

Herndon Becoming Cyclist-friendly

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911's 'Complete Failure'

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Students Present STEM Projects

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Bikers cross Elden Street in downtown Herndon. The Town Council passed a resolution on future bicycle facilities at their Aug. 14 meeting.



Falls Church Showroom
800 West Broad Street, #101
Falls Church, Virginia 22046
571.765.4450

Manassas Showroom
8982 Hornbaker Road
Manassas, Virginia 20109
703.378.2600



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News

Members of the Forward Future STEM Showcase present their projects at the Herndon United Methodist Church, Thursday, Aug. 23.



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Students Present STEM Projects

Forward Future hosts summer program for 30 teens.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Thirty children from the Herndon and Reston areas presented a series of projects on Thursday, Aug. 23 at the Herndon United Methodist Church, a result of their summer with Forward Future, a local organization dedicated to youth mentoring.

The program was designed by the Pearl Project, which was founded by Robin McDougal to empower parents and help children reach their academic potential.

"I grew up poor in public housing in Brooklyn, but I was lucky enough to have a teacher that told me about college, and to plan for my future," said McDougal, who was the first person in her family to attend college. "Research shows that a lot of kids who grew up like me spend a lot of time in after school programs, but can also watch a lot of TV and play a lot of video games. We want them to engage their hands and minds for something worthwhile."

She said her program aims to give parents a direction for their children.

"We're not here to do their work for them, but to give a little help," she said. "As a grassroots effort, that little bit of help can make a big difference for a child's entire life."

VOLUNTEERS HELPED the teens get acquainted with the projects.

"They went pretty quickly from being frustrated to totally involved," said Edia Standford-Bruce, a volunteer with Forward Future. "I think the whole process, making a model, testing it out, finding what went wrong and improving it, is getting them to think a different way."

"I think tackling these projects, then ultimately succeeding, was a big boost of self-esteem for these

kids," said Jackie Phan, founder of Forward Future. "We're here to mentor at-risk youth, and once we started going this year, we've been moving at full speed with entering programs like this."

One project involved the students building miniature bridges that had to be able to hold the weight of model cars. Another had them trying to make the tallest "building" they could out of only a single sheet of paper.

"We had to work with a lot of different shapes to see which one would actually stand up the tallest," said Nastajia Walker, 13.

"My favorite part was making the lunch boxes, because I got to design mine for exactly the kind of food I like," said Naomi Richardson, 14. "I like hot food, and nothing cold, so that's what mine is meant to hold."

One student even built a lunch box with a breathing tube for her grandfather who is currently on a respirator.

THE SPEAKER during the showcase was Eretheia Allen, a network engineer and native of Lanham, Md. She has over 20 years of information technology experience with the Department of Defense, the intelligence community and several private companies.

"In third grade, my teacher introduced us to long division, and I didn't like it, and it didn't like me. But I sat down every night and worked on my homework, so I got a lot of practice, and soon I realized we would get along OK," she said. "I'm very proud seeing the accomplishments of everyone here, and I think there's a lot of potential in this room."

Transportation to the program, as well as for many family members during the final showcase, was provided by Wheelz4Kidz, a local business that transports children and teens over the age of 7.

More information can be found at www.facebook.com/forwardfuture.

"They went pretty quickly from being frustrated to totally involved."

— Edia Standford-Bruce, a volunteer with Forward Future

Your Local Upscale Resale Store

Shop at The Treasure Hound resale store, where you'll find a variety of beautiful treasures at great prices.



Tax-deductible donations are accepted during store hours.



Adopt, Donate, Volunteer... and Shop!



All proceeds benefit Friends of Homeless Animals, a no-kill shelter for cats and dogs.

The Treasure Hound

14508-D Lee Rd,
Chantilly, VA
(Corner of Rt. 50 and Lee Rd.
One light West of Rt. 28)



WEEK IN HERNDON

Deadline for Yard of the Month Nominations

Just in time for early fall gardens, the Town of Herndon Cultivating Community Initiative is accepting nominations for the October Yard of the Month Award.

Yard of the Month is an opportunity to recognize the efforts of town residents whose yards contribute to the beauty of the town and its neighborhoods. Citizens may nominate their own or their neighbors' yards for the award. Winners receive gift certificates from Meadows Farms and are recognized by the mayor and town council at public meetings.

The criteria for the Yard of the Month Award selection includes the following: yards are generally free of trash and clutter; grass, trees, shrubs and plants are well cared for and aesthetically pleasing; rocks, logs, short fences or other decorative elements are in good condition and neatly placed; and flowers and other vegetation are well-landscaped and make good use of color.

Nominations for the October Yard of the Month Award are due Sept. 15.

Judges for the Yard of the Month Award program are members of the Cul-

tivating Community Initiative, a group of citizen volunteers formed to encourage beautification and to enrich the quality of life in the town's neighborhoods.

Nomination forms for the Yard of the Month Award are available on the "Cultivating Community" page of the town's website, www.herndon-va.gov; see the link off of the homepage at "featured this month." Forms are also available at the Herndon Municipal Center and the Herndon Community Center. For more information, call 703-435-6800 ext. 2084 or email information@herndon-va.gov.

A Complete Failure

Fairfax County says Verizon 'failed completely' during June 29 derecho.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

The eerie silence is what Steve Souder, Fairfax County's 911 director, remembers about the night of June 29, when the derecho hit Fairfax County.

"The derecho was fierce and sudden, a lot of things most storms aren't," Souder said in an interview on Friday. "We were busy as all get-out."

The fast-moving storms slammed Fairfax County at about 10:20 p.m., resulting in a record number of emergency calls—a 415 percent jump for 911 dispatchers and a 2,000 percent jump for Fire and Rescue. Approximately 30 minutes later, power flickered and then died in the McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center (MPSTOC), where 46 911 dispatchers were fielding hundreds of calls.

"We can't afford to be crippled, so our generators came on, and we're rocking and rollin' in the blink of an eye," Souder said.

At 1:30 a.m., the first wave of calls started to subside.

"We're taking a deep breath and looking ahead to sunrise, when we fully expected another wave of calls as people wake up and take a look around their homes at the damage," Souder said.

THE NEXT MORNING, as hundreds of thousands of county residents awoke to smashed cars, split fences and downed power lines from uprooted trees, the county's 911 operators braced themselves for another onslaught of calls.

But the next wave never came.

"The phones just stopped ringing. We were dead



Fairfax County's 911 Call Center located in the McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center, named after former Fairfax County Supervisor Elaine McConnell.

PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

in the water... Never, ever, ever has this happened to us," said Souder, who has been in emergency operations for 44 years.

It would be several more hours before Souder and other County officials learned that no calls were getting through due to a problem with Verizon. According to Souder, all calls to Fairfax County's 911 go through the Verizon network, regardless of the commercial carrier service. From 7:36 a.m. until 3 p.m. on June 30, 911 service was completely down and for the next three days service was sporadic.

Souder said signs of trouble with Verizon came around 7 a.m., when Verizon sent a cryptic email to Fairfax County staff saying that the Arlington central office was without power or backup battery/generator. The references to Arlington, according to Souder, suggested that 911 service was affected only in Arlington County, so Fairfax County's 911 staff continued with their normal operations.

"We are completely unaware that incoming 911 call service from Verizon is slowly dying... We don't get officially notified until about 10 hours after [the] whole mess begins, which is completely unacceptable," Souder said, adding:

"It's like the Captain of the Titanic telling passengers the ship hit an iceberg when the bow is on the bottom of the ocean floor."

As a result of this critical outage, Fairfax County submitted official comments to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) detailing what happened, suggestions for Verizon to improve its service and exhibits to show supporting documentation and actions.

"During and after a storm, and in any emergency or disaster, the loss of the public's ability to contact emergency responders is most profoundly felt," according to County officials. "Families in darkened homes crushed by fallen

"It's like the captain of the Titanic telling passengers the ship hit an iceberg when the bow is on the bottom of the ocean floor."

—Steve Souder, Fairfax County 911 Director



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Steve Souder

SEE COMPLAINT, PAGE 7



PHOTO BY NICK KHAZAL

A majority of the employees attending Primescape Solutions End of Summer Celebration are finally herded together for a group photo.

Going Tropical in Herndon

Primescape Solutions hosts end of summer event.

The threat of rain didn't deter more than 100 of Primescape Solutions' employees and their families from gathering for their third annual End of Summer Celebration at the company's Herndon headquarters on Saturday, Aug. 25. A \$50 Amex Gift Card for the winner of the loudest tropical outfit was enticement enough to convince a majority of the attendees to dress appropriately for the theme.

"We just want to give our team a chance to get together and have fun with their families," said Bob Dacanay. Dacanay founded the IT solutions consulting firm in 1998 and is the company's CEO and president. His sentiments were echoed by Tom Sanderson, VP of Human Capital, and Nhu Khazal, Human Capital Business Partner. Both Sanderson and Khazal also noted that the company was pleased, in these difficult economic times, to host an event using local vendors. "It's just one way we can give back to our community," said Sanderson.

The partyers were treated to a selection of buffet items from

Carrabba's Italian Grill of Reston, served by the restaurant's owner, Mike Warner, and six of his staff. Cover band The VIPs had everyone rocking. The youngsters in the crowd were kept busy with activities provided by Fun Services, including a 26 ft. rock climbing wall, a bouncy castle and other carnival-type games. And, of course, no summer celebration would be complete without some face painting. Petunia the Clown obliged, and also had the young and the young-at-heart lining up for her balloon sculpted animals as well. Professional photographer Nick Khazal was on hand to digitally capture all the fun.

About 60 percent of Primescape's employees work off-site, providing IT support and solutions to government clients including the Department of Homeland Security, the US Treasury, the DOD and the Department of Health and Human Services. "With so many on location, that's another reason we are particularly happy to bring everyone together, to say our 'thanks' to them," said Dacanay.



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER

Alanna Li indulges in a little bit of temporary body art. The 8-year-old is the daughter of Primescape employee Kevin Li.

First Day of School Coming Up

And never too early for parents to get involved.

The first day of school in most of Northern Virginia is Tuesday, Sept. 4. We don't agree with having the General Assembly dictate the first day of school, requiring the start date to be after Labor Day, but starting school after Labor Day does seem more hospitable than the Aug. 27 start in many other areas.

Attending Back to School Night and making contact with teachers is one of the most important things parents can do to set up the school year for success. Back to School Nights begin the first week of September. Find the date for yours:

Fairfax County <http://www.fcps.edu/news/backtoschool/>.

This school year will be the last for superintendent for Fairfax County Public Schools Jack Dale, who has announced his retirement effective June 30, 2013. The School Board will spend much of the coming months in the search

and selection of the new superintendent.

In Fairfax County, students will be encouraged to BYOD. That's "bring your own device." With written parental permission, students will be allowed to connect to school wireless with their smart phones, tablets and laptops. Students and parents should remember that school officials will be able to examine those devices and discipline students for content and activities that are in violation of conduct rules and act accordingly. More at <http://www.fcps.edu/it/byod>.

Reminder: Check Voter Status

While Northern Virginia has remarkable rates of voter registration, many changes to polling places, political district boundaries and rules for voting in Virginia, make it worth double checking your status now. Virginia's front seat role at the Republican National Convention serves as a reminder that every Virginia vote cast will count in November.

To vote on Election Day, you must be regis-

tered at your current address no later than Oct. 15, 2012. You can check your registration status online by going to www.sbe.virginia.gov. There you can also download a voter registration form and mail it to your local elections office address.

Every Virginia voter should expect a new voter identification card in the mail at the beginning of October, very close to the Oct. 15 deadline, so better to check now.

Mail or FAX updates to your local Electoral Board.

Fairfax County Board of Elections,
703-222-0776, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/
12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax,
Suite 232, Fairfax, 22035; FAX 703-324-2205;
email voting@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Correction: Last week's *Newcomers and Community Guide* omitted the name of an independent candidate, Mark T. Gibson, running for U.S. House of Representatives in the 11th District. The same paragraph also mistakenly referred to that district by the wrong district number in a second reference. The correction have been made in our online and PDF editions.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Supporting 23-story Building

To the Editor:

The debate about the proposed 23-story building for the site at the corner of Reston Parkway and Bowman Towne (sic) Drive opens up a much larger area for discussion than is being held about that particular site. Proponents of approval for the building carry the day since it can be built by right. Opponents offer a variety of objections based on rejection of the original master plan for Reston as a whole. That plan, created in the early 1960's, provided for seven village centers and one town center. Each of these was to feature plazas enclosed by high-density structures. Today only one authentic village center and the town center have been built. There are no village centers, other than Lake Anne, with plazas in Reston; nor have the high-density structures planned to support Lake Anne Plaza been built.

(Discussions for bringing light rail alongside the Dulles access road in 1966 did not result in amending the Master Plan to bring appropriate density to Wiehle Avenue, where the Metro station is to be located.)

Among the several objections to the proposed building, two stand out. The first: that densities belong at the Metro stations and taper off in proportion to the distance from these stations. This concept defeats the original, over-riding vi-

sion for Reston—densities at the plazas, the very features that best foster community. The second: that "not a single resident supports" the 23-story building. I do, (and with the delight that a world class appearance, as distinguished from adequate appearance, can be coming to Town Center).

Bob Simon
Reston Founder

It's Income, Not Values

To the Editor:

I think the suggestions in recent letters to the editor that the imbalance in admissions at TJ is the result of differing cultural priorities are mistaken. The imbalance has much more to do with a family's income than its cultural values. The contest is unfairly rigged to favor those who have the money and the time to enroll and transport their kids to and from the SCAT and STB prep courses for elementary school students, ACT and PSAT practice sessions for middle schoolers, math and science tutors, summer enrichment programs and other such costly means of giving students a leg up in the competition to get admitted to TJ. Even the TJ Admissions Test Prep Seminar offered by the Fairfax County Public School System to rising eighth graders costs \$581 this year and reduced tuition is not offered to students with limited means. The inherent eco-

nomie bias against promising students from low income households all but guarantees that they will continue to be disproportionately under-represented at TJ.

William Shapiro
McLean

'Work Sunday's Thank-you

To the Editor:

On behalf of the 20 local faith communities represented on the "Works Sunday" Committee, we write to express our heartfelt thanks to the extraordinary people of Reston and Herndon for their 17th consecutive year of whole-hearted support of this unique day of charitable outreach and giving. As in years past, we can only marvel at their overwhelmingly generous response, and assure them of our gratitude, and that of the many people in whose lives they have made a real difference for the good.

On the weekend of Aug. 18-19, more than 200 "Works Sunday" volunteers cheerfully stepped up to offer a helping hand, a friendly face and a ready smile to our neighbors in need. Through their efforts, the hungry, the homeless, the hurting and people with disabilities among us were touched by one or more of the 19 projects on the "Works Sunday 2012" program. And we thank them and honor them for their selfless contributions.

However, that's not the whole

story...

None of that would have been possible without the astounding largesse of you, the residents of Herndon and Reston, who donated record amounts of urgently needed food and personal items to our collections for Reston Interfaith and those whom it serves. Yet again, your incredible generosity has helped make "Works Sunday" a life-affirming celebration of joy, caring and compassion, born of the interplay of the shared values and vibrant diversity that mark our communities. It is truly an honor to work with you all—you who gave so freely of your time, talent and resources to make "Works Sunday" for 2012 the grand success that it was.

To all these good people—and to the civic-minded local merchants who made it possible for us to approach them via public events at their stores—the 2012 "Works Sunday" Committee extends its most sincere and heartfelt thanks. During the coming year, we know you will continue to assist those in need by prayer and in deed and we hope to have the privilege and pleasure of seeing each of you again for "Works Sunday 2013."

Wishing God's blessings upon all.

The "Works Sunday 2012"
Steering Committee
Christopher Wist, St. Thomas à Becket Catholic Church
Jacqueline Bolware, Heritage Fellowship Church
Angela Harpalani, Heritage Fellowship Church

Fairfax County's bicycle transportation plan, as recommended by the comprehensive plan and the Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee recommendations.

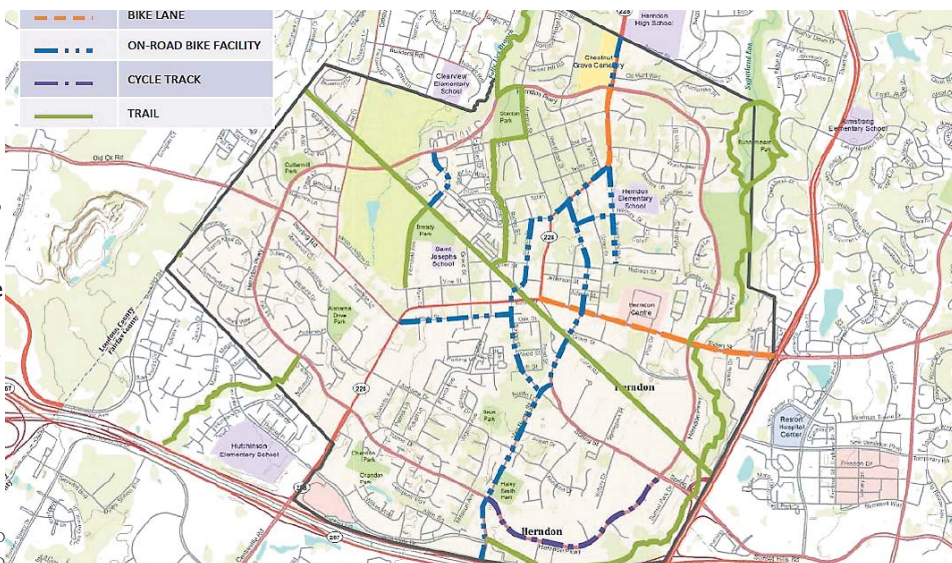


PHOTO
CONTRIBUTED

Herndon Becoming Cyclist-friendly

Town will submit bicycle facilities resolution for inclusion in county's plan.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The Herndon Town Council approved bicycle facilities for inclusion in the Fairfax County Bicycle Plan by a five to two vote at their Aug. 14 meeting. Fairfax County commenced planning for bicycle facilities in the comprehensive plan about a year ago. They included incorporated towns Herndon, Vienna and Clifton so there would not be gaps in the network of trails.

"I think we have an opportunity here to be forward thinking and move forward with multi-modal [transportation] options, we've got Metro coming, we want our downtown more walkable," Mayor Lisa Merkel said. "Now is the time to plan for the very long term, for 20 years with Metro here and more and more of people moving here, maybe with one car or even no car, that we're ready for that."

THE APPROVED RESOLUTION includes 16 different changes, which includes extensions of two trails to and from the W and OD trail, additional bike lanes on sections of Monroe Street and Elden Street and a cycle track on Herndon Parkway between Van Buren Street and Spring Street.

It also calls for fifteen different “future on-road bicycle facilities” at various locations. Elizabeth Gilleran, director of community development for the town, said that these would most likely be sharrows, a shared-lane marking that would indicate to drivers that cyclists may be present.

The resolution passed does not include specific mentions of sharrows.

“[The facilities] might be a sharrow, it might be a sign that says bicyclists can use a full lane, or, since this will be active at some point in the future, might be additional devices or signs to raise awareness or show changes,” Gilleran said. “We’re leaving it open, because it’s long range items. A sharrow does not provide any changes to laws on the books, does not add additional rights, it is just a sign to increase awareness of cycles.”

Councilmember Charlie Waddell, an active cyclist in the community, who opposed the motion along with Vice Mayor Connie Hutchinson, said improving bicycle safety with markings is a good first step, but thinks that reaching out to educate cyclists, especially inexperienced ones, is also essential.

“Bicycles are vulnerable road users, and creating a safe bike environment involves a lot more than striping lanes and painting things called sharrows on the road,” Waddell said. “One of the real problems we face today is distracted driving, cell phone usage and texting, it’s almost an epidemic.”

The motion passed by the Town Council specifically stated that approval would not warrant a change in the town's 2030 comprehensive plan.

“Action does not change our comprehensive plan, it does not commit us financially, it does not commit us when it comes to construction, it’s just a planning policy that would, if we were to adopt it into our comprehensive plan, it would guide us to making the improvements,” Gilleran said. “This is not something County is gearing up to implement, it’s something in their long-range planning document.”

Gilleran also said that adoption of the plan would prove helpful for future funding.

"If we do have this adopted into our plan and county plan, one day we should decide to seek grants to build these facilities, having it on the comprehensive plans would give our application for grant dollars a boost," she said.

TOWN RESIDENTS who spoke at the meeting said they would like to see additional safety features for cyclists.

Adrienne Dykstra of Herndon bikes with her children, and said she would welcome additional features.

"I'm a mom with two little kids, we bike around town two or three days a week, other days we walk around town. It's one of the things that drew us here, makes me love Herndon, makes me brag about it," she said. "I hope we're open-minded to plans that would bring more bicyclists to the town safely."

Steve Altemus said he thought road markings would help make bikers themselves more aware.

"Legally, since you're supposed to stay as far to the right as possible, it establishes a legal spot for you, so there's no dispute if there's an accident or incident that you're in the right spot," he said. "With an unmarked road, there's a question of if you're not in the right place, so it gives a biker an extra bit of confidence to use that road."

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY
DULLES TOLL ROAD

PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority is hosting three public hearings to inform and solicit comments from the community about proposed toll rate increases along the Dulles Toll Road beginning in 2013 to support the construction of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project and Dulles Toll Road improvements.

These public hearings will be conducted in an open house format, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., as follows:

Thursday, September 6, 2012

Stone Bridge High School - Cafeteria
43100 Hay Road
Ashburn, VA 20147

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

South Lakes High School – Cafeteria
11400 South Lakes Drive
Reston, VA 20191

Thursday, September 13, 2012

Spring Hill Elementary School
8201 Lewinsville Road
McLean, VA 22102

There will be informational exhibits about the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project, the cost and financing of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project, the Dulles Toll Road and potential improvements that may be made to the Toll Road, the revenue anticipated to be raised as a result of the proposed toll rate increases, and how this additional revenue will be spent. Representatives from the Airports Authority will be present to discuss these items.

The public comment period on the proposed toll rate increases will run from August 17 through September 16, 2012. An “On-Line Open House” will be available on the Airports Authority website at www.mwaa.com/tollroad throughout the comment period. It will contain an explanation of the informational exhibits and a comment form. Comments may also be submitted at the public hearings, or mailed during the comment period to: Dulles Toll Road Proposed Toll Rate Increases, 3900 Jermantown Road, Suite 300, Fairfax, VA 22030.

For special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, citizens may call (703) 934-4639 at least 10 days prior to the hearing they wish to attend.

ENTERTAINMENT

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

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 29

Grilling Class a la Bobby Flay at Williams-Sonoma. 6-8 p.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. \$45. 571-203-8815 or williams-sonoma.com.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 1

Porsche Club Car Show. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Reston Town Center, Pavilion & Market Street. Collection of vintage Porsches. pcapotomac.org

TUESDAY/SEPT. 4

Fine Art Nature Photography Exhibit. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Long Gallery at the United States Geological Survey, 2201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Building open to public during regular business hours, photo ID required for entry. Displayed through Aug. 28th. 703-255-1426.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 5

A History Of Rubble and Rumbings: Earthquakes in the Eastern U.S. Lecture. 7-8 p.m. USGS Federal Facility, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Learn about the history of earthquakes and find out how to prepare for the next big one in your area. Free. Photo I.D. required. 703-648-7770 or jcorley@usgs.gov.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 7

JamBrew Indie Music Fest. 6-10 p.m., at the Herndon Town Green, 777 Lynn Street, Herndon. Free outdoor concerts every Friday in September. <http://jambrew.com/>.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 8

Great Grapes! Wine, Arts & Food Festival. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., NE Surface Lot & Park NE Surface Lot & Park at the Reston Town Center, Reston. Admission includes unlimited sampling of 200-plus wines from 20 Virginia wineries, seminars, Gourmet Live cooking demos, continuous live music and souvenir wine glass. 800-830-3976 or uncorkthefun.com.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 9

Great Grapes! Wine, Arts & Food Festival. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., NE Surface Lot & Park at the Reston Town Center, Reston. Admission includes unlimited sampling of 200-plus wines from 20 Virginia wineries, seminars, Gourmet Live cooking demos, continuous live music and souvenir

wine glass. 800-830-3976 or uncorkthefun.com

11th Annual Classic Car Show/Grandparents Day Celebration.

11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Town of Herndon Municipal Center, 777 Lynn Street, Herndon. One hundred-plus classic cars, games (marbles, jacks, jump rope, hula hoops), face painting, crafts, art show, live doo-wopping, swing dancing, depot museum tours, food and DJing to raise funds for scholarships for the GMU School of Nursing gerontology program. Bring non-perishable food items to support the cause. 703-508-0217 or www.aarpdullies.org.

Used Book Sale. Noon-5 p.m., at St. Anne's Episcopal Church, 1700 Wainwright Drive, Reston. Hundreds of books of many genres available for sale; proceeds benefit mission and outreach programs. www.stannes-herndon.org.

At Home in Herndon Closing Reception. 7-9 p.m., at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. The people's choice awards will be revealed and a last look afforded at the exhibit depicting seasonal events and the people and places of Herndon. 703-956-6590 or www.artspaceherndon.com.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 14

JamBrew Indie Music Fest. 6-10 p.m., at the Herndon Town Green, 777 Lynn Street, Herndon. Free outdoor concerts every Friday in September. <http://jambrew.com/>.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 15

Tigerlily Pink Boa 5K. 8 a.m., at the Reston Town Center, 11921 Market Street, Reston. Run/walk to benefit young women before and after breast cancer. Register at tigerlilyfoundation.org.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 16

Celebrating Jaguars. 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Pavilion and Market Street at the Reston Town Center, 11921 Market Street, Reston. The Nation's Capital Jaguar Owners Club (NCJOC) presents its 48th Concours d'Elegance judged car show. 571-213-1847. ncjoc.org.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 19

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.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 21

JamBrew Indie Music Fest. 6-10 p.m., at the Herndon Town Green, 777 Lynn Street, Herndon. Free outdoor concerts every Friday in

September. <http://jambrew.com/>.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 22

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra: Masterworks I. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Conductor Christopher Zimmerman and pianist Jeffrey Biegel perform Adams' The Chairman Dances, Zwilich's Shadows for Piano and Orchestra, Bernstein's Three Dance Episodes from "On the Town" and Gershwin's Piano Concerto in F Major. \$25-\$55. 703-563-1990 or www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 26

Meet Me at the Movies - Senior Movie Day. 10 a.m. Bow Tie Cinemas, 11940 Market Street, Reston. Watch the "Best Exotic Marigold Hotel." Free to those 55+. 703-435-6530.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 30

Walk to End Alzheimer's & Candlelight Rally. 5 p.m., Pavilion & sidewalks. Registration at 5 p.m., walk at 6 p.m., Candlelight Rally at 7 p.m. Register at alz.org/walk.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 17

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WEDNESDAY/NOV. 14

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SATURDAY/NOV. 17

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra: Masterworks II. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Conductor Ken Woods and violinist Benjamin Beilman perform Beethoven's Overture to Coriolan, Op. 62, Symphony No. 2 and Violin Concerto. \$25-\$55. 703-563-1990 or www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 8

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra: Masterworks III. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Conductor Christopher Zimmerman and pianist James Dick perform Rossini's Overture to La Gazza Ladra plus Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 and Symphony No. 6, "Pathétique." \$25-\$55. 703-563-1990 or www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

Herndon to Host Labor Day Festival

This year's 24th annual Herndon Labor Day Festival will feature a wide range of live music, twelve Virginia wineries, local microbreweries, a craft show, sponsorship gallery, culinary demonstrations and a variety of food vendors. The Town of Herndon Parks and Recreation Department produces the event working in conjunction with the Herndon Woman's Club. Partial proceeds go to scholarship programs.

The festival will be held at Herndon Municipal Center Lawn, 777 Lynn Street, Monday, Sept. 3, noon-6 p.m.

Admission for unlimited wine tasting and two beer tickets is \$20 (with commemorative tasting glass).

Entertainment Schedule

Noon-1 p.m.—Chelsea Lee
1:30-2:30 p.m.—The Alternate Routes
3-4 p.m.—Junior Doctor
4:30-6 p.m.—42: Coldplay Tribute

Entrance only (no alcohol) is \$10.

Children 12 and under free; no pets allowed; tastings end at 5 p.m.

Contact: The Town of Herndon Parks and Recreation Department, 703-787-7300.

For more information, visit the town website at www.herndon-va.gov.

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When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com and click on the "This Week in Real Estate" link. Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times

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8300 Taylor Ln.....\$799,999...Sat/Sun 1-5.....Zen Carague..Zendle Ann Carague..571-213-7331

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4951 14th St.....\$629,000....Sun 1-4..Cathy & John McCambridge..Samson Props..703-906-7067

Fairfax
5312 Windsor Hills Dr.....\$600,000....Sun 12-5.....Lena Restivo.....Weichert..703-855-7341

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11801 Stuart Mill Rd.....\$1,199,000....Sun 1-4.....Alison Sherman..Keller Williams..703-636-7306

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608 Thelma Cir. SW.....\$975,900....Sun 1-4.....Bettina Dee.....Premier..703-748-0001
2401 Rocky Branch Rd.....\$674,900....Sun 1-4.....Mary Mandrgoc...Long & Foster..703-938-4200

To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Karen Pechacek-Washburn at 703-778-9422 or E-Mail the info to kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com All listings due by Monday at 3 P.M.

County Files FCC Complaint

FROM PAGE 3

trees, motorists unable to get through roadways blocked by downed electric power lines, elderly residents in care facilities without power in temperatures over 90 degrees, and any other citizens in need of emergency services must be able to call 911 to seek assistance.”

“Fairfax County is, and will stay, on top of this,” said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at large). The County’s response to the FCC, released last Thursday, lays the blame for the outage squarely at the feet of Verizon, and Verizon acknowledged some responsibility in its Aug. 13 report to the MWCOC.

After first denying it had major problems with Arlington County’s 911 service, Verizon officials admitted they did not know 911 emergency service was out in Fairfax County until alerted by County officials.

In the Verizon report, officials said two major generator failures—one in Fairfax and one in the central Arlington office, which routes 911 calls to multiple centers—caused “multiple failures cascading from these specific generator problems.”

Verizon also reported that it lost visibility over its own network, so that technicians did not know that power was draining from battery-operated generators until it was too late.

“When the batteries in the Arlington central office were being depleted... why was there a delay in deploying additional resources to remedy the situation before the Arlington facility went dark?” asked

County officials, in concluding statements in the FCC report. “Verizon’s 911 service in Fairfax County failed completely during the June 29, 2012, derecho. Both immediate and longer-term changes are needed to improve 911 service in the metropolitan Washington, D.C., area.”

THE CURRENT FCC REPORT is one of several investigations launched into the 911 fiasco. According to officials, Fairfax County is pursuing the issue from many angles, including the report to the FCC and regional work through the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government.

“We are very fortunate that no one died as a result of the 911 outage,” said Supervisor Pat Herrity, (R-Springfield). Herrity is a member of the statewide 911 panel tasked with looking into the outage.

“I have every confidence that Fairfax County is up to whatever emergency comes our way—in as much as we have control. I’m more worried about third parties such as Verizon based on our 911 experience. Frankly, that was wholly unacceptable and we are going to do everything necessary to hold their feet to the fire,” said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee).

Souder said it’s gratifying to know Verizon is taking some responsibility, and attempting to fix its communication problems.

“The public should know that, seven weeks after this storm, we’re still a long way from being done from making sure this (911 failure) doesn’t happen again,” Souder said.

Great Falls Blue Knights U12 Soccer Tryouts

The Great Falls Blue Knights, a rising U12 Boys Travel Soccer team, are looking to strengthen their squad for their 2012-2013 ODSL campaign.

The Knights are a close-knit squad, focused on maximizing player development with an emphasis on building critical core skills. Our licensed coaches & trainers will work tirelessly to constantly improve and build players’ technical and physical abilities while ensuring great fun is had by all.

The Knights have three roster spots remaining for committed U12 players born 8/1/00 or younger.

Training sessions are normally held on Mondays & Thursdays 6:00-7:30 pm in the Great Falls/Reston area.



If you are interested, have questions or would like to register for tryouts, please e-mail the Team Manager at **GFBLEKNIGHTS@LIVE.COM**



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SPORTS

Brian Day, a former assistant coach at Westfield and Centreville, is in his first season as Herndon head football coach.

PHOTO BY
CRAIG STERBUTZEL/
THE CONNECTION



Day Leads Herndon Football

Hornets amassed 3-17 record during previous two seasons.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Three penalties, two runs for negative yardage and an incomplete pass put the Herndon football team in a fourth-and-35 hole on its own 20-yard line during the opening drive of its Aug. 23 scrimmage against T.C. Williams.

After the rough start, things quickly got worse for the host Hornets as TC blocked the ensuing punt and took over at the Herndon 8. Three plays later, the Titans cashed in with a touchdown pass.

Much like each of the last two seasons, the Hornets found themselves facing adversity. On this night, Herndon overcame a 9-0 deficit and led in the fourth quarter before eventually falling short against the Titans. Under first-year head coach Brian Day, the Hornets are hoping their resiliency carries into the regular season and beyond.

DAY, 37, takes over at Herndon after spending last season as an assistant coach with Division 6 state runner-up Centreville. Prior to the 2011 campaign, Day spent nine seasons as an assistant coach with Westfield. After spending a decade with Concorde District powers, Day has the task of turning around a Herndon program that went 3-17 in the last two seasons, including 0-10 in the Concorde, and hasn't had a winning record since 2008.

"In my opinion," Day said, "the hardest part when you're trying to change a program is there's a moment somewhere along between the offseason and now where you're literally sitting on top of a pin and you're going to go one way or the other, and the belief system is either going to kick in and that's going to be their new value system — their new way of handling adversity — or you're going to revert back to what you know. I think a mark of a good coach is to get that out of them. We're going to find out if I'm a good coach or not."

Day is a 1993 graduate of Fairfax High School, where he was a standout quarterback for then-head coach Tom Verbanic, who Day later coached with at Westfield. During Day's time at Westfield, the Bulldogs won state championships in 2003 and 2007.

"I really believe I've been mentored in such a way where I've truly seen a guy (Verbanic) get the most out of kids, of anybody in this area," Day said. "He's a legend. ... I've seen what he's done and I know it can be done."

So far, players say they're buying in to their new head coach.

OAKTON VS. MADISON IN FOOTBALL OPENER

The Oakton football team will open the 2012 season on the road against Madison at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 31. The Cougars defeated Madison in each of the last three openers, including a 55-17 win last year.

Oakton is coming off an 8-3 season in 2011, where the Cougars started 7-0 and 8-1 before eventually losing to Lake Braddock, 50-21, in the opening round of the regional playoffs.

"It's pretty exciting," senior defensive lineman Heima Wanda said. "I think we can do some new things ... all we've got to do is just follow the coach and we'll be good."

Offensively, Herndon's top two threats are running backs Denzel Weaver and Darrius Hicks. Day said Weaver, a senior, has the potential to play at the next level.

"He's a pro-style running back," Day said. "He's a one-cut, shoulders-square [kind of runner]. ... He's a potential college running back. ... There's no doubt he's the undisputed leader on this team. When he talks, kids listen."

Weaver said maintaining a positive attitude within the team will be important toward turning around the program.

"If we stick together and play together as one, and we don't turn on each other, I think we'll be all right," Weaver said. "Coach Day, he takes care of us and he loves us. ... He yells at us, [but] we know he loves us because that's why he's yelling at us. ... Last year, we had team arguments and team fights. We always would turn on each other and get frustrated. ... If we don't do that, I think we'll be all right."

Hicks, a junior, is a threat out of the backfield and on special teams. He's also a cornerback on defense.

"The Hicks kid is an explosive-type runner, which is why he's our [other primary weapon]," Day said. "That's that kid you want where he's a change-of-pace back."

Senior Zach Goldsby and sophomore Ryan McLaughlin could see time at quarterback. Defensive back/receiver Harrison Craddock, a senior, and center Brandon Timbrook, a senior, are also expected to be key contributors.

HERNDON WILL OPEN the 2012 season at Langley at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 30. The Hornets' home opener is Sept. 7 against South Lakes. Herndon opens district play at home against Centreville on Sept. 21.

Day said the Hornets have a goal of making the playoffs.

"Winning isn't common," Day said. "You've got to do some things, you've got to go through the ups and downs. There's got to be some trials and tribulations. If you ever talk to those guys that are in the playoffs year in and year out, ... they've all been through it. You've got to go through some things to get through [to] the other side and make you better. If you don't go through adversity, you're never going to be as good as you could."

HERNDON CONNECTION SPORTS EDITOR RICH SANDERS
703-224-3031 OR RICH SAND8@AOL.COM



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

The South Lakes field hockey team takes on Centreville on Aug. 25 during the "Under the Lights" tournament at Lee High School in Springfield.

Seahawks Off to Strong Start

South Lakes Field Hockey wins three out of four at "Under the Lights" tournament.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

In 2011, Jessica Dowd's first season as South Lakes head field hockey coach, she helped transform the Seahawks from a struggling program into a club playing around .500. One year later, Dowd has South Lakes off to its second consecutive strong start as the Seahawks won three of four games at the "Under the Lights" tournament at Lee High School in Springfield.

On Friday, Aug. 24, South Lakes defeated Osbourn Park, 5-0, and Lee, 5-1. On Saturday, the Seahawks lost to Centreville, 2-1, but bounced back with a 6-0 victory against Falls Church.

Katie Hunt, Aly McCarty and Emily Lemoine each scored four goals for South Lakes during the tournament. Olivia Wolfe and Megan Greatorex each scored two, and Lisi Mueller had one.

South Lakes also won three of four at last year's "Under the Lights."

"Coming in [last season],

they didn't have much field hockey sense," the 25-year-old Dowd said. "They had the skill, but there was no formation there. We implemented a whole new formation [and] we set up different corner plays — before they were just going basically straight shots the entire time."

"They're playing great, like a team."

— South Lakes field hockey coach Jessica Dowd

They're a great group of girls, so it's easy to work with them."

Seniors Mueller and Lemoine, and juniors Wolfe and Hannah Becker will be looked to for leadership, according to Dowd.

South Lakes de-

feated Falls Church, 5-1, on Aug. 27, improving the Seahawks' record to 4-1. South Lakes will host Yorktown at 7:30 p.m. on Aug. 30. The Seahawks open Liberty District competition on Sept. 11 at home against Marshall.

"They've played really great," Dowd said. "The old South Lakes team, before I came in ... they had a [poor] record ... and to come in fighting for first place in our [tournament] pool [this year shows] all the work that they've been doing has really paid off. They're playing great, like a team."

FAITH

Wishful Thinking

BY RABBI LEIBEL
FAJNLAND
DIRECTOR OF CHABAD OF
RESTON-HERNDON



It is that time of year again. The High Holy Days are upon us (Rosh Hashana Sep. 16-18, Yom Kippur Sep. 25-26) and we may as well face the fact that another year has passed us by. Now you might wonder to yourself: what do I have to show for this outgoing year? Is it a "write-off," or did I achieve my stated goals? What will I wish for in the coming year? Is it a repeat of last year's wishes?

It must be exasperating to discover that, in fact, this year's wish list is really no different than last year's, or the year before—or the year before that! Each year the various media outlets poll peoples

hopes and dreams in advance of the New Year and invariably it goes something like this: 1. World peace 2. Security 3. Success (both financial and with relationships—we call it "Nachas"). Every year! Should it not change? Surely, if last year's wishes were fulfilled we ought to have new ones for the New Year, and if they were not fulfilled, why ask for the same things again?

Perhaps we are aiming too high. Perhaps the lesson of the past year is to get more realistic and start aiming for something more within reach, something that might actually happen in the next year. Mmm... "a little less idealism and a little more realism ... doesn't sound very inspiring," you say?

**By all means, make a wish.
But please do what it takes
to make it come true.**

The truth is that I am putting the cart before the horse, for in Hebrew "Rosh" Hashanah does not translate as "new" year, it marks an actual development. Literally translated, Rosh Hashanah means "head" of the year; this is the day that G-d renders judgment of our actions, thereby setting the course of the coming year.

In the Jewish New Year, the analogy is clear: just as the head is the origin and source of movement for the entire body—so too it is with Rosh Hashanah. In it—and through it—is decreed the energy, vitality and blessing of the next twelve months. These are indeed solemn days, moments in time that will affect us long after they are gone; our conduct has far reaching consequences.

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And so perhaps we have been asking the wrong questions. Rather than toning down our expectations for the New Year, we should be asking ourselves, "what will I do" to see these lofty wishes realized? Rather than lowering our wishes, we must elevate our conduct.

The meditation of the past year is phrased thus: has my life and behavior of the last twelve months been consistent with the wishes and hopes that I express over this solemn period? Furthermore what have I done to see these dreams realized?

While it may seem far fetched that our Rosh Hashanah resolutions will impact history, Jewish tradition teaches us, that "Repentance, Prayer, and Tzedaka avert the evil decree," (the High Holiday Liturgy). Indeed, when con-

sidering which actions we should take on to enable us to realize our wishes, our focus should be in these three areas of life: the earnest regret of repentance, expressing the desire to be truer to oneself, and the best that one can be, self reflection through prayer and an increased awareness of one's responsibility towards others, which is the ideal of Tzedaka—charity.

By all means, make a wish. But please do what it takes to make it come true.




In the spirit of the New Year my wife Nechamie and I along with our children would like to wish the entire community a Kesiva V'chasima Tova—a happy and healthy sweet New Year.

Rabbi Fajnlend can be reached at rabbi@chabadrh.org.

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Diagnosed But Not Sick

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Or so I tell myself – and others, as often as the opportunity presents itself. It's a distinction with which I can live, a distinction with which I'm comfortable, and a distinction which enables me to live my life as normally as possible; which when one considers my diagnosis: NSCLC (non-small cell lung cancer) and the original, terminal prognosis – received back in Feb. 2009: "13 months to two years," and my age when all this stuff hit the figurative fan: 54, it's no wonder I assimilate such delusions and don't give them a second thought. (The first thought: premature death, is bad enough.)

But it does take a little convincing. And it's not to say that having cancer isn't an excuse/explanation for me acting a certain way and/or requiring certain things (not exactly accommodations). Because it is. As much as I don't want having cancer to seep into my thoughts and/or actions, it is impossible to prevent it from doing so (and you regular readers know how much I try). Its reality has a life of its own, whereby it almost creates new instincts in how I think and feel and react, instincts that I am aware of when they happen, but not quite predisposed to prevent their appearance/occurrence. Being diagnosed with a terminal disease at age 54 and a half tends to narrow your vision and unleash – occasionally – the beast which resides within, a beast with which you're likely well acquainted but not particularly proud.

As much as I'm able to minimize the damage, collateral or otherwise, from these cancer-driven behaviors (see how easy it is to place blame), I still maintain that these behaviors are not because I'm sick, but rather because I'm diagnosed. My feeling is, once I start using/invoking sickness as an explanation, it might become a slippery slope. And once I've begun using and in turn becoming increasingly comfortable with the cause of, and description for, my inappropriate and selfish words and deeds, then the cancer has indeed won; and as a direct result, sooner rather than later these columns will cease as I will have permanently desisted.

I imagine these words probably sound like mind games, and too little too late at that. However, it's been my experience that being diagnosed with a terminal disease leads to an awful lot of self doubt, recrimination, insecurity, fear, anxiety, stress and non-stop introspection and deals you don't ever want to make with the devil. Ergo, any little thing I can do – or think, or tell myself – repeatedly, is what I have to do. I suppose it's a bastardized version of the power of positive thinking, or the act of a desperate man. Either way, I'm still alive and rationalizing my behavior.

If my not calling a spade a spade enables me to deal the cards with which I've been dealt a little bit longer, and I'm not cheating anybody but death in the process, then I will continue to do so. Having/being diagnosed with cancer/a terminal disease is neither fun nor funny; however, unless I find some humor or wishful thinking in how I approach this situation, I don't suppose I'll be approaching it much longer. To me, it's always been mind over matter, and even though these matters are rather serious, I still don't mind.

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

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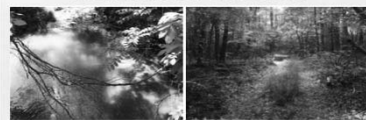
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NEWS

Char-a-oke Anyone?

\$1 million raised for Fairfax County Public Schools Education Foundation.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Listen, baby...
“Ain’t no mountain high. Ain’t no valley low. Ain’t no river wide enough, baby. If you need me, call me. No matter where you are. No matter how far.”

The Motown classic “Ain’t No Mountain High Enough,” by Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell, has been a show-stopping favorite for decades.

The same was true Thursday night for the karaoke team from Northrop Grumman, who won bragging rights as the 2012 Best Performers during the Fairfax Chamber’s second annual karaoke event to benefit Fairfax County Public Schools education foundation.

The team joined more than 250 members of the Northern Virginia business community, elected offi-

cials and other notables who sang or cheered on other participants. The list included Delegates Dave Albo, Mark Keam, Barbara Comstock, Kay Kory, Alfonso Lopez, Jim Scott, Ken Plum, Vivian Watts and Tom Rust. Senators included Dave Marsden and Barbara Favola, as well as Fairfax County Supervisor John Foust and Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Superintendent Jack Dale.

“The atmosphere was electric,” said Fairfax Chamber President & CEO Jim Corcoran. “It was an incredible display of community involvement, competition and just plain fun, all in support of a great cause – education.” Corcoran said the Education Foundation has made contributions to FCPS of over \$1 million in the past two years. The event raised about \$19,000 last year and \$30,000 this year.

CHAR-A-OKE AWARD WINNERS

Best Performance: Northrop Grumman
Best Vocals: Dominion Virginia Power
Best Moves: Cordia Partners
Best Lyrics: McGladrey Tax Services
Spirit Award: Helios HR
Best Duet: Cardinal Bank
Most Crowd Participation: John Marshall Bank

The foundation, Corcoran said, is not a scholarship program, but a way to fund and support initiatives in Fairfax County’s world-class public school system.

Corcoran said the event grew from five teams participating in the singing competition the first year to 22 karaoke teams this year.

“What was really great about this event is that you didn’t have just one sector participating. You had a who’s who from companies of all sizes, government contractors, banks, elected officials, FCPS.”

Corcoran said Helios HR in Herndon was the event’s Signature sponsor. “Kathy Albarado, Helios HR’s CEO, was great at creating enthusiasm for this event. You have no idea how excited people were.”

Erin DeWaters, the Fairfax Chamber’s vice president of com-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Members of the Northrop Grumman PDP Team (l-r) Andrew Tran, Stephanie Paone, Neetu Dhillon, Candice Currier, Vivian Obando and Ashley Stone celebrate winning Best Performance at Char-a-oke.



PHOTO BY JENNY RULEY/FCPS

Attendees were so enthusiastic about the event, all the teams took the stage together at the end of the night to sing “Summer Nights” from Grease.

munications, said some companies recruited interns to participate, while others got their CEOs on stage to perform, and some teams practiced all summer.

“It was also a great team-building effort and a way to boost employee morale,” DeWaters said.

Corcoran said last year he performed original lyrics to Billy Joel’s “Piano Man.” And this year? “They fired me,” he joked. But DeWaters set the record straight: the event was so popular they filled the 22 slots quickly with chamber members.

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