Reston Connection

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Photo by Alex McVeigh/The Connection

Reston Farmers Market Masters John and Fran Lovaas ring the bell to kick off this year's market after being escorted via pedicab by Paul Walsh.

May 8-14, 2013

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Bulletin Board

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

SATURDAY/MAY 11

Reston Association Community Yard Sale. 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Reston Association parking lot, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. A great opportunity to browse for bargains for a new home or a college dorm. 703-435-6577.

Life Without Attachment Buddhist Class. 10-11:30 a.m., at Unitarian Universalist Church, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston. Each class includes two guided meditations, a teaching and time for Q&A. $12. 202-986-2257 or www.meditation-dc.org.

TUESDAY/MAY 14

Changing Lives Open House. 5-8 p.m., at the Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter, 12970 Katherine Hanley Court, Fairfax. Tour the facility and learn how to help end homelessness in the community; light refreshments provided. http://shelterhouse.givezooks.com/events/changing-lives-open-house-katherine-hanley-family-shelt.

FRIDAY/MAY 31

Fairfax Adult Softball (FAS) Applications Due. FAS accepts applications for adult softball teams through May 31: men's, women's, coed, corporate coed, and Reston leagues are available. 703-815-9007, www.fairfaxadultsoftball.com or office@fairfaxadultsoftball.com.

ONGOING

Arabic-speaking Older Adult Social Visits. Fairfax County needs volunteers who speak Arabic to provide social visits to an elderly person in Reston for four hours per month. 703-324-5406, TTY 703-449-1186, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices.

The Herndon Senior Center at 873 Grace St., Herndon, needs a volunteer musician to play soothing music for participants; piano available. 703-324-5406, TTY 703-449-1186, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices.

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Photo by Art Cole

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) and Virginia Secretary of Health and Human Resources Bill Hazel attended the NVFS "Road to Independence" Gala on Friday, April 26 in Vienna.

Helping Those Who 'Can't Catch a Break'

Community support for Northern Virginia Family Services grows during tough economic times.

More than 500 supporters of Northern Virginia Family Service gathered in Vienna on Friday, April 26, to honor George Lizama and Earle and June Williams at the NVFS "Road to Independence Gala." The event, which is NVFS' largest fundraiser of the year, featured an emotional appeal for donations, as well as live and silent auctions.

Guests were reminded of the very different journeys that NVFS clients take on their Road to Independence. Mary, who stayed at the organization's temporary shelter, SERVE, also went through its workforce development program, Training Futures.

Overcoming a history of family physical abuse, homelessness, and a debilitating injury that eventually led to drug addiction, Mary is not just surviving but thriving. She works in a doctor's office and is an example of how a brief investment to help someone pays dividends for a lifetime.

George Lizama, this year's community champion, credited NVFS for helping the innocent, the humble poor, and those "who can't catch a break." The local business leader known for his marketing accomplishments was instrumental in launching NVFS' Training Futures program. He summarized Mary's experience and that of the 30,000 clients that NVFS touches each year: "Through self-help comes self-esteem, self-worth and finally, dignity."

Earle Williams, retired BDM International president and CEO, was honored with his wife, June, as "Legends of Northern Virginia." "Most of us here lead privileged lives. You can and should make a difference in Northern Virginia," Williams said.

This year's event broke previous records for sponsorship participation. Attendees publicly affirmed their support for NVFS through pledges of $100 to $5,000. Funds raised from the event will support NVFS programs, from head start and emergency shelter to gang intervention and job training, that help the most vulnerable community members chart their "road to independence."

Each year, NVFS helps nearly 30,000 people find safe and stable housing and provides children and youth services, affordable health care, workforce development programs and emergency services through a variety of community-funded programs and initiatives. NVFS has been recognized nationally for its effectiveness in creating sustained financial and social independence for its clients.

For more information about NVFS and its many community-funded programs and initiatives, go to www.nvfs.org.

—Victoria Ross

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Photos by Alex McVeigh/The Connection

Customers at the Reston Farmers Market browse flowers for sale by Glascock's Produce Saturday, May 4.

Farmers Market Opens Season

Weekly market open for business at Lake Anne.

By Alex McVeigh
The Connection

The Reston Farmers Market opened its 2013 season Saturday morning, May 4, at Lake Anne Plaza. The market returns stronger than ever this year, with new additions including the county's first seafood vendor at a farmers market.

Arnest Seafood from Hague, Va. has set up shop at the market, offering crabs, oysters, clams, catfish, flounder and more.

"Today was the first day I've ever done a farmers market and it's going well. It's nice to get a sense of what people are interested in," said Lee Arnest, owner. "Starting next week we'll be bringing in live crabs, and we can even start bringing them cooked if people request."

ANOTHER NEW ADDITION is a first for the market. The Farm at Sunnyside is a certified organic farm featuring a variety of produce. The 400-acre farm, located in Washington, Va. also has an onsite biologist that tracks the various wildlife on the property.

"We've currently got a lot of greens and asparagus, but we'll have double the produce within the next few weeks. Eventually we'll have veggies, orchard fruits, berries and pasture-raised brown eggs, which are the only thing we have that aren't organic, but they're certified GMO-free," said Sean McDermott, the farm manager. "One of our signature items is our sweet cherries, we're one of the only places around that has those."

From left, Brian Dooley and Lee Arnest of Arnest Seafood are the first seafood vendors at the Reston Farmers Market.

Sean McDermott of The Farm at Sunnyside is the first certified organic vendor at the Reston Farmers Market.

McDermott said their French breakfast radishes were one of their most popular items on the market's opening day, selling out in a little more than an hour.

"Something we'll have starting in August is baby ginger. We're one of the only farms on the East Coast that grows it," he said. "It's very different than the woody root that people find in the stores. It's not fibrous, not woody, not stringy and you don't peel it. It's pink and gleaming and really good. It's very popular at our other markets."

The third newcomer to this year's market is Moo Thru, a dairy from Fauquier County. They carry skim, whole and chocolate milk and 28 flavors of ice cream from owner Ken Smith's grass fed cows.

"Because we own the cows and the farm, we're able to control the quality from grass to milk," said Smith, who is the fourth generation dairy farmer in his family. "One of our signature ice cream flavors is Ken's Key Lime, which is a flavor you don't see too often. I worked hard on that one, because I love key lime pie so much."

THE MARKET ALSO FEATURES its regular vendors, including Glascocks Produce from Berkeley Springs, W.Va., Potomac Vegetable Farms from Vienna, Reid's Orchard and Winery of Orrtanna, Penn. and more.

"I started coming to this farmers market about two years ago in search of the usual fruits and vegetables, but I found so much more," said Elaine Shepherd of Reston. "Now I get my bread, milk, meat and even occasional flowers here every Saturday. It's a full shopping experience."

Also new to the market this year is Paul Walsh and his Pedicab, which will be available to bring people and their purchases to their cars, usually parked along North Shore Drive, especially helpful for people that can't carry multiple bags uphill.

The market will be at Lake Anne every Saturday until November from 8 a.m. to noon.

Visitors to the Spring Festival in Reston fish off a pier into Lake Audubon Saturday, May 4.

Nature House Hosts Spring Festival

Event features live animals, nature demonstrations.

By Alex McVeigh
The Connection

Darren Chambers, 7, of Reston says he's scared of spiders, silverfish and ants, but there's one thing he's not scared of: snakes. He had a chance to look at snakes up close and personal Saturday, May 4, at the Walker Nature Education Center during their Spring Festival.

"Snakes aren't as scary to me because they can't move fast and disappear like smaller bugs, and I like the slimy way their skin feels," Chambers said. "It was cool to see one up close and learn about them."

The festival allowed visitors to explore the trails around the Nature House, with the circular trail featuring a number of stops with booths about the various habitats surrounding the center.

"I didn't know that there was a little pond just behind the center, as well as such a diversity of plant and animal species literally right in its backyard," said Maria Thomas of Reston. "There was a lot of great information, enough so that when I come back on a regular day, I'll know what to show the kids about the habitats here."

Caroline Seitz of Reptiles Alive shows an Eastern rat snake to visitors at the Walker Nature Education Center Saturday, May 4, during the Reston Spring Festival.

Visitors could also explore another habitat by walking down the nearby trail to Lake Audubon and Snakeden Branch to boat, fish and examine the creatures that live in the stream.

"I had never been down to this end of Lake Audubon before, where it turns into a stream, it's a neat place with the pier and all," said Caleb Ott of Reston. "It's a nice out-of-the-way spot that really gives you a sense of the natural diversity in Reston.

From left, Marcy Cochran, Tom Bodine and Steve Malyszka perform at the Walker Nature Education Center Saturday, May 4, as part of the Reston Spring Festival.

Lani Hay (right), president of Vienna-based Lanmark Technology Inc., made the 2013 Women Presidents' Organization list of fastest-growing women-owned companies in the U.S. In 2011, Lanmark partnered with ELLE Magazine to raise awareness among military families on suicide prevention. At the event, Hay was joined by guests Roberta Myers, editor-in-chief of ELLE Magazine (left), and Creative Coalition President Tim Daly (center).

Senator Tim Kaine (D-Va) honors Christopher and Mary Beth Romani, co-founders of Integrity Management Consulting of McLean, which topped the 2013 Virginia Chamber of Commerce list as the fastest-growing company in the state. The "Fantastic 50" banquet was held April 25 at the Westfields Marriott in Chantilly.

Photos contributed

Women Mean Business

Two fastest-growing woman-led firms in North America call Fairfax County home.

By Victoria Ross
The Connection

In the two months since the much-hyped and dreaded sequester took effect, the daily economic forecast has been almost as painful as the slow grinding of bureaucratic wheels.

But here's some good economic news, especially for aspiring female entrepreneurs: the numbers are in your favor.

A recent study by American Express OPEN, the small-business division of American Express, determined the number of women-owned businesses nationwide has increased 59 percent since 1997. In the United States, there are an estimated 8.1 million women-owned businesses that contribute $1.3 trillion to the national economy and employ 7.7 million people, according to Forbes magazine.

Fairfax County businesswomen are part of that trend.

Two Fairfax County-based companies made the 2013 list of the 50 fastest-growing woman-owned or led companies in North America by the Women Presidents' Organization (WPO)—a peer advisory organization for women entrepreneurs.

One is Vienna-based Lanmark Technology Inc. (number nine on the list), whose president and CEO is Lani Hay. The other is Chantilly-based Ampcus, Inc. (number 36 on the list), founded by Anjali "Ann" Ramakumaran.

"We are very proud to be the home of Ampcus and Lanmark Technology and their leadership. Anyone can become a successful business person in Fairfax County," said Gerald L. Gordon, president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA).

"It requires talent, a good business plan, and plenty of hard work. Irrelevant factors such as gender are just that: irrelevant. It is part of what makes Fairfax County such a great place to live and work," Gordon added.

More than 34,000 women-owned businesses exist in Fairfax County, including more than 4,400 firms with paid employees, according to the Survey of Women-Owned Businesses. Women-owned businesses generated $4.7 billion in sales revenue in 2007 alone, based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

IN INCREASING NUMBERS, women-owned companies are making their mark and competing nationally in traditionally male-dominated industries, such as cybersecurity, homeland defense, biometrics and scientific program development, such as Lanmark and Ampcus, both high-tech consulting firms.

"Having this kind of dynamic and entrepreneurial business community yields job opportunities and further enhances the quality of life in Fairfax County," said Gerald L. Gordon, president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA).

All companies that submitted nominations for the WPO list were ranked according to a sales growth formula that combines percentage and absolute growth. To be qualified for the ranking, businesses were required to be privately held, woman-owned or led companies in the U.S. or Canada and have annual revenue of at least $500,000 in 2007 and $2 million in 2012.

During the past decade or two, organizations have formed to help women entrepreneurs build the networks they need to succeed as high-growth companies. Women Presidents' Organization is a peer advisory group for women presidents of multimillion-dollar companies. In February, the WPO launched a Northern Virginia chapter in McLean during which WPO Founder and President Marsha Firestone hosted a roundtable discussion.

"I am confident this chapter of powerful women will help the region's women business leaders accelerate the growth of their businesses through peer support from women like themselves and promote economic security for themselves and their employees," Firestone said during the launch.

Women-owned businesses are also doing well across the state. The Virginia Chamber of Commerce recently announced its "Fantastic 50" ranking of the fastest-growing businesses in Virginia, and many of those on the list are women-owned businesses, including Kore Federal, RFID Global Solution, Knowledge Link and Trusted Mission Solutions. Twenty-five Fairfax County companies were listed on the "Fantastic 50" list.

The Virginia Chamber honored all 50 companies at a banquet held April 25 at the Westfields Marriott in Chantilly.

"This list is one indicator that Fairfax County continues to be an exceptional location for companies that are growing and becoming increasingly successful," Gordon said.

Integrity Management Consulting of McLean, which supports federal agencies with acquisition and program management, topped the list as the fastest-growing company in the state. Between 2008 and 2011, Integrity posted a growth rate of 2,165 percent.

Founded in 2006 by Christopher and Mary Beth Romani, Integrity has grown from two to almost 100 employees and now has a satellite office in Fort Worth, Texas.

"As a life-long Virginian, the Fantastic 50 Vanguard Award means so much to me," said Chris Romani.

"It's gratifying that our small business is able to contribute to the economic growth of our region and create jobs that sustain families and communities, while at the same time supporting customer missions of national importance," said Mary Beth Romani.

THE VIRGINIA "FANTASTIC 50" is the only statewide awards program to rank leading businesses across the commonwealth in all types of industries. Companies must be privately held with headquarters in Virginia, and demonstrate positive year-over-year revenue growth and net income when judged on four-year sales revenue history.

"We are immensely proud to be recognized as the leading company for growth in the state, and it's especially meaningful to achieve continued growth at a time when there remains uncertainty in the economy and in federal spending," said Christopher Romani. "We have remained focused on doing excellent work and recruiting top talent to support our customers. We've succeeded by competing on our strengths."

"The entire Commonwealth of Virginia benefits from the success of these businesses through additional income taxes that support programs statewide," said Gordon, a member of the Virginia Chamber Board of Directors.

For the complete Virginia "Fantastic 50," list, visit www.virginiabusiness.com. For information on membership in the WPO, contact Chapter Chair Renee Lewis at renee.lewis@pensaregroup.com or 301-332-4677 or go to www. womenpresientsorg.com.

FAIRFAX COUNTY COMPANIES ON THE 2013 FANTASTIC 50 LIST

1. Integrity Management Consulting, Inc. Tysons Corner
3. Veris Group, LLC Tysons Corner
6. 3Pillar Global Fairfax
7. Kore Federal Tysons Corner
13. Octo Consulting Group Tysons Corner
14. First Virginia Community Bank Fairfax
17. XLA Springfield
18. Agilex Technologies Inc. Chantilly
19. Three Wire Systems, LLC Falls Church
20. RFID Global Solution, Inc. Reston
22. Zantech IT Services, Inc. Tysons Corner
24. C2 Solutions Group, Inc. Reston
26. Knowledge Link, Inc. Herndon
27. Technatomy Corporation Fairfax
28. Data Networks Corporation Reston
29. ConceptSolutions, LLC Reston
30. Eagle Ray Inc. Chantilly
33. MetroStar Systems Reston
34. Kinsey Technical Services, Inc. Chantilly
35. TeraThink Corporation Reston
38. Cetrom Information Technology, Inc. Tysons Corner
42. National Corporate Housing Herndon
43. Trusted Mission Solutions Inc. Tysons Corner
46. Search Technologies Herndon
47. U.S. Information Technologies Corporation Chantilly

Reston Girl Competes for Miss Virginia Title

Sara S. Gouda, the daughter of Sabri A. Gouda of Reston, is a state finalist in the National American Miss Virginia Pageant. She will compete with other pre-teen aged girls from across Virginia at the Reston Hyatt July 25-27 of this summer.

Sara—who plays piano, games, soccer and volleyball—also likes reading, singing and spending time with her family.

The winner of the pageant receives $1,000 and the official pomp and circumstance of banner and crown, roses and a ticket to the National Pageant in California.

The pageant entails age-appropriate activities—no make-up or swimsuit competition for girls under age 12—and is based on poise, presentation, sportsmanship, achieving personal goals and the like. For more information, visit www.namiss.com.

Photo contributed

Sara S. Gouda of Reston is a state finalist in the National American Miss Virginia Pageant.

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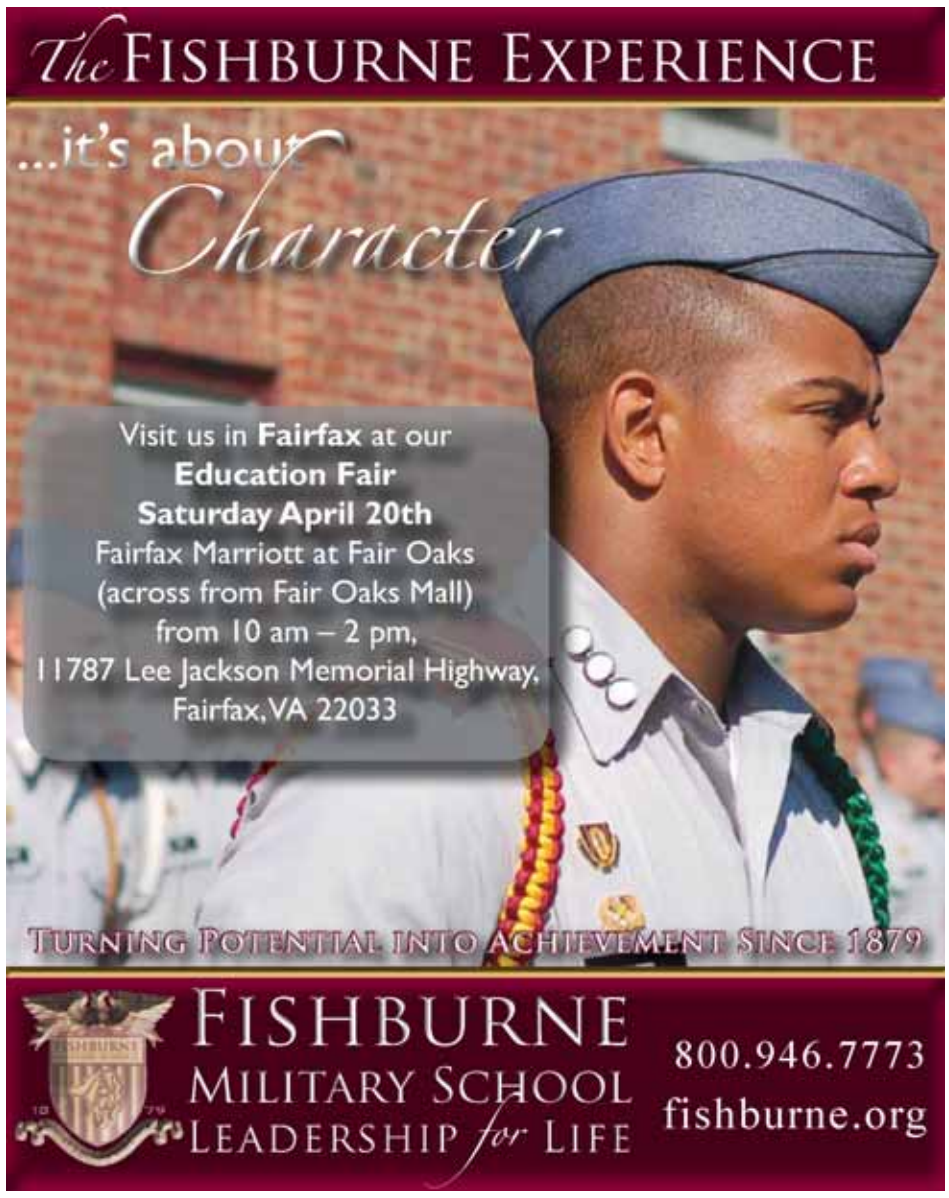

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Opinion

Some Limits, More Disclosure

Virginia does not benefit from elected officials being awash in cash donations and gifts.

Editorial

It seems prescient now.

Virginia's "corruption risk report card" in March 2012 ranked the state 47 out of 50, with an overall grade of "F." That's "F" for failing, mostly because Virginia is one of four states that place no limits on political contributions at all.

Virginia got a failing grade for vulnerability to corruption. Corruption in the commonwealth is probably not any more rampant than voter fraud, as we said last year. But in terms of practices that could undermine trust, Virginia has vast room for improvement.

It turns out that unlimited contributions and gifts with some reporting loopholes is not good for government, not good for the public, especially not good for elected officials as recent news about state elected officials and gifts well demonstrate. It could be better for businesses to have some limits as well.

The National Conference of State Legislatures www.ncsl.org summarizes how states handle contributions: "States commonly place limits on contributions to candidates from various sources, and also on contributions to political action committees and political parties. Just four states — Missouri, Oregon, Utah and Virginia — place no limits on contributions at all. Another seven states — Alabama, Indiana, Iowa, Mississippi, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and Texas — have minimal contribution limits. These states limit or prohibit contributions by corporations and unions to candidates, but leave contributions from all other sources unlimited. In the remaining 39 states, contributions to candidates from individuals, political parties, PACs, corporations and unions are typically limited or, in the case of corporations and unions, prohibited outright."

In Maryland, individuals can give $4,000 to any one candidate and $10,000 total in a four-year election cycle. You don't have corporations and CEOs giving $100,000 and more in an election cycle.

From 2009-2013, Dominion has made $2,838,506 in political contributions to candidates and committees, 58 percent of it to Republicans, 39 percent to Democrats, according to the Virginia Public Access Project www.vpap.org.

In 2012, Pepco donated $2,000 to Friends of Martin O'Malley, Maryland's governor, $10,000 to the state Democratic committee and $5,000 to the state Republican committee.

In 2013, Pepco's total contributions currently reported are $2,000.

In 2013, Dominion Resources' total contributions currently reported are $450,000.

In 2010, Pepco donated $4,000 each to Friends of O'Malley and Friends of Anthony Brown, his running mate. In 2008, Pepco donated $10,000 to state Democratic committee and $10,000 to the state Republican committee. (Pepco contributions are according to the Maryland Campaign Finance Reporting System.)

Dominion donated $52,500 to McDonnell's campaign and another $50,000 to his inaugural committee. Dominion also gave $80,000 to the campaign of state Sen. Dick Saslaw (D), $26,500 to Ken Plum (D) for delegate, $25,000 to Mark Sickles (D) for delegate, $18,500 to Toddy Puller (D) for Senate, $17,000 to Mark Herring (D) for Senate, $14,157 to Tim Hugo (R) for delegate, $12,000 to Tom Rust (R) for delegate and $11,000 to Janet Howell (D) for Senate, just to cover some of the larger, local contributions.

Does it matter? Given the history of power outages, it's unlikely anyone would want to trade service from Dominion for service from Pepco.

Gifts are another question. In Virginia, even if an official does violate the very limited rules on gifts, the code states that "Violations of this subdivision shall not be subject to criminal law penalties."

Call us naive, but we would have bet that neither Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli nor Gov. Bob McDonnell would be susceptible to taking gifts under dubious circumstances, yet both are in the news for having failed to report gifts totaling tens of thousands of dollars. McDonnell says disclosure of gifts to his immediate family members are not required. Cuccinelli says he forgot about some gifts he received.

The State Integrity Investigation is "designed to expose practices that undermine trust in state capitols — and spotlight the states that are doing things right." See http://www.stateintegrity.org/virginia

Virginia's access to information on campaign finance is overshadowed by "lax oversight rules, weak consumer representation protections, dwindling capitol press corps and coziness between political and economic elites. ... Meanwhile, the few ethics and disclosure requirements that do exist tend to be flawed, limited or fraught with exemptions and qualifications," according to the report.

— Mary Kimm,
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Reston Accessibility Committee—Award and Leadership

By John Lovaas
Reston Impact Producer/Host

Independent Progressive

Last Tuesday, I went to the Fairfax County Government Center or "Taj Mahal," as it is called by some, to watch the Board of Supervisors present citizen awards and issue grand proclamations. I was there to applaud presentation of the Community Partnership Award to an especially deserving Reston group, the Reston Accessibility Committee (RAC) of the Reston Citizens Association.

RAC is a small band of particularly committed Reston activists headed by Ken Fredgren. Because of crippling polio in his youth and subsequent complications, Ken operates from a wheelchair. He is a man on a mission. He and his small squad have set out to make stores, businesses, professional and public offices, hospitals, etc. accessible to persons with disabilities.

Hundreds of thousands of Virginia residents have mobility-impairing physical disabilities as a result of disease, accidents, or the effects of aging. In Reston alone there are hundreds of people affected needing modest accommodations in order to be able to have access to places where the rest of us take it for granted. The federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provides a legal framework requiring businesses and establishments open to the public to provide such accommodations, e.g., accessible parking places, and doorways and aisles wide enough to be negotiated in a wheelchair. The problem is that the law is rarely enforced in Fairfax County and many places are not in compliance. Thus, as a practical matter thousands cannot access services and facilities that are part of everyday living. RAC monitors compliance with ADA. When they find problems, they work with property owners and managers to make improvements necessary to comply, often modest changes such as restriping and providing proper signage for accessible parking places. In a few short years, RAC has achieved amazing results. In receiving the award, Fredgren noted that "RAC has partnered successfully with the owners and property managers of one community center … one hospital, three office parks, and six shopping centers to achieve ADA-compliant exterior access routes … [including] accessible parking spaces … accessible parking signs, access aisles, detectable warnings, traffic crossings, and entrance doors."

Fredgren thanked the supervisors, peering down from their elevated dais, for the award and added: "So far, it is up to a tiny band of volunteers serving in a very small area containing approximately 5 percent of the county's population … [while] … 95 percent of the county's population is not being reached." To date, the county has not exercised its authority to require and enforce provision of compliant accessible parking signs, for example. County sign inspection alone would result in effective accessible parking for thousands of county residents. He did not say the obvious—i.e., what

See Lovaas, Page 7

Reston Connection

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Commentary

Forging a Future Path

By Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum
State Delegate (D-36)

Over the next couple of decades Virginia will have many more job openings for educated professionals and skilled technicians than there are persons in the pipeline to fill them, according to Northern Virginia Community College President Robert Templin speaking at "Blueprint Virginia," an annual economic summit in Northern Virginia last week. Templin is a recognized expert on workforce training and has a broad perspective on the issue from his position as head of the community college with the largest number of degrees granted each year in the nation. He was joined at the podium by Dr. Ángel Cabrera, recently inaugurated president of George Mason University. President Cabrera brings a set of international credentials to his post as head of one of the fastest growing universities—in size and prestige. His point that the economic development success and prosperity of any region of the country is related to the presence of a first-class, research-based university can be illustrated with numerous examples throughout the country.

The occasion of the speeches by the two college presidents was a meeting called by the Virginia Chamber of Commerce and local chambers to announce a year-long initiative "to bring together the state's regional leaders and industry experts to craft a strategy that will provide a road map for economic competitiveness for the commonwealth." Key to any such strategy would be workforce training and development in which both presidents are experts. Interesting to note was Dr. Templin's example of training our future workers through a community college program that starts in the elementary schools to interest young children in science, technology, engineering and mathematics—the so-called STEM subjects—and to help students who may be first-generation college attendants. These students are encouraged to attend NVCC and may enroll in college-level courses while they are still in high school. NVCC has a transfer agreement with all the public four-year colleges and universities in the state that says that if you successfully finish your community college work with a high enough grade point average you will be automatically accepted by a four-year institution.

But the presidents also expressed concern. While Virginia has been known over the years as a business-friendly state, would it lose this distinction with the cutbacks that it has been making to education at all levels for the past several years? New to the area, Cabrera pointed out our dubious distinction of having the worst traffic congestion in the country, and his point was amplified by one of the other speakers who arrived late to the meeting, having taken more than two hours to get from Stafford to Dulles. Transportation has clearly suffered from a lack of funding, not unlike higher education is experiencing. Beyond education and transportation, there are other issues that need to be addressed as well for the region to maintain its success.

Blueprint Virginia is a statewide plan that is scheduled to produce a document in time for a newly elected governor who takes office in January next year. Assisting the State Chamber in this very worthwhile endeavor is the Council on Virginia's Future that does wonderful work in identifying performance indicators for any goals that are established (http://www.future.virginia.gov/). I encourage individuals to go to the chamber website at http://www.vachamber.com/blueprint/ to make your views known for Virginia's future direction.

With the one-term governor limitations in the commonwealth it should be useful to come into office with an already produced consensus document that forges a new path.

Lovaas

From Page 6

is lacking is a decision by the board to act!

Chairman Sharon Bulova picked up on Fredgren's cue, and directed county staff to review his suggestion and to return with recommendations for implementing it. If the Board of Supervisors responds with the kind of leadership displayed by Ken Fredgren, thousands of residents countywide would gain access to many services so far only accessible in Reston, thanks to RAC.

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For more information, visit the Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/fairfaxfamilies4kids.htm or contact Beverly J. Howard, Fairfax Families4Kids Coordinator, 703-324-7518, TTY 711. Beverly.Howard@fairfaxcounty.gov

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Photos by Ryan Dunn/The Connection

The band Gonzo's Nose performs at the Herndon Friday Night Live Concert.

Volunteers assist at the drink concession stands at Herndon Friday Night Live

Friday Night Live in Herndon

Gonzo's Nose opens new concert season on the Town Green.

By Ryan Dunn
The Connection

Friday, May 3, marked the first Friday Night Live concert of the season for the Town of Herndon. This popular concert series began with a performance by the band Gonzo's Nose, a Virginia-based band that has been performing since 1996.

This year is the 19th season of Friday Night Live. Like all previous shows, this performance was held on the Town Green between the Herndon Fortnightly Library and the Herndon Municipal Center. The annual series brings many cover bands to Herndon to perform with no tickets or reservations required.

Doug Downer, founder of Herndon's Friday Night Live, said: "I had been to a similar event in Norfolk. When I saw the plans for the Herndon Municipal Center, I pitched the event to Herndon Chamber of Commerce, and then to the Town of Herndon. They passed it, but thought it [Friday Night Live] would fail."

Friday Night Live is one the most popular outdoor concert series in the D.C. area. The concert has been ranked as a "Must See" for Fairfax County, and it is recognized by the Virginia Tourism Corporation. Downer attributes much of the success to the volunteers.

"It is hard work but it is a lot of fun. The people back here make volunteering worthwhile," said volunteer Scott Jones.

"It [Friday Night Live] is a beautiful thing," said volunteer Allen Boichot. "I live in Chantilly. May is a huge month because everyone has not yet left for vacations. We give people a chance to relax and take a break. It is not work, it is unbelievably fun."

Herndon Town Councilmember Grace Wolf was volunteering that evening at a drink concession stand. "All tips we take go to the all night Herndon High School graduation party," said Wolf.

"We have a tremendous group of long term volunteers," said Downer. Beginning at 6:30 p.m., Gonzo's Nose played pop music songs from musicians ranging from Michael Jackson to The B-52's and Poison. At 7:50 p.m. when the band took a short break Downer took the microphone to thank the concert sponsors. "Without our corporate sponsors we could not put on this event."

Downer first met his future wife while attending a Friday Night Live concert. The band performing that night was Gonzo's Nose, and song they were playing was "Hit Me With Your Best Shot."

While the bands perform on stage, attendees and audience can dine on food they bring to the event or purchase meals at the vending booths. No alcoholic beverages may be brought into the event, and no pets are allowed.

The next show on May 10 will feature bands Blue Label and South Bay. Friday Night Live is a completely volunteer run event and new volunteers are always welcome.

There won't be a Friday Night Live on Friday, May 31, because of the Herndon Festival. For more information about Friday Night Live or the scheduled entertainment, check out the website at www.Herndonrocks.com.

Food vendors are ready for customers at the Herndon Town Green during Friday Night Live.

Doug Downer (center), founder of Herndon Friday Night Live, speaks to the audience.

Entertainment

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

FRIDAY/MAY 10

129th Edition of Cole Bros. Circus of the Stars. 4:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., at Dulles Town Center, 21100 Dulles Town Circle, Dulles. An American-style circus complete with elephants, tigers, aerialists and acrobats, magic and clowns. $16. www.gotothecircus.com.

Step Out With the USO 2013. 6-11 p.m., at Hilton Washington Dulles Hotel, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon. A night of good food, dancing and fundraising with proceeds benefiting local USO programs and facilities including the USO Warrior and Family Center. $50 per person; donations accepted and sponsorships available. 703-572-4876.

Reno and Harrell. 8 p.m., at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. Reno and Harrell is a band composed of the sons of the legendary bluegrass originals, Don Reno and Bill Harrell; the sons have now formed a new band dedicated to the music of their fathers and have kept the original name of the band as well. $12. Free for children under 12. 703-435-8377 or kd4fue2@verizon.net.

33 Variations. 8 p.m., at Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Reston Community Players presents the Tony Award-winning drama by Moises Kaufman following a Beethoven scholar driven to solve a mystery surrounding the genius composer's later years. Soon the musicologist's life, ALS diagnosis and relationship with her daughter begin to parallel her studies; concert pianist Hilary Van Wagenen Henry underscores the play. $20; $17 for students and seniors. www.rcp-tix.com.

SATURDAY/MAY 11

Reston Youth Triathlon. 8 a.m., at South Lakes High School, 11400 S. Lakes Drive, Reston. Children ages 6 to 15 can swim at Ridge Heights pool, bike near South Lakes High School and run on Reston Association paths, finishing at the South Lakes stadium to focus on Mother's Day; packet pickup May 10. www.amysamigos.org.

129th Edition of Cole Bros. Circus of the Stars. 1:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., at Dulles Town Center, 21100 Dulles Town Circle, Dulles. An American-style circus complete with elephants, tigers, aerialists and acrobats, magic and clowns. $16. www.gotothecircus.com.

Concert of Classical Music of famous Italian Composers. 7:30 p.m., St. John Neumann Church, 11900 Lawyers Road, Reston. Professional musicians Robert Kelley and Susan Hayes will present a concert of beautiful classical music by Italian composers. 703-385-0814.

33 Variations. 8 p.m., at Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Reston Community Players presents the Tony Award-winning drama by Moises Kaufman following a Beethoven scholar driven to solve a mystery surrounding the genius composer's later years. Soon the musicologist's life, ALS diagnosis and relationship with her daughter begin to parallel her studies; concert pianist Hilary Van Wagenen Henry underscores the play. $20; $17 for students and seniors. www.rcp-tix.com.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra: Masterworks VI. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Conductor Christopher Zimmerman, tenor Brennen Guillory and soprano Joni Henson perform Wagner's "Prelude and Liebestod," Tristan und Isolde and Prelude to Act 3, Lohengrin; Verdi's Overture to La Forza del Destino, Overture to I vespri siciliani, Love Duet Finale Act I Otello, "Dio ti giocondi, O Sposo" Otello, "Dio mi potevi, scagliar" Otello, Willow Song Otello and "Libiamo," La Traviata. $25-$55. 703-563-1990 or www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 12

The 129th Edition of Cole Bros. Circus of the Stars. 1:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., at Dulles Town Center, 21100 Dulles Town Circle, Dulles. An American-style circus complete with elephants, tigers, aerialists and acrobats, magic and clowns. $16. www.gotothecircus.com.

Sunday Afternoon Dances. 2:30-4:30 p.m., at RCC Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Dance and/or socialize at an afternoon featuring music of all genres; light refreshments served. $3 for Reston residents; $6 non-residents. www.RestonCommunityCenter.com.

THURSDAY/MAY 16

Popsicle Picnic and Membership Drive. 10 a.m.-noon, at Bready Park, 816 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Herndon-area mothers are invited to bring a picnic lunch to complement free bagels with coffee and popsicle treats for children as part of a membership drive; games are available for children. Herndon_moms_info@yahoo.com.

FRIDAY/MAY 17

Opening Night: Party On. 6-9 p.m., at Town Center Pavilion, Reston Town Center, Reston. The party with live music, entertainment, a silent auction, signature cocktails and local prominent business leaders and elected officials, providing an opportunity for art lovers, sponsors, media, donors and for the public to celebrate to benefit the Greater Reston Arts Center's educational program; $75-$250. http://www.eventbrite.com/event/4769049355?Buy=Purchase+Tickets#.

SATURDAY/MAY 18

22nd Annual Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at Reston Town Center, 12001 Market St., Reston. Contemporary artwork from over 200 artists in 16 categories. www.RestonArts.org or www.NorthernVirginiaFineArtsFestival.org.

American Cancer Society Relay for Life Reston. 1-8 p.m. for tennis, 8 p.m.-8 a.m. for walking, at South Lakes High School, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston. One hour of tennis or walking the track for a $10 donation; join the "Tennis Team for Life." 703-435-6502, www.restonrelay.org or relayforlife@restontennis.org.

Lonesome Highway. 7:30 p.m., at the Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. Lonesome Highway from Romney, W. Va., perform traditional bluegrass music; barrier and smoke free facility, refreshments provided. $12. Free for children under 12. 703-435-8377 or kd4fue2@verizon.net.

Opera for the People. 7:30 p.m., at Reston Community Center, 2401 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Vienna Choral Society and The Reston Chorale present an accessible concert of Verdi and Copland. $25; $20 for seniors/students; free for youth 15 and under accompanied by an adult. www.viennachoralsociety.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 19

22nd Annual Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Reston Town Center, 12001 Market St., Reston. Contemporary artwork from over 200 artists in 16 categories. www.RestonArts.org or www.NorthernVirginiaFineArtsFestival.org.

The Reston Community Orchestra Concert. 4 p.m., Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Preceding the concert at 3 p.m. there will be a reception recognizing local music educators. www.restoncommunityorchestra.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 25

Cathy Ponton King: Blues and Sweet Ballads. 7 p.m., at the Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Cathy Ponton King and his team will perform some blues and ballads at VIVA! VIENNA !. 703-255-4742 or info@vivavienna.org.

THURSDAY/MAY 30

NVHC Speaker Series. 8 p.m., at Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, 1441 Wiehle Ave., Reston. Leonard Saxe, Klutznick Professor of Contemporary Jewish Studies and director of the Cohen Center for Jewish Modern Studies and the Steinhardt Social Research Institute at Brandeis University, speaks on "The Future of Liberal Judaism in America: What We Can Learn from the Birthright Israel Generation." www.nchcreston.org.

SATURDAY/JUNE 1

Jimmy Gaudreau and Moondi Klein. 7:30 p.m., at the Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. These two musicians will play bluegrass music they have been performing individually with many of the top bands of the genre such as The Country Gentleman and Chesapeake. Barrier and smoke free facility. Refreshments provided. $15. Free for children under 12. 703-435-8377 or kd4fue2@verizon.net.

Photo contributed

Don Reno and Bill Harrell, the sons of the legendary Bluegrass Originals, have formed a new band dedicated to the music of their father. The band is performing at the Holy Cross Lutheran Church Friday, May 10.

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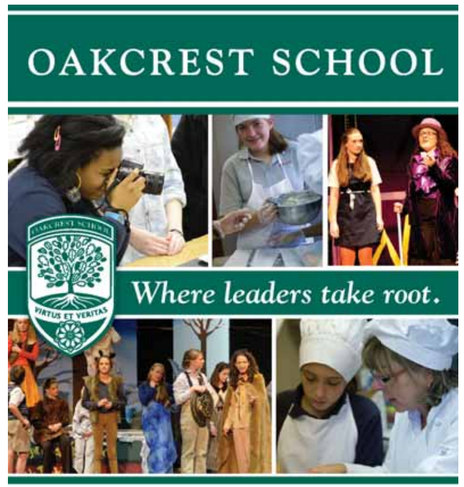

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Sports

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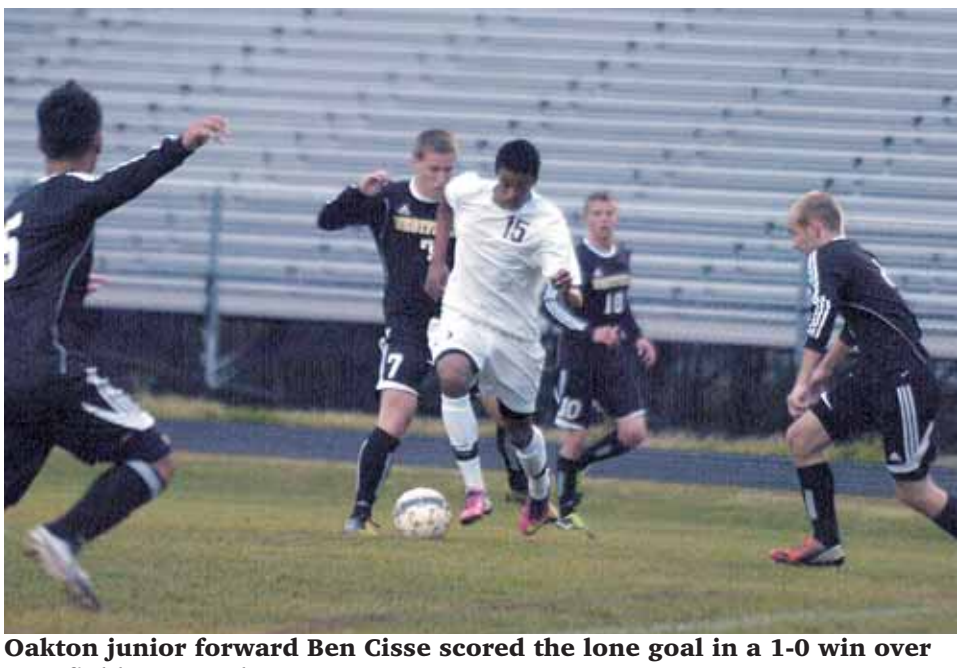


Oakton junior forward Ben Cisse scored the lone goal in a 1-0 win over Westfield on Monday.

Oakton's Christian Ollen (8) and Westfield's Matt Lazor battle for the ball while Oakton's Patrick Moore (7) looks on during Monday's contest at Oakton High School.

Photos by Craig Sterbutzel/The Connection

Oakton Boys' Soccer Finishes Regular Season Undefeated

Cougars beat Westfield on senior night.

By Jon Roetman
The Connection

The Oakton boys' soccer team completed an undefeated regular season on Monday with a 1-0 victory against Westfield at Oakton High School.

While compiling an 11-0-2 record is a notable achievement, head coach Todd Spitalny said the Cougars hadn't talked about remaining unbeaten, instead choosing to focus on larger goals. In fact, the aspect of Monday's victory most likely to help Oakton's cause was simply the contest's competitive nature.

Prior to facing Westfield, the Cougars won five of their previous six games by at least three goals. Oakton was often able to relax late in games with victory all but assured.

On Monday, the Cougars were locked in a scoreless tie with the Bulldogs until junior forward Ben Cisse found the back of the net in the 68th minute.

"We haven't thought about the undefeated record once this year," Spitalny said. "That's not our goal. … Our goal was to win the regular season and go after the district title [and] give ourselves a shot in the regional [tournament] and go from there. … We're just starting to get guys back healthy so we're trying to mix guys back in, still. We're scoring a lot of goals, but part of our problem is we have not had to play our guys a full game yet—other than [during ties against] Lake Braddock and Herndon—so tonight was great because we finally had to play the guys full force."

> "To grind out a game like this, this is really good for our team. We've been able to step back for the last 30, 40 minutes of each game, but this game, we really had to fight to the last whistle."
> —Oakton senior Patrick Moore

Prior to the Westfield win, Oakton's last five victories came against Wakefield, Centreville, Chantilly, Robinson and Yorktown by a combined score of 23-6.

"To grind out a game like this, this is really good for our team," senior midfielder Patrick Moore said. "We've been able to step back for the last 30, 40 minutes of each game. But this game, we really had to fight to the last whistle."

Westfield finished the regular season 3-7-3.

"I thought we played really well," Westfield head coach Sean Lanigan said. " … Our goal was to stop [Oakton senior midfielder] Patrick [Moore]. He was their big playmaker—and Christian [Ollen]—so we man-marked him with my captain and I thought he did an outstanding job. Patrick was not a factor in this game at all."

The Cougars earned the Concorde District's No. 1 seed. They will have a bye in the first round of the district tournament and are automatically in the Northern Region tournament.

Monday was senior night for Oakton. Defender Eddie Gerow, forward Jared Schulman, midfielders Moore and Ollen, defenders Sep Zomorodi and Jay Bundren and midfielder Daniel Helms were honored.

Sophomore forward Armand Jeffris is Oakton's leading goal-scorer.

With the arrival of the postseason, the Cougars have already reached some of their goals—and they just happened to be undefeated, as well.

"We have unfinished business," Spitalny said.

Sports Roundups

Herndon Girls' Laxers Earn All-district Honors

Eleven members of the Herndon girls' lacrosse team received all-Concorde District honors for the 2013 season.

Freshman attack Maureen Curran and junior midfielder Rachel Delmontagne were named to the first team. Sophomore attack Michelle Huchette, midfielders Kerry Curran (freshman) and Alexis Duke (sophomore) and goalkeeper Jessica Corum (freshman) were named to the second team. Junior midfielder Katherine Wilson, freshman attack Leanne Janowski, sophomore midfielder Katherine Dougherty, junior midfielder Alexandra Asack and junior midfielder Sarah Suter garnered honorable mention.

Herndon finished 6-8-1 in 2013, ending its season with a 17-16 loss to Robinson on Friday, May 3, in the quarterfinals of the Concorde District tournament.

Herndon Boys' Lax Ends Season

The Herndon boys' lacrosse team lost to Centreville 13-2 on Friday, May 3, in the Concorde District tournament quarterfinals, ending the Hornets' season.

Herndon finished with a 1-11 record. The Hornets beat Falls Church 15-8 on April 5.

Herndon Boys' Soccer Earns Regional Berth

The Herndon boys' soccer team finished 3-0-2 in Concorde District play, earning the No. 2 seed in the district tournament and a first-round bye. Herndon also received an automatic berth in the Northern Region tournament.

The Hornets defeated Robinson 2-0 on Monday, May 6, improving their record to 8-1-3. Herndon will close the regular season at Yorktown at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 8.

South Lakes Boys' Soccer Wins 11th Straight

The South Lakes boys' soccer team defeated Fairfax 1-0 on May 2, giving the Seahawks 11 consecutive victories.

South Lakes will close the regular season at home against Langley at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 8.

South Lakes Boys', Girls' Lax End Season vs. Langley

The South Lakes boys' and girls' lacrosse teams each lost to Langley in the Liberty District tournament quarterfinals on Friday, May 3, ending their respective season.

Courtney Thomas, of The Picket Fence in Burke, suggests presenting mom with an array of bath and body treats to create a spa experience at home.

Moms with sophisticated palates might enjoy sipping from a hand-painted wine glass.

Ann O'Shields, of The Nest Egg in Fairfax, says jewelry like bangles and charm bracelets are great for Mother's Day.

Mother's Day Gift Ideas

Suggestions for honoring mom on her special day.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

Mother's Day is less than a week away. For some, choosing the perfect gift for mom can be a nerve-wracking exercise. If you're still looking for the perfect present, local style gurus offer suggestions that they say will please even the most discerning of women.

For stylish mothers, Allison Priebe Brooks of Queen Bee Designs in Alexandra, recommends the sentimentality of matching parent-child jewelry: "It is fun to match or coordinate fashions with your child, especially on Mother's Day," she said. "You can do that with dresses or bold prints, but you can also do it with your jewelry. Little girls love to dress up and match their mothers, and jewelry is one thing that just about always fits and it can be passed down from generation to generation."

A spa day at home will give exhausted moms a chance to unwind, says Courtney Thomas of The Picket Fence in Burke. "Treat mom to a spa day at home [with] a new line bath line from The Charleston Soap Chef [which includes] lotion, hand and body wash, body butter and sugar scrub. We've been encouraging customers to put a few pieces together and pamper Mom without having to go to a spa."

> "For moms who enjoy relaxing with a glass of wine, hand-painted wine glasses are a great gift."
> — Courtney Thomas of The Picket Fence in Burke

Hand creams by Pre de Provence, rich in shea butter and available in crisp scents like lavender and verbena, are luxurious choices, said Angela Phelps, of Le Village Marche in Arlington. "Every woman can use a good hand crème in her purse," she said.

Ann O'Shields, of The Nest Egg in Fairfax, said, "Perfumes, lotions and candles from lines including Lollia, Tocca and Niven Morgan are a luxurious treat for moms.

For those thinking ahead to summer, O'Shields suggests a brightly hued tote bag. "Scout bags are the perfect accessory for summer at the beach, baseball games and every day." She also suggests colorful handbags, wallets and tech accessories.

MOMS WITH SOPHISTICATED palates might enjoy sipping from a hand-painted wine glass. "For moms who enjoy relaxing with a glass of wine, hand-painted wine glasses are a great gift," said Thomas. "They are all hand-painted by a local artist and are available in a variety of colors and designs."

For moms who love jewelry, O'Shields suggests putting a ring on it — or even a bracelet. "Jewelry ranging from bangles and charm bracelets … are great for Mother's Day." For a personal touch, she adds, "Engraved monogrammed charms and necklaces with children's initials are a special way to give Mom jewelry that reminds her of family. Precious Metal Prints include a kit for making a fingerprint mold that is then mailed to the artisan to transfer to a charm."

Epicureans with a penchant for entertaining would relish a cookbook line called "The Gathering of Friends," says Thomas. "It … comes in five volumes, complete with table-setting ideas, shopping lists and beautiful photography. They are more than your typical cookbook."

Another idea for mothers who enjoy all things culinary: kitchen accessories. "If mom still has dishtowels from 40 years ago, why not swap them out for some new ones?" said Phelps of Le Village Marche. "I love … vibrantly colored French towels from Jean Vier. Coming from the Basque region and made of 100 percent cotton jacquard, these oversized tea towels [32 inches by 23 inches] are beautifully and delicately woven. They can be machine-washed and dry wonderfully with no need for ironing."

For moms who enjoy photographing their offspring, O'Shields recommends the book "Photographing Your Children: A Handbook of Style and Instruction" by Jen Altman.

And for displaying those photographs, Thomas said, "We [have] … frames … that all have a sentimental words and saying and are a step beyond the traditional frame. They also have 'memory magnets' with a clip to attach a picture … great for hanging pictures, notes and favorite art."

O'Shields said, "Picture frames make a wonderful gift and they are even more special when you take the time to have a picture printed and include it in the frame when you give the gift."

Local REAL ESTATE

Photos by Craig Sterbutzel/The Connection

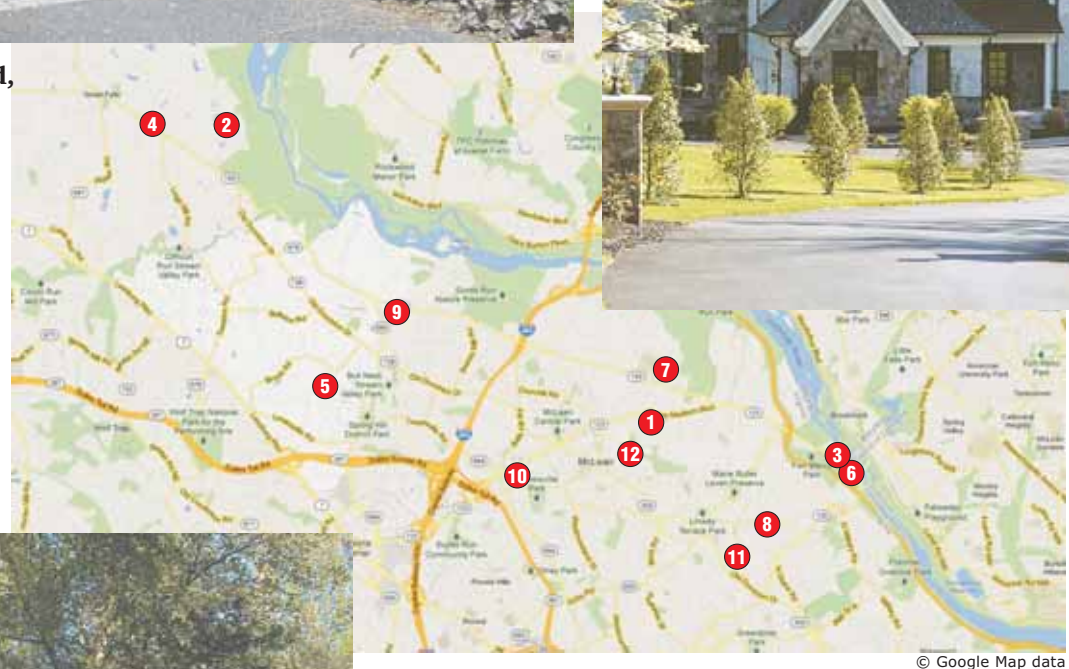
March, 2013 Top Sales in Great Falls and McLean

In March 2013, 26 Great Falls homes sold between $5,634,180-$425,000 and 82 homes sold between $9,300,000-$186,500 in the McLean and Falls Church area.

3 626 Chain Bridge Road, McLean — $5,175,000

2 633 River Bend Road, Great Falls — $5,634,180

4 9601 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls — $3,850,000



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5 1165 Orlo Drive, McLean — $3,675,000

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	PostalCode	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 1288 BALLANTRAE FARM DR	12	10	3	MCLEAN	$9,300,000	Detached	6.27	22101	BALLANTRAE FARMS	03/05/13
2 633 RIVER BEND RD	7	7	3	GREAT FALLS	$5,634,180	Detached	5.00	22066	GREAT FALLS HEIGHTS	03/29/13
3 626 CHAIN BRIDGE RD	5	7	3	MCLEAN	$5,175,000	Detached	1.00	22101	CHAIN BRIDGE	03/21/13
4 9601 GEORGETOWN PIKE	6	6	3	GREAT FALLS	$3,850,000	Detached	4.80	22066	NEW HOME	03/08/13
5 1165 ORLO DR	7	8	2	MCLEAN	$3,675,000	Detached	0.99	22102	WOODLEA MILL	03/25/13
6 407 CHAIN BRIDGE RD	5	5	2	MCLEAN	$3,600,000	Detached	1.92	22101	ARLINGWOOD	03/19/13
7 1005 TURKEY RUN RD	5	5	3	MCLEAN	$3,500,000	Detached	0.99	22101	LANGLEY HILL	03/25/13
8 1700 FOREST LN	6	5	3	MCLEAN	$2,620,000	Detached	0.51	22101	CHESTERBROOK WOODS	03/11/13
9 903 GEORGETOWN RIDGE CT	4	5	2	MCLEAN	$2,400,000	Detached	0.85	22102	GEORGETOWN RIDGE	03/29/13
10 1485 EVANS FARM DR	5	4	1	MCLEAN	$2,395,000	Detached	0.14	22101	EVANS FARM	03/11/13
11 0 FRANKLIN PARK RD	5	5	0	MCLEAN	$2,250,000	Detached	1.22	22101	COUNTRY ACRES	03/13/13
12 6520 TOPEKA RD	5	5	1	MCLEAN	$2,100,000	Detached	0.40	22101	SALONA VILLAGE	03/29/13

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In the great room of this Great Falls home Andrea Houck, of A. Houck Designs, added window treatments to the wall of French doors and hung art over the fireplace to create a functional, but stylish space.

Photo by Lydia Cutter

Creating Serene, Relaxing Spaces

Local interior designer talks color and comfort.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

Photo courtesy of A. Houck Designs

Andrea Houck began her career with the renovation of her own home.

Even when Arlington-based interior designer Andrea Houck was a toddler, she seemed to have an eye for detail. When her parents updated their bedroom with new wallpaper, for example, it was their young daughter who noticed the pattern had been hung upside down.

After beginning a career in art direction and advertising, the North Carolina native shifted gears and turned childhood flair for detail into an interior design business. She began with the renovation of her own home.

> "I pride myself on bringing out my client's aesthetic, making the spaces individual for that person."
>
> — Andrea Houck of A. Houck Designs

"I transitioned from the two-dimensional world of art direction to the three-dimensional world of interior design," said Houck. "I always enjoyed the tactile world of graphic design that included drawings and once everything became so digitally based, I transitioned into interior design."

Houck describes her style as transitional and often eschews neutral colors in favor of lively hues. "I also like color and am not afraid to use it," she said. "And scale is one of the most important elements to good design. I pride myself on bringing out my client's aesthetic, making the spaces individual for that person. I also offer a range of styles, from traditional to more contemporary. My work reflects my disciplined approach to design as well as each client's personality and lifestyle."

The designer enjoys the challenge of beautifying public spaces, like a living room or dining room, while making them simultaneously chic and functional. She points to one example in the design of a great room in a home in Great Falls.

"This great room had a dual focus: the fireplace and the television," said Houck. "The challenge was updating the space to be family friendly with comfortable fabrics while adding a punch of color. I added window treatments to the wall of French doors, art over the fireplace, and recovered some existing seating."

A master bedroom, study and porch that she designed for an Arlington family reflects her ability, said Houck, to incorporate a client's needs into a chic design. "The busy couple wanted a serene setting, so I updated the space with more storage, added a custom desk, dual chest of drawers with his and hers mirrors, upholstered headboard, seating with ottoman, wallpaper, lighting and custom colored rug."

The bedroom and bathroom of a Fairfax home also shows that she is not afraid to add a touch of whimsy. "In the bedroom, I removed carpet and installed hardwood flooring, updated the tray ceiling with moldings and chandelier. … The bath was updated with a new tub with jets, new vanity … hand-painted tiles and marble floor."

Colleagues say one of Houck's greatest strengths is her ability to create room designs that reflect the homeowner's personality. "Andrea has always been one of my favorite designers in the Washington area," said Beverly Ross, who owns Beverly Ross Designs. "She is thorough and detailed, but also realizes that design should be fun."

Houck says she is passionate about donating her time and talent to charity and has joined design-related projects such Tuckahoe Home & Garden Tour in Arlington. This year, Houck was tapped to redesign a French modern bar and side hall in the 2013 DC Design House, which benefited Children's National Medical Center.

"She transformed the bar area into a must-see stop between the kitchen and dining room by adding antiqued mirrors, cool LED lighting, and an onyx countertop. She also faux-grained the cabinets, added handmade wallpaper and fantastic art," said Taylor Wells, the DC Design House designer liaison. "Her attention to detail was spot-on and the finished design is dazzling, just what a home of this caliber needed."

OPEN HOUSES
SATURDAY/SUNDAY, MAY 11 & 12

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

Chantilly

42344 Astors Beachwood	$790,000	Sun 1-4	Chris Pezzana	Weichert	703-447-1662

Clifton

7500 Maple Branch Rd	$830,000	Sun 1-4	Diane Lenahan	Wolf Run	703-283-7328

Dunn Loring

7954 Arden Ct	$777,500	Sat 1-4	Mike Dotterweich	RE/MAX	571-334-7406

Fairfax Station

6906 Winners Cir	$849,000	Sun 1-4	Morgan Knull	RE/MAX	202-431-9867
11544 Clara Barton Dr	$710,000	Sun 1-4	Christine Shevock	RE/MAX	703-475-3986

Great Falls

10906 Great Point Ct	$1,335,000	Sat 12-3	Leslie Thurman	Long & Foster	703-895-6000

Herndon

12913 Alton Sq	$1,600 per mo	Sun 1-4	Chris Pezzana	Weichert	703-447-1662

McLean

7023 Old Dominion Dr	$1,699,000	Sat 2-4	Monica Gibson	Keller Williams	703-944-3434
1818 Barbee St	$689,000	Sun 1-4	Tracy Wilder	McEnearney	703-599-1066

Oakton

10500 Samaga Dr	$998,500	Sun 1-4	Evelyn Petros	Long & Foster	301-229-4000

Springfield

8203 Taunton Pl	$549,950	Sun 1-4	Kathleen Quintarelli	Weichert	703-862-8808
7255 Beverly Park Dr	$379,000	Sat 1-4	Fatana Barak	Samson Props	571-218-2507

Sterling

4 Newland Ct	$399,900	Sun 12-3	Patrick Seville	Samson Props	703-297-5855

Vienna

1622 Lozano Dr	$729,000	Sun 1-4	Dane Work	RE/MAX	703-869-4567
115 Follin Ln SE	$679,900	Sun 1-4	Mary Kimball	Coldwell Banker	703-938-5600

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

All listings due by Monday at 3 P.M.

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-William Van Horne

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-St. Francis de Sales

28 Yard Sales

Quality Yard Sale on May 11 from 9:00-4:00. Rain or Shine. 107 Red Oak Lane, Sterling, VA (Near Herndon Golf Course) Many brand new items in boxes never opened or used. Bissel ProHeat Shampoo, JVC MiniDV Stereo Camcorder and Accessories, Beautiful Honey Maple Two-Pedestal Desk, LG Dehumidifier, Extensive Record Collection, BabyTrend Playard Model 8025 CPSC approved, and much more. Can send pictures and discuss before Saturday. Email: Richardson_jackie@yahoo.com. (703) 481-3546.

21 Announcements

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Fairfax Water

FAIRFAX COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
Notice of Public Hearing

Resolution Authorizing Acquisition of Easements Necessary for Public Purposes by Eminent Domain or Other Means

May 23, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

The Fairfax County Water Authority will hold a public hearing pursuant to Va. Code Ann. § 15.2-1903 on **at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 23, 2013**, to receive public comments on a proposed Resolution authorizing the acquisition of easements necessary for the improvement and expansion of Fairfax Water's water system infrastructure adjacent to sections of the Richmond Highway (U.S. Route 1) in Fairfax County. The improvement and expansion is required to provide adequate capacity to serve existing and future customers. The necessary easements are to be located across several parcels of land adjacent to U.S. Route 1, more particularly described as Fairfax County Tax Map Parcels 083-3-01-0037, 083-3-01-0038, 083-3-01-0040, 083-3-01-0041, 083-3-08-B, 093-1-01-0019, 093-1-01-0025, 093-1-16-0013, 092-2-18-06-0001A, and 093-1-18A-0001. Following the public hearing, the Water Authority Board may vote on or after June 6, 2013, to adopt the proposed Resolution.

The proposed Resolution and other related information can be viewed at Fairfax Water's Website at http://www.fairfaxwater.org.

The public hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed resolution should call Eva Catlin at (703) 289-6017. Interested parties also may submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water
Public Hearing Comments
8570 Executive Park Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, May 22, 2013 to be included in the record of the public hearing.

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I believe the future is only the past again, entered through another gate.
-Arthur Wing Pinero

Manifest Destiny

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Are the miscellaneous symptoms I'm feeling, physically, the cancer manifesting itself or rather is it simply yours truly aging semi gracefully and realizing my "Star-Trekkian" destiny: Living long and prospering (I equate above average/unexpected good health with prospering), despite my less-than-encouraging, original NSCLC (stage IV) diagnosis and subsequent "terminal" prognosis? Or am I, as I have said many times before, "a victim of soycumstance?" Not one to ever look a gift horse in the mouth or not quote/invoke/refer to Star Trek, The Three Stooges, M*A*S*H or Seinfeld whenever possible; nevertheless, as you regular readers have come to realize about this or perhaps any "terminal" patient with whom you've had any interaction: Being able to control what we think and in turn how we sometimes behave; selfishly, irrationally, illogically; and dare I admit, incoherently, is a bit unrealistic. Although, we try to try; more often than not, we fail (at least I do). Being diagnosed with a type of cancer for which there is, at present, no known cure leads to a sort of emotional incontinence (my made-up phrase): everything doesn't exactly come out as planned and there may not be a Depends-type of solution for it.

I'm not suggesting or implying that "terminal"/diagnosed-with-incurable cancer patients are unable or even unwilling to censor themselves or act reasonably, responsibly, intelligently, etc., in the face of presumptive certain death, it's more that when something (a normal life expectancy) is adversely affected – through the randomness of life, the impact on your brain/thought processes is incalculable. It's akin to attempting to describe the taste of milk: You know what you're supposed to do, but you just can't do it. And what makes this circumstance even more challenging – to me, is the longer I live, post-diagnosis, the less I'm inclined to even care about trying to "do it." When your future/destiny is snatched away from you – unfairly or not, all bets are off and predicting any kind of consistent behavioral adherence to societal norms from us lucky-to-be-alive survivors might be expecting a bit too much.

Oh sure, we'll have our moments – and manners and mores where it appears as if the cancer is having a minimal effect; however, at the end of the day – and night, during those private, only-you-know-what-you're-feeling bouts of depression, control or rather your lack thereof, will likely rear its ugly emotional head. It's not so much traumatic as it is familiar and surely enough, as the old saying goes: This familiarity definitely breeds contempt.

And so it becomes a constant battle. Not exactly good versus evil but more so: What's fact and what's fiction? What's truth and what's a consequence? And most importantly, what's cancer and what's simply being the age you are. I always default to the latter – for obvious reasons, but for all I know, it could be the former.

I suppose at this juncture, given the recent death of Allan Arbus, who played psychiatrist Sidney Freedman on the long-running television show, M*A*S*H, perhaps I should follow his most famous advice: "Pull your pants down and slide on the ice." And chill. Life's too short. (Don't I know it!)

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

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