

W&OD Trail Lighting Proposed

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This section of the W&OD Trail, just west of Van Buren Street, is the subject of a proposal that would light 3,800 feet of trail between Van Buren Street and Ferndale Avenue.

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PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

W&OD Trail Lighting Proposed

Project would light 3,800 feet of trail within town borders.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The Town of Herndon's Department of Parks and Recreation will begin to seek public comment on a proposal to light a 3,800-foot section of the W&OD Trail. The proposal, which would include submission of a Recreation and Trails Grant to the state's Department of Conservation and Recreation, calls for approximately 50 light posts, along with necessary electrical equipment and underground wiring.

The portion of the trail that would be lit starts at Van Buren Street and runs northwest to Ferndale Avenue. It runs through the heart of downtown Herndon, past the town green, Fortnightly Library, Herndon Community Center and Bready Park.

"I'm all for anything that encourages use of the trail, but it seems like there are many other sections that would benefit a lot more from lighting," said Ben Jameson, a regular bike rider on the trail. "Downtown Herndon is fairly well lit and open, and so is the area near Bready Park. If it's a safety concern, there are other sections, particularly just east of Van Buren, that are a lot more secluded and remote."

The W&OD Trail is classified as a regional



The intersection of the W&OD Trail and Ferndale Avenue will be the western border of a project that would place lights on the trail.

park, maintained by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. It includes 45 miles of trail from the Shirlington section of Arlington County to Purcellville, in western Loudoun County.

The park is open from dawn to dusk. The

proposal would include timers to restrict use after closing.

"If the trail is supposed to be closed after dusk, I'm not sure what good it would do to light the trail, which would seem to encourage uses after dark," said Sherri

Benvolio. "If the section being lit is going to be less than a mile, I'm worried that it will encourage people to come out after dark, and that if they're on a jog or bike ride, they'll feel it's OK to go past the lighted area, which is away from roads and makes people more vulnerable."

A second phase of the project would include an additional 2,200 feet of lighting, consisting of approximately 30 fixtures, continuing northwest from Ferndale Avenue to Crestview Drive. That stretch passes mostly along the Herndon Centennial Golf Course, and passes over Herndon Parkway.

According to the town's Parks and Recreation staff, the project has been identified by the town's Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2013 through 2017.

The public comment period will be open from Friday, Aug. 23 through Tuesday, Sept. 25. Comments must be received in writing, and must include the sender's name, mailing address and telephone number.

Comments can be submitted by e-mail to parksandrec@herndon-va.gov, with "W&OD Trail Lighting Project" in the subject line, by mail at Town of Herndon Parks and Recreation Department, c/o W&OD Trail Lighting Project, P.O. Box 427, Herndon, Va. 20172, or by fax at 703-318-8652.

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Petersen to Governor: Explain, Deny, Return or Resign

Petersen first Virginia legislator to suggest McDonnell resign over alleged wrongdoing in accepting gifts from prominent donor.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

The tipping point for state Sen. J. Chap Petersen (D-34) was the \$6,500 Rolex watch.

Reports about the Rolex, one in a series of lavish gifts reportedly given to Gov. Robert F. McDonnell (R) and members of his family by a major campaign donor, told Petersen it was time to send a stern letter to the governor asking him to “come clean on this matter” by explaining the gifts, denying the reports, or resigning from office.

On Tuesday, July 2, Petersen sent his letter, becoming the first Virginia lawmaker to suggest McDonnell’s resignation in the wake of the deepening controversy.

“When I heard about the Rolex watch and the circumstances of that gift, that was when I knew I had to speak out,” Petersen said on Friday. “I actually drafted my letter a couple days before, but did not send it right away. I was waiting to see if somebody else would step up, but nobody did. So we mailed it out on the morning of July 2. I also called the governor’s staff and emailed them a copy.”

LATER THAT NIGHT, Petersen appeared on MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow show, featuring Maddow’s liberal and animated take on the political news of the day.

Maddow asked him if it was the “overall weight of the allegation, the long list of things he has ... allegedly received in his capacity as governor” or one item in particular that prompted the letter.

“I have three daughters, so when I heard about the \$15,000 spent on the wedding reception, that kind of took me aback,” Petersen told Maddow. “There was a lot of joking about it, and I guess people thought maybe this was a one-time thing, maybe there’s an explanation.” But Petersen said as the weeks went by with revelations of “one item after another,” he was dismayed by the deafening silence.

“There’s been no explanation from the governor ... and hiding behind ‘no comment,’ that’s not working. The people of Virginia deserve better,” Petersen said.

In an interview Friday, Petersen said he didn’t know why other members of his party had remained silent about the gifts McDonnell reportedly received from Jonnie R. Williams Sr., CEO of Star Scientific, which manufactures dietary supplements.

“Because of that continuing silence, I felt compelled to step forward. I didn’t understand why everyone was afraid to speak out, when this was so obviously wrong,” Petersen said.

For the past several months, reports have



State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) in his Fairfax office.



Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) at a 2012 legislative conference.

Petersen’s Letter

Dear Governor McDonnell:

In recent weeks, I have read numerous reports regarding gifts your family reportedly received from Mr. Jonnie Williams and his company Star Scientific, Inc. The substance of these reports gives the strong impression that your family was materially and systematically benefited by this person and his company, at least over the past two years. Few, if any, of these gifts were reported in the public disclosures that you (like all of us) must file with the Secretary of the Commonwealth. In return, it appears that you allowed this person to use the Governor’s Mansion and the Governor’s Office for the purpose of giving unique credibility to his company. That is unacceptable.

I am writing you directly to ask that you come clean on this matter. If you or your family has received gifts of the type alleged, then you should disclose that fully and immediately.

If those gifts are consumer items which you have retained for personal use, then you should return them immediately to the donor — or sell them and donate the money to the Literary Fund. That is the only method by which the public can regain trust in your Office. Without that trust, there is no purpose in continuing to serve.

If you are unable to explain (or deny) these reports or return the items, then I humbly suggest that you should step down as Governor and permit the Lieutenant Governor to serve out the balance of your term, pursuant to Article V, Section 16 of the Virginia Constitution.

Chapman Petersen
Member, Senate of Virginia

surfaced about the lavish gifts Williams gave to McDonnell and first lady Maureen McDonnell, including clothing, money and trips. The gifts included \$15,000 in catering for the 2011 wedding of McDonnell’s daughter at Virginia’s historic Executive Mansion.

McDonnell has said he did not disclose the catering because it was a wedding present to his daughter, and he has been thorough in his annual financial disclosures regarding gifts. In January, he told The Richmond-Times Dispatch that the Rolex was a gift from his wife.

The ongoing revelations about the gifts, and the lack of disclosure from the governor, are at the crux of ongoing state and federal investigations.

On April 29, it was first reported that federal authorities were interviewing

McDonnell and the first lady about their relationship to Williams, as well as actions the McDonnells may have taken that benefited Williams and his company.

In May, it was reported that Richmond Commonwealth’s Attorney Michael Herring is investigating whether McDonnell violated state gift and disclosure laws.

According to The Virginia Public Access Project, Star Scientific and Williams gave \$130,000 to Virginia officials and a PAC that supports McDonnell from 2009 to 2012.

“It is not illegal to accept gifts,” said Del. Dave Albo (R-42), the most senior delegate from Northern Virginia. “They are just supposed to be reported.”

According to Virginia state law, McDonnell must disclose all gifts to him worth more than \$50. But he does not have to disclose gifts to immediate family mem-

bers or gifts received from family or “personal friends.”

“I’m not saying it’s illegal,” Petersen said. “I’m saying it’s unacceptable.”

Petersen said he was also bothered by the quid pro quo nature of the gifts. In August 2011, the first couple hosted a launch party for one of Star Scientific’s products at the governor’s mansion.

“The reports give the strong impression that your family was materially and systematically benefited by this person and his company. ... In return, it appears that you allowed this person to use the Governor’s Mansion and the Governor’s Office for the purpose of giving unique credibility to his company,” Petersen wrote in the letter.

Petersen said the only response he’s had to his letter from the governor’s office was a call from McDonnell’s lawyer. “His lawyer called me and basically told me that his client could not talk because of the investigation. My response was ‘this is not just a legal issue. Your client needs to tell the people of this state what’s going on.’”

“As an attorney, certainly Senator Petersen understands this office’s not discussing the details of matters pending in the legal process,” said Tucker Martin, a spokesman for the governor, in a statement released last week. “And, as a legislator, certainly Senator Petersen is aware that Virginia’s disclosure requirements do not pertain to the families of elected officials.”

Martin also called the letter “blatantly political.”

SOME LOCAL OFFICIALS agree.

“Chap’s letter was political grandstanding,” said Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock). “I am disappointed to see this issue out there. It is absolutely important to maintain integrity in government. But right now no one has proved any wrongdoing, so we just need to let the process [investigation] play out.”

“Honestly, I would prefer that someone else be doing this,” Petersen said. “I take zero joy in staking out this position.”

Petersen added that he has known McDonnell for 12 years and considers him sincere, forthright and unfailingly courteous.

“I still can’t believe that he would permit this type of dealings in his household. That’s why the Star Scientific reports are such a shock,” Petersen said.

During a gathering at Reston’s Lake Thoreau pool during the 4th of July holiday, several people were discussing the issue.

While some residents were highly critical, Peggy Hancuff said the issue of the governor’s alleged gifts was relatively unimportant. “There are politics that are important, such as voter ID and the governor’s election coming up, and then there are politics that are a distraction. This is a distraction. There are bigger issues out there,” Hancuff said.

Town Calendar Exhibit Opens at ArtSpace Herndon

ArtSpace Herndon has opened the annual Town of Herndon Calendar Exhibit, featuring finalists from the 2014 Town of Herndon Calendar Competition. "It is a good show, the quality of these photos is great," said ArtSpace Director Dale McGrath.

"This exhibit shows the great charm of our little town," said Mercia Hobson. "Each piece is a statement of the artists heart and soul." Hobson is vice president of the Board of Directors for the Herndon Foundation for the Cultural Arts.

"We had quite a few entrants, like a total of 130 photos entered," said Public Outreach Assistant Brenda Page. Page has been working with ArtSpace Herndon for more than a year. "We chose 60 photos and had 30 finalists. We are encouraging people to come vote for the people's choice photo. The last day to vote for that will be July 26. We also will have a reception on July 27 and will announce the 12 photos gracing the calendar."

"The judges will also have a few photos of their own on exhibit in the side gallery," said Page.

Competition judges Carla Steckley and Lee Love will evaluate the photographs submitted to the competition and pick the finalists. For this competition, professional and amateur photographers aged 16 and older were invited to submit entries. Subjects for all entries had to be located within the corporate limits of the Town of Herndon, with special consideration given to entries depicting people participating in seasonal and community events.



Mercia Hobson and Jeff French hang a photo which will be on exhibit at ArtSpace Herndon.

PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION



Brenda Page, ArtSpace volunteer and assistant.

"There are a lot of town events represented in the gallery. These include the Herndon Festival, Herndon Market and Friday Night Live. And all four seasons are shown as well," said Page. The exhibit closes on Aug. 4. To learn more about ArtSpace Herndon visit their webpage at <http://www.artspaceherndon.com>.

—RYAN DUNN

ENTERTAINMENT

Send announcements to herndon@connectionnewspapers.com. The deadline is the Friday prior to the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2013/apr/11/fairfax-county-calendar/>.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 10

Sacred Threads. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon. Sacred Threads 2013 is a national juried exhibition of more than 200 quilts exploring themes of spirituality, joy, grief and healing. \$5. www.florisumc.org.

The Grandsons Jr. 10-11 a.m., at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. The Grandsons Jr. play the upbeat mix of rock, swing, New Orleans R&B, country and Latin music. www.grandsonsjr.com.

Uncork'd Painting Class. Various times, at Fastframes, 11160-B South Lakes Drive, Reston. Starting July 10, take an acrylic painting class at Fastframe in Reston; see more painting classes to plan a creative night out. www.uncorkdart.com.

THURSDAY/JULY 11

The Aloha Boys. 7:30-8:30 p.m., at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. The Aloha Boys play kanikapila or an acoustic down-home, backyard-style Hawai'ian music, a style which includes everything from the very traditional to contemporary songs and styles. www.alohaboys.net.

FRIDAY/JULY 12

Drop Dead Sexy. 6:30-10:30 p.m., at 777 Lynn St., Herndon. Drop Dead Sexy has been entertaining audiences up and down the East Coast with their over-the-top stage show and their creative and extensive song repertoire. <http://www.herndonrocks.com/>.

Swell Daze Community Concert. 7:30-10 p.m., at Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Bowman Drive, Reston. A high school band performing rock-alt covers and originals. facebook.com/SwellDaze.

SATURDAY/JULY 13

Milkshake Duo. 10-11 a.m., at Lake Fairfax Park Amphitheater, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. The Grammy-nominated Milkshake Duo has released four award-winning CDs, a Parents Choice Silver award-winning DVD Screenplay, and has had music videos on Nick Jr., PBS KIDS and the Emmy-winning cartoon Todd World. www.milkshakemusic.com.

4th Annual Ukulele Festival. 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m., at Lake Anne Plaza, 609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Ukulele festival features performances by internationally

known and local ukulele musicians, music demonstrations, open to public jam session, beer garden, vendors and family friendly activities. www.lakeanneplaza.com.

Sacred Threads Meet The Artist Reception. 1-4 p.m., Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon. Sacred Threads 2013 is a national juried exhibition of more than 200 quilts exploring themes of spirituality, joy, grief and healing. \$5. www.florisumc.org.

Alma Tropicalia. 7:30-10 p.m., at the Pavilion, Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Alma Tropicalia plays bossa nova, samba and Brazilian fusion. <http://www.restontowncenter.com/events.html>.

MONDAY/JULY 15

League of Reston Artists' "Pop of Art." 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Parkridge 5 Building, 10780 Parkridge Blvd., Reston. The League of Reston Artists features works from a show judged by Linda Burke. www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 17

Rocknoceros. 10-11 a.m., at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Rocknoceros is a sensational three-man band hailing from Fairfax, performing original children's songs and much-loved favorites. www.rocknoceros.com.

Complimentary Dessert Tasting. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., at Edibles Incredible Desserts, 11917 Freedom Drive, Reston. Taste a variety of award-winning, homemade desserts. 703-709-8200 or ediblesincredible.com.

THURSDAY/JULY 18

The Special Consensus. 7:30-8:30 p.m., at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Bluegrass with an attitude describes The Special Consensus, a four-person acoustic bluegrass band that began performing in the Midwest. www.specialc.com/index.php.

FRIDAY/JULY 19

Right on Band. 6:30-10:30 p.m., at 777 Lynn St., Herndon. Right On Band is an authentic 10-piece show band with a full horn section. They have performed all over the world including Italy, Ethiopia, Canada, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, and the Bahamas. <http://www.herndonrocks.com/>.

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Meeting to Focus on Intersection Improvements

A public information meeting will be held to present proposed improvements planned for the intersection of Herndon Parkway and Van Buren Street. Attendees will be able to review options, learn how the plans address intersection congestion, ask questions and provide comments.

The meeting will take place Wednesday, July 17, 7 p.m. at Ingram Council Chambers, 765 Lynn Street, Herndon. Plans available for review at 6:30 p.m.

Presented by the Department of Public Works.

More information: www.herndon-va.gov.

The MOMS Club To Host Water And Pool Safety Session

The MOMS Club of Herndon will host a Water and Pool Safety session on Thursday, July 18, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Herndon Monroe Swim Club (1114 Monroe St., Herndon). All Herndon (zip codes 20170 and 20171) stay-at-home mothers are encouraged to attend this free event.

A lifeguard from the Herndon Monroe Swim Club will provide mothers with tips for keeping children safe in and around the pool. After the talk, children and moms in attendance will have time to enjoy playing in the pool.

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

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to herndon@connectionnewspapers.com by the Friday prior to the following week's paper.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 17

Herndon Improvements Public Meeting. 7 p.m., at Ingram Council Chambers, 765 Lynn St., Herndon. Join in a public meeting to discuss the Herndon Parkway/Van Buren Street intersection improvements; plans available for review at 6:30 p.m. www.herndon-va.gov.

MONDAY/JULY 22

Art Submission Deadline. Reston Bike Club and ArtSpace Herndon invite artists to enter two-dimensional media for the Century ride T-Shirt, with a theme related to Hamilton, Va., and road cycling; all mediums are acceptable including painting, drawing and photography. \$15. 703-956-6590 or www.artspaceherndon.org.

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Sea-themed accessories can add a beach-like tone to a backyard party, says Ann O'Shields of The Nest Egg in Fairfax.



PHOTOS COURTESY ANN O'SHIELDS OF THE NEST EGG



Ann O'Shields of The Nest Egg suggests serve wear made of melamine for outdoor entertaining. "Bright colors help set the tone for a festive gathering," she said.



A jewelry box that is kept in a bedroom is one of the least safe places for storing valuable jewelry.

MARILYN CAMPBELL/THE CONNECTION

Safeguarding Jewelry During Summer Vacations and Beyond

Experts offer simple safety suggestions for protecting valuables.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Kenzie Campbell left her home recently for a week-long trip to care for her ailing father. While she was away, her Northern Virginia home was burglarized, and in addition to a flat-screen television and an iMac computer, the thieves got away with all of her jewelry.

"I could care less about the television and the computer," she said. "But they took a Cartier ring that I bought during a family trip to Paris, my grandmother's wedding ring and almost all of the gemstone jewelry that my mother had given me, like a pair of denim sapphire earrings, which were my birthstone," she said. "It is heartbreaking, not because of the monetary value, but because of the sentimental value."

Summer is a time when many go on vacation and leave their homes unattended. In fact, according to the FBI, more burglaries occur during summer months than any other time of the year. The U.S. Department of Justice further reports that an American home is broken into about every 15 seconds. However, experts say there are simple precautions the average person can implement to safeguard valuable jewelry from potential burglars.

"A jewelry box is the worst place to store valuable jewelry," said jeweler and goldsmith George Kaufmann of Robert Bernard Jewelers in Potomac, Md. "A jewelry box is an invitation for a crook. Essentially, you're packaging all your valuables in one obvious place and making it easy for a crook to take."

In fact, the Jewelers' Security Alliance, a nonprofit trade association that provides crime prevention information, advises homeowners not to store their most precious jewelry in a bedroom or jewelry box. Statistically, it's the first place a burglar will look.

Campbell says that was her experience. "The burglars never went into my bathroom," she said. "They took all of the jewelry from drawers in my bedroom."

Diversion safes are clever options for hiding valuables. "There are a lot of items out there like books that are not really books but spaces for valuables or picture frames that are really security for jewelry," said Robin Wagner, an associate professor of interior design at Marymount University in Arlington. There

are even safes disguised as household food containers complete with barcoded wrappers, as well as decorative, wax candles that are made with interior metal storage compartments.

Kauffman says certain pieces of furniture also work well for hiding jewelry. "I had a client who has a piece of furniture that was an antique and it had a secret drawer that rotated," he explained. "It was something that nobody would ever find."

It's also a good idea to consider adding covert jewelry storage spaces, such as those suggested by Kauffman, during a home remodeling project. Unfortunately, Bob Gallagher of Sun Design Remodeling in Burke said, "It is not something that people are thinking of when they go into a remodeling project. Clients don't bring it up often. People want to remain hopeful that they aren't going to be a victim."

However, says Gallagher, jewelry storage is not a complicated process during a construction project. "You build a safe into the actual construction project, inside the framing of the house. Sometimes people ask for safes to be recessed into a closet so people can't walk away with it, and you could hang a picture over the safe to cover it."

Fairfax resident Susan Hergenrath, an assistant professor of interior design at Marymount University agrees, offering a caveat about traditional safes. "You can buy a safe, but if it is one that can be picked up and taken out, it is not much good."

Knowing the value of your jewelry is another component of safeguarding it. "You have to have it tested to determine whether the stones are real and [to] determine their quality," said Kauffman. "Sometimes a ring might be stamped 14k gold, but that doesn't guarantee that it is real. Have jewelry appraised and that will tell exactly what you have."

Valuable pieces of jewelry should be insured through one's homeowner's insurance policy, say experts. "If something is really valuable and irreplaceable, keep it in a safe deposit box at the bank," said Hergenrath. "Keep a photo and written inventory of your valuables and put that in the safe deposit box. That way if something is stolen, you have an accurate record."

Ideas For Summer Outdoor Entertaining

Local tastemakers offer design, decorating ideas for alfresco soirees.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Summer is a time when many enjoy outdoor gatherings with friends and family. From soirees in small courtyard spaces to poolside barbecues for a crowd, warm weather is often synonymous with alfresco entertaining.

From shatterproof platters and plates to furniture that can withstand the elements, outdoor accessories are plentiful. Local décor and design experts offer ideas for chic summer entertaining.

Robin Wagner, an associate professor of interior design at Marymount University in Arlington, says function and safety are top priorities when designing an outdoor space. "In talking about outdoor spaces, people view it as an extension of their home," said Wagner. "There are ways of making it feel like your home, but you have factors like weather impacting it, for example, the sun fading the fabrics or rain making things problematic. Companies now make furniture specifically for outdoor spaces."

Ann O'Shields, of The Nest Egg in Fairfax, says options for outdoor furniture are abundant. "The past few years have brought a huge introduction of outdoor materials that allow you to create an outdoor living space that is as beautifully decorated as your interior space. Indoor-outdoor rugs, seating, entertaining pieces and even artwork allow you to introduce wonderful color and texture to your deck, patio and garden spaces. Comfortable seating invites guests to linger long after the barbecue is over to enjoy cocktails and the evening air."

Wagner offers a caveat when purchasing furniture for outdoor use, however. "You don't want to end up with something that might look fine on the outside but that is holding in mold or mildew on the inside," she said. "Make sure

it has the correct inside component of foam or fill that is impervious to mold or mildew."

When choosing colors for outdoor furniture, experts say to consider your surroundings. "If your garden is vibrant in color, you want neutral fabric to let the flowers stand out," said Wagner. "If it is an open space, say a pool or grassy area, then you want the furniture to be the focus and you use vibrant colors and patterns."

When it comes to lighting, designer Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Interior Design in Bethesda, Md., suggests LED lights. "They come in the form of pillar candles and small votives and you don't have to worry about them catching fire or the wind blowing them out."

Wagner said, "Solar lighting has come a long way from what it was years ago. There are some great solar components out there. Don't think of lighting in the way you would inside your house. Use ambient lighting to set the mood for sitting outside and talking with your friends."

Susan Hergenrath, an assistant professor of interior design at Marymount University suggests stringing LED lights. "[They] can add sparkle. [They're] not just for winter holidays."

Candles are another lighting option, but they can serve multiple purposes. "Using candles not only helps keep the bugs at bay, but adds to the ambiance," said O'Shields.

While Hergenrath says homeowners should be mindful of candles that are unattended or if children are present, she also offers a decorative idea: "If you do use candles, vintage wooden spools make cool candle holders for tapers."

When it comes to casual serve ware, varieties are vast. "Melamine is a wonderful choice for outdoor serving while entertaining," said O'Shields. "Bright colors help set the tone for a festive gathering."

Proxmire adds that melamine can almost replicate indoor place settings. "There are melamine cups and plates that are patterned like Portuguese ceramic pieces," she said. "I had a client who went on [the website] Etsy.com and found navy blue and hot pink whale plates, monogrammed cozies and monogrammed disposable plates."

Unorthodox vessels can be used to hold accessories ranging from plants to utensils as well, allowing homeowners to expand their creativity. "Unexpected containers like a planter lined with plastic can be filled with ice to hold cold beverages," Proxmire said. "Mason jars are casual and [can be] used for flowers."

Chic and aesthetically appealing containers don't have to come with a high price tag, however. "The local flea market, yard sales [or] thrift shops ... have very cool 'found objects' you can use as containers," said Hergenrath. "I found a great old metal pail that is perfect. [I] love anything metal like old wash basins for ice and beverages."

In fact, when it comes to accessories, Hergenrath says inspiration and materials can often be found in one's own backyard. "Use greenery, flowers, sticks [and] rocks [that] you have readily available in your yard to create interesting decorations," she said. "Use sea shells in glass containers to add interest to flower arrangements."

Evelyn Kinville of The Behnke Florist Shop in Potomac, Md., suggests using zinnias, dahlias and delphiniums in warm weather floral arrangements. "Usually in summer there are things like mountain mint which has a minty aroma to the leaf and a small puffy looking flower," she added. "Many people have daisies and hydrangeas in their yard and, of course, the real classic is sunflowers."

Kinville adds that summer arrangements are often casual and colorful. "But they are also geared to the general décor that the person doing the entertaining might be using in the linens," she said. "Generally, though, bright colors are more popular in summer than paler flowers."

Hergenrath says that even though outdoor furniture, flowers and accessories help create an aesthetically appealing design, they are not the most important element for a successful outdoor event, however.

"Remember it is the people that make the party special, not the décor," she said. "Make your space comfy and welcoming, keep the mood happy and festive ... enjoy your family and friends."

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OPINION

More Than Disclosure Needed

Time for limits on campaign contributions as well.

At least until after November's election, most candidates in Virginia seem to think that there should be some reform to Virginia's campaign finance and disclosure rules. At least it seems likely that most will support expanding disclosure rules to require disclosure of gifts to immediate family members as well as candidates/officials.

Up until recent news reports about gifts to family members of Gov. Bob McDonnell, almost all elected officials would defend Virginia's notoriously unregulated system of allowing candidates and elected officials to take unlimited amounts of money and unlimited gifts from anyone or any company at all. Because Virginia has such strict disclosure requirements, elected officials seem to think that it's OK to be awash in all that money. Voters can

look up who is giving money and draw their own conclusions. How could it hurt if the details are all out in the open?

Discovering that the system is entirely self-regulated with no independent auditor, no ethics commission and no penalties for failing to report gifts or contributions should give voters some pause.

Consider that only four states, including Virginia, have no limits on contributions. Most states have limits; for example, in Maryland, individuals can give \$4,000 to any one candidate and \$10,000 total in a four-year election cycle.

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COMMENTARY

Voting Rights Need Protection

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

The Supreme Court had an historic week recently with major decisions on gay marriage, immigration and voting. I am particularly concerned about the decision that I believe does major damage to the Voting Rights Act.

I grew up in a segregated Virginia. Not only were there laws requiring that black and white children go to separate schools, that black and white customers be served at separate lunch counters, and that blacks always sit in the back of the bus, but there were laws designed to keep African Americans from voting. My earliest political involvement was in efforts to break down these barriers. I have always been disappointed that it took federal court

decisions and federal laws to overcome these discriminatory practices, rather than the state legislature acknowledging that they were wrong and repealing them. Instead of desegregating the schools as the Supreme Court directed, Virginia political leaders undertook a decade-long campaign of massive resistance that ultimately was unsuccessful.

A key part of extending civil rights to all citizens was the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. It required states with a history of voting discrimination to have their laws reviewed and approved by the U.S. Justice Department. Virginia was one of those states because voter discrimination was rampant. Under laws passed beginning early in the 20th century by the dominant Democratic Party machine, voters had to complete a voter registration

form that was so complex that few blacks were successful but whites—no doubt with some help—were able to complete. The \$1.50 poll tax as a requirement to vote kept some people from the polls as did the requirement that the tax be paid three years in a row at least six months before the election. The result of these and other laws led to Virginia having one of the lowest voter participation rates in the country. And Virginia's legislative district lines were drawn to exclude the possibility of a minority getting elected to office and to keep power in the rural areas of the state. Under a Supreme Court decision and the Voting Rights Act, Virginia had to hold elections three years in a row—in 1981, 1982 and 1983—until district lines were drawn to satisfy the federal review of fairness.

The Voting Rights Act and other

court actions and laws ended much of the discrimination in voting and redistricting. The current Supreme Court seems to think that certain provisions of the Voting Rights Act are no longer needed. I do not agree. Justice Ginsburg said it best in her dissent to the court's decision, "Throwing out pre-clearance when it has worked and is continuing to work to stop discriminatory changes is like throwing away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you are not getting wet."

Each year I see efforts by the now Republican majority to restrict or discourage minorities from voting under the guise of preventing unidentified voter fraud. I hope you will join me in encouraging the U.S. Congress to pass new provisions to the Voting Rights Act right away to ensure that minority-voting rights are protected.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Human Trafficking in Our Backyard

To the Editor,

I was ecstatic to learn of the progress local leaders like my delegate, Barbara Comstock (R-34), have made in raising awareness on human trafficking and sex trafficking right here in our backyard. This serious issue was brought to my attention about a year ago through several newspaper articles, and it seemed to me as though the ma-

majority of locals were not aware of this egregious violation of human rights occurring under their noses. As an intern in the office of Congressman Frank Wolf (R-10) last year, I was shocked to learn of how widespread and severe human trafficking is, not only throughout the world, but within our area. We cannot stand idly by as this blatant violation of human rights continues, particularly given the spreading awareness of its presence. As a Vietnamese-American, this cause resonates heavily with me, as throughout my life my mother and

relatives have emphasized its prevalence within their homeland and beyond.

Thankfully, the new bill proposed by Delegates Comstock and Hugo (R-40), which was signed by Governor McDonnell earlier this year, makes soliciting sex from minors a felony, and it will create additional barriers for local sex traffickers, which hopefully will help stop this hideous process. I am proud of our local leaders for taking such steps towards reversing intolerable, illicit practices taking place in a civilized, educated

area where no such thing should be allowed to exist. Events like the Human Trafficking Forum hosted by Del. Comstock help educate people in the area and bring this despicable issue into the spotlight. We in Northern Virginia are lucky to have such committed legislators that focus on issues that affect us. This principled form of representation is the reason that I support Del. Barbara Comstock.

Arielle Swett
Great Falls

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Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Chelsea Bryan
Editorial Assistant
703-778-9410 ext.427
cbryan@connectionnewspapers.com

Alex McVeigh
Community Reporter ♦ 703-778-9441
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Mary Kimm
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Jerry Vernon
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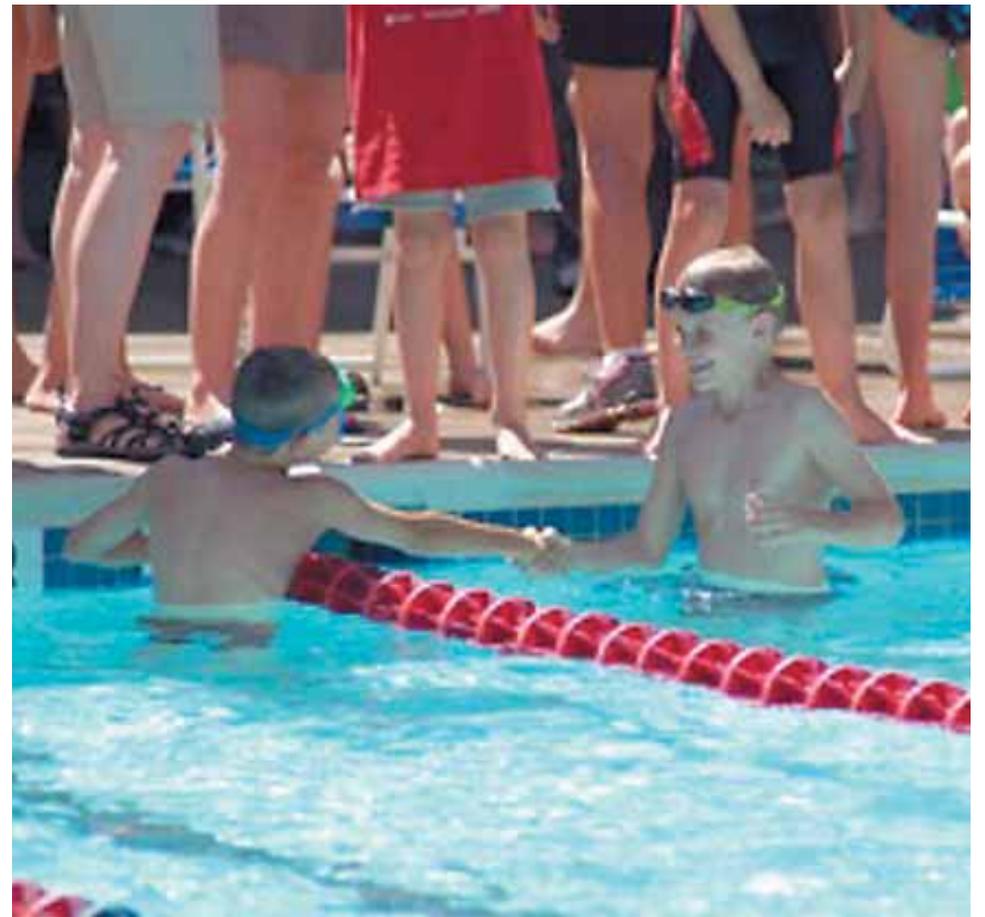
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North Hills' Katie Czenas dives in for the (8 & Under) 25-meter freestyle. She recorded a personal best of 18.69 seconds, even with a new cast on her right arm.



North Hills' Greyson Deker, left, and Ridge Heights' Rory Stobie congratulate each other after their competition in the boys' 9-10 50-meter freestyle.

Swim Team Association Swimmers Celebrate Holiday

With the Fourth of July falling on a Thursday, last Saturday's Reston Swim Team Association meets had a decided low-key feel to them. But while the number of participants may have been down, the spirit exhibited by the swimmers and spectators alike was on the upswing with cheers filling the air as they do at every RSTA event.

"Ridge Heights is always one of my favorite meets," said Colene Luczak, mother of Lucy (8 and Under), Piper (9-10) and Ryan (11-12) of North Hills when asked to comment about North Hills' win over Ridge Heights. "They have a lot of team spirit and so do we, so it's always a loud meet when we get together. The holidays are tough because we are all missing swimmers, but the kids who showed up today were ready to swim. There were a lot of heats that came down to the wire, which was exciting and I think that everyone had a great time.

"One of my favorite things to see is when parents are rooting for all of the swimmers and that's what I saw today. ... It didn't matter what team a kid was on ... everyone was cheering."

While the North Hills-Ridge Heights meet wasn't close, Saturday's other two meets were anything but. Newbridge managed a 53-point win over Hunters Woods, while Glade squeaked out a nine-point margin of victory over Autumnwood for their first win of the season.

As has been the case at every other meet

this season, there were many outstanding individual performances put forth on Saturday.

Glade Gators 496, Autumnwood Piranhas 487

For Glade, triple-event winners were Andrew Draganov, Hunter Ellis, Tyler Ellis, Mackenzie Evans, Madeline LaPorte, Joseph Letteri and Julia Simmons. Double-event winners were Gretel Brown, Andrew DeLillio, Amelia Flavin, Pablo Fox, Natalie McCrea, Jack Thomas and Jack Walker. For Autumnwood, triple-event winners were Joanie Belo, Yaoxia Guan, Michael Norford, Katie Storch and Manda Xie. Double-event winners were Bailey Copeland, Andrew Freeman, Grace Kennedy, Mikayla Kirr, Anna Nielsen, Josephine Taylor and Jason Valenzuela.

North Hills Hurricanes 607, Ridge Heights Sharks 418

For North Hills, triple-event winners were Zoe Burke, Katie Czenas, Marlee Czarny, Albert Huang, Catherine Kruse, Ryan Luczak, Emily Ren, Joseph Sciortino and Rachel Swarts. Double-event winners were



North Hills' Zachary Deker (15-18) finishing up the Boys 200 meter Mixed Age relay.

Allison Cimino, Corey Clark, Greyson Deker, Arnav Kachroo and Benjamin Livaudais. For Ridge Heights, triple-event winners were: Ian Champney, Carter Schultz and Paige Sogandares. Double-event winners were: Anton Coghlan, Ryan Coghlan, Dylan Hawley, Derek Liu, Shannon Murry, Connor Pierce, Kathleen Russell, Own Silva, Mac Sogandares and Ryan Vanderhoof.

Newbridge Dolphins 557, Hunters Woods

Blue Marlins 504

For Newbridge, triple-event winners were: Ethan Ha, Sofia Milosevic and Emily Sun. Double-event winners were: Theo Burton, Andy Carro, Emma Grossback, David Joyner, Mia Milosevic, Abby Panneck, Emma Schaller, Joseph Sgambati, Andrew Sivak, Megan Slatter, Anna Soltys and Alex Sun. For Hunters Woods, triple-event winners were Nolan Dunkel, Shine Peng, Ashley Thai and Ashley Turner. Double-event winners were John Evans, Kathryn Evans, Jack Ham, Philip Pan, Alana Pardo, Eric Tang, David Turner, Gloria Wang and Chris Yang.

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Infused But Confused



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As I titled and wrote about in last week's column, I have indeed been there (infused) and have done that, so why am I feeling as if I haven't? Sure, I have some things to do in advance and some considerations to be aware of infusing forward; so what? I need weekly lab work; that's nothing new. I may experience certain side effects: flu-like symptoms or a rash. OK. If I do, Call. I'm likely to feel "crappy," according to my longtime oncology nurse, Ron. Really? (If I didn't know any better, I suppose that would be a surprise. But I do know better. I've probably written a half-dozen columns on that exact subject during my previous multiple lines of I.V. chemotherapy over these past four-plus years.) Life is going on, just differently than before. That's as good as it gets for a terminal cancer patient, reasonably thinking. Only 16 percent of stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) patients survive beyond five years and I'm almost there (four years, five months). To say I'm lucky to be alive – and grateful for being so, is almost disrespectful the vast majority of previously diagnosed patients who've predeceased me.

Nevertheless, I feel a certain anxiety about this particular I.V. chemotherapy restart, a restart that I guess I didn't anticipate. It's as if I'm taking it personally, if that makes any sense. Previously, I think I took it more in stride, like I was one of many (which no doubt I was) and together we were all going off on this big life-saving adventure. Now, it feels – in my head, anyway (and probably more so in my head than anybody else's), that the adventure part is over and what's left is more a battle royal than a series of skirmishes.

Not that I feel weakened or fatigued by the previous four-plus years of the medical combat I've endured; rather, I feel humbled by the experience, sort of. So far, I've taken cancer's best shot (at least I hope it was) and survived way beyond any statistical expectation. I can't help wondering though, if my above-average life expectancy makes me somehow immune to cancer's reach or more susceptible to its grasp. Am I closer to the end or just further from the beginning? Moreover, does how long I've survived have an impact on how much longer I can continue to beat the terrible odds which us stage IV lung cancer patients face? I realize that past is often prologue, but at this juncture, I'm having a little difficulty not seeing the epilogue. I don't want to finish this book quite yet. But I fear cancer may have the last word, literally.

Perhaps returning to the original scene of the crime (so to speak), the Infusion Center, where my treatment began, is what's behind my stress. Weekly chemotherapy, as familiar as the process may be – to me, may simply be too much cause not to be concerned.

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

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Centre View South

Zone 5: The Potomac Almanac

Zone 6: The Arlington Connection
The Vienna/Oakton Connection
The McLean Connection
The Great Falls Connection

Local REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

May, 2013 Top Sales in Oakton, Vienna, Reston, Oak Hill and Herndon

IN MAY 2013, 140 HOMES SOLD BETWEEN \$1,600,000-\$197,000 IN THE VIENNA AND OAKTON AREA. 148 RESTON HOMES SOLD BETWEEN \$1,655,000-\$110,733 AND 148 HOMES SOLD BETWEEN \$1,330,000-\$150,000 IN THE HERNDON AND OAK HILL AREA.



2 2555 Yonder Hills Way, Oakton — \$1,600,000



6 104 Melody Lane SW, Vienna — \$1,385,000



10 11318 Bright Pond Lane, Reston — \$1,050,000



© Google Map data



8 11603 Cedar Chase Road, Herndon — \$1,235,000



12 11902 Proffitt Estates Court, Oak Hill — \$1,000,000

Address BR FB HB Postal City Sold Price Type Lot AC . PostalCode .. Subdivision Date Sold

1	11990 MARKET ST #2002	3	3	0	.....	RESTON	.....	\$1,655,000	.....	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	.....	20190	.....	MIDTOWN	.....	05/24/13
2	2555 YONDER HILLS WAY	5	5	2	.....	OAKTON	.....	\$1,600,000	.....	Detached	.....	1.75	.....	22124 BRIDGES OF OAKTON	.....	05/22/13
3	10324 LYNCH LANE #5	6	5	1	.....	OAKTON	.....	\$1,492,255	.....	Detached	.....	0.36	.....	22124 ... OAKCREST FARMS	.....	05/31/13
4	10323 LYNCH LANE #2	5	4	1	.....	OAKTON	.....	\$1,480,852	.....	Detached	.....	0.41	.....	22124 ... OAKCREST FARMS	.....	05/14/13
5	434 LEWIS ST NW	5	4	1	.....	VIENNA	.....	\$1,459,730	.....	Detached	.....	0.46	.....	22180 . WINDOVER HEIGHTS	.....	05/17/13
6	104 MELODY LN SW	5	4	2	.....	VIENNA	.....	\$1,385,000	.....	Detached	.....	0.42	.....	22180 ... VIENNA WOODS	.....	05/15/13
7	12500 ASHLEIGH OAKS CT	5	4	3	.....	OAK HILL	.....	\$1,330,000	.....	Detached	.....	0.86	.....	20171 ... WEST OAKS ESTS	.....	05/29/13
8	11603 CEDAR CHASE RD	5	5	1	.....	HERNDON	.....	\$1,235,000	.....	Detached	.....	0.48	.....	20170 CEDAR CHASE	.....	05/28/13
9	11101 CHESSINGTON PL	5	4	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$1,150,000	.....	Detached	.....	0.21	.....	20194 HUNTERS END	.....	05/31/13
10	11318 BRIGHT POND LN	5	3	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$1,050,000	.....	Detached	.....	0.56	.....	20194 RESTON	.....	05/15/13
11	3401 BLAKESLEY HALL CT	4	4	1	.....	HERNDON	.....	\$1,050,000	.....	Detached	.....	0.91	.....	20171 ... CAMBERLEY EAST	.....	05/03/13
12	11902 PROFFITT ESTATES CT	4	4	1	OAK HILL	\$1,000,000	Detached	0.83	20171 OAKTON HILL	05/21/13

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