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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

WEEK IN HERNDON

Wolf Announces 10th District Art Show

The opening of the annual 10th District Congressional Art Show featuring works by area high school students will be from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, March 21, at the George Washington University (GWU) Virginia Science & Technology Campus in Loudoun County, Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) announced. The show is free and open to the public. The winner will be announced at 7 p.m. All submitted artwork will remain on display at the campus until April 22.

The winning piece will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year alongside other "Best in Show" entries from congressional districts across the country.

The campus is located at 44983 Knoll Square, off Route 7 in Ashburn, and the art show will be held in Enterprise Hall.

For more information about the art show, contact Donna Crowley in Wolf's Winchester office at 540-667-0990 or 1-800-850-3463.

MOMS Club of Herndon To Meet March 21

The MOMS Club® of Herndon will host its monthly meeting on Thursday, March 21, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church

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Correction

The story "Relay for Life Kicks Off 10th Walk" stated that Herndon Relay For life has raised more than \$300,000 in its 10-year history. It has actually raised \$1.4 million.

Also, Luminaria bags can be purchased for those who have survived the disease, as well as those battling cancer, not just for those who have passed away.

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NEWS

Mayank Mahajan, Herndon resident and Thomas Jefferson senior, was awarded a scholarship from the Siemens Foundation.

PHOTOS BY
ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION



Senior Takes STEM Challenges Head On

Mayank Mahajan earns Siemens Foundation scholarship.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology senior Mayank Mahajan enjoys taking on tough challenges. Since his sophomore year at TJ, the Herndon resident has taken AP classes in science, technology, math and engineering, earning 5's on most of the exams. Mahajan was one of two students in Virginia to be awarded a scholarship from the Siemens Foundation, which recognized the top AP scorers in each state.

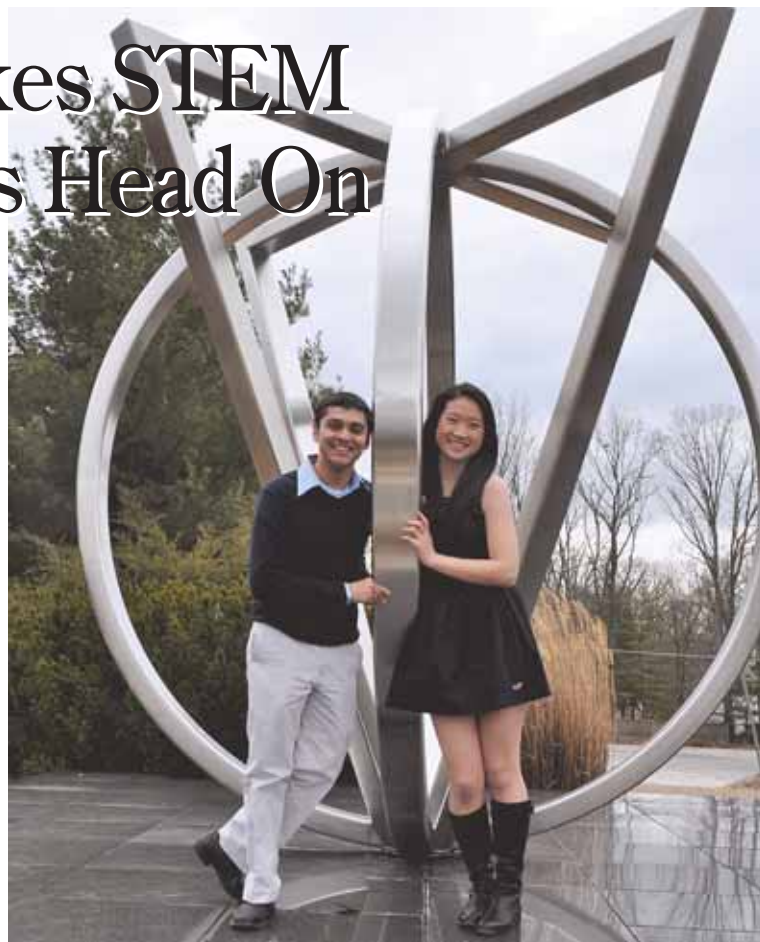
"I've always looked at AP classes as a good challenge, I like digging deep into subjects, particularly math and science," Mahajan said. "I also don't like to accept that there's something I can't do, so I always make the effort to succeed. A lot of things are more hyped up than they need to be, and once you put in the work, it's not so bad."

He said his favorite subject was AP physics, because of its real life applications of science and math principles.

The Siemens Foundation awards two students from each state, one male and one female, with \$2,000 scholarships every year, based on top achievement in science, technology, engineering and math AP exams.

Jennifer Harper-Taylor, president of the Siemens Foundation, said that they focus on science, technology, engineering and math courses because "that's where the true innovators come from."

Mahajan spent last summer working at the Naval Research Lab, where he focused on nanotechnology, developing a



Mayank Mahajan of Herndon and Katherine Ho of McLean, seniors at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, were awarded scholarships for their high scores on science, math, engineering and technology AP exams.

method to detect small amounts of explosives using nanowires made of silicon.

"Nanotechnology is a really interesting and promising field. It wasn't really what I expected to be doing, but the entire process gave me a great look at the day to day life of scientists and researchers," he said. "Mahajan is also a coxswain, in charge of the rowing and steering of the boat, on the school's crew team. While his academic load has always been a heavy one, Mahajan says he looks forward to his time on the river."

"When you're out there working hard, and when you're not surrounded by school and academics, there's not much time to stress over studying and classes," he said. "Without that sort of outlet, I think I would have burned out a long time ago."

Mahajan is also participating in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Inventeams Competition, where he and his team work

on a product and try and get a grant to develop it.

"We're working on a bracelet that can be worn by people that have autism. Normally those with autism have trouble figuring out emotional signals from other people, it's hard to decipher the nonverbal things someone might be expressing," he said. "Our bracelet will 'hear' the tone of voice and pick up what mood the person is trying to convey and show it on screen, hopefully teaching the wearer to pick up those nonverbal cues. We're currently working on the algorithm that will help the bracelet pick up the speech cues."

He says he wants to "stay on the STEM path" while in college, either studying math or engineering.

"Next year, no matter where I end up, my goal is to get involved in organizations and immerse myself as not only a student, but a leader, athlete and volunteer," he said.

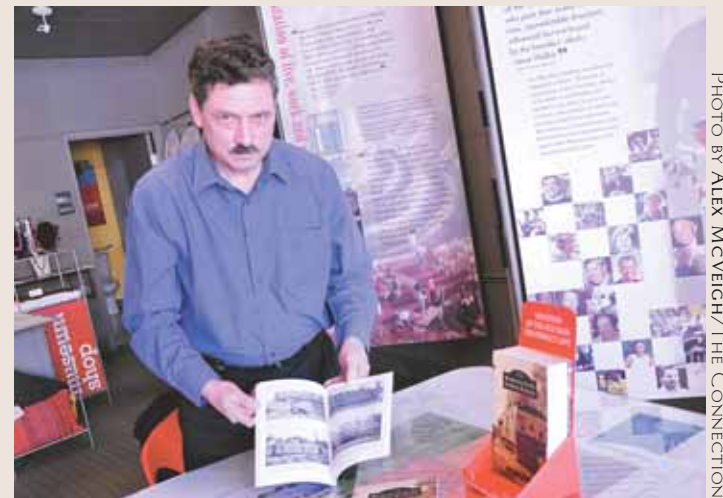


PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Author David Guillaudeu has released a book detailing the history of the W & OD Railroad, which runs through Reston.

Author Tells Tales of Rail

David Guillaudeu's new book focuses on W & OD Railroad.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

For a majority of the 1900s the Washington and Old Dominion Railroad provided transportation from the city of Washington, D.C., out to Loudoun County. Though it carried people, mail and other supplies along its route, the railroad faced difficulties throughout its history, eventually closing in August 1968.

For author David Guillaudeu, the story of the W & OD railroad raised a lot of questions about the day to day operation of the railroad, questions he spent years answering for his new book "Washington and Old Dominion Railroad," which chronicles the rail's history.

"I wanted to focus on the history of the rail from past employees that were around the railroad, not just from financial and other documents like some other books," Guillaudeu said. "I concentrated on what it was like to work there and I was able to talk to people who had worked for the rail as early as 1926. I was looking for more of an in-depth look than just the workings of a railroad company."

The railroad was run by eight different companies over its history, bearing 10 different names. Its history runs back to before the Civil War, to the takeover by the U.S. military during the war, to its heyday in the early 1900s to the decline in ridership and mail transport due to the advent of the automobile and paved roads.

"Folks I talked to out in Loudoun remembered the rail very fondly, they were so appreciative of it because it was their lifeline to the city," Guillaudeu said. "If they wanted a piano, it would come from the rail, so did the feed for their animals, the building materials for their houses and their mail until 1951."

Guillaudeu conducted interviews as early as 1968, but he said he "wasn't taking notes all the way back then, but I wish I had been."

He said he was struck by how destitute the railroad often was, with operators struggling to even keep the rails up to standard.

"It was very poor, and so often they had to make due with what they could get, which included rail that they would turn over to the other side once the top side wore out," Guillaudeu said. "A lot of their equipment was used, second hand, whatever they could scrounge up."

The book also features more than 200 photos from the National Archives, Library of Congress, Fairfax County Libraries, as well as personal photos taken by nearby residents when the rail was still in operation.

Guillaudeu, a rail enthusiast, had been talking to people for years, but it wasn't until he heard from Arcadia Publishing in November 2011 that he started to put it all together.

The book is for sale at the Reston Museum at Lake Anne, as well as at the Freeman House and Meadowlark Gardens in Vienna and online at the Fairfax County Park Authority website.



Lesha Debose and Tchonda Bishop call out to those living in a homeless encampment in the Lorton area while volunteering their time to help identify and register the chronically homeless during Registry Week.



PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Encampments like this were found scattered around the Lorton area, usually near major shopping areas, but sometimes in isolated fields. Not all encampments had tents for people to sleep; volunteers often found old couches and sleeping bags, or temporary shelters made of cardboard, plastic and scrap pieces of wood.

Putting a Face on Homelessness

462 homeless interviewed during Registry Week, an intense effort to document Fairfax County's chronic homeless.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Under a bright moon on a chilly Monday morning, a team of volunteers and homeless advocates roamed the woods near Reston Town Center to put a name and a face to those in Fairfax County considered "chronically homeless."

One of the teams, which included Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), stumbled across wood scraps, broken branches and pieces of plastic that served as the home for Thomas, a 40-year-old unemployed carpenter from Florida who had been living under a cluster of trees since Christmas Eve.

Wearing several layers of clothing, including a dark blue hoodie for warmth and camouflage, Thomas apologized for his living conditions.

"I'm really sorry you all had to come out like this. Be careful of the branches," he told volunteers.

Thomas said a rough divorce and getting laid off from his job contributed to his homelessness. He said the temperature, nearing 40 degrees by 5 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 25, wasn't "too bad for sleeping. I've slept in worse."

"My biggest concern is getting robbed or beaten. That's why I try to protect myself with this little fortress of branches and blankets," he said.

Thomas was just one of 462 chronically homeless individuals found in the woods, in cars, and in tents last week.

Armed with flashlights, food, gift cards and assorted items of warm clothing, more than 200 volunteers and homeless advocates fanned out across Fairfax County for three days—Monday, Feb. 25, through Wednesday, Feb. 27—roaming the woods and other homeless "hot spots" to count,



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Cedric Smith, 40, has been homeless and living in a tent behind a Herndon shopping center for the past five years. On Monday, Feb. 23, Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) talked with Smith about resources available to help him find a permanent home.

photograph and get names and histories for the county's chronically homeless.

THE UNPRECEDENTED EFFORT to create a name and photographic "registry" is a component of the 100,000 Homes Campaign, a nationwide initiative to help nonprofits and local governments prioritize and allocate housing and support resources for the chronically homeless, defined as those living consistently without a home for more than a year.

The county's goal is to get half of them in housing within three years.

"I was struck by the differences in talking with someone in their 'home'—in their space—versus when we are in shelter and

other settings where we must set the rules," said Kerrie Wilson, CEO of Reston Interfaith. "There was a sense of pride from those homeless interviewed when they showed volunteers their campsites."

"After giving my gloves to a man who immediately placed them on his hands for warmth, I realized that this is home and his struggle every day," said Dean Klein, director of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH).

Cedric Smith, 50, who has been homeless for five years, was found living in a tent behind a Herndon shopping center. Supervisor Cathy Hudgins asked him how he became homeless and his goals for the future.

"Five years from now, I hope to be in my

Key findings from Registry Week

Volunteers and homeless advocates gathered the following information from the 462 individuals they interviewed last week. The information was released during a community debrief at Jubilee Christian Center on Monday, March 4.

- ❖ Nearly a quarter were between 18-34 years old
- ❖ 10 percent were veterans
- ❖ Nearly half were employed
- ❖ The largest number of chronically homeless (151) were found in the Route 1 corridor
- ❖ More than three-quarters of the chronically homeless were male
- ❖ "Unable to pay rent/utilities" and "job loss" were the most often cited reasons for homelessness
- ❖ 40 percent had a physical disability

own apartment," he said. He told Hudgins and other volunteers that he also misses his two children, who live in southern Virginia.

"I want to have a place where they can visit. They're in my heart every day. ... They're my primary concern and they keep me going every day," he said.

HUDGINS, who has worked extensively with Fairfax County's nonprofits to help find affordable housing for the homeless, said she hoped the 100K homes campaign opens doors and eyes to the plight of homeless individuals.

"We have to step up to this question. ... Are we going to walk away from this tonight and say, 'That's just the way people live?' Well, it's not the way people should live," Hudgins said.

"The theme for me this week was persistence," said Amanda Andere, executive director of FACETS. "Most importantly the persistence of the men and women we met living in their cars or on the street. In the worst conditions they continued to smile and seemed hopeful this caring community would help find them a home. Some of them were gone to work before we got there or were on their way back to the woods from an overnight shift."

News

Herndon High Cadets Finish Eighth in National Orienteering Championship

After a grueling, two-day skill and speed competition at Patuxent River State Park, Upper Marlboro, Md., Herndon High School's Navy Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (NJROTC) cadets defeated 19 of the best orienteering programs in the nation to finish eighth. The Feb. 16 and 17 NJROTC National Orienteering Championship hosted 27 schools, all of which had earned invitations by placing in the top three in their respective areas.

Despite the frigid temperature intensified by wind and sleet, teams from coast to coast enjoyed showcasing their members' physical strength and endurance as they navigated miles of rough terrain in search of hidden checkpoints, which they located using only maps and compasses.

An outstanding accomplishment for a team of only two years in the making, Herndon High's eighth place finish trumped its 11th place finish last year. It also highlighted its growing potential.

The varsity team finished third on Sunday, for a two-day ranking



Cadet Marshall Wilkins sprints to his next control point.

of seventh, and the junior varsity and intermediate teams earned 11th and eighth place finishes, respectively. Of note, Cadet Virginia Murphy placed fourth among all varsity women, and in the larger varsity men field, Cadets Marshall Wilkins and Alastair Young came in the top 30.

Additionally, Cadet Nick Linton earned 12th out of 120 junior varsity athletes, and Cadet Chris Geis placed 15th out of 66 intermedi-

ate competitors.

The team is already planning to run additional courses in preparation for next year's event, to be held in Georgia or Southern California.

For more information about Herndon High's outstanding NJROTC program, which sponsors a variety of competitive teams, please visit <http://www.herndonnjrotc.com/>.

Week in Herndon

FROM PAGE 2

(651 Dranesville Road, Herndon). The club encourages all Herndon (zip codes 20170 and 20171) stay-at-home mothers to join and to meet other at-home mothers.

Guest speakers Amanda Geary and Jen Blevins of Renewed Spaces Northern Virginia will talk on how to organize children's belongings. Attendees will also share their organizing challenges and solutions with the group. Children are encouraged and welcome to attend all MOMS Club events.

For more information or to RSVP contact: Tomoko Azuma, Membership VP at Herndon_moms_info@yahoo.com.

AT&T to Install New Cable Lines

Beginning in mid-March and concluding in December, AT&T will install new cable service lines along

Dranesville Road, Madison Street and Van Buren Street.

Minimal disruption to residents and businesses is anticipated; the contractor will provide advance notice to those potentially affected by construction activities and will keep residents and businesses informed as the work approaches their neighborhoods.

To minimize disruption, the majority of the work will be performed by underground boring behind existing sidewalks and in easements. All disturbed property will be restored to its original condition. Contractors will be working from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. off the roadway and, when necessary, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. within the roadway. Traffic will be controlled as needed.

The Public Works Projects page of the town's website, www.herndon-va.gov, will be updated throughout the life of the project as warranted.

Residents and business owners may contact Public Works at 703-435-6860 or public.works@herndon-va.gov.

Faith Notes

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

Loving Kindness: The Union of Daily and Spiritual Life, Saturday, March 16, 10-11:30 a.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston. Class includes teaching on how to develop the mind of loving-kindness in our daily life. \$12. 202-986-2257 or

www.meditation-dc.org.

Southview Community Church, 2620 Reston Parkway, Herndon, holds their annual Easter Egg Hunt! Festivities, open to the community, on Saturday, March 30, at 10 a.m. with lunch and activities including crafts, bounce houses, a carousel, a rock wall and a family presentation on the story of Easter. 703-860-880 or www.southview.org.

Trinity Presbyterian Church, 651 Dranesville Road, Herndon, has

Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery and childcare are provided and youth and adult Sunday school classes are held prior, from 9:40-10:45 a.m. 703-437-5500 or www.trinityherndon.org.

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

See our ad on the back page of this week's HomeLifeStyle Section

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OPINION

Hybrid Hijinks Discouraging innovation in high-tech Virginia.

Consider this as a possible scenario (although perhaps we should have saved this for April 1): Fewer people are smoking, and many of those who do are smoking less. Virginia's cigarette tax, the lowest of any state at 30 cents a pack, is a declining revenue source. Higher cigarette taxes are proven to reduce smoking. Under current logic in the commonwealth, there would be two courses of action to raise revenue: a) cut the cigarette tax, and b) charge non-smokers a fee to make up the difference and to compensate for the fact that they don't pay cigarette taxes.

This is basically the convoluted approach that leads to the \$100 annual hybrid fee as part of Virginia's proposed transportation plan, to help make up for the reduced tax on gas.

The annual \$100 surcharge for owners of hybrids vehicles should be stripped out of the transportation bill. Something that could add \$1,000 to the price of owning a car over a normal period of time discourages innovation and punishes people who are trying to reduce pol-

lution and dependence on oil.

It also seems likely that the greatest concentration of ownership of hybrid vehicles would be in Northern Virginia, so it's one more way to extract more money from our region.

To replace these funds, plus a little, why not charge an additional \$100 annual registration fee for any vehicle with a purchase price of \$40,000 or more? Or charge the additional \$100 for any personal vehicle with a miles-per-gallon rating of less than 25 miles per gallon highway, especially since the more gas your car burns in Virginia, the more of a break you are receiving on the gas tax reduction. Or charge a sliding fee based on the number of miles driven and the weight of the vehicle (hint: the fee would go up with the miles and weight).

Or raise, rather than reduce, the gas tax and index it to inflation.

Sober on Saint Patrick's Day?

Saint Patrick's Day has always been a holi-

day associated with alcoholic beverages.

You, and/or the young adults in your household, will naturally have a plan to celebrate without drinking and driving. Plan to have a designated driver. Plan to take public transportation home. Plan to party at home or at a friend's house where you can spend the night.

If all of those plans fall through, however, and you end up without a ride home when you've been drinking on Saint Patrick's Day, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program has a safety net for you, SoberRide — Saint Patty's edition.

WRAP's 2013 Saint Patrick's Day SoberRide program will be offered on Sunday, March 17, from 4 p.m. to 4 a.m. on Monday, March 18. To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$30.00 fare), call 800-200-8294. You must be 21 or older to use the SoberRide service. Last Saint Patrick's Day, more than 600 potentially impaired drivers made use of this service. SoberRide has provided more than 57,000 free rides home to people who otherwise might have driven drunk.

See www.soberride.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Call to Reduce Gun Violence

To the Editor:

Following the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School, a group of Northern Virginia residents, Concerned Citizens Against Gun Violence (CCAGV), has been taking action to reduce gun violence in our nation. In February, CCAGV launched a grassroots effort to gather signatures to show our representatives in Congress that their constituents want action on reasonable measures to reduce gun violence. The group also rated McLean area state senators and delegates on their gun safety voting record and hosted a forum with statewide and local public safety groups to educate the pub-

lic on measures to reduce gun violence.

A recent poll conducted by Mayors Against Illegal Guns found that 88 percent of voters in the 10th Congressional District support background checks and CCAGV's results are consistent: 90 percent of the people we canvassed have signed the petition to our federal elected representatives urging them to support universal background checks for all gun purchases, limit magazine clip size to 10 rounds, and ban military-style weapon sales. More than 1300 of Frank Wolf's (VA-10th) constituents have so far signed this petition. (The houses we visit are not selected for voting history or party affiliation; our volunteers walk neighborhoods every weekend and knock on every door.)

These results should not surprise anyone. Poll after poll shows that a majority of Americans want common-sense gun reform that reduces the number of illegal guns on our streets and keeps guns out of the hands of those who are a danger to themselves and others. People understand that, rather than a means of protection, a gun often is an instrument of escalation, accident, and suicide. Most people we talk to have not realized that some 40 percent of gun sales are made without any background check, enabling militarized assault weapons such as the AR-15 rifle used at Sandy Hook to be purchased by virtually anyone. In the Virginia Tech massacre, Virginians witnessed the horrible consequences of weak gun laws that allow a person legally prohibited

from purchasing a gun easily to obtain one.

Concerned Citizens Against Gun Violence is working with other community organizations including religious organizations, the Virginia Center for Public Safety, Million Mom's March, March on Washington for Gun Control, Coalition to Stop Gun Violence and Moms Rising. Every week, we send an email to individuals in the community with information and actions they can take to support local and national initiatives to end gun violence. Anyone who would like to receive these updates or support the activities of the CCAGV is invited to email ccagv01@aol.com.

Margot de Ferranti
McLean

My Year in The USA

BY NADINE KASSNER

Why are we doing this? Why are we going away from our families for one year and move into a family's house we don't know? We are exchange students and we wanted to learn more about another country, about the culture, the language and the people. With the Academic Year in America we found an organization that gave us the chance to study abroad and that found nice people/families who were willing to host us and who welcomed us as normal family members. We meet our Local Coordinator

Louise Hackman every month.

She always plans interesting and funny things we can do together. Our last meeting was on Saturday, Dec. 15. We spent some time together at the Arlington Cemetery National Wreath Across America Ceremony and learned a lot about it. We also laid down wreaths on the graves. It was an impressive experience how the cemetery looked like after the ceremony. All these new experiences are the reason why this year is/will be one of my best years in my life.

Nadine Kassner is a German exchange student attending Herndon High School 2012-2013.



Exchange students participate in Wreaths Across America Ceremony 2012.

Oak Hill & Herndon CONNECTION

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 13

Vicky Eicher Photo Exhibit: Penguins March & Outhouses Race. 7 a.m.-6:30 p.m., at the US Geological Survey Building in the Art Hall, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Seventy photos taken during trips to the cold northern and southern regions of Earth, including photos of five penguin species, three seals, a variety of birds courting or in-flight and an outhouse race down a hill; the exhibit is up through Friday morning, March 29. Photo ID needed to enter. www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=2008.

Jigsaw Puzzle Event. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Reston Association, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Join us as an individual or as a couple to do a Reston themed puzzle to see how

much you can finish in the time allotted; coffee and lunch provided. Reston Association: \$9; Non-members: \$13. 55 years or older. 703-435-6577 or Ashleigh@reston.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 15

Emerging Visions Opening Reception at Greater Reston Arts Center. 5-7 p.m., at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Fairfax County high school students exhibit their work in a professional gallery setting; through March 30. 703-471-9242, restonarts.org or www.restontowncenter.com/events.

SATURDAY/MARCH 16

Lucky Leprechaun 5K at Potomac River Running. 8:30 a.m., at Potomac River Running, 11911 Democracy Drive, Reston. Sport your best St. Patrick's Day bling for this 3.1 mile run, and celebrate at the Clyde's St. Patrick's Day post-race

party. 703-689-0999 or praces.com. **Clyde's of Reston Third Annual St. Patrick's Day Party in the Pavilion.** 10 a.m.-11 p.m., at Clyde's, 11905 Market St., Reston. Great Clyde's food, Guinness beer, Irish folk dancing, fun children's activities including a moon bounce and face painting; enjoy live entertainment all day long. 703-787-6601 or www.clydes.com.

Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver. 3 p.m., 7 p.m., at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. The many-award-winning bluegrass institutions plays with on-the-rise band. \$20; children under 12, free. 423-878-6160 or www.doylelawson.com.

Tuscan Wine Tasting at Il Fornaio. 4 p.m., at Il Fornaio, 11990 Market St., Suite 106, Reston. Five three-ounce pours paired with appetizers, \$25. 703-437-5544.

St. Patrick's Celebration. 7 p.m., at the ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Come enjoy an evening of music and merriment featuring

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 9



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For more information, visit our event site.

<http://www.fairfaxbgcgw.org/index.php/rummage-sale>

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Revelations and Redemptions Await

"The Seafarer" next for Elden Street Players.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

What can happen when some old Irish buddies get together to play cards with plenty of whiskey around to whet their story-telling appetites? And, what if there are plenty of unexpected turns into the supernatural as a mysterious stranger appears with his own peculiar agenda that alters the goings-on.

That is the crux behind the Elden Street Players production of Irish playwright Conor McPherson's dark comedy, "The Seafarer." The play was nominated for a 2008 Tony Award for Best Play. McPherson has written several well-received absorbing plays produced by ESP including "Shining City" and "The Weir."

"The Seafarer" is directed by ESP Artistic Director Angie Anderson. In an interview, Anderson spoke of her "great fondness for McPherson's naturalistic and lyrical language." She was especially taken by "the multi-layered characters. They are truly appealing people who express intimate personal feelings that the audience will become emotionally invested and root for them."

The play is set on a Christmas Eve in a coastal suburb near Dublin. The action centers on "Sharky," a heavy drinker



PHOTO BY DAVID SIEGEL/THE CONNECTION

From left, Todd Huse (as Mr. Lockhard) and Ian Brown (as Nicky) in rehearsal for the Elden Street Players production of "The Seafarer."

Where and When

Elden Street Players present "The Seafarer" at Industrial Strength Theater, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Performances March 15-April 6: Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sunday matinee, March 24, at 3 p.m.; Sunday evening, March 31, at 7 p.m.; and Thursday evening, April 4, at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$20. Call 703-481-5930 or visit www.eldenstreetplayers.org.

trying to stay sober for the holidays. He has returned to live with his blind, heavy-drinking, aging brother Richard in a basement apartment. During the evening the brothers are joined by two old friends along with an unexpected guest, the mysterious Mr. Lockhart, a refined man, or at least one who appears so.

With wit even in its darker moments, the play culminates with what appears to be a harmless poker game, but there is much more at stake than money and pride.

A company of veteran actors fill

the ESP cast for "The Seafarer." At a recent rehearsal they sat around a card table going over their lines, Irish brogues filling the air.

As Sharky, Bill Fleming wants the audience to join his character's "journey from the depths and back up again into the joy of living life."

Scott Bailey as Richard calls the play one of "hope and the small pleasures in life; whether a glass of whiskey, a warm fire or good friendships." For Todd Huse, usually cast as "good guy characters" his role as Lockhart is a welcome change of pace. When Lockhart arrives he "brings a cold wind with him and much more."

In inviting audiences to the production, Mark Adams (Ivan) called "the play full of hope and redemption. It will bring a laugh, a scare and ultimately a smile."

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Langley Boys' Lax Looking for Fifth Straight State Title

Defense figures to be Saxons' strength in 2013.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Earl Brewer, who enters his 19th season as head coach of the Langley boys' lacrosse program, has led the Saxons to four consecutive state championships.

Brewer, whose Saxons have also captured two region crowns and nine district titles under his guidance, prefers a positive approach to coaching and likes to keep in perspective that real pressure is faced by parents paying a mortgage rather than students playing a game. That being said, Brewer knows anything short of a fifth straight state title would result in some unhappy campers.

"I think the expectations are going to be if we don't win a state championship, people are going to be disappointed—the fan base, the student body, the players themselves," Brewer said. "We have some seniors on this team that have been on three straight state championship teams. For them, to leave the legacy not to win it I think would be sad for them."

Senior captains Brad Dotson, Robby Byrne



The Langley boys' lacrosse team will open its season Friday at home against Dominion.

and Luke Salzer were part of the last three Langley state championship teams. Byrne said past success creates motivation.

"I don't think it puts more pressure (on the team), it just makes us want to continue that legacy," he said. "It gets the young kids going, gives them something to work toward."

Byrne, at 6-foot-3, and Dotson, who

stands 6-foot-6, are part of a physical Saxon defense which figures to be the strength of the team. Dotson was selected first-team All-Liberty District and first-team All-Northern Region last season and will play lacrosse at Bucknell University. Senior Tyler Kovacs (6-3) and junior Hunter Yates (6-0) will also be contributors as defensemen. Senior Clay Kennedy is the Saxons' goalkeeper.

"My defense is very big," Brewer said. "... They look like a college team when you see them on the field. And they're talented too—they're not just big lummocks. They can run, they can dodge and shoot, themselves. They play great one-on-one [and] they're all smart."

Salzer, a midfielder, had 25 goals and 46 assists last season. He will play collegiately at the University of Delaware.

"He's got the whole package," Brewer said. "We call him an old-school middle because he can play middle, he can play defense and offense, he runs the field [and] he's a tough guy, too."

Seniors Brian Ochoa and Jack Reilly will also contribute as midfielders.

Junior attackman J.T. Meyer returns for his third season on the varsity and is one of the Saxons' top offensive threats. However, Meyer suffered a knee injury prior to the season and could miss some time. Junior Billy Orme, seniors Nick Guglielmo and Patrick Kearney, and sophomore Weston Simonides will also look to contribute.

Langley opens the season with a home game at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 15, against Dominion—the Saxons' first test in their quest for a fifth consecutive state championship.

"We're out here having fun and all," Dotson said, "but at the end of the day, we're here to get business done."

Oakton Baseball to Open Against National District Opponents

The Oakton baseball team scrimmaged defending state champion Lake Braddock on March 9 for the Cougars' final preseason tune-up.

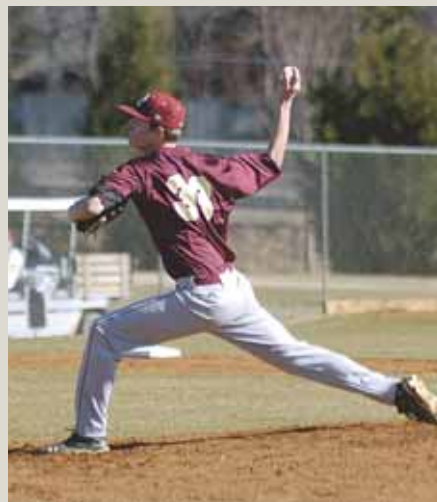
Afterward, Oakton head coach Justin Janis said the team needs to make some changes. The Cougars will have a chance to show they've improved when they travel to face Yorktown for the regular season opener at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13. Oakton will face another National District opponent two days later when the Cougars host Washington Lee at 6 p.m. on March 15.

"I thought today was a good learning experience for us," Janis said after the Saturday scrimmage. "Any time you go up against a good opponent like [Lake] Braddock, I think that gives you a good chance to kind of see what you're made of."

Senior right-hander Matt Gregor will be Oakton's No. 1 starter on the mound.

"The biggest thing is he just throws strikes," Janis said. "He's a competitive kid, he's very composed out there, he's a good leader—just by his body language he makes his teammates confident."

Janis is also looking for significant contributions from senior middle infielders



Oakton senior Matt Gregor enters the season as the Cougars' No. 1 pitcher.

Joey Bartosic and Mitchell Carroll, and senior right-fielder Brian Burns, who was a first-team All-Northern Region selection last season.

"We're looking for (Burns) to step up again as a leader," Janis said, "and hopefully have the same kind of production that he had last year."

—JON ROETMAN

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

South Lakes, Herndon to Battle in Baseball Opener

The South Lakes and Herndon baseball teams will open their respective 2013 seasons at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 15, when they face off at Herndon High School.

Herndon won its first eight games of the 2012 season, but finished 9-9, including a loss in the opening round of the Concorde District tournament.

Herndon, South Lakes Roundup

The South Lakes softball team opened the season with a 10-3 victory against Park View on March 11. The Seahawks will host Robinson at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13.

The Herndon softball team will travel to face Washington-Lee at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 15. The Hornets were scheduled to open the season at home against Wakefield on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline.

The South Lakes and Herndon boys' soccer teams will face off on March 20 at South Lakes High School in a rematch

of last season's Northern Region tournament matchup, which South Lakes won 3-2 in the opening round.

First, South Lakes will open the season at home against T.C. Williams at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 14, and will travel to face Lee on March 18. Herndon will host Thomas Jefferson at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 18.

The Herndon girls' lacrosse team will open its season at home against Broad Run at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 15. South Lakes hosted Falls Church on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Seahawks will travel to face Dominion at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, March 14.

The Herndon boys' lacrosse team hosted Annandale on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Hornets will host defending Patriot District champion Woodson at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13. South Lakes faced Falls Church on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Seahawks will host Yorktown at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, March 19.

The Herndon girls' soccer team will travel to face Thomas Jefferson at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 18. The Hornets opened their season on March 12 at Mount Vernon. South Lakes will travel to take on T.C. Williams at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 14.

FAITH

Passover—Exodus From Slavery or Holiday of Bondage?

RABBI LEIBEL FAJNLAND
CHABAD OF RESTON-HERNDON



Rabbi Leibel Fajnlend

We will soon celebrate Passover—a holiday the Torah calls “the Festival of Freedom.” There are those who look on with amusement at the copious amount of work that goes into ridding one's house of Chametz (leaven), shopping for food, preparing the Matzos, cooking for two Seders, etc., and ask “This is freedom? It is the ultimate servitude!”

Their question invites us to take another look at the meaning of freedom. What does freedom mean?

Freedom is generally defined as the lack of restraints. Here one must emphasize, however, that the lack of any restraints has a different name: chaos. A jungle has few restrictions, yet no one would dare compare or wish to visualize the civilized world as a jungle.

Our world can be separated, for the sake of this discussion, into four general categories: inanimate, plant, animal and human. The inanimate generally do not have too many needs. Let us therefore narrow it down and focus on the final three. They each have defining characteristics that make them what they are, and consequently, they each have unique needs. What defines the plant? What is the unique property differentiating it from the inanimate? The property of growth. What are the needs of a plant? Good soil, water and sunlight.

How about an animal? Give it the same conditions, give him food and drink but chain him to one place with nowhere to move. You will have the most miserable animal on the planet. Mobility, actively expressing the life within it, characterizes the animal. For an animal to be happy, it has to be able to roam free. Anything less is restrictive. For the plant, this “restriction” is fine, because it does not restrict what the plant is.

Let's keep going. Give a human being food, drink

Chabad Community Passover Seder

This year, join friends and family at the Chabad Community Passover Seder.

Relive the exodus, discover the eternal meaning of the Haggadah, and enjoy a community Seder complete with hand-baked Matzah and a wonderful dinner spiced with songs and insights.

First Seder Night Monday, March 25, at 7:15 p.m.

Couvert: \$40 per person, \$20 for children ages 4 through 12 and \$180 for an Evening Sponsorship.

For more information call 703-476-1829, email rabbi@chabadrh.org or visit www.chabadrh.org.

and the ability to roam the globe, but deny him speech and intellectual stimulus. Deny him conversation, deny him knowledge. Again, the formula that worked for one, fails miserably for the other.

The underlying point here is that there are two types of limitations, limitations that confine us and limitations that define us. Slavery is a result of imposed restraint on what defines us. Our own inner personal restraints like fear, anger, depression and selfishness. Or the externally imposed problems and tribulations of life, marital strife, dysfunctional families, financial instability, etc.

Be true to ourselves and our G-d and these “limitations” do not appear as limitations, rather as the context within which we are defined, human beings created in the image of the divine.

The Hebrew word for Egypt is Mitzrayim. The root of the word “Mitzrayim” is “meitzar,” which means boundary. When we talk about “Yetzias Mitzrayim,” “Exodus from Egypt,” we also mean leaving the “boundaries” and limitations, self imposed or otherwise, that confine and stifle who we really are.

This is the relevance of Passover to us today. Passover teaches, inspires, empowers and challenges us to leave “Egypt,” to leave the slavery of our own making, each and every day. It asks us to subdue the “Pharaoh” within, the impulse to live a life of an others choosing, one which does not conform with who we truly are.

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 7

The Treble Clefs. \$10. 703-956-6590 or www.artspaceherndon.org.

The Treble Clefs at ArtSpace Herndon. 7 p.m., at The Post Gallery at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. The Treble Clefs will provide a variety of choral music; refreshments and a cash bar will be provided. \$10. 703-956-6590.

SUNDAY/MARCH 17

Mosby's Herndon Station Raid Reenactment 2013. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at Downtown Herndon at Lynn and Station Streets at WSLD Depot, 717 Lynn Street, Herndon. Come experience the reenactment of the Herndon Station Raid. WWW.HerndonHistoricalSociety.org.

Persian New Year—Nowruz Celebration and Festivity. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., at Pavilion and Market Street, 11900 Market St., Reston. Enjoy music, dance, group performances, and costume characters, along with a Persian Bazaar offering exotic food, goods, arts and more for Nowruz, the Persian New Year.

www.nowruzfestival.org.

Birthday Boys. 4 p.m., at Reston Community Center, Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Reston Community Orchestra presents their third concert of the season, playing Verdi, Gould, Wagner, Britten, Fry and Williams with maestro Dingwall Fleary and guest Conductor Jim Vallini, conductor of the Manassas Symphony. www.restoncommunityorchestra.org.

MONDAY/MARCH 18

Super Studio Workshop at Greater Reston Arts Center. 3:30-5 p.m., at the Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market St., Suite 103, Reston. Hands-on children's art workshops cultivate each child's creativity through artworks created with a variety of materials. 703-471-9242, 703-476-4500 or restonarts.org.

“Big Data in the Cloud: Preparing for the Future” Conference. Hyatt Regency, 1800 Presidents St., Reston. The conference will provide a forum on preparing for the future of

big data in the cloud. CSCC members: \$195; non-members: \$225. www.cloud-council.org/031813/index.htm.

TUESDAY/MARCH 19

An Evening With Eric Taylor. 7:15 p.m., at the Folk Club of Reston/Herndon at Amphora's Diner Deluxe, 1151 Elden St., Herndon. Texan songwriter Eric Taylor plays on tour supporting his album Live At The Red Shack, named to the Top 10 Albums of The Year by Texas Music and Best of 2012 by Third Coast Music magazine. 703-435-2402 or www.restonherndonfolkclub.com.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 20

Complimentary Cake Tasting at Edibles Incredible Desserts. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., at Edibles Incredible Desserts, 11917 Freedom Drive, Reston. Try up to three flavors of award-winning cake with homemade fillings and toppings. 703-709-8200 or ediblesincredible.com.

OPEN HOUSES SATURDAY/SUNDAY, MARCH 16 & 17

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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6487 Trillium House Ln \$964,900 Sun 10-4 Jean Marotta Birch Haven .. 703-402-9471

Chantilly

42344 Astors Beachwood \$830,000 Sun 1-4 Vera Buonafede Weichert .. 703-501-5015

Clifton

12646 Water St \$1,125,000 Sun 1-4 Carol Hermandorfer Long & Foster.. 703-503-1812
13912 Rock Brook Ct \$589,900 Sun 1-4 Lisa Clayborne Long & Foster.. 703-502-8145

Fair Lakes

4435 Fair Stone Dr #202 \$189,500 Sun 1-4 Mike McDonald Samson Props.. 703-400-2598

Fairfax Station

10005 Rough Run Ct \$774,950 Sun 1-4 Kathleen Quintarelli Weichert.. 703-862-8808

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19396 Susquehanna Sq \$479,900 Sun 1-4 Sara Helmke Samson Props.. 703-217-6181

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7996 Knightshayes Dr \$550,000 Sun 1-4 Karen Paris Keller Williams.. 571-220-7503

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12393 Copenhagen Ct \$617,000 Sun 1-4 Kirk Harper Long & Foster.. 703-585-8405

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6582 Forsythia St \$615,000 Sun 1-4 Dallison Veach RE/MAX.. 703-477-7920
7415 Jervis St \$524,900 Sun 1-4 Christine Shevock RE/MAX.. 703-475-3986

Sterling

21127 Brookside Ln \$629,900 Sun 1-4 J. Graeme MacHorton Long & Foster.. 703-777-2900

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2078 Hunters Crest Way \$1,595,000 Sun 1-4 Casey Samson Samson Props.. 703-508-2535
9924 Browns Mill Rd \$1,349,000 Sun 1-4:30 Pat Bryant Keller Williams.. 703-893-9811
314 George St SW \$1,175,000 Sun 1-4 Mansoor Dar Keller Williams.. 703-564-4000
8183 Carnegie Ct #207 \$316,500 Sun 1-4 Vinh Nguyen Westgate.. 703-208-9999

Woodbridge

2219 Emporia St \$269,900 Sun 1-4 Jonathan Brown Samson Props.. 202-591-6837

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Connection

21 Announcements

The Inaugural Runners Marathon of Reston (RMR)

will take place on Sunday, March 24. Nearly 700 competitors will run in either the 26.2-mile full marathon or the 13.1-mile half marathon. The event starts at 7:30 AM at South Lakes High School. Nearly 700 competitors will be on the roads and trails throughout south Reston until mid-day.

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE

RAJ Oil Company trading as Exxon #25301 Herndon, 597 Elden St, Herndon, VA 20170. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Beer and Wine off premise license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Raj K. Gupta, President. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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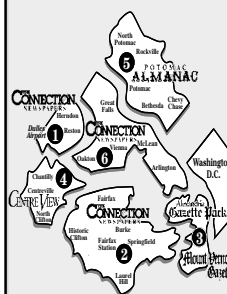


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Writing What Four



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As far as anniversaries go – and I hope this one “goes” a lot further; acknowledging, dare I say, celebrating, my four-year survival anniversary from “terminal” stage IV (inoperable, metastasized) non-small cell lung cancer, a diagnosis I initially received on February 27, 2009, along with a “13-month to two-year prognosis” from my oncologist, is certainly column-worthy.

Not that I haven't mined these emotional depths before; end of years one, two and three if truth be told, but I'm sure I can be given a pass, given the subject matter. And what matters more than a characterized-as-terminal cancer patient outliving his prognosis – by years? Not too much, from my perspective. Quite frankly, this is content of a column I can get used to writing – repeatedly, if need be, and I'm hoping the need be. Oh, I don't suppose I'll be recycling material from previous anniversary columns, even though the sentiment would be familiar: amazing good fortune, gratitude, anxiety concerning an unpredictable future, etc. Nevertheless, I'll risk expressing some feelings here that might be somewhat reminiscent of columns and anniversaries gone by.

Being diagnosed with lung cancer two and a half months after my widowed mother succumbed to her old age – thereby making my brother Richard and I orphans, as it were (my father had died two years earlier, almost to the day of my mother's passing) seemed a bit unfair, especially considering how much my brother and I had sacrificed as we cared and concerned ourselves with the last years of our parents' less-than-ideal lives. But “fair” has never really entered into my equation. That's not how I look at things. I look at things the way I've heard – on sports talk radio, anyway, how football players describe their attitude toward a starting player being injured: “Next man up.” There are no excuses. It's not exactly poker, but you play the cards you've been dealt. And so, in my four years of living with cancer since February, 2009, I have not pursued justice, nor have I declared my independence, but I have tried to live my life with good humor, and liberty and happiness – when I could manage it.

Not always have I achieved these goals or maintained the balance necessary to counter the emotional weight and physical toll receiving a terminal diagnosis – and the treatment protocol, can impose. I've had my moments, to be sure, but overall, I'm proud of how I've changed – for the better, and persevered. Though cancer has proven over the years to be an equal-opportunity-disease, my diagnosis has never caused me to feel doomed (a little gloomy, maybe). Moreover, I've always felt hopeful and as such have tried to be proactive, open and compliant in order to give myself every possible advantage in this life yet to be lived.

Woe is not me. Why is of no concern. How it could have happened – is of no particular interest. Reviewing my past transgressions never mattered to my oncologist. His only concern was the future and treating me forward. For the most part, I have embraced that/his philosophy; except this time of the year: my still-living-with-cancer anniversary when I revisit the past – hopefully as a prelude for the future. That's my intent, anyway.

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

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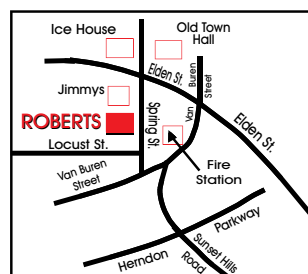


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Spring 2013 HomeLifeStyle

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Home LifeStyle

Decorating for Easter

Easy ideas to welcome spring into your ahome.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

From floral arrangements that burst with pastel blooms to candles that fill one's home with scents reminiscent of warm weather, local style experts offer suggestions for accents that welcome spring.

Turn simple twigs and greenery into a harbinger of Easter. "Welcome guests into your home with a spring wreath on the front door decorated with greenery, flowers or eggs," said Ann O'Shields of The Nest Egg in Fairfax. "Scents of spring are a sure way to alleviate the end of winter."

Laura Smith of The Dandelion Patch in Vienna, Reston and Georgetown recommends filling air with crisp, fresh aromas. "There are candles with really nice spring scents, like jasmine or gardenia and lemongrass. Citrus scents are also very big in spring and summer."

Smith suggests setting one's table with serveware imprinted with spring produce like lettuces that herald the new season. "You can use cutting boards with artichoke prints or platters with asparagus prints. They are entertaining and fun accessories," Smith said.

Festive baskets filled with paper grass, wooden eggs, bunnies and flowers make ideal home accents. "Using seasonal blooms are a great way to welcome spring," said O'Shields.

A floral arrangement displayed in baskets covered with spring flower petals make a chic centerpiece for one's dining table. "When it comes to floral arrangements, people are often driven by what their home décor is," said Potomac, Md., based floral designer Evelyn Kinville. "The most popular flowers for Easter are hydrangeas in white or soft green, daffodils, tulips in yellow, hyacinths in pink or blue, Esperance roses, which are large pink and cream two-toned in color, and White or pink hybrid lilies."

O'Shields said, "Pick one flower style and repeat it in various places throughout the room for the most impact."



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL/THE CONNECTION

Local design experts suggest using serveware imprinted with produce like lettuces that herald the new season.

Recycle, Reuse, Remodel

BY JOSHUA BAKER
BOWA

Remodeling often affords an opportunity to re-purpose existing materials by donating to those less fortunate. Ask your remodeler if there is a plan or policy for saving materials for re-use rather than sending it to a land fill. Every project is different. And some materials are more easily removed and saved than others. Here are a couple of organizations that accepted used materials.

A WIDER CIRCLE

This organization provides basic-needed items to families transitioning out of shelters and those living with-out life's necessities. A Wider Circle furnishes the homes of more than 1,000 children and adults each month. If you wish to donate furniture and other home essentials that are in good condition (no rips or stains), you can drop off items at their Center for Community Service in Silver Spring, Md. You can also schedule a pickup in most areas throughout greater Washington, D.C. Refer to their website for a full list of accepted items and their "wish list" of the most needed items at www.awidercircle.org.

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public. All donations are tax deductible and donated by individuals, local retailers, building contractors and suppliers. Donated items are then sold at 50-90 percent off the retail price, with all proceeds benefiting Habitat for Humanity, an organization that provides safe and affordable housing to low-income families. ReStore accepts appliances, furniture, cabinets, roofing and flooring materials, exercise equipment, countertops, electronics, lighting and plumbing fixtures, among many others. All materials and items must be in good and working condition. Items may be dropped off at ReStore locations during their business hours or for larger donations you may schedule a pickup. For more, visit Northern Virginia stores in Alexandria and Chantilly - www.restorenova.org

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Founded in 1902, Goodwill accepts gently used clothing, furniture, housewares, working electronics, and other household items. These items are then sold at their retail locations, with the proceeds used to fund employment, job training, and placement services for the disadvantaged and those with disabilities. To view their full list of goods accepted, and for the list of donation centers and stores, visit www.dcgoodwill.org. You may also schedule a pick up online for larger items or multiple items you don't have the resources to transport.

SALVATION ARMY

Although the Salvation Army is involved in many community programs, proceeds from items donated to their stores will benefit their Adult Rehabilitation Centers, which help those who have lost the ability to cope with their problems and are unable to provide for themselves. Each rehabilitation center offers residential housing and work, along with individual and group therapy. This enables many to be reunited with their families and resume a normal life. Items commonly donated include appliances, clothing, furniture, and household goods. For more information on their donation program, please visit www.satruck.org.

BOWA HOME CLEANUP DAYS

As a thank you to the neighbors in the communities in which we work, from time to time BOWA hosts Home Cleanup Days. Home Cleanup Day is a great opportunity to donate and recycle gently used household items, toys and clothing, and dispose of any debris or other unwanted clutter. A BOWA employee will help folks unload their items and a Goodwill representative will be on hand to accept donations and provide receipts. To find a BOWA Home Cleanup Day in your area, please visit our <http://info.bowa.com/communityblog/>.

Josh Baker is founder of BOWA, learn more at www.bowa.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NARI

This McLean kitchen by BOWA took top honors in the “Residential Kitchen Over \$120,000” category. The homeowners wanted to create a free-flowing, light-filled space.

The Region’s Best Home Designs

Local contractors get top honors for remodeling projects.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

From designing a kitchen with a concave glass tile backsplash to creating a backyard with a fire place and pool, some local home remodelers were honored recently with the National Association of the Remodeling Industry’s (NARI) 2013 Regional Contractor of the Year awards for design acumen. Winning projects ran the gamut from historic preservation projects to environmentally conscious conceptions.

A MCLEAN KITCHEN by BOWA took top honors in the “Residential Kitchen Over \$120,000” category. The homeowners were looking to create a free-flowing, light-filled space.

“Their kitchen was not as open as they would have liked,” said Josh Baker, founder and co-chairman of BOWA. “They wanted to make it more integrated and useful for the family.”

To accommodate a larger kitchen, the design team, which included BOWA’s George Hodges-Fulton, built an addition and added a sitting room, screened porch

and additional windows to allow an abundance of natural light to stream into the space. The new kitchen also included a butler’s pantry and a family dining area.

What is the key to turning one’s home into an award-winning, showcase house? Baker, who founded BOWA with his college friend Larry Weinberg, says an open dialogue is essential to a successful remodeling project. “The key is finding a person or company that you communicate very, very well with and whose process is in line with how you like to do business,” he said. “This is a customer service business. It is not just a construction business. The entire process is important, not just the end result.”

FAIRFAX-BASED FIRM RJK Construction, Inc. received top honors in the category of “Residential Addition \$100,000 to \$250,000” for a home in the Mantua area of Fairfax County. Company president Robert Kalmin says the homeowners’ goal was to blend their interior and exterior spaces. “They wanted to make their exterior landscaping a visual point because they entertain a lot,” he said. “The windows act as murals to the exterior landscaping bring the outdoors in and the indoors out.”

The owners requested an open floor plan that allowed guests to move freely between the kitchen and the backyard. “They were very specific about how they wanted people to meander from the outside to the inside,” Kalmin said. “We had to relocate the powder room so that people are able to use the

restroom without having to go anywhere else.”

An abundance of windows allows natural light to flow throughout the home. “The kitchen has red oak flooring and other colors and finishes that compliment the natural scenery outside,” said Kalmin.

HARRY BRASWELL of Harry Braswell, Inc. in Alexandria, was named Contractor of the Year in the “Entire House \$500,001 to \$1,000,000” category for the renovation of a home that had not been updated since the 1950s. “The house was outdated, too small for the family’s needs,” he said.

The renovation included a kitchen outfitted with cabinet-front appliances and porcelain sinks including an apron farm sink and an island sink in a pale aqua. “That color is carried throughout the house,” said project manager Gretchen Brown.

A concave glass tile backsplash surrounds the durable, brown-toned quartzite counter. “Quartzite doesn’t stain easily,” said Brown. “It is strong like granite, but is more expensive.”

The Braswell team also got a nod for energy efficiency for this project, which was named “NARI Green Project.” Brown noted that the team installed energy efficiency lighting and energy star appliances.

“The homeowners had specific criteria about wanting to meet [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design] certifica-

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF FAIRFAX

This home in the Vienna/Oakton area is featured on Virginia’s Historic Garden Week.

SEE DESIGNS, PAGE 7

OAK HILL/HERNDON CONNECTION ♦ HomeLifeStyle Spring 2013 ♦ 3

HomeLifeStyle

Demand for Incremental Improvements

Over time, some owners makeover the entire house — one phase at a time.

BY JOHN BYRD

If you compare the current home remodeling market to 2007, it's clear that homeowners are less likely to execute a top-to-bottom makeover in a single stroke than they were five years ago.

Home resales are rising again, but the belief that every dollar spent on a Northern Virginia home will be quickly recovered has been suspended — if only temporarily — as homeowners reassess.

For most local homeowners, a house is an asset of enormous personal appeal: an expression of identity and aspiration, periodically adapted to life's changes.

While the scale of the average project may be smaller, it's evident that many homeowners middle age or older have come to see the home as a long-term — even lifelong — work in progress, one that they take up passionately, and at regular intervals.

Veteran remodeler David Foster

calls these homeowners “incremental” improvers, and has come to see them as the primary focus of a home improvement enterprise he started 30 years ago.

As president of Foster Remodeling Solutions in Lorton, Foster regularly coaches his team on the importance of understanding what these homeowners need, what they are expecting and how to articulate their best options with clarity.

“Providing an experience that the homeowner will value unequivocally is probably our most important marketing activity,” Foster said. “Our core belief is that there are many homeowners who will make a notable home improvement every two to five years, so we place a high priority on earning that person's trust. In this sense, there is nothing more important than outperforming expectation.”

WHILE THERE MAY BE many reasons why a homeowner will re-



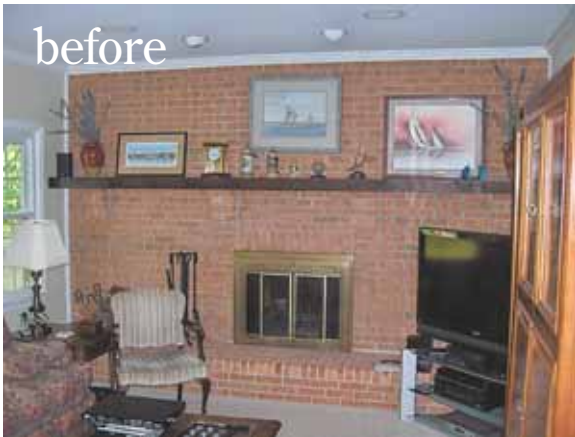
The plans for a kitchen remodel were complicated by the fact that the home's rear elevation backs into a woodland set-aside and a notably precipitous drop.



The Pipers' new powder room includes a Mediterranean-style foot bath ringed in glass and mosaic tiling. A vessel basin with exposed copper piping, marble floors and a coffered ceiling with concealed lights complete the portrait.



The existing half-brick floor-to-ceiling backwall was replaced by perfectly symmetrical built-ins, crown molding and an elevated hearth with a marble surround and Edwardian-style mantle.



model in stages, Foster said that the typical incremental improver has a pay-as-you-go orientation — often driven by evolving family requirements.

Vienna resident Kelly Grems, for instance, has executed four remodeling projects with Foster starting with a kitchen addition in 2003.

“We bought the house in 1995 when I was pregnant,” Grems explains. “My husband [Ed] and I had been living in a much smaller house in Maryland, but envisioned a traditional home that would offer our growing family lots of useful activity areas.”

A kitchen with a sizable breakfast room was the first item on the “wish list,” an assignment complicated by the fact that home's rear elevation backs into a woodland set-aside and a precipitous drop.

“The ground level decking was already in place,” Grems said. “But David showed us a plan for an el-

evated breakfast room extension built on pilings that wouldn't require a ground level foundation. Turns out, this solution created a welcome canopy for the ground level patio. And it was also a more sensible, economical choice for us at the time.”

Grems said her first step was handing Foster a file of articles on kitchen interiors she had clipped from Southern Living; the Foster Remodeling design staff then took over, helping the couple visualize design ideas with the aid of a CAD computer program. The team also provided an array of relevant finish work choices, mostly pointing to readily available considerations on display in the company's showroom.

“The selection and pricing process was transparent, and really anticipated what we needed,” Grems said. “When you're as busy as we are, you appreciate this quality of support.”

Apart from budget considerations, Grems said taking a pause between projects allowed the couple to pay more attention to how the family is actually using the house, and to develop ideas that work for everyone.

The recently completed family

room upgrade didn't become an immediate action plan, for instance, because the family design process was fomenting slowly — again starting with magazine articles and other sources.

“We're particular; we let *the look* come to us piece by piece,” she said.

In the end, Foster Remodeling Solutions designers created interior elevations that bear no resemblance to the original.

The half-brick floor-to-ceiling backwall was replaced by perfectly symmetrical built-ins, crown molding and an elevated hearth with a marble surround and Edwardian-style mantle.

“It's an entirely different mood from the sun room,” Grems said, “and perfectly satisfies another dimension of our lifestyle.”

ON A SIMILAR NOTE, south Alexandria resident Sandy Nusbaum attributes her periodic home upgrade inclinations to a gradual but decisive recognition that the four bedroom colonial she has occupied for 28 years with husband Mike is the last single family residence the couple will ever own.

“We raised three children here, and when the last of them moved

away, we looked at other houses in the area and even a retirement village in North Carolina,” Nusbaum said. “That's when I renewed my appreciation for the many advantages of this house. I recognized that everything we wanted was already here; we just needed a few pointed improvements to take us into the foreseeable future.”

Initially that meant introducing an open, “kitchen-centric” plan in the back half of the house, and creating an outdoor component — in the form of a 16-by-16-foot back screen porch — that allows for easy warm-weather circulation.

Replacing a wall between kitchen and dining room with a three-stool dining counter proved an effective starting point to delineating a more interactive entertainment space. The new surface is also well-positioned as a serving station for *al fresco* porch dining.

Although the needed structural changes were relatively minor, a new shelled-in niche for the refrigerator allows for additional storage. Maple cabinets with a Barton door style and honey-spice stain evoke a clean linear look within a softly lit ambience. Likewise, the

Silestone quartz surfaces in ebony pearl provide a tonal and textural contrast.

With a better rationalized kitchen in place, a few years on the Nusbaums began planning a follow-on phase: an extension of the rear family room, an open-air grilling deck and a layout that permits

SEE DEMAND, PAGE 7

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1 1036 Aziza Court, Great Falls — \$5,115,693



3 8305 Fox Haven Drive,
McLean — \$3,125,000



5 9720 Arnon
Chapel Road,
Great Falls —
\$1,800,000



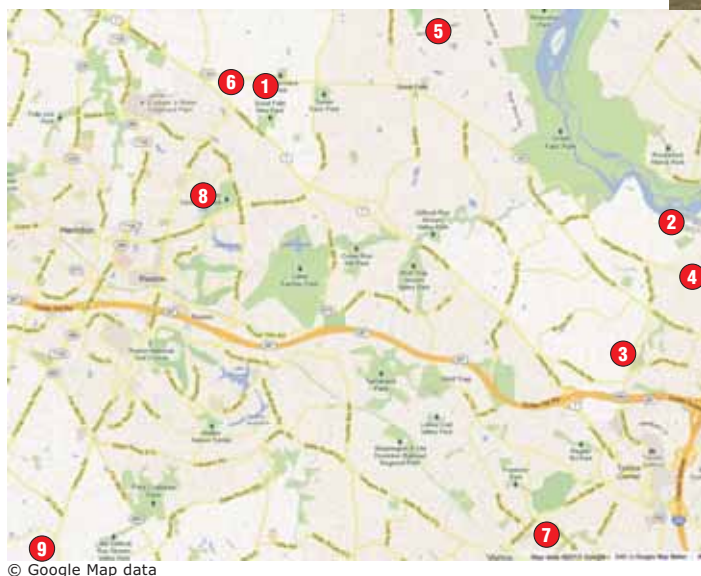
9 12705 Autumn Crest Drive,
Oak Hill — \$965,000



7 400 Berry Street SE,
Vienna — \$1,402,735



8 11580 Greenwich Point Road,
Reston — \$1,000,000



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1 1036 AZIZA CT	5	..	5	..	3	...	GREAT FALLS	\$5,115,693	...	Detached	...	0.84	22066	...	PUTNAM FARM ESTATES	...	01/04/13
2 710 BULLS NECK RD	6	..	6	..	1	...	MCLEAN	\$5,000,000	...	Detached	...	5.00	22102	...	BULLS NECK HUNDRED	...	01/16/13
3 8305 FOX HAVEN DR	5	..	6	..	2	...	MCLEAN	\$3,125,000	...	Detached	...	0.83	22102	...	FOX HALL OF MCLEAN	...	01/04/13
4 845 CANAL DR	5	..	5	..	2	...	MCLEAN	\$1,900,000	...	Detached	...	1.18	22102	...	OLD GEORGETOWN ESTATES	...	01/25/13
5 9720 ARNON CHAPEL RD	6	..	6	..	3	...	GREAT FALLS	\$1,800,000	...	Detached	...	2.46	22066	...	HARMON FARM	...	01/15/13
6 11301 LANDY LN	5	..	5	..	1	...	GREAT FALLS	\$1,734,604	...	Detached	...	1.47	22066	...	CHANEL ESTATES	...	01/04/13
7 400 BERRY ST SE	5	..	4	..	1	...	VIENNA	\$1,402,735	...	Detached	...	0.51	22180	...	MURMURING PINES	...	01/29/13
8 11580 GREENWICH POINT RD	4	..	2	..	1	...	RESTON	\$1,000,000	...	Detached	...	0.31	20194	...	RESTON	...	01/02/13
9 12705 AUTUMN CREST DR	5	..	4	..	1	...	OAK HILL	\$965,000	...	Detached	...	0.30	20171	...	FRANKLINS TRUST	...	01/04/13

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The Region's Best Home Designs

FROM PAGE 3

tion because they are dedicated to protecting the environment," said Braswell.

CABIN JOHN, MD., BASED firm Anthony Wilder Design/Build, Inc. received kudos in the "Residential Exterior, \$100,000 and Over" category for a backyard space that includes a pool and fireplace. "The homeowner wanted four separate living spaces in the backyard," said company spokeswoman Danielle Frye. "He wanted a dining room, a living room with a heat source, a place to sunbathe near his pool and a place to play cricket on his lawn."

Frye said the Wilder team, which included architect George R. Bott and lead designer Anthony Wilder, developed a backyard plan that replaced overgrown grass with flagstone and a badly worn fence with foliage to create a sense of privacy. "There is a sundeck and spaces for a sofa and dining table, but the fireplace is the focal point," said Frye. "We used really tall bamboo to shield the view from the hotel across the street."

A BETHESDA HOME ADDITION garnered a top prize in the "Residential Addition Over \$250,000" category for A.R.T Design Build Inc. with team member Grossmueller's Design Consultants, Inc.

"The client wanted to expand their one story house to have a separate area for [bedrooms] and create a more functional first floor with more communal spaces, the kitchen, family room [and] dining room," said Cindy G. McClure of Grossmueller's Design Consultants, Inc.

The design team added a new second floor to the home, which accommodates a laundry room, a master suite, two additional bedrooms and a bathroom. A stair tower and cathedral foyer create an open



PHOTO COURTESY OF MORGAN HOWARTH

This backyard oasis, designed by Anthony Wilder Design/Build, Inc., won a Contractor of the Year Award in the "Residential Exterior, \$100,000 and Over" category. The homeowner wanted a backyard space with a place to sunbathe near the pool, a dining room, a living room with a heat source and a place to play cricket.

floor plan and connect the first and second levels.

"Elements of the old house, like the wide

chimney on the front and the contemporary 1960 style were played upon and accentuated," said McClure. "The result is a func-

tional home that meets the needs of today's family, remained within budget and was completed on time."

Demand for Incremental Improvements

FROM PAGE 7

children, grandchildren and many guests to circulate freely through a now wide-ranging entertainment suite.

Then, just last year, the largely unused lower level was converted into a multi-purpose suite that serves as both an exercise room and guest accommodation.

"The built-ins include closets on either side of a new Murphy bed — one exclusively for guest use," Nusbaum said. "We also made the laundry room more functional and added a full bath with handicapped access."

Meanwhile, Nusbaum uses the remade lower level for her daily treadmill workouts: "It's a luxury having so many useful things exactly where you want them."

OF COURSE, CONSIDERATIONS to functional and aesthetic improvements aside, the long term remodeler also may venture into non-essential, even quite personal, "tweaks" to the existing property from time to time.

After comprehensive upgrades to their kitchen and master bath, for instance, Alexandrians Steve and Diane Piper decided that their eclectically re-designed powder room should include a Mediterranean-style foot bath ringed in glass and mosaic tiling.

The artfully-executed first floor facility — planned with an assist from Foster designer Sarah Wolf — includes a vessel basin with exposed copper piping, marble floors and a coffered ceiling with concealed lights.

The Pipers — who often travel interna-

tionally — say the foot bath is a pleasant convenience in the summer when they are often wearing sandals.

"I wouldn't say a footbath adds anything to re-sale value," Diane Piper said, "But we do plan to be in this house for at least another ten years."

AND SPEAKING OF PERSONAL vision: after re-doing the front elevation — and before remodeling the kitchen — the Baldinos of Springfield had Foster design a screen porch with a floor-to-ceiling stone hearth. The porch is closed on three sides and features a 15-foot cathedral ceiling with an overhead rotating fan. The project included an extensive flagstone patio, a privacy fence, a retaining wall and landscaping.

"We wanted space that brings us into the outdoors, and the fireplace keeps the porch surprisingly comfortable in cooler weather," said Nancy Baldino. "It's a great place to watch the game."

The Baldinos, who have lived in their circa 1970s split-level for 24 years, say that their four remodeling projects have always been focused and budgetable.

"We love the neighborhood, so the improvements are just a natural result of efforts to make the house feel even more like home."

Staff at Foster Remodeling Solutions periodically offer workshops on home improvement topics at the Lorton showroom. Call 703-550-1371 or visit www.FosterRemodeling.com.

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