sunday. Sponsored by Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation. www.lostdogrescue.org.

SUNDAY/AUG. 26

Cat Adoption. 1-4 p.m. PetSmart, 11860 Spectrum Center, Reston. Every Sunday. Sponsored by Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation. www.lostdogrescue.org.

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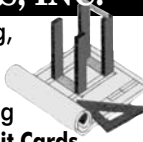
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A GAP In My Thinking



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Recently, due to circumstances beyond my control, I was forced to buy a new car (in this instance, "new" means different, not a current model year). Estimated repairs at 137,000 miles that could have escalated into the unknown – and unaffordable – thousands compelled me to fish so I wouldn't have my bait cut (and I don't even like to fish). As a result of this unexpected commitment, the light at the end of the financing tunnel has all but disappeared (I had one year left on our previous car). Where once I was nearly right-side up, I am now upside down, inside out and no longer counting the months until my final payment. Now, I am counting the days until my second month's payment (there's too many months remaining to count months). All that I had anticipated as being old is once again new: the bank/lien holder, the payment amount/terms and the inch-thick payment booklet. Seventy-two months can really stack up.

But I really didn't have a choice, unfortunately. In fact, I was dealing from a position of weakness (my car was undriveable). The dealership, after examining the car's engine, sort of knew that fixing my car, given its age and mileage, was probably unlikely, so they made me an offer – as a trade toward the purchase of one of their vehicles. It wasn't ideal by any means, but given the mechanical troubles, I didn't feel as if I had any practical options (I wasn't going to tow my car to various dealerships for offers, was I?) so I swallowed hard and tried not to bite the hand of the seller as the deal (and I use that term loosely) was presented to me. I accepted. And so the damage/I mean deal was done. I wasn't happy about it, although I did receive fancy, and expensive, floor mats for free. However, I wasn't quite finished.

As any car-purchaser knows, the deal isn't really done until, as they say, the paperwork is finished. And "paperwork" means sitting down with the finance manager to sign and seal that "deal." Only after doing so will you know what your "new" car is actually going to cost (with miscellaneous "add-ons" like undercoating). For me, my monthly payment increased by nearly \$100: extended warranties, prepaid service contract and tire replacement insurance, all of which sounded like a good idea – and prudent, at the time. Now I'm not so sure, but what's done is done and the less said about it the better. I really do have other things to worry about, as you regular readers know.

One of the offers the finance manger made to me, which I had no regrets refusing, was GAP insurance. My understanding now is that GAP Insurance pays off the balance of the outstanding loan in the event an accident "totals" the car, far exceeding the settlement offered by standard coverage, often suggested/encouraged/required when a low down payment is made and the borrower is approved for a significant percentage of the cost of the vehicle. Given the other add-on commitments I had already made and my impatience at considering additional dollars, I passed and so we finalized the paperwork.

Maybe I was too hasty. Incorrectly, I thought GAP Insurance had more to do with the balance of the loan being paid off in the event of death and/or disability. Since I'm already disabled and have sufficient life insurance – and don't want to think about death, if possible, I declined. I never even gave the finance manager an opportunity to explain or to give me a quote. For all I know, the price might have been right. I should have at least listened since, as an a cancer patient, still undergoing treatment, I'll never be able to buy insurance any other way. Had I listened, I would have learned of my misunderstanding, and considering what I now know to be the meaning/purpose of GAP Insurance, I might have considered it.

But it's too late; I called, and now I'll never know if the benefit was worth the cost. But that's what happens when you're terminal; there's only so much you can worry about. It's somewhere between picking your spots, being mentally overwhelmed and self-preservation. It's a regular three-ring circus – without the clowns. I hope I live to regret my decision – and never need to fill the gap caused by my "hasty" decision.

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



Fairfax County Public Schools FY 2013 Budget and New Schools Opening

New School Buildings Opening in September

Students in three Fairfax County communities are eagerly anticipating the first day of school on September 4. Two new schools, Mason Crest Elementary School in Annandale and South County Middle School in Lorton, will open their doors for the first time. Graham Road Elementary School will move students from the old school location to a redesigned building previously used as an administrative building. All three projects were funded by bonds approved by Fairfax County voters.

Mason Crest Elementary School

Mason Crest Elementary is located at the site of the old Lacey Instructional Center at 3705 Crest Drive in Annandale. Members of the community participated in naming the school which combines the name of the old Masonville school and the Broyhill Crest neighborhood.

"We are excited to already be working with our parents and our community," said Brian Butler, principal at Mason Crest. "Our mission is to ensure high levels of learning for all our students and it will take all of us, parents, teachers, and the community, working together to honor every student."

More than 470 students in grades K-5 are expected to attend Mason Crest. The school will

host programs and services including a Family and Early Childhood Education Program (FECEP/Headstart), advanced academic local level IV services, special education preschool and School-Aged Child Care (SACC).

The two-story building was designed with sustainable and environmentally friendly features including a ground source heat pump, the first one installed in a Fairfax County Public School. The heat pump uses 96 geothermal wells buried 400 feet under the ground to exchange heat to or from water in pipes as it travels to and from the building. Electricity helps move the heat back and forth, but the pump does not burn fossil fuel. This process helps reduce the school's carbon footprint because there are no harmful emissions to the environment.

South County Middle School

South County Middle School was built in one of the fastest growing areas of Fairfax County. It sits on 40 acres of land located at 8700 Laurel Crest Drive in Lorton and was constructed on property obtained from Fairfax County Park Authority.

Many of the students attending the new middle school previously attended South County Secondary School (SCSS), which is adjacent to

the new school property.

"We look forward to keeping many of our SCSS traditions as we create a new identity as a separate middle school," said Marsha Manning, principal of South County Middle School.

The middle school is a two-story building with more than 176,000 square feet. It will have 40 general education classrooms and additional elective rooms for students in grades 7 and 8. By obtaining land from the park authority and using the same design as was used for Glasgow Middle School, FCPS was able to achieve cost savings for the development and design of the project.

The new middle school will be home to state-of-the-art technology and facilities and host an Advanced Academic Level IV Center Program and a program for intellectually disabled students.

"We're thrilled to move into a new building that we will make into our home," said Manning. "We will strive to make every student feel capable, connected, and a contributor at South County Middle School."

Graham Road Elementary School

Graham Road Elementary is moving to a new location that will increase the school's capacity for more students and provide improved athletic fields and playground facilities. The new location will be at 2831 Graham Road in Falls Church.

In 2008, the Fairfax County School Board decided it would be less disruptive to renovate the administrative center than to renovate the elementary school since students would not be on the campus during the renovation. The new site also offered less traffic congestion, better traffic flow, and an opportunity to keep the Head Start-Family and Early Childhood Education Program (FECEP) together with the K-6 students in one building.

"The opening of our new school building is very exciting for our students, parents, and staff," said Terry Dade, principal at Graham Road. "We are eagerly anticipating the day when the doors officially open and the students' faces light up as they enter a building that is bright and inviting and provides the latest technology and resources to enhance their learning. We sincerely appreciate the community support during this process and we're really looking forward to the first day of school in September."

The renovated building has been transformed with all new interior and exterior finishes, energy efficient windows, and a new roof. In addition, a new HVAC system has been installed along with a new fire alarm and other life safety systems.



Getting To Know Us

IT Operations Cathy Sells

As you watch a building being constructed over time, you notice the concrete being poured, the roof being built, and the windows installed. Each person working on the school building plays a significant role in the process and is relied upon by the whole team.

Opening a new school building requires coordination by a team of skilled professionals, from the areas of design and construction, transportation, food service, human resources, information technology, safety and security, instructional services, special services and many others.

Behind the scenes there is much going on that may not be visible or noticeable. Cathy Sells, director of operations for information technology (IT) at FCPS, works with the entire IT department to ensure that the technology required for a school building is available when and where it is needed.

"Technologies such as network connectivity, voice services, wireless access, data storage, computer equipment, printers, and copiers ensure a contemporary learning environment for 21st century instruction," said Sells.

"Our IT team works very closely with the school principal on the technology plan for the school. Our mission is to provide technology leadership and services to ensure a safe and secure environment for 24/7 learning.

"It is really fascinating to see the coordination of the people involved when we build a new school," she said. "Everyone works together to ensure that the new site will be the best possible place for the students and staff in that community. We all rely on each other and it's one of the best things we do as an organization."



Fairfax County School Board Adopts FY 2013 Approved Budget

The Fairfax County School Board has adopted the Fairfax County Public Schools 2012-13 school year (FY 2013) Approved Budget of \$2.4 billion that includes:

- compensation increases for employees.
- the elimination of student athletic fees.
- more than 700 new positions to address enrollment growth.
- extended learning time for at-risk students.
- the expansion of the World Languages program in elementary schools.
- a phase in of mandated employee contributions to the Virginia Retirement System (VRS).

The FY 2013 Approved Budget is an 8.2 percent increase over the FY 2012 Approved Budget. For more information visit www.fcps.edu and click on FY 2013 Budget.

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