

# Herndon Girls Fall to One-Loss Centreville

SPORTS, PAGE 6

Parents Plead for  
Delay in Training  
Center Closing  
COUNTY LINE, PAGE 3

## New Look for Town of Herndon

NEWS, PAGE 2

Herndon senior guard Chloe Owens scored 16 points and grabbed nine rebounds in a loss to Centreville on Jan. 7.

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## NEWS

# New Look for Town of Herndon

**New logo, branding strategy begins to take hold in Herndon.**

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

As the Town of Herndon prepares for the arrival of the Silver Line and changes to its downtown, they've taken an important step in making sure Herndon has its own identity: giving Herndon its own brand.

"The Town of Herndon has always been a place that embraces its history, and we want to embrace the future, with the Metro and changes to the downtown in the same way," said Mayor Lisa Merkel.

The town's Economic Development Task Force was tasked with the idea of finding ways to attract businesses and residents to the town.

According to their recommendations, published in April 2011, "There is momentum now for



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

**Herndon Mayor Lisa Merkel with materials featuring the new Herndon logo.**

crafting a strong, unified message that businesses and residents can get behind and can be used to market the town to its businesses, residents and travelers."

Soon the town hired Trialogue Studio, a Washington, D.C. based branding, design and communications firm, and appointed a Branding Advisory Committee comprising elected officials, marketing executives, town residents and more.

"We had a lot of members that were marketing executives with chief marketing officer-level responsibilities," said Anne Curtis, public information officer with the town, and member of the committee. "That was by design, it helped give a lot of credibility to the outcome."

**THE COMMITTEE** spent five months in 2012 conducting focus

SEE NEW LOOK, PAGE 5



**ALL-NEW 2013 SHOW WITH LIVE ORCHESTRA**

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- *The New York Times*

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- *Charles Wadsworth, founder and 20-year artistic director of the Chamber Music Society at Lincoln Center*

# THE COUNTY LINE

HERNDON CONNECTION EDITOR KEMAL KURSPAHC  
703-778-9414 OR HERNDON@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION



Representing the Northern Virginia Training Center Parents and Associates Board, Robert Anthony of Reston addresses the concerns of NVTC and asks for the General Assembly to address their concerns in the upcoming session.

State Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31) and delegates Tom Rust (R-86), Ken Plum (D-36) and Scott Surovell (D-44) listen as Northern Virginia residents share their concerns, ideas and personal stories for what the Virginia General Assembly should take up in the next session.

## Parents Plead for Delay in Training Center Closing

**Timeframe for closure puts disabled adults at risk, advocates say.**

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

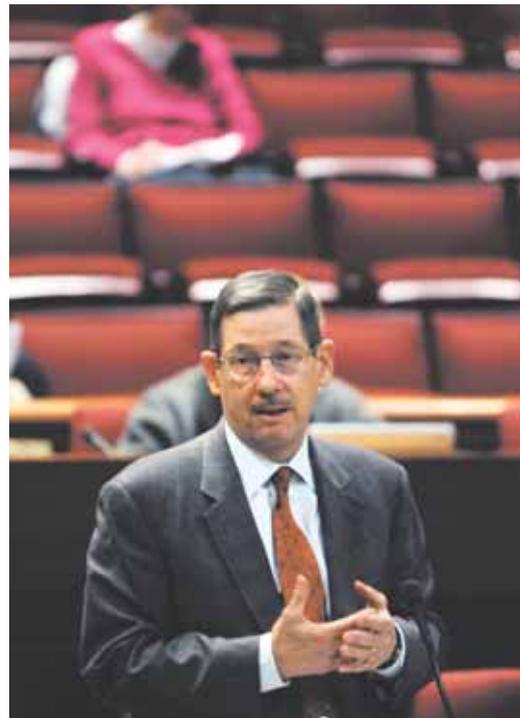
When it was Kenneth Gans' turn to speak to the panel of Virginia state legislators, the 78-year-old father of a severely-disabled son kept his remarks brief. "This is absolute madness, a bloody disaster," Gans said, shaking his head. "You're going to fix a problem by destroying a perfectly good place," Gans told lawmakers, referring to the closing of the Northern Virginia Training Center, where his son Jeffrey, 53, has lived for more than 40 years.

He was among nearly 25 parents, caregivers and stakeholders to plead with legislators to reconsider the timeline for closing the center, a state-run facility on Braddock Road that houses nearly 200 residents. The center is scheduled to close in 2015.

"We consider NVTC a miracle, a blessing," Gans said. "My son Jeffrey is 53, but he will remain an infant the rest of his life. My greatest fear is that he will not survive for long in a group home," Gans said.

The annual public hearing, held Saturday at the Fairfax County Government Center, gives any constituent the opportunity—in three minutes or less—to lobby Fairfax County's delegation to the General Assembly.

During Saturday's public hearing, 77 residents addressed the panel for nearly four hours on an array of topics. Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, who opened the public hearing, stressed the county's need for



**Richard Kaufman, attorney for the Town of Herndon, talks about how conflict and confusion of power can often happen between county and town governments.**

additional funding for education and transportation.

"As you know, K-12 and transportation continue to be key funding issues for Fairfax County," she said, reiterating that Governor Robert McDonnell's proposed \$48 million in transportation funding is "nowhere near enough to solve the commonwealth's transportation problems."

"In Fairfax County alone, we have identified \$300 million in transportation needs annually for the next 10 years," she said.

John Horesji, coordinator for Social Action Linking Together (SALT), asked lawmakers to support a number of social policy

reforms to help the state's most vulnerable residents. He said SALT's priorities include the expansion of Medicaid and banning the practice, through legislation, of shackling pregnant women in Virginia prisons.

Helen Kelly, a representative for the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area, pressed lawmakers to consider no-excuse absentee voting and online voter registration.

"Our vote is our voice. Let's make sure Virginia's voices are heard," Kelly said.

But a recurrent topic for nearly half the speakers concerned the closing of the NVTC. They want legislators to slow down the timeline for shuttering the center, and to increase funding for Medicaid disability waivers. The waivers help families pay for medical services and equipment for those with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

The closing of NVTC is not a surprise.

**LAST JANUARY**, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the U.S. Department of Justice reached a settlement to close all but one of the state's training centers for the developmentally and intellectually disabled. At the time, Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) and Chairman Bulova released a statement saying the county supports "community-based care," but that it was "critical in this regard that sufficient funding is provided in order to make the transition successful."

The question now, according to parents and stakeholders, is whether the state has sufficient funding to provide that quality community-based care.

"The waivers provide funding for services, but the state does not fund the waivers at a high enough rate to meet costs in the Northern Virginia market..." said Cook, whose

district includes the NVTC facility. "We believe that state needs to increase the level of funding for the waivers."

Rikki Epstein, executive director of the ARC of Northern Virginia, echoed Cook's sentiments. She told legislators that while Virginia's settlement agreement with the DOJ "provided us with a historic opportunity to reform the entire disability support structure in Virginia," funding for disability waivers also needed reform.

Epstein urged the delegation to vote for waiver rate reforms that reflect "real and regional costs of providing services, so families can hire attendants who are able to stay on the job and to allow providers to support individuals with the most complex needs." She said more than 10,000 Virginians will be stuck on waiting lists for the next decade unless the state provides "more waivers than the DOJ settlement requires."

Kymberly DeLoatche, a Falls Church resident, told lawmakers about her family's struggles with Medicaid waivers while standing with her 9-year-old son Charlie, who has Down syndrome. She said the current Medicaid waiver program does not provide consistent, adequate care for her son. She told legislators that in the seven years her family has qualified for Medicaid waivers, Charlie has received just three weeks of the 24-hour daily care he needs.

"It sounds crazy, and it is. My job and my sanity depend on your actions," she told legislators.

Vienna resident Jack Bruggeman told legislators his family is "reluctantly facing a new reality" regarding moving his sister Cathy, an NVTC resident for 30 years, to a new community home.

He gave legislators copies of a December letter from Mark Sites, chair of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB), which provides services for 88 indi

SEE CLOSURE, PAGE 7

# More Fodder for Comedy?

## 2013 session of the Virginia General Assembly to tackle serious issues.

The 2013 30-day session of the Virginia General Assembly begins Wednesday, Jan. 9. We can only hope that the various legislative proposals do not provide as much fodder for comedy as last session. The Virginia House of Delegates and the Senate of Virginia will offer live streaming video of the 2013 Legislative Sessions, and it is well worth tuning in once or twice.

The General Assembly typically considers between 2,000 and 3,000 bills during a session. It's like drinking from a firehose. There will be proposals about revenue and lack thereof, transportation and education funding, bills proposing to allow concealed weapons in schools, bills to allow civil penalties against gun owners who fail to secure their guns, bills that would limit access to insurance coverage for contraception, bills to further limit abortion, bills about undocumented immigrants and other bills beyond imagination.

Every resident of Virginia is represented by one delegate and one state senator. You can find out who your representatives are, and look up what they actively propose and how they

vote on the General Assembly website at <http://viriniagenralassembly.gov>.

Here is a sample of bills local legislators have prefiled as chief patron.

**Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34): School calendar.** Makes local school boards responsible for setting the school calendar and determining the opening of the school year and eliminates the post-Labor Day opening requirement and "good cause" scenarios for which the Board of Education may grant waivers of this requirement.

**Del. Tom Rust (R-86): In-state tuition; undocumented persons.** Establishes that an undocumented person who is unlawfully present in the United States shall not be eligible for in-state tuition unless he (i) entered and began residing in the United States prior to his 16th birthday; (ii) has graduated from a public or private high school in the commonwealth...; (iii) has registered as an entering student in a public institution of higher education in the commonwealth; (iv) has resided in the commonwealth for at least five years immediately preceding...; (v) has provided an affidavit to the institution stating that he has filed an application to become a permanent resident of the United States... or will do so as soon as he is eligible, and that no grounds exist for the denial...; and (vi) has submitted evidence that he or, in the case of a dependent student, at least one parent, guardian, or person standing in loco parentis, has filed, unless exempted by state law, Virginia income tax returns for at least

one year prior to the date of enrollment.

**Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31): Eligibility for TANF; drug-related felonies.** Provides that a person who is otherwise eligible to receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families assistance shall not be denied assistance solely because he has been convicted of a felony offense of possession of a controlled substance, provided that he complies with all obligations imposed by the court and the Department of Social Services, is actively engaged in or has completed substance abuse treatment, and participates in drug screenings.

**Sen. Janet Howell (D-32): Elections; absentee voting.** Provides that qualified voters may vote absentee in person without providing an excuse or reason for not being able to vote in person on election day. The bill retains the present statutory list of specific reasons entitling a voter to cast an absentee ballot for those persons who vote absentee by mail.

**Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34): Fuels taxes; indexing of tax rates.** Increases or decreases each year the rates of Virginia's fuels taxes using a fuel efficiency index. The bill defines the fuel efficiency index as the quotient that is obtained when using as the numerator the total annual vehicle miles traveled in the commonwealth for the relevant year and using as the denominator the total gallons of motor fuel consumed for highway use in the commonwealth for the relevant year, as published by the Federal Highway Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

— MARY KIMM,

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Seeing the Spirit of Giving

To the Editor:

I would like to share with you about the St. Joseph School Onesight eyeglass collection drive. It was held by the eighth grade students at St. Joseph's school and was headed up by Great Falls resident Abigail DiOrio. In the spirit of giving, the school managed to deliver 100 pairs of glasses. It was a rewarding exchange. We were told about how Onesight has refurbished and distributed over 8 million glasses since it started. Two of the employees from Sterling actually go on the mission to South America to help screen and re-distribute. The organization was set up by The Luxottica

eyewear group to help needy people all over the world.

They were all so grateful! Did you know they provide free glasses to our local needy families also? It really motivates the kids when they recognize their efforts in their local community. The more people that know about Onesight, the bigger the circle gets. If people want to continue to donate, we will keep a box in the front Lobby of St Joseph's School. We encourage everyone to rummage through their cluttered drawers and find a new use for those old glasses!

**Niamh DiOrio**  
Great Falls



**Abigail DiOrio donating 100 pairs of glasses on behalf of St. Joseph's School.**

## Increasing Slots for Virginia Students

To the Editor:

It's January and with January brings the most common concern of high school seniors, that's college acceptance! Are you in? Are you out? Where are you going? How will we pay? This is all high school seniors are thinking about right now, as I was right there with them last year applying to Virginia colleges. With many of my high school classmates having their eyes set on William & Mary as their first choice, I did a little research and found out how fortunate I was to have gotten into William &

Mary. William & Mary provides 32 percent of our college spots to out of state students. That makes it very difficult for many of our best and brightest Virginia students, including my classmates, to get in.

That is why I was pleased to hear Delegate Comstock discuss her bill for more in state college spots when I attended the McLean Community Association Town hall last week. This bill will increase the in-state slots guaranteed for Virginia's students to 75 percent—a reasonable and a modest goal. This increase will allow more

qualified Virginia students to attend Virginia's schools and will provide these students and their parents with more reasonable tuition bills than they would face at a private college. I appreciate the work Delegate Comstock has done to get us more in state college spots at Virginia colleges and universities and I hope all of our local delegates and senators will join her and do the right thing for Virginia students and families.

**Kyle McCauley**  
McLean

## 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:

Letters to the Editor  
The Connection  
1606 King St.  
Alexandria VA 22314  
Call: 703-917-6444.

By e-mail:  
[herndon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:herndon@connectionnewspapers.com)

# Herndon Promotes 'New Look'

FROM PAGE 2

groups, interviews, online surveys and in-person surveys at Reston Town Center to get "a solid objective understanding of how Herndon is perceived," Curtis said.

After their research, they came up with a positioning statement.

"A next generation small town pulses on the edge of Fairfax County. Turn off the highway and find yourself in a place that welcomes innovators, risk-takers, history seekers and family-keepers," it reads. "This is where the roots of history help to grow the ideas of tomorrow."

Dialogue also created a logo for the town, featuring a font that is meant to be both classic and contemporary, as well as a color palette for various uses.

Town business has already been using the new logos on letterheads and business cards, and the town's website was re-launched Monday, Jan. 7 with the new logo in place of the town's seal. Merkel said the town's vehicles, such as public works trucks, will carry the logo soon.

"The logo has gone in place of the town's seal in many places, and people have asked us if that means the seal is going away. It is not," Merkel said. "There's still a place for the town seal, the logo is just more of a marketing tool."

The logo connects the final two letters O and N in Herndon, creating a catchphrase that they hope will be adapted to many different uses.

"We're not Coca Cola, we don't have those kinds of resources to keep coming up with new logos," Merkel said. "As a municipality, we knew this is something that's going to last a while, so we wanted ours to be as adaptable as possible."

Using the "on" as a jumping off point, the town is able to incorporate a number of different activities into the brand. For example, "it's on" for regular events and activities, "lunch is on" for the restaurants or "rock on" for Friday Night Live.

Other proposed slogans are: "come on in"



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**A rendering of a possible application of the Town of Herndon's new logo.**

for town welcoming groups, "on the tee" for the golf course, "on your side" for the Herndon Police Department and more.

"We figured this logo is going to be on a lot of signs and other materials that are going to be around for a while, so we didn't want it to be something people can look at and say 'that looks like 2012,'" Curtis said.

**TOWN EVENTS** like the Herndon Festival have already incorporated the new logo to the website and future promotional materials. Other signature events, such as Friday Night Live, which is run by the Herndon-Dulles Chamber of Commerce, could begin to include the new logo, colors and style guide if they wish.

The town has also sent out packets with information about the logos, should they choose to use it in their future promotional materials.

# Federal Porn Charges For Former Teacher

In June, Fairfax County police charged a special education teacher at Poplar Tree Elementary with 10 counts of possession of child pornography. He was immediately suspended without pay, and the school system assured parents that no images of students were found on his computer and school computers were not used.



**Fenn**

Now Robert C. Fenn, 26, of 3031 Emerald Chase Drive in Oak Hill, is being prosecuted federally. He was indicted Dec. 6 by a grand jury in U.S. District

Court in Alexandria on one count each of possession and receipt of child pornography. The indictment alleges that he received this material between March 3 and May 6 and further possessed such pornography on June 12.

Fenn had been a substitute teacher with Fairfax County Public Schools since 2009 and was hired full-time last summer. He was just completing his first year at Poplar Tree, where he taught special-ed students in kindergarten through third grade.

—BONNIE HOBBS



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# SPORTS

## Herndon Girls' Basketball Falls to One-Loss Centreville

Senior guard Owens scores 16 points in defeat.

By JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

Without the services of its starting point guard, the Herndon girls' basketball team matched the one-loss Centreville Wildcats bucket-for-bucket in the opening minutes of their Jan. 7 matchup at Centreville High School.

A jumper by senior forward Brianna Moses, a transition basket by senior guard Chloe Owens and another jumper by Moses gave Herndon a 6-5 lead. The Hornets, however, would soon learn why Centreville entered the game with a 12-1 record.

The Wildcats used full-court pressure defense to force 32 turnovers and generate numerous easy baskets en route to a 72-39 victory. The Hornets, who were without injured point guard Mayumi Shill, struggled against the Wildcats' pressure, turning the ball over 19 times in the first half. After trailing 6-5, Centreville used a 23-4 run to take control of the game.

"It was a teaching game," said first-year Herndon head coach Otto Jette, whose Hornets fell to 3-10, including 0-2 in the Concorde District.

Aggression is one thing Jette, a former Chantilly assistant, is trying to instill in his players. The Hornets started two freshmen on Monday—guard Allison Guengerich and forward Sabrina Tolbert—and a third freshman, forward Chase Cooksey, saw playing time. Jette would like his younger post players to become more physical like Moses, who finished with nine points and four rebounds.

"We don't attack the basket strong enough," Jette said. "We either look for a back pass or we go across court, but we



Herndon senior forward goes for a jump ball against Centreville's Tori Collar on Jan. 7.



Herndon senior guard Chloe Owens scored her 1,000th career point early in the season.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERNITZEL/THE CONNECTION

don't look to go to the basket. We're not aggressive right now and that comes with our youth."

Herndon's leader on the floor is Owens, who scored her 1,000th career point early

in the season. She finished with 16 points and nine rebounds against Centreville and showed her versatility when she blocked a shot in the third quarter, dribbled the length of the floor and drew a foul.

"Chloe is a leader," Jette said. "She's a player that attacks the basket. She's just that girl that's a leader on the court and the girls follow her."

Tolbert scored six points for Herndon.

Senior guard Alexis Brown finished with four.

Herndon snapped a six-game losing streak with a 42-41 victory against Trinity Christian (Fayetteville, N.C.) on Dec. 29 in the Big Blue Winter Classic in Roanoke. The Hornets have also defeated West Potomac and Stuart.

Herndon will travel to face Chantilly at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 10.

### Herndon Swim and Dive Competes Against Chantilly

The Herndon swim and dive teams lost against Chantilly during the weekend, but several individuals performed well.

In girls' action, Herndon's Ryan Murphy (first 200 free, second 100 back with qualifying time for regionals), Kara Joyce (first diving), Samantha Kenis (double winner, 200 IM and 100 fly), Elizabeth McNulty (second 100 fly, second 100 breast), Karly Ginieczi (second 100 free, third 100 back), Abby Witmer (second 500 free) and Carey Rice (third 500 free) placed highly. The

200 medley relay team (Murphy, McNulty, Kenis, Ginieczi) also won.

In boys' action, Herndon's Jonathan Nguyen (first 200 free, second 100 fly), Jason Maccannon (first 100 breast), Chris Fronczak (third 50 free), Eric Johns (third diving), Austen Greene (third 100 back) and Jonathan VanCamp (second 100 breast, third 100 fly) performed well.

The team's senior night will be on Friday, Jan. 18 at the Herndon Community Center.



First-year Herndon head girls' basketball coach Otto Jette speaks to his players during a game against Centreville on Jan. 7.

# ENTERTAINMENT

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

### WEDNESDAY/JAN. 9

**Meet The Artist: Keith Naquin and Chesapeake Bay Vistas.** 5:30 p.m., at O'Sullivan's Irish Pub, 754 Elden Street, Suite 102, Herndon. Meet the artist, Herndon's own Keith Naquin, and view the exquisite detail of this mural; includes hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. [www.herndonarts.org](http://www.herndonarts.org).

### THURSDAY/JAN. 10

**55-Plus Potluck.** 12:30-2 p.m., at RCC Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Bring a favorite dish to serve eight or more people and join neighbors and friends with the chance to win door prizes. [www.RestonCommunityCenter.com](http://www.RestonCommunityCenter.com).

### FRIDAY/JAN. 11

**Documentary Film Screening: Addiction Incorporated.** 7 p.m., at South Lakes High School's Little Theatre, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston. A showing of the story of how tobacco companies conspired to addict the human brain and how the world came to know about it; prominent guests including Reston founder Robert E. Simon and a lead attorney who is featured in the film comprise members of a panel to be open for questions. [tinyurl.com/addictioninc](http://tinyurl.com/addictioninc).

### SATURDAY/JAN. 12

**Town Hall Meetings with Delegate Rust.** 9 a.m., at Herndon Town Council Chambers, 765 Lynn St., Herndon. Meet with Delegate Tom Rust, representing Herndon and parts of Oak Hill, Chantilly and Sterling Park, to stay informed and voice your views during Virginia's 45 day-long General Assembly session. 703-437-9400, 804-698-1086, [trust@tomrust.org](mailto:trust@tomrust.org) or [www.tomrust.org](http://www.tomrust.org).

**RCC Community Coffee.** 9-11 a.m., at RCC Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Families, friends



### Dry Branch Fire Squad

## Dry Branch Fire Squad Serves up Bluegrass With Comedy

A bluegrass band known almost as much for their humor as their music plays traditional and old-time Appalachian style bluegrass on Friday, Feb. 1 at 8 p.m. at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. \$15; children 12 and younger, free. 703-435-8377 or [www.drybranchfiresquad.com](http://www.drybranchfiresquad.com).

and neighbors join for food, beverages and casual conversation. [www.RestonCommunityCenter.com](http://www.RestonCommunityCenter.com).

**Reston Contra Dance.** 8-10:45 p.m., at the Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Rd., Reston. Come to the Reston Contra Dance, music by the June Apple Band, teaching by Janine Smith; snacks to share are welcome. \$9. 703-476-4500.

### MONDAY/JAN. 14

**Classic Cinema.** 9:25 a.m.-noon, at RCC Hunters Woods at the CenterStage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. A showing of A Raisin in the Sun, the groundbreaking drama featuring Sidney Poitier in which a family moves from a crowded Chicago apartment to an all-white suburban neighborhood; continental breakfast provided prior to 10 a.m. showing—for ages 18-plus. [www.RestonCommunityCenter.com](http://www.RestonCommunityCenter.com).

### TUESDAY/JAN. 15

**The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon: The Honey Dewdrops.** 7:15 p.m., at Amphora Diner Deluxe, 1151 Elden St., Herndon. The roots duo blend Americana and traditional folk music with tight harmonies and instrumentals. \$11 for members; \$12 for non-members. 703-435-2402 or [www.restonherndonfolkclub.com](http://www.restonherndonfolkclub.com).

### WEDNESDAY/JAN. 16

**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](mailto:BluesSlide@aol.com) or 703-593-5206. [www.jimmystavern.com](http://www.jimmystavern.com).

### THURSDAY/JAN. 17

**Family Focused Volunteerism.** 10

a.m.-noon, at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Join for a discussion, make Valentines for wounded U.S. Veterans returning to Northern Virginia, enter for door prizes, enjoy refreshments meet other mothers and learn how to keep your little ones safe and sound (children welcome).

[Herndon\\_moms\\_info@yahoo.com](mailto:Herndon_moms_info@yahoo.com).

**Freer Gallery Trip.** 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Departing from RCC Lake Anne, 1609 Washington Plaza, Suite A, Reston (or from RCC Hunters Woods at 10:30 a.m.) See an exhibition on the four main categories of Buddhism's enlightened being; 14 of the 27 works date to the Song, Yuan and early Ming dynasties. Ages 55-plus. \$15 for Reston residents; \$30 for non-Restonians.

### SATURDAY/JAN. 19

**Salute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** 4 p.m., at the Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. An annual musical concert in honor of Dr. King featuring the works of Reston composer Brian Scarbrough with performances by the Mykle Lyons Trio and Beverly Coshm. [www.restoncommunityorchestra.org](http://www.restoncommunityorchestra.org).

### Fairfax Symphony Orchestra:

**Masterworks IV.** 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Conductor Christopher Zimmerman and flautist Christina Jennings perform Mozart's Overture to The Magic Flute, Leshnoff's Flute Concerto, Ives' The Unanswered Question and Brahms' Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Op. 68. \$25-\$55. 703-563-1990 or [www.fairfaxsymphony.org](http://www.fairfaxsymphony.org).

### SUNDAY/JAN. 20

**Bluegrass Music: The Lisa Kay Band.** 7 p.m., at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. The bluegrass series on the first and third Sundays of the month continues. \$12. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark/pdf/bluegrass-barn-flyer.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark/pdf/bluegrass-barn-flyer.pdf).

# Closure Timeline Questioned

FROM PAGE 3

viduals living at NVTC, that raises questions about the state's timeline for closing the NVTC.

"I am holding in my hand two letters," he told the delegation. "One I received just last Friday from Heidi Dix, [the state's assistant commissioner of developmental services.] In her three-page letter, Ms. Dix outlines an elaborate placement process for the transition of current residents of NVTC to community placements. This will be done starting July 1 of this year and continue into 2015..."

"I also have another letter," Bruggeman continued "addressed to Governor McDonnell in which [CSB Chair Mark

Sites] says there is not enough funding or enough time to develop adequate capacity and services for the transitioned resident of NVTC. So which of these two letters do I trust?"

He has a point, said Del. David Bulova (D-37).

"There is a lot of concern and discomfort among legislators about plans to close NVTC, especially on a very tight deadline," Bulova said after Saturday's session. "While I strongly support increasing community-based services, we also do everyone a great disservice if we close NVTC without the proper support and oversight to make sure that the level of care is equal, if not greater, than what is received at NVTC."

Bulova said that he has been working on a resolution with Sen.

Barbara Favola (D-31) and Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) that would provide more General Assembly oversight for the transition process, including establishing some benchmarks for what would make families comfortable with moving forward.

"If those benchmarks aren't being met, and adequate funding hasn't been dedicated, we really have an obligation to also re-examine the timeline for closure...No artificial deadline is important enough to put any NVTC resident at risk. The purpose behind the DOJ settlement was for Virginia to make much needed investments in our community-based services, not to take away choices."

**ANOTHER CRITICAL ISSUE,** according to Cook, is that the

community group homes for NVTC residents simply do not exist.

"The state has not developed a plan for creating them," Cook said. "It takes \$1 to \$1.5 million to convert a regular house to a group home that is fully accessible and has all the necessary equipment to serve this population."

"Our system ought to be designed to provide a continuum of care that is appropriate to each individual. That definitely means change," Bulova said. "I believe that there is room for common ground—and that is what I am aiming for during the General Assembly session."

The General Assembly's 2013 session begins Wednesday in Richmond.

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# Home LifeStyle

The 2013 Home and Remodeling Show will feature more than 400 contractors, architects, suppliers and others in the remodeling industry, and will showcase the latest products, services and trends in the industry.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF  
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## Home and Remodeling Show Comes to D.C. Area

Nationally Syndicated Columnist Heloise and local contractors will educate homeowners.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Whether you're planning to renovate an entire house, update an antiquated bathroom, create a more functional kitchen or simply add more color to your home, there will be inspiration and ideas aplenty at the 2013 Home and Remodeling Show.

The expo, scheduled for Jan. 18-20 at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly, will feature more than 400 remodeling industry experts as well as the trendiest home design products and services.

Some of the biggest names in the home business will attend the show, including Heloise, queen of household hints; nationally syndicated columnist Josh Flagg, the LA real estate mogul and star of Bravo's Million Dollar Listing; and Spike-TV's Mike Baird, who stars in Flip Men. In addition, show-goers will have opportunities to meet with local remodeling experts in one-on-one information sessions.

"Anyone who is thinking about or getting ready to do work on the inside or outside of their home can come to this show and not only talk to experts, but also hear from a pretty interesting slate of headliners," said Jill Collins, of Oak Hill, show spokeswoman.

"There is a big educational component. You can get advice and consulting from the top to the bottom of your house and everywhere in between."

For example, Robert J. Kalmin of RJK Construction, Inc. in Fairfax, who sits on the Board of Directors for the D.C. Metro Chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI), will provide an information guide and checklist for those considering home remodeling projects.

"I am going to be as informative as possible and relay information about making sure consumers have the proper people involved in their project from the design, planning and budget phase," he said.

Bob Gallagher, president of Sun Design in Burke, will have advice not only on general home design, but also on kitchen trends and design ideas for those who are remodeling a house to accommodate multiple generations.

"We will have pictures of our projects," said Gallagher. "We are pushing more on the kitchen trends and multi-generational design for people who have people are aging have folks in their home."

Guy Semmes of Hopkins & Porter Construction Inc. in Potomac, Md., says the show offers homeowners an opportunity to learn the latest trends in home design. "It is a great thing for someone who is planning a remodel. They will learn a lot."

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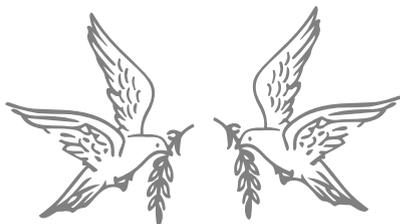
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Experts say some flowering plants like dormant hydrangeas can be planted now and bloom in spring.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MERRIFIELD GARDEN CENTER

# Preparing for a Spring Wonderland

Experts offer advice on what to do now to create a pleasurable outdoor space in spring.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Chilly January temperatures can make spring seem far away. However, it's closer than you think. A recent Residential Landscape Architecture Trends survey from the American Society of Landscape Architects showed that as the weather gets warmer, many want an undemanding outdoor space.

Local landscape designers and builders actually recommend planning now for an outdoor warm-weather wonderland and suggest a few simple tasks that homeowners can perform today to get ready for spring.

If you're planning to build an outdoor living room or patio, this is the time to begin: "It can take anywhere from a couple of weeks to a few months to complete a project, depending on the complexity," said Steve Magill, remodeling consultant for Case Design/Remodeling, Inc., and an Oak Hill, resident. "People who are smart book a contractor in January."

Magill suggests developing a plan as soon as possible. "Do you want a koi pond or fountains? Is the design driving the budget or is the budget driving the design? These decisions should be arranged, finalized and ready to go for spring and then they can enjoy the outdoors."

Begin compiling a spring garden wish list. "Take pictures and bring them in to your local garden center to get ideas and thoughts," said David Watkins of Merrifield Garden Center in Merrifield, Fair Oaks and Gainesville.

"Things are slower at nurseries now and we have a lot more time to spend with you and give you ideas."

There are some flowers that can be planted now to yield bursts of colorful blooms this spring. "If you can find them, you can still plant spring bulbs like tulips or daffodils," said Randy Best of The Behnke Nurseries Company in Potomac and Beltsville, Md. "With caution, you can plant dormant, deciduous trees and shrubs, but you might mulch them heavier than you normally would."

Best added that some evergreen plants like junipers, pines and spruces, as well as flowering varieties like dormant hydrangeas, can be planted now to bloom in spring. "You can plant a maple tree now with no problem," he said.



Experts say pruning now will lead to a healthy spring landscape.

Experts warn homeowners not to overlook maintenance during the frigid winter months. "It would be nice if everybody could make sure that their plants are watered thoroughly throughout the winter, because if the ground freezes and the plants are dry, they will die over the winter," said Watkins. "I would also recommend cutting back any perennials that have died, and add mulch to help protect plants."

Magill says that taking care of routine tasks means one less thing to do this spring. "Make sure your gutters are cleaned and free of fall leaves before snow falls on the gutters," said Magill. "Have roofs and chimneys checked before the snow and have chimneys re-pointed, if necessary."

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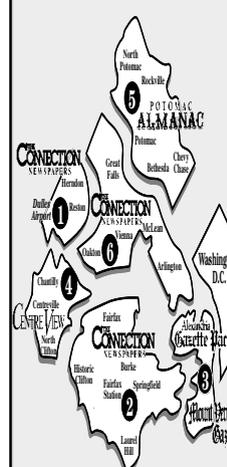


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## "If It Ain't Broke..."



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Today is a day I feel like writing – not merely one when I am looking forward to having written, but rather one when I am interested and motivated by the process. The situational gods have been aligned: I have time on my hands, an empty house with peace and quiet, and adult cats who are a sleeping and a kitten who is blissfully asleep (not always the case). Unfortunately, I don't have anything particularly insightful to "prose" about. But I will persevere, as the opportunity with which I've been presented rarely presents itself, and certainly not nearly as often as literary pursuits might require – for me, anyway.

Oddly enough, what I think I've found is, as a writer, prattling on about nothing – as I have in the first paragraph, is sort of an exercise in mind stretching (not futility) – akin to when athletes maneuver themselves into awkward-looking, pre-game warm-ups. The act of writing something, mildly coherent but not necessarily on any particular topic, sort of warms me and my synapses up as well and hopefully gets them firing on enough cylinders so that what words are eventually written are words worth reading. (No comments from the peanut gallery, please?)

I imagine you regular readers are probably wondering how I could possibly relate the content of these initial paragraphs to my stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer diagnosis (a fact with which you all are excruciatingly familiar), or if this week's column might possibly avoid the subject altogether – for once, as perhaps cancer-fatigue may have finally set in. After all, too much of a good thing can be too much, as it has often been said. Moreover, too much of a bad thing then (and being diagnosed with terminal cancer certainly qualifies as a "bad thing") can likewise be way more than "too much;" it can be, as my mother so often said about so many subjects/circumstances: "Enough already!" (I'm almost finished.)

The point of these "cancer columns," as I call them, is not to bring anybody down emotionally/make anybody miserable (least of all, me); in fact, there is no point. I'm simply telling a story – that I'm able to tell in a reasonably intelligent and unflinching way, about the trials and tribulations of being a lung cancer diagnosee, not because of who I am (hardly), but rather because of what I have. Cancer is a killer and since I've been fortunate to still be a "liver," – in spite of the odds, predictions, presumptions, statistics, etc., 45 months post-diagnosis, continuing these cancer columns weekly as I do, seems more like a success story than a failure. Ergo, writing about cancer reinforces to me all the positives – even while occasionally writing about the negatives, and the more positives I can infuse into my own life, the healthier I'll likely be. So please indulge my writing these cancer columns, as they have probably contributed to my above-average, better-than-expected, life expectancy. Given how much longer I've lived than my original prognosis: "13-months to two-years," I don't see any reason to stop now. My future is ahead of me, not behind me.

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

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# 2012 TOP SALES IN HERNDON AND OAK HILL



**12605 Oxon Road, Oak Hill — \$1,307,000**



**12101 OLD PINE Way, Oak Hill — \$1,265,000**

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	PostalCode	Subdivision	Date Sold
12605 OXON RD	5	6	1	OAK HILL		\$1,307,000	Detached	0.83	20171	ORCHARD GLEN	06/15/12
3100 BRONZEGATE CT	4	4	1	OAK HILL		\$1,265,000	Detached	1.03	20171	JOCELYNE HILL	06/29/12
12101 OLD PINE WAY	4	4	1	OAK HILL		\$1,265,000	Detached	1.50	20171	SHADETREE ESTATES	07/26/12
11660 PREFERENCE WAY	5	5	2	HERNDON		\$1,250,000	Detached	0.86	20170	CARIS GLENNE	02/16/12
3401 OAKTON CHASE CT	5	6	1	OAK HILL		\$1,245,000	Detached	0.83	20171	OAKTON CHASE	03/16/12
12832 PARAPET WAY	5	6	1	OAK HILL		\$1,245,000	Detached	0.83	20171	OAKTON CHASE	06/29/12
12721 OX MEADOW DR	5	5	1	OAK HILL		\$1,230,000	Detached	0.69	20171	OX MEADOW	06/26/12
11630 CEDAR CHASE RD	5	4	1	HERNDON		\$1,229,000	Detached	0.50	20170	CEDAR CHASE	09/11/12
12313 WESTWOOD HILLS DR	4	4	1	OAK HILL		\$1,227,511	Detached	1.00	20171	RESERVE AT OAKTON	01/06/12
11661 PREFERENCE WAY	4	4	1	HERNDON		\$1,160,000	Detached	0.83	20170	CARIS GLENNE	05/11/12
11873 SHAKER MEADOWS CT	5	4	2	HERNDON		\$1,085,000	Detached	0.84	20170	SHAKER GROVE	01/25/12
12314 WESTWOOD HILLS DRIVE DR	5	6	2	OAK HILL		\$1,080,000	Detached	0.87	20171	RESERVE AT OAKTON	09/28/12
12116 BENNETT RD	5	5	2	HERNDON		\$1,075,000	Detached	1.00	20171	NAVY	05/11/12
3400 NATHANIEL OAKS CT	5	4	1	OAK HILL		\$1,050,000	Detached	1.12	20171	WEST RIDGE	03/16/12
12854 PARAPET WAY	5	4	2	HERNDON		\$1,050,000	Detached	0.88	20171	CAMBERLEY EAST	09/07/12
12420 ENGLISH GARDEN CT	5	4	1	OAK HILL		\$990,000	Detached	1.03	20171	COPPER CREEK	06/08/12
3006 HAVENCREST ST	5	4	1	OAK HILL		\$989,000	Detached	1.06	20171	BENNETT FARMS	09/21/12
12154 WINDSOR HALL WAY	5	4	1	HERNDON		\$975,000	Detached	0.60	20170	GRAND HAMPTONS II	04/30/12
2726 RUSHING BROOK LN	4	4	1	OAK HILL		\$975,000	Detached	0.30	20171	MIDDLETON FARM	08/14/12
12856 PARAPET WAY	5	4	1	OAK HILL		\$965,000	Detached	0.83	20171	CAMBERLEY EAST	10/26/12
13251 MIDDLETON FARM LN	5	4	1	HERNDON		\$935,000	Detached	0.22	20171	MIDDLETON FARM	07/30/12
13507 MAVERICK LN	5	4	1	HERNDON		\$929,000	Detached	0.58	20171	MUSTANG CROSSING	06/13/12
12860 PARAPET WAY	4	4	1	HERNDON		\$925,000	Detached	0.83	20171	CAMBERLEY EAST	01/23/12
12715 AUTUMN CREST DR	4	4	1	HERNDON		\$925,000	Detached	0.27	20171	FRANKLINS TRUST	04/02/12
12801 NETHERLEIGH PL	6	4	1	HERNDON		\$915,000	Detached	0.29	20171	OAK FARMS	06/13/12
12796 OWLSLEY WAY	4	4	1	OAK HILL		\$914,000	Detached	0.30	20171	OAK FARMS	05/30/12
11697 CARSON OVERLOOK CT	5	4	1	HERNDON		\$912,000	Detached	0.89	20170	STUART HILLS	02/16/12
3189 POND MIST WAY	4	4	1	OAK HILL		\$910,000	Detached	0.28	20171	OAKTON RIDGE	04/16/12
2858 CHERRY BRANCH LN	5	4	1	HERNDON		\$910,000	Detached	0.30	20171	MIDDLETON FARM	08/29/12
3218 SPRING RAIN CT	4	3	1	HERNDON		\$910,000	Detached	0.37	20171	OAKTON RIDGE	11/06/12
13290 HOLLY MEADOW LN	5	4	1	HERNDON		\$901,000	Detached	0.38	20171	MIDDLETON FARM	09/10/12
2893 OAK SHADOW DR	5	3	1	OAK HILL		\$899,900	Detached	0.25	20171	OAK FARMS	05/15/12
2901 OAK SHADOW DR	5	4	1	OAK HILL		\$887,500	Detached	0.25	20171	OAK FARMS	05/08/12
13264 MIDDLETON FARM LN	4	3	1	HERNDON		\$870,000	Detached	0.35	20171	MIDDLETON FARM	04/30/12
636 OAK ST	4	4	1	HERNDON		\$869,740	Detached	0.52	20170	HISTORIC DOWNTOWN HERNDON	09/20/12
2844 CHERRY BRANCH LN	5	4	1	HERNDON		\$855,000	Detached	0.30	20171	MIDDLETON FARM	03/01/12
1116 GRAND HAMPTONS DR	4	4	1	HERNDON		\$850,000	Detached	0.60	20170	GRAND HAMPTONS II	07/24/12
2870 FRANKLIN OAKS DR	5	5	1	HERNDON		\$839,500	Detached	0.43	20171	FRANKLIN WOODS	07/19/12

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**3401 Oakton Chase Court, Oak Hill — \$1,245,000**



**11630 Cedar Chase Road, Herndon — \$1,229,000**



**11661 Preference Way, Herndon — \$1,160,000**



**11660 Preference Way, Herndon — \$1,250,000**