

# News

# Nature House Hosts Energy Fair

# Alternative energy what equipment one needs, equipment that's not hard to find, to on display at Reston fair.

By Alex McVeigh The Connection

nvironmental enthusiasts from Reston and beyond gathered at the Walker Nature Education Center Sunday, July 14, for the first Reston Energy Fair. Visitors learned a variety of ways to use solar and other ways to power their homes and gadgets.

Jon Mills, an electrical engineer, gave a demonstration on how to build a solar powered generator. He demonstrated how to build a small one that was capable of powering a small lamp, charging a laptop and smartphone, as well as a larger one that he built for a Reston resident.

"When it comes to electricity, there's a lot of confusion about volts, amps, wattage, that can become very confusing to people," Mills said. "My goal was to show

turn the energy generated by a solar panel into a current that will give usable 120 volt power."

### THE SMALLER GENERATOR

requires a motorcycle battery, 12 volt, 10-watt solar panel, charge controller, a 12-volt, 750-watt inverter and an inverter wire kit, at a cost of around \$160.

The larger one consists of a 180watt solar panel, charge controller, inverter, marine battery, charge maintainer and battery terminals, for an approximate cost of just over \$700.

"I came after the class, but what I saw on display afterward was very interesting," said Sean Wilson of Reston. "Jon explained everything really well, and I'm very interested in a generator like this that I could take out to my yard and power speakers or charge an

While the generators Mills presented were designed to take camping, or to power essential items during a blackout, others who came to the fair were interested in something more perma-



Visitors to the Reston Energy Fair examine a portable solar powered generator Sunday, July 14.

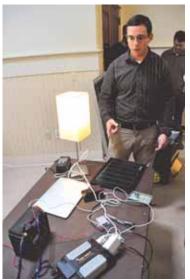
nent for their homes.

"I'd like to see Reston's Design Review Board and Covenants make it clearer and easier for residents who want to take advantage of solar power," said Tori Welch of Reston. "I know neighbors that have geothermal power, and I know the aesthetics of Reston are important, but it was also founded on strong environmental prin-

Several programs, such as the

Local Energy Alliance Program, and Dominion Virginia Power's energy conservation program, were on hand to discuss ways homeowners can cut down on their energy use, and therefore their power bills.

"It might seem counterintuitive that a power company is trying to find ways for customers to reduce their bills, but in the end, less energy use means less strain on the grid, meaning not as many power

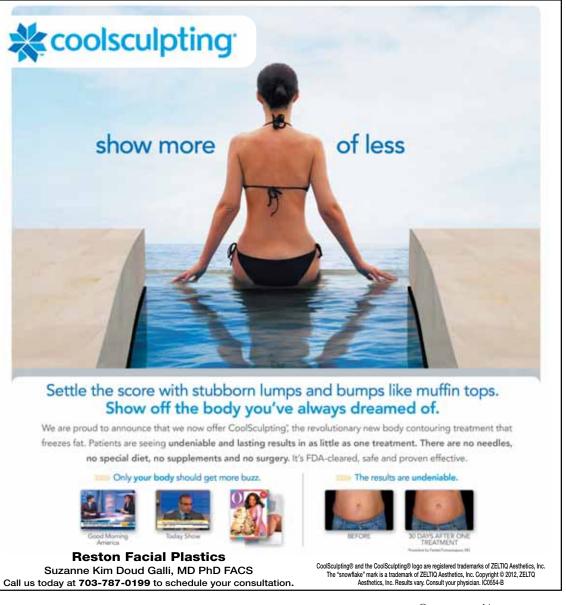


Jon Mills shows off the parts of a solar powered generator that he built, which is powering a cell phone, lamp and laptop computer during the Reston Energy Fair Sunday, **July 14.** 

plants need to be built," said John Parrish, who works for Honeywell Smart Grid Solutions, the company that administers Dominion's program. "Things like holes and other leakage in air ducts can mean as much as 20 percent of the air in your house is going to cool or heat the outside."

SEE ENERGY, PAGE 8





# News

# Virginia Voters Get More Choices in 2013

# Northern Virginia has most two-party races on ballot.

By Victoria Ross The Connection

hile the Virginia governor's race is the one getting the most attention, both nationally and in the state, Virginia's House of Delegates race is shaping up to be the most competitive in a decade.

According to an official candidate list released last week by the Virginia State Board of Elections, 57 House seats will be contested this Novembermarking only the second time in

the last decade where at least half of the 100 House seats will have more than one name on the

2013 is the second election cycle since the House Republican leadership redrew district boundaries following the 2010 Census. In 2011, voters in nearly two-thirds of the 100 House districts had no choice on the ballot

Of the 57 contested races, 44 include races with at least one Republican and one Democrat, and most of the two-party races on the ballot will take place in Northern Virginia (see chart.)

Throughout the state, 43 of the 100 House districts are uncontested, meaning there is only a single candidate on the ballot. Delegates Ken Plum (D-36) and Charniele Herring (D-43) are the only uncontested candidates in Fairfax County.

Republicans enter the election with a commanding 67-32 margin over the Democrats, although there are nearly three times as many Democrats challenging incumbent Republicans from two years ago. In June 2011, according to the Virginia Public Access Project, about 15 percent of the 100 House of Delegates seats were being contested between a Democrat and a Republican.

Each member of the Virginia House of Delegates serves two-year terms, represents approximately 80,000 citizens and receives an annual salary of \$17,640. By contrast, the Virginia Senate consists of 40 members. Each member is elected for a term of four years and receives an annual salary of \$18,000. A senator represents approximately 200,000 citizens of the commonwealth. The Virginia General Assembly meets annually, beginning on the second Wednesday in January, for 60 days in even-numbered years and for 30 days in odd-numbered years, with an option to extend annual sessions for a maximum of 30 days.

The Senate of Virginia and the Virginia House of Delegates, both bodies of the Virginia Legislature, meet in the historic capitol building in Richmond. For more information on the state legislature, go to virginiageneralassembly.gov.



In District 34—Democrat Kathleen Murphy (left) challenges Republican incumbent Barbara Comstock.

# **House of Delegates** 2013 Elections

### LOCAL RACES WITH **MAJOR PARTY CHALLENGERS**

- ❖ **District 34**—Democrat Kathleen Murphy challenges Republican incumbent Barbara Comstock.
- ❖ District 35—Republican Leiann Leppin challenges Democratic incumbent Mark Keam.
- \* District 37—Republican Patrice Winter challenges Democratic incumbent David Bulova.
- ❖ **District 39**—Republican Joe Bury challenges Democratic incumbent Vivian Watts.
- ❖ **District 40**—Democrat Jerrold Foltz challenges Republican incumbent Tim Hugo.
- \* District 41—Republican Fredy Burgos and Independent Christopher DeCarolo challenge Democratic incumbent Eileen Filler-Corn.
- **❖ District 42—**Democrat Ed Deitsch challenges Republican incumbent Dave Albo.

### **LOCAL RACES WITH** THIRD-PARTY CHALLENGERS

- **❖ District 38**—Jim Leslie challenges Democratic incumbent Kave Kory
- **❖ District 43**—Glenda Gail Parker challenges Democratic incumbent Mark Sickles.
- **❖ District 44**—Joe Glean challenges Democratic incumbent Scott Surovell.
- **❖ District 45**—Jeff Engle challenges Democratic incumbent Rob Krupicka.
- \* District 47—Laura Delhomme challenges Democratic incumbent Patrick Hope.
- ❖ District 48—Lindsey Bolton challenges Democratic incumbent Bob Brink.
- District 49—Terry Modglin challenges Demo cratic incumbent Alfonso Lopez.

## LOCAL UNCONTESTED RACES

❖ **District 36**—Democratic incumbent Ken Plum **❖ District 46—**Democratic incumbent Charniele



**Ralph Greenwood shows** his support for gun regulation with a sign.



Donna Auritsh holds a sign for observers to see. **Drivers passing the vigil** showed their support by honking or waving.

# Gun Control Vigil Continues

By Jasmine Kang The Connection

very month, supporters of gun regulation hold a vigil outside of the NRA headquarters to honor the victims of shootings, as well as urge Congress to take action. The vigil takes place on the 14th of every month, which is the date of the Sandy Hook Elementary shooting.

"I come to express that we are way past time for gun regulation," Del. Ken Plum (D-36) said. "The vigil is a way to keep it in the public's mind. If it can happen once, it can happen again."

Those attending the vigil hope that Congress will pass legislation regarding gun regulation.

"I'm fed up with the violence and lack of action," Ralph Greenwood said. "A first step is reasonable control—registering weapons, instructions for safety, elimination of semiautomatic weapons and required background checks."

The event is organized by the Reston-Herndon Alliance to End Gun Violence, but local community members and other organizations participate in the vigil. According to Joanne Simon of the Alliance, about 35 people attended the first vigil, but it has now grown to over 100 participants.

"I'm here because I'm sick and tired of the deaths that can be prevented and for me, it's a moral issue," Alex Dixon said. "Guns have their place in our society but the way that they're Martin," Dixon said. It's about being regulated does not re- the nameless and faceless that spect people's inherent dignity have died and I'm here for and worth."

Alice Englert, a resident of Warrington, attended the vigil



Larry Pullen holds a sign and t-shirts at the vigil. The t-shirts represent the victims of the Sandy **Hook Elementary and** Virginia Tech shootings.

in honor of her relative Daniel Barden, a victim of the Sandy Hook Elementary shooting.

A display of t-shirts representing the victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary and Virginia Tech shootings was featured.

"It's a way to honor all gun victims, with the focus on Newtown and Virginia Tech," Simon said.

The vigil took place the day after George Zimmerman was found not guilty in shooting of Trayvon Martin.

"Many of us are mourning that verdict, which was a miscarriage of justice," Martina Leinz said. Leinz is the president of the Virginia chapter of Million Mom March, which advocates for gun safety.

The Alliance will continue to hold vigils on the 14th of each month in front of the NRA.

"It's not just about Trayvon them."

See Viewpoints, Page 6

# Week in Reston

# Four Charged in Pinecrest Road Robbery and Assault

Police have charged one adult and three juveniles in connection with the June 7 robbery and assault near Pinecrest Road. The adult, Ali Lewis, 19 of Freetown Court, Reston was charged with robbery on June 21.

Detectives linked the four suspects to the incident based on a tip they received from the public. Police have not linked these suspects to the other similar incidents and are still seeking information and tips from the public on those cases.

Detectives in the Reston Police District are investigating four recent robberies and assaults on Reston area paths that may be connected.

In three of the incidents, victims were walking when they were approached by groups of young men, physically assaulted, then robbed. In a fourth incident, the victim was a bicyclist. Each of the incidents happened during daylight hours between 3:25 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Anyone with information is asked to call Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131

# Candidates Sought for Reston Community Center Board

Reston Community Center (RCC) is seeking interested candidates to run for seats on its Board of Governors. The Board of Governors is a nine-member body responsible for overseeing the operations of the RCC. All residents of Small District 5, age 18 or older, are eligible to run for appointment to the RCC Board of Governors. Candidates must complete a candidacy statement in order to have their names placed on the Preference Poll ballot. Candidacy statements will be available at the center or online at www.restoncommunitycenter.com beginning at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 1. The deadline for candidacy registration is 5 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 15.

This year's preference poll will fill three positions for three-year terms on RCC's Board of Governors. Online and mail-in balloting and walk-in voting will be available from Sept. 13 through Oct. 4 until 5 p.m.

For more information on the 2013 RCC Preference Poll or Board of Governors, visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com or call 703-476-4500.

# Reston Forum to Address Smart Growth

Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins announced city planner and smart growth advocate Jeff Speck will be the keynote speaker at a community forum entitled "Understanding Urbanization: Building on Reston's Past to Future to Help Create Its Future."

Speck, author of "Walkable City: How Downtown Can Save America, One Step at a Time" and "The Smart Growth Manual" will be discussing urban design and smart growth principles and how they can be applied in Reston.

A panel discussion with local design industry leaders, Fairfax County land use planning staff, and commercial development representatives will follow Jeff Speck's presentation.

Residents are invited to attend the forum on Monday, July 22. The forum will begin at 7 p.m. in the Reston Association Conference Room, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. To RSVP for the event or for more information, contact the Hunter Mill District Office at 703-478-0283.

# News



A crowd watches live ukulele music at the fourth annual Northern Virginia Ukulele Festival at Lake Anne Saturday, July 13.

PHOTOS BY
ALEX McVeigh/
The Connection

# Ukulele Festival Comes to Lake Anne

# Fourth annual Northern Virginia Ukulele Festival features variety of acts.

BY ALEX McVeigh
The Connection

ake Anne welcomed hundreds of ukulele enthusiasts Saturday, July 13 for the fourth annual Northern Virginia Ukulele Festival.

For Heath Murphy of Reston, it was a chance to embrace his budding hobby.

"I picked one up while on vacation in Hawaii a few months ago, and it's a fun thing to strum, but I'm also interested in learning some songs and proper techniques, so I figured I'd come by," he said. "I had no idea there was a community dedicated to this instrument, which was a very pleasant surprise. I got a lot of good hints from people who have been playing for years."

The day was filled with performances by a variety of acts, soloists, ensembles and even The Paul Hemmings "Uketet," which consisted of four players.

"I really liked Cathy and Marcy, they played some great folksy songs that were good when it came to

getting the crowd involved," said Will Powers of Reston, referring to the duo of Cathy Fink and Nancy

The two are famous for their mastery of not only the ukulele, but other stringed instruments such as the guitar, five-string banjo, mandolin and cello banjo. The two won Grammy awards in 2004 and 2005 for Best Traditional Folk Album.

Betsy McMillan of Herndon was just having lunch with a friend at Lake Anne when the festival began, and she found herself staying to watch the perfor-

"I always liked that version of 'Over the Rainbow' with the ukulele, but other than that I'm afraid I didn't know too much about it," she said. "But sitting outside on a summer day, it's wonderful background music, with the sound of the water, it was like being on a beach."

While all the groups featured ukuleles as their primary instruments, many featured percussionists and other instruments. The bands specialized in all genres, folk, jazz, blues, rock, swing and more.

"I think Lake Anne is a neat concert venue, and I like where the stage was set up, there was plenty of seating and a good background with the plaza's architecture," said Neil Chester of Vienna. "And the music wasn't overwhelming like a full, regular band would be, so you could walk around the plaza and chat without being drowned out."



Pat Quinn, Gina DeSimone and Ron Goad perform at Lake Anne during the Northern Virginia Ukulele Festival Saturday, July 13.



Nancy Marxer performs at Lake Anne as part of the Northern Virginia Ukulele Festival Saturday, July 13.

# COMMENTARY

# Making College Affordable

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

embers of the college graduating class of 2013 will average more than \$35,000 in total debt, according to a study reported recently by CNN. The bulk of the debt is in government loans, but private. state and personal and family loans along with credit card debt contribute to the total. This alltime high in education-related debt comes at a time when interest rate ceilings are being lifted on government loans and when it is getting more and more difficult for graduates to get the high-paying jobs they need to start paying back their loans.

In recent years college has become more expensive. With the Great Recession state legislatures including the Virginia General Assembly—having reduced appropriations to higher education as a way to balance their budgets. Cutting state monies for colleges and universities was a convenient way for state governments to save money by shifting a greater share of college tuition and fees to parents and students. Virginia's contribution to its flagship University of Virginia reached an all-time low of about 10 percent of the university's total budget. At the same time, tuition rates and fees soared. In Virginia, tuition nearly doubled over the past 10 years and rose 7.9 percent last year. Additional funding provided by the General Assembly this year kept increases to an average of 4.1 percent.

According to the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV), the average total charge

for an in-state undergraduate student living on campus at a fouryear institution has grown from 32.2 percent of per capita disposable income (income available for spending and saving) in 2002 to 45 percent in 2012. Tuition rates have never been higher, and the catch-all "fees" have increased at an even greater rate.

Efforts are underway in several states to make higher education more accessible and affordable. Oregon's legislature recently approved a committee to develop a pilot program, "Pay it Forward, Pay it Back," under which students would be able to attend college tuition-free with the agreement that once they were gainfully employed they would pay 3 percent of their future salaries back into a state fund annually for 24 years. A similar proposal is being considered by the University of California called "Fix UC." Under the plan, graduates would pay 5 percent of their salaries over 20 years. There would be no upfront costs whatsoever. Whether either of these plans is the best solution, or either is even workable, remains to be seen.

In North Carolina, the Carolina Covenant ensures that low-income students get to go to college and graduate debt-free. A financial aid program at the University of Virginia, AccessUVa, is designed to keep higher education affordable for all admitted students regardless of economic circumstances. Such programs need to be expanded and started at other colleges and universities. What is clear is that Virginia must take action to make its colleges and universities more accessible and affordable.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Reducing Storm Water Runoff

To the Editor:

In recent years Reston took an admirable effort to restore its streams. Highly effective in certain respects, the renewal allowed for improvement in important stream functions. The flood plane was evened out, a meadow ecosystem was created, the riffle-flow system slowed the streams flow rate, and the area was generally beautified.

However, as I have been further educated I find myself thinking that this was only a symptom that was treated. No matter the good done, it does not get to the root of the problem: runoff. Excess runoff caused by impermeable surfaces (roads, parking lots, buildings) is a fast flowing, direct-to-

watershed flow of water.

There is no doubt in my mind that Reston is excellently planned to avoid impermeable surfaces. However, with the metro there is a lot of development both in the works and planned. This proliferation of impermeable surfaces can become a detriment, and even a danger to society. I think it should be high on Reston's to do list, both in government and as a community, to ensure that these buildings are built with sustainability in mind. This goes for energy, and water. Storm water runoff is one of the greatest contributors to pollution in local bodies of water. In

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 13









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# **OPINION**

# Share Wisdom With Newcomers and Others

# The Connection's Newcomers and Community Guide publishes in late August.

Community Guide will publish the last week of August.

What tips do you have for someone getting to know your community? We're hoping to share the places, activities, events, organizations and volunteer opportunities your neighbors might not know about. What great places and activities do you think newcomers should know about? Events that should not be missed? Organizations that do a great job?

ur Insider's Edition Newcomers and Places to volunteer? Tips for navigating your PTA or your school's front office? We'd love to have your photos to go along with your sug-

> Faith organizations, nonprofit organizations, clubs, environmental groups, advocacy groups, youth sports teams and others who offer events open to the public are invited to send a paragraph about the organization and how to get involved.

> We will publish a selection of local tips along with a plethora of information useful to new-

comers and long-time residents alike, including our award-winning Insider's Guide to the Parks, information on how to vote and more.

See last year's community guides by going to www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/ and scrolling down to Newcomers.

photos Email tips and editors@connectionnewspapers.com Send in your Insider's Tips by Friday, Aug. 16.

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 Mary Kimm, MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## – Viewpoints —

# What would you like Congress to do regarding gun violence?



Bob Hatfield, retired, Oakton

courageous, think beyond the influence of the NRA and remember that U.S. citizens vote."



Comments by participants in the

—Jasmine Kang

Reston-Herndon Alliance to End Gun

Violence monthly vigil at NRA Head-

**Erin Moran**, student, McLean

"For now, background checks would be the biggest step. For assault weapons, I don't see any reason for someone to be carrying those."

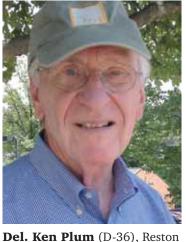


Sabrina Adleson (left), student, Burke "I'd like Congress to pass reasonable laws not depriving people of guns but having laws that keep people safe."



Anne Alston, retired. Herndon

"I would like to see magazine sizes reduced and I don't know if we're going to get around to that so, at the least, some ulation on background checks."



Td like to see Congress pass legislation regarding universal background checks and outlaw assault weapons, which are weapons of war and don't belong in a civilized society."

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Climate Change: An Existential Threat

To the Editor:

It would be difficult to overstate the importance of the president's bold new plan to cope with climate change, through maximum use of his executive authority to by-pass GOP obstructionism.

The president clearly understands that climate change poses both an immediate threat to our health and ultimately an existential threat to human existence.

The president's plan announced Tuesday, June 25, is a comprehensive approach to cutting the pollution that causes climate change and threatens public health, setting us on a path to make our communities healthier, safer and more resilient.

As Virginians, we should be especially grateful and supportive of the president's plan because rising sea levels, dangerous storm surges and intense hurricanes already pose serious threats to coastal cities in the Southeast, and climate change will intensify these impacts.

My 27 years of active military service included nine years of wartime service in Vietnam. Now out of uniform, and a permanent resident of our great commonwealth, I am joining fellow Virginians, many of whom are veterans, to fight a war that strikes closer to home—a war on public health in the immediate future and a long-term existential threat.

Fuel industry and congressional allies are already trying to block EPA's efforts to develop the new standards for power plants. This attacks our children and families. The Union of Concerned Scientists estimates that global warming will cause an additional 2.8 million cases of asthma attacks and other respiratory problems by

The long-term threat is existential. The rise of sea levels flooding coastal cities may spawn civil wars as people move inland and wars among nations in a desperate struggle for clean water and other re-

> **Andre Sauvageot** Col., U.S. Army (retired) Reston

# Reston

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# **OPINION**

# McDonnell Sets a New Low —In Virginia, Who Cares?

By John Lovaas RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/ Ноѕт

he daily discoveries of more unethical and corrupt behavior by Governor Bob McDonnell continue to pile up. Most re-

cent are the two grant "loans" to Bob and wife Maureen, each for more than what the average Virginian earns in a year, a Rolex for Bob, a New York fashion shopping spree for Maureen and gifts for two daughters' weddings. These gifts are all from a wealthy donor involved in million-dollar-litigation with Virginia who is getting first family promotion of his diet supplement business to boost stock prices. All in all, the total undisclosed cash, loans, lodging, gifts, etc. in McDonnell's enrichment scheme is estimated at \$270,000 ... so far.

You'd think the scale of the outrage in the governor's mansion would result in the head guy being frog-marched out the door and off to prison. Not likely! I doubt that all the efforts of the grand jury and the FBI investigators will deliver us this justice. Governor Bob's counterparts in Washington, D.C. and Prince George's County are doing time, in some cases for lesser violations of the public trust than McDonnell's. But, don't count on McDonnell getting such just des-

Governor Bob is slick, and Virginia legislators of both parties have long assured that Virginia laws governing gifts and campaign contributions are among the most lax in the U.S. No sharp edges or enforcement and punishment provisions for raking in gifts and campaign cash, regardless of conflicts of interest with their roles as "public servants." In Virginia, the public interest comes in a distant second to personal interest. But, most legislators satisfy themselves with more modest gift hauls, and none rival McDonnell's.

The best that one might hope for out of this outrage in Richmond is

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## INDEPENDENT Progressive

that there will be such an uproar that our Virginia delegates and senators will be shamed into en-

acting new law, like that proposed by Senator Ralph Northam, the Democratic candidate for Lt. Governor. Northam would bar any gifts over \$100 to legislators and other elected officials, and his proposal includes an investigative body with enforcement powers. Thus far, however, Northam is fighting a lonely battle for reform.

Republicans' strongest language to date for Governor Bob's despicable behavior referred to it as a regrettable "distraction" from Ken Cuccinelli's campaign to replace him—Cuccinelli also takes money from McDonnell's benefactor. After all, among Republicans, McDonnell's behavior could simply be seen as making the best of profit opportunities, the centerpiece of party ideology.

But, where are the Democrats? Other than Senators Chap Petersen and Barbara Favola, and Delegate Scott Surovell, who have called for McDonnell's resignation but not for reform to bar such behavior, Democrats are sadly silent. Our own Delegate Ken Plum and Senator Janet Howell have told me recently they would support a law barring gifts over \$100, but they had not gone public saying so. Both have a history of taking gifts worth more than \$100 from special interest groups, as do many other Democrats.

The right thing to do, both morally and ethically, is clear. No gifts, no how! Why are Democrats refusing to step up and take the obvious high ground by: 1) going gangbusters for corrective legislation; and, 2) vowing personally to forego any gifts even before such new legislation becomes a reality? We're listening...

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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### **Andre Sauvageot**

Col., U.S. Army (retired) Reston



# www.VanMetreSummerSplash.com

















From left, Wilson Murphy as Peter, Matthew Schott of Reston as The Narrator, and Kelsey Secules as Kari, in Critical Point Theatre's inaugural production of Craig Wright's "The Pavilion." The production is currently touring through Virginia and Maryland.

OS COURTESY OF

Critical Point Theatre is a grassroots ensemble.

Most of the company members lived in southwest-

ern Virginia, where the company is based, for sev-

eral years while attending Virginia Tech with Katz,

any other theatre company that you might have

heard of is that grass roots ensembles are dedi-

cated to creating theatre in the place where they

Burns serves as the company's managing direc-

he's been handling a lot of con-

tracts while keeping track of

"My job is making sure we

have the resources necessary to

continue as a company," Burns

said of his role within the com-

As the artistic director, Katz

handles the more creative as-

pects of running the company.

That included directing the

company's inaugural production

of Craig Wright's "The Pavilion,"

which tells the story of Peter and

Kari, old flames who meet again

at their high school reunion af-

ter a less-than-ideal parting 10

The show has been touring

across Virginia and Maryland,

with performances in

Blacksburg, Roanoke, Washing-

So far, Katz has been pleased

budgets and expenditures.

live and within their community," Katz said.

"The difference between grassroots ensemble and

# Making a Critical Point

Restonian joins area friends in forming, running their own theatre. Burns and Cline.

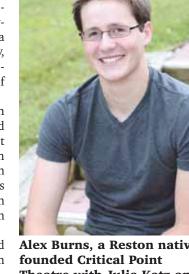
BY ASHLEY ADAMS

wo local recent college grads have eschewed the traditional post-collegiate path of endless interviews and internships for tor. At the helm of such a new company, that means something a little more creative.

Julia Katz and Alex Burns, of Falls Church and Reston, respectively, along with Deborah Cline, a former classmate, have decided to follow up their undergraduate studies by founding a theatre company. Additionally, the company's ensemble features Matthew Schott, also of

All three grew up in Northern Virginia. Burns attended Herndon High School, Schott attended Potomac Falls High School and Katz went to McLean High School. Katz and Burns graduated form Virginia Tech in May and Schott will graduate in the spring of 2014.

Alex with the notion that I'm founded Critical Point



"I approached Deborah and Alex Burns, a Reston native, going to be here after I gradu- Theatre with Julia Katz and ate and I'd like to take a shot at **Deborah Cline. He serves as** ton, D.C. and Baltimore. doing art for ourselves," Katz the company's managing

with the show's reception in the D.C. area "I think it went very well. We made a profit on the show, which was very exciting. We were able to get some great reactions from people. We got a five star review [from DC Metro Theater Arts]. All in all I was really pleased," Katz said.

Schott, who stars in the show, also mentioned how pleased he was with the initial performances. As the play's narrator, Schott was offered the opportunity to perform more than 17 characters in a single show.

years earlier.

"I play every other person at the high school reunion, so I sort of jump between all the different people that Peter and Kari interact with," Schott said. "I'm sort of like the puppet master getting them to get together and finally confront what happened 15 years ago." Theatre, a grassroots ensemble based in

# ENTERTAINMENT

Send announcements to reston@ 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 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

### 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 oncensus, 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 a 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/

## SATURDAY/JULY 20

"Summer Vibes" Exhibit **Deadline.** 9 a.m.-9 p.m., at the Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The League of Reston media artists, photographers and artists in other two-dimensional media to submit works for the upcoming "Summer Vibes" exhibit.

Blue Sky Puppet Theater. 10-11 a.m., Lake Fairfax Park Amphitheater, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Pig Tales is one of Blue Sky's most popular shows, filled with audience participation and humor aimed at all ages.

www.blueskypuppets.com. Leonard, Coleman & Blunt. 6-9 p.m., at Arrowbrook Centre Park, 2351 Field Point Road, Herndon Three former lead singers from three vocal groups, "The Temptations," "The Platters," and "The Drifters," have come together to create the musical experience,

WEDNESDAY/JULY 17

www.herndon-va.gov.

SATURDAY/JULY 20

**Herndon Improvements Public** 

**Meeting**. 7 p.m., at Ingram Council

Join in a public meeting to discuss the

Herndon Parkway/Van Buren Street

able for review at 6:30 p.m.

**Opening of Campaign Office.** 11

Herndon. Join Delegate Tom Rust

with Congressman Frank Wolf for

a.m.-noon, 380 Elden Street.

Chambers, 765 Lynn St., Herndon.

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to

herndon@connectionnewspapers.com by the Friday prior to the following week's

"Leonard, Coleman &

www.jscolemanenterprises.com. The United States Air

**Force Singing** 

Sergeants. 6-9 p.m.. at Arrowbrook Centre Park, 2351 Field Point Road, Herndon. The Singing Sergeants, the official chorus of the United States Air Force, is one of the world's most versatile and traveled choral organizations. www.usafband.af.mil.

Deanna Bogart w/ Bruce the Pavilion, Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Deanna Bogart plays boogie-woogie and ump blues. http:// www.restontowncenter.com events.html.

## SUNDAY/JULY 21

**Ninth Annual Charity Dog Wash.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Dogtopia, Lake Anne Plaza, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. The dog day care hosts dog baths with giveaways food photo booths games and fun activities for the family: proceeds support programs that train

per dog wash suggested. 954-893-9150 or vww.vetsfwd.org. Pop Up Art Picnic. 4-9 p.m., on the Town Green Downtown Herndon, 777 Lynn St., Herndon. A picnic kicks off ArtSpace Herndon's and Music Loft's summer dance and music series, which continues with various free street corner Saturday night events from 6-8 p.m. throughout

## MONDAY-MONDAY/JULY 22-29, AUG. 5-12

therapy, work in facilities and provide assistance,

through Veterans Moving Forward. \$15 donation

Chuck Fletcher's giclee photo, titled "This is the Place," is one of many photo-

open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., is up as of Thursday, Aug. 1.

graphic works that will be on view at the League of Reston Artists/Reston Photo-

graphic Society exhibit at the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce. The exhibit,

The Summer Reading Sessions for Reston Community Orchestra. 7:30-10 p.m., at unset Hills Montessori School, 11180 Ridge Heights Road, Reston. The summer reading essions under Music Director Dingwall Fleary, for the Reston Community Orchestra will be held on Monday nights. \$10 a night or \$35 for four www.restoncommunityorchestra.org.

## WEDNESDAY/JULY 24

Seniors Movie Day. 10 a.m., at Bow Tie nemas, Reston Town Center, 11940 Market St. Reston, Reston Association presents "Ouartet": refreshments and door prizes available (free to 55 and older). 703-435-6530 or www.reston.org Ryan Buckle & Friends. 10-11 a.m., at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon Rvan Buckle & Friends gives the young and the young at heart science they can sing to and njoy. www.ryanbuckleandfriends.com.

## THURSDAY/JULY 25

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Lou Lou will **DONATE 15%** of all proceeds from the day

Lou Lou Boutique, a fashion and

accessories shop at Reston Town

Center, hosts a day of giveaways

and sales Sunday, Aug. 3, featur-

ing a styling bar, sweets and

Nov. 3rd race in D.C.

MONDAY/JULY 22

956-6590 or

drinks to benefit The National

Race to End Women's Cancer, a

lunch at the opening of the campaign

office. RSVP to Luisa Guerra at

Art Submission Deadline. Restor

Bike Club and ArtSpace Herndon

with a theme related to Hamilton

Va., and road cycling; all mediums

are acceptable including painting,

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

www.artspaceherndon.org.

drawing and photography. \$15. 703-

invite artists to enter two-dimensional

media for the Century ride T-Shirt,

guerra@tomrust.org or 703-935-

to THE NATIONAL RACE TO END WOMENS CANCER

Register to be a **TEAM LOU LOU** member

Enjoy treats, drinks, and MORE

Capoeira Community Demonstration. 6-8 p.m., Reston Town Center, 11940 Market St. Reston. See a demonstration of Afro-Brazilian martial and self-defense form that brings together movement and music. abadadc.org. Gonzo's Nose. 7:30-8:30 p.m., at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Gonzo's Nose brings solid musicianship to a massive set list of cover songs, which range from the early 80's up until songs that hit the radio

# **Energy Fair**

**OUTSIDE**, members of Sustainable Reston had several displays up showing ways to put solar power to use. Diane Blust, president of Sustainable Reston, brought a solar oven, which is a well insulated metal box, with solar panels attached.

During the day, the oven, which got up to around 300 degrees on a 90-degree day, made a batch of rhubarb bread and devil's food cake.

"The bread took us about 90 minutes to

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



Send Your Photos & Stories Now to reston@

name, address and phone number, and pets in photos.

## FRIDAY/JULY 26

**The Reflex.** 6:30-10:30 p.m., at 777 Lynn St., Herndon. The Reflex plays hit songs of the 80's. http://www.herndonrocks.com/.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JULY 26-27

Justin Bieber-type star. \$10.

www.herndondrama.org.

**Bye Bye Birdie**. 7:30 p.m., at Herndon High

School, Door 6, 800 Bennett St., Herndon. The

youth talent in the story of a teen hearthrob

Grand Summer Theatre Production features local

rrounded in the girl fanfare of a yesteryear

### SATURDAY/JULY 27

The Great Zucchini. 10-11 a.m., Lake Fairfax Park Amphitheater, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. The Great Zucchini, a preschool and kindergarten entertainer, performs a colorful magic show where every child is a star and laughs are guaranteed

**Incendio.** 7:30-10 p.m., at the Pavilion, Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Incendio plays Spanish flamenco with a latin fusion mix. http://www.restontowncenter.com/events.html

## TUESDAY/JULY 30

Bruno's Barnyard Bash. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m, North Hills Pavilion, 1325 North Village Road, Reston. Enjoy the Reston Association's activities full of farm filled fun-including crafts, petting zoo, age appropriate games, delicious food, and plenty of photo opportunities. Reston Association member: \$8; Non-member: \$12. 703-435-6571

## THURSDAY/AUG. 1

The Annandale Brass. 7:30-8:30 p.m., at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon Formed in 1997, the Annandale Brass is comprised of NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra members and additional musicians.

## make at around 290 degrees, and it would normally take about 45 minutes to make, but we didn't use a bit of electricity," Blust said. "These are especially important in places like third world countries, where they

be pasteurized." More information on Dominion's energy conservation program can be found at www.dom.com/savenowVA, and more information on the Local Energy Alliance Program at www.leap-va.org.

would usually be burning wood indoors for

cooking fires, but with this oven, water can

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southwestern Virginia.

Julia Katz, of Falls Church, is the artistic

director and co-founder of Critical Point



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PHOTOS BY DAVID SIEGEL/THE CONNECTIONS



Anya Randall Nebel as Caroline Thibodeaux and John Ray as Noah Gellman in rehearsal for the Elden Street Players production of "Caroline, or Change."



**Anya Randall Nebel as** Caroline Thibodeaux and Aidan White as Noah Gellman.

# A Spirit Tested

# Elden Street Players to present "Caroline, or Change."

BY DAVID SIEGEL The Connection

ifty years ago Sam Cooke sang, "It's been a long time coming, but I know a change gon' come. Oh yes it will." It was the time of the civil rights movement and the assassination of President Kennedy.

In 2003 "Caroline, or Change," the multiple Tony Award nominated musical with book and lyrics by Pulitzer award winner Tony Kushner and music by Jeanine Teson, explores 1963 from the perspective of Caroline Thibodeaux, a black maid in the Gellman household in Lake Charles, La.

Caroline spends her days in the basement, doing the Gellman's laundry. She doesn't earn much and struggles as a single mother to support her own family. The Gellman's young son Noah is struggling too; his mother died from cancer and his father remarried. Noah now has a stepmother, Rose.

The core of "Caroline, or Change" swirls about a particular flash point: an unintended humiliation involving money, both coins and paper, and the vastly different meanings that Caroline, Noah and Rose give to money and personal interactions.

According to Evan Hoffman, production director, he "has been very affected by the play and felt a deep connection to its themes" since he first saw "Caroline, or Change" on Broadway. "Change is so hard, there are so many challenges for any of us," said Hoffman. And he wants the audience "to be incredibly moved by the grand dramatic scale of this musical."

A 10-piece orchestra under the music direction of veterans J. Michael d'Haviland and Elisa Rosman will be powering the wide-ranging song score of spirituals, blues, Motown, the classics, folk music and Jewish klezmer infused tunes. The musical score is "familiar, powerful and honest to the period," said Hoffman.

Caroline is played by Anya Randall Nebel, a professional Broadway road show veteran in musicals such as "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" and "Godspell."

For Nebel, Caroline is "the role of a lifetime, a perfect role about a woman on a journey, with many obstacles to overcome." Nebel wants the audience to delve into her character to "understand and feel that change is good but not always easy."

Rose is played by Shaina L. Murphy, who recently returned to the area after working in New York City off-Broadway musicals. A Robinson High School graduate, Murphy auditioned for the character since Rose "has quite a journey of learning for the audience to witness."

## When and Where

Elden Street Players present "Caroline or Change" at the Industrial Strength Theater, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Performances: Aug. 2-24—Thursdays, Aug. 15 and 22, at 8 p.m.; Fridays-Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays, Aug. 4 at 3 p.m., and Aug. 11 and 18 at 7 p.m. Tickets: \$23 general admission. Call 703-481-5930 or visit www.eldenstreetplayers.org.



# Creating Fresh, Healthy Summer Treats

Local chefs offer refreshing, healthy snack ideas to keep children satisfied all summer.

> BY MARILYN CAMPBELL THE CONNECTION

nticing children to forgo strawberry-flavored candy and choose fresh fruit in its natural form can be challenging. After all, lemonade, popsicles and cookies with milk are considered summertime classics.

Some local culinary enthusiasts say there are an abundance of summer treats that can be made at home and keep children fueled and healthy all season long, however. They offer several suggestions that are ideal for after-camp snacks or whenever the munchies hit.

"When I think of healthy eating and kids and summer, the first thing I think of is fruit," said Andrea Nelson of Creative Kids Kitchen in Arlington. "Beyond the natural sugar factor, most fruit has as much vitamins as a vegetable."

One treat that tops Nelson's summer treat menu is fruit gazpacho. "It is made with a medley of fruits like watermelon, blueberries, honeydew melon. If you have a particularly picky eater, you can puree the fruit.



From left: Katie King, Sasha Fedorchak, Lucy Rogers, Eliza Grace Ulmer, Haley King and Grace  $\mathbb{Z}$ Griffin prepare to cook in Arlington, Va. Local culinary enthusiasts say there are an abundance of healthy summer treats that can be made at home.

You can involve the kids by getting them to help wash and cut the fruit."

Christine Wisnewski, an instructor at Culinaria Cooking School in Vienna, also recommends making use of the bounty of fresh fruit available during summer. "Sliced

peaches or nectarines with a dollop of sour cream and a light sprinkle of brown sugar are a sweet, tangy treat. Or sweeten some Greek yogurt with a little bit of honey and use it as a dip for strawberries," she said.

Nelson turns the abundance of blueberries that are now available into blueberry biscuits. "They are super easy to make and blueberries are inexpensive right now," she said. "I also make baked strawberry, banana and quinoa muffins using nonfat Greek yogurt. They are healthy and gluten free."

Nikki Drummond of Tiny Chefs Cooking School in Potomac, Md., and Arlington, Alexandria, McLean, Oakton and Springfield, uses her classroom to offer children alternatives to prepackaged, sugar-laden treats. "We make fun fruit kabobs with a yogurt dip made with plain low-fat yogurt and honey and cinnamon," she said. "The kids cut up the fruit so they are having fun."

Drummond also teaches students to make a healthy dessert using uncooked oatmeal, wheat germ and chocolate chips. "We call them breakfast balls, but you can keep them in a container and kids can snack on them throughout the week," she said.

To cool kids down after a day of playing in the sun, Wisnewski offers homemade frozen bananas and sorbet. "[To make] frozen bananas, halve a banana crosswise, insert a popsicle stick in the cut end, freeze for one

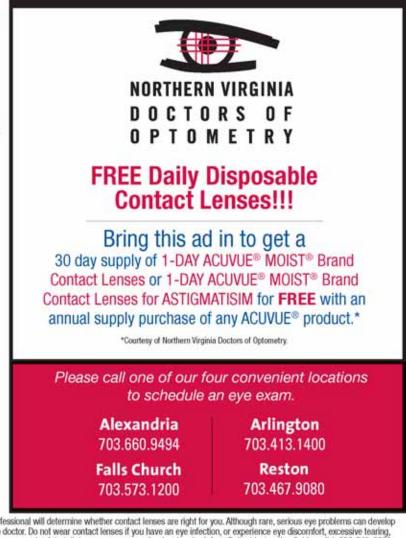
"Make the most of seasonal fruits: Sliced peaches or nectarines with a dollop of sour cream and a light sprinkle of brown sugar are a sweet, tangy treat." - Christine Wisnewski, **Culinaria Cooking School** 

hour," she explained. "Dip frozen bananas in melted chocolate. Only dip one side if you want to limit the chocolate, then dip bananas in fun toppings like sprinkles, toasted coconut, chopped nuts, or crushed cookies."

To make sorbet, Wisnewski combines fruit and simple syrup. "To make a simple syrup, [use a] one-to-one ratio of sugar to water and bring to a boil to dissolve sugar," she said. "Reduce heat to very low and simmer 10 minutes. Cool, combine syrup with pureed summer fruit. Try berries, peaches or mangos. Add a pinch of salt, and a squeeze of citrus juice. Chill until the sorbet mixture is very cold."

For those who want culinary simplicity during the summer, Wisnewskii said, "Fresh cherries or grapes heaped in a bowl of ice are more refreshing than those served alone. Even the largest watermelon disappears quickly and keeps kids hydrated when left on the counter for snacking. Some people opt for a sprinkle of salt on their watermelon." For a more sophisticated palate, she suggests adding a squeeze of lime, or a small sprinkle of mild chili powder or cumin.





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# SPORTS

# Top Teams Battle as RSTA Season Nears Completion

ake Audubon and Lake Newport. The perennial powerhouse and the defending league champion. Both undefeated. What more could you ask for in a meet late in the Reston Swim Team Association season?

Last year, in the first meet of the season, Lake Newport gave notice to the rest of the league that they were a team to be reckoned with. Their upset win over Lake Audubon at the Barracudas' home pool set the stage for the Lightning's undefeated season and their first undisputed league championship. On Saturday, the Barracudas were set to redeem themselves and to return (in their eyes at least) a sense of "normalcy" to the league. So, with the most anticipated meet of the season starting at 7:30 at the Lake Newport pool, it was akin to "High noon at the OK corral." The swimmers did not disappoint.

With the outcome of the meet still in doubt well into last stroke of the day (freestyle), and even into the mixed-age relays, Lake Audubon

pulled away at the end to establish the final score of 618-559. It was a victory worth savoring.

With one meet left in the season (next Saturday against Autumnwood), it appears that the Barracudas will once again reign supreme.

And while the Lake Audubon-Lake Newport meet took center stage last Saturday, there were a number of individual and relay team performances of note.

Tyler Ellis of Glade broke a record that had stood for 29 years. His time of 27.14 seconds in the boys' 13-14 50-meter freestyle bested the mark of 27.43 that was set by Chris Hines on Aug. 1, 1984. And in the girls' 13-14 200-meter medley relay, the Glade team of Emily Landeryou, Meghan Benedetto, Madeline LaPorte and Lainie Davison broke their old mark they set last month with a time of 2:19.51. Finally, Casey Storch of Lake Newport broke his old mark in the boys' 13-14 50-meter backstroke with a time of 30.11.

# Lake Audubon Barracudas 618, Lake Newport Lightning 559

For Lake Audubon, triple-event winners were: Emily Fritz, Matthew Fritz, Sabrina Groves, Kaliyana Haering, Suya Haering and John Hughes. Double-event winners were Jacob Cole, Kathryn Cole, Elizabeth Crump, Michael McDermott, Emily McGrath and Nicolas Sobenes. For Lake Newport, triple-event winners were Phoebe Adams, Matt Colturi, Anna Redican, Siena Shannon, Casey Storch and Kate York. Double-event winners were Michael George, Peter



Kaliyana Haering, bottom, leads Lake Audubon teammate Adrianna Smith (in blue cap) and the rest of the field to finish first in the girls' 9-10 50-meter butterfly. Under the water are Lake Newport's Isabelle Kahng and Grace Horner.



Andrey Smiryagin of Autumnwood goes all out in the boys' 13-14 50-meter butterfly.



Lake Audubon's Angelika Giavis, bottom, and Lake Newport's Alyssa Spar go head-to-head in the girls' 11-12 50-meter backstroke event.

George, Lindsey Jacobson, Dan Ni, Grant Romero and Alan Yu.

# Autumnwood Piranhas 582, Lake Anne Stingrays 459

For Autumnwood, triple-event winners were Joanie Belo, Diya Murthy, Sarah Overton, Andrey Smiryagin, Katie Storch, Phineas Ulmishek-Anderson and Manda Xie. Double-event winners were Grace Bartlett, Andrew Freeman, Sophia Kennedy, Vikrant Mahajan and Michael Norford. For Lake Anne, triple-event winners were Sarkis Dayian, Jason Fu, Victoria Gonzales, Emily Meilus, Nathan Miller, Morgan Stup and Fred Zhang. Double-event winners were Ismael Anwarzai, Alexander Boelcskevy, Francisco Espinoza, Frank Keusenkothen, Brady Nelson, Tope Oladimeji, Sage Raphael, Matthew Rodakowski, Max Schultz and Laura Zhang.

# Glade Gators 549, Newbridge Dolphins 512

For Glade, triple-event winners were Andrew Draganov, Hunter Ellis, Tyler Ellis, Mackenzie Evans, Emily Landeryou and Sophia Landeryou. Double-event winners were Andrew DeLillio, Anna Dodson, Alexander Kapani, Nicholas Kapani, Jem Nims, Zea Nims, Jack Walker and Olivia Wolfe. For Newbridge, their triple-event winner was Christopher Mathias. Double-event winners were Laela Huddleston, Cara Kalinowski, Quinlan Kelley, Greg Mayo, Patrick O'Malley, Clara Sgambati, Joseph Sgambati, Emily Slater, Megan Slater, Emily Sun and Max Torrington.

# North Hills Hurricanes 602, Hunters Woods Blue Marlins 537

For North Hills, triple-event winners were Katie Cazenas, Marlee Czarny, Benjamin Livaudais, Emily Ren, Joseph Sciortino and Rachel Swarts. Double-event winners were Leila Boucher, Emily Deker, Ishan Ganjoo, Albert Huang, Arnav Kachroo, Catherine Kruse, Logan Kruse and Grace Tierney. For Hunters Woods, triple-event winners were Jack Medler, Logan Nasr and Crystal Shi. Double-event winners were Nolan Dunkel, Philip Pan, Eric Tang, Aditya Tikhe, Liam Tolbert, Ashley Turner, Davis Turner, Jair Valenzuela, Kevin Vintimilla, Benjamin Wang and Chris Yang.

# Tavern 64, A New Taste in Town Center

Recalling the tradition of legendary taverns that set the standard for this country's restaurant and hospitality industry, Tavern 64 Regional Kitchen debuted at Reston Town Center Tuesday, June 4. In the ground floor of the Hyatt Regency Reston, Tavern 64 occupies the corner of Presidents and Market Streets.

Combining the history of an American tavern with regional cuisine and drinks, the new restaurant pays homage to the history of its location. In celebration of the internationally-renowned "new town" community in which it is located, Tavern 64 takes part of its name from the year Reston was founded: 1964.

Serving breakfast, lunch and

dinner seven days, the regional kitchen features recipes with emphasis on local and sustainable sourced ingredients. On its menu are simple, uncomplicated American dishes like Virginia pork, North Carolina trout with cheddar grits, Pennsylvania-sourced short ribs with corn bread mash and a charcuterie plate of Maryland cheeses and Virginia ham, sausage and pate. Lunch items include locally sourced salads, hearty barbecue brisket or meatloaf sandwiches and old-fashioned desserts like a root beer float or a whipped cream topped berry shortcake.<sup>o</sup>



Tavern 64 opened Tuesday, June 4, in Reston Town Center.

According to food and beverage director Ross Virando, Tavern 64 has a very beverage-forward concept. All of its eight bar taps pour local and regional draft beers plus American and craft and canned beers. The most classic American crafted cocktails are featured from the original American cocktail, the Sazerac, made with Reston's own Bowman's Distillery bourbon, to the Antebellum Julep, made the original way with Catoctin Creek, Virginia cognac. And a Manhattan, the Lady Randolph's Request, named for the drink made famous in the late 1800's at New York's Manhattan Club when Lady Randolph Churchill served it at a party.

The 5,500-square-foot restaurant seats 168 indoors with 48 seats on its patio. It has been designed with friendly and inviting architecture with its dining and bar areas flowing together to allow business gatherings or friends' get-togethers to happen at almost any part of the space. There are organic wood tables, some for small parties, other long communal-style, aged leather chairs, banquette leather armed couches, natural organic painted wood paneled walls and textured ceramic floors that look liked aged wood.

# Theresa Marie Christian and James Hays-Wehle Engaged

Theresa Marie Christian, daughter of Eliot and Marcia Christian of Reston, is engaged to James Hays-Wehle, son of Edward Hays and Sarah Wehle of Milton, Mass.

Theresa, a graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, received her Bachelor of Science degree at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is currently pursuing her PhD in physics from the University of Colorado in Boulder.

James, a Milton Academy graduate, received his Bachelor of Science degree from Carnegie-Mellon University and was awarded his PhD in physics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in June 2013.

An October wedding is planned in Boston. The new couple will reside in Boulder.



Theresa Marie Christian, of Reston, is engaged to James Hays-Wehle.

### LETTERS

From Page 5

the Chesapeake Bay it has contributed to the creation of massive dead zones, and the same could happen to Reston's beloved lakes.

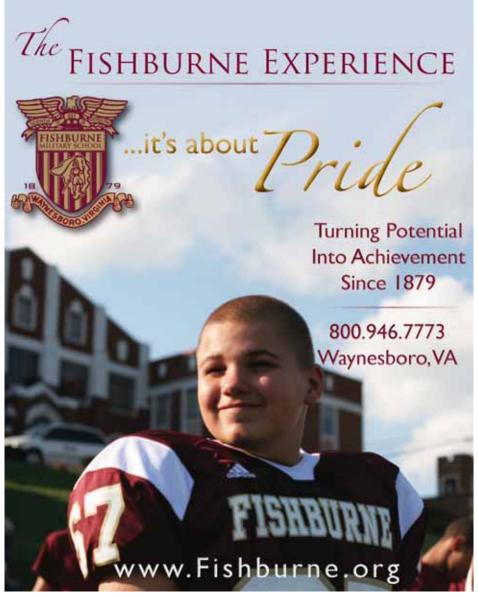
So, Reston, let's throw some of our weight around. Let's beat the root of the problem before it becomes a problem. Reston could be a center of sustainable development in the D.C. metro area, starting with the proper measures to reduce storm water runoff.

> Alexander Peters Reston









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# "Focus-Pocus"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I imagine most of you readers are familiar with the phrase, "Hocus-Pocus," the magician's nonsensical expression of sleight of hand, as words spoken and arms waved as the rabbit wiggles out of the magician's hat, among other deeds/ extractions of "wow!" The idea being to trick, deceive, obfuscate and ultimately amaze the audience into believing the unbelievable and to not see what they should be able to see.

"Focus-Pocus" is this cancer survivor's sleight of brain - as I refer to it, as I attempt to live longer and prosper without paying too much attention to the undeniable fact that I have a terminal disease: stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), one that kills way more than it is cured. I have found however, that living in dread - and in acceptance of my presumptive reality/status, is no good for my head (emotionally/mentally speaking) so I try to deviate, whenever possible, from that norm and not conform, and hope that living is indeed its own reward.

Oh sure, I scan the weekly Health & Fitness section in The Washington Post, especially if there's a cancer reference; if sitting and waiting somewhere where reading material is present, if there's a lung cancer-related article, I will read it immediately; and if there's a segment on television concerning cancer, I will watch it or record the program to watch later. I don't exactly live under a metaphorical rock, but nor can I make cancer my life's pursuit, as odd as that may sound; since presumably, I am pursuing life despite the fact that having cancer is definitely having some say in that matter.

Thinking positively and keeping my sense of humor are the two most effective tools in my anti-cancer arsenal. Employing these weapons of mass (as in tumors) destruction are what I live for: Duh! So doing, and assimilating this figurative weapon array into my attack requires very little, really; this is my personality and my nature, so it's no particular challenge. It's who I've been, it's who I am, it's just me. Still, as many of you know, cancer has a way of intervening, especially physically, but most assuredly, mentally as well. It creates darkness and fear and anxiety and all the less-than-ideal characterizations you can imagine – whose intrusions you are often powerless to stop. Yet somehow, you must.

In the nearly four and a half years since my diagnosis, I have tried to defend against them. Occasionally by embracing them, but more often, as is the subject of this column, by ignoring the reality of them, almost like a magician attempts to do with his audience; that what you see, what you get, is not necessarily what you feel – or so I tell myself repeatedly. And though it might seem difficult to trick oneself as easily as it might be possible, with a wink and a nod, to trick another, a better-than-expected life expectancy might depend on it. And at this juncture, having outlived my original prognosis by more than three years, I don't see any reason to change my focus.

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

# SPORTS



The Kingston Chase (Sydney Douglas, Scout McClain, Mackenzie Kleczynski, Casey Mills), Hiddenbrook (Maddie Morin, Audrey Ferguson, Alyssa Landrum, Kate Keane) and Herndon Community Center (Sophia Lee, Shreshtha Peter Rai, Rachel Sim, Chloe Thomson) 8 & Under Girls 100 Meter Freestyle Relay teams pose with Josh Davis on the Herndon Olympics podium.



Swimmers in the final heat of the 15-18 Boys 50 Meter Freestyle-Nathan Ouyang, Devin McNulty, Conor Cudahy, Sean McCrone, Michael Maccannon—shake hands after their event.

# Herndon Olympics Swim Meet Was a Splashing Success

# Three records broken at this year's meet attended by Olympic gold medalist Josh Davis.

By Sarah Anderson The Connection

he 34th annual Herndon Olympics was held last Tuesday, July 9. Hundreds of swimmers from nine local swim teams competed, allowing the community to come together to encourage young athletes, support local businesses and to meet Olympic gold medalist Josh Davis.

The event began with an elaborate opening ceremony that included the swimming of the Olympic "torch" across the pool, a parade of teams, the playing of the national anthem and short speeches made by important guests. Mayor Lisa Merkel, Del. Tom Rust (R-86), and Olympics gold medalist Josh Davis were all present and gave words of encouragement to the swimmers. Josh Davis expressed that "dreams are made here. Champions are made here," as he reminisced about his early swimming career that he began on a local summer league team. Davis stayed at the meet to take pictures and to hand out medals to the swim-

mers. Del. Rust later gave the swimmers the same advice that he used to give his own son when he competed in the Herndon Olympics: "Swim fast, leave no wake!"

Kerstin Severin, the Aquatic Services manager for the Town of Herndon and a coach for the Herndon Community Center swim team, has been in charge of organizing the Herndon Olympics for a number of years and spent many months preparing for this meet. She said that her favorite part of the Herndon Olympics is that for "the past few years we have been able to bring Olympians to this meet, which has been a great way to show the swimmers that even Olympic athletes started their careers in summer leagues. We give the children a chance to reach their goals and be the best that they can be."

Coaches, friends and family all cheered on the children as they competed in individual races and relays. Ignat Miagkov, a swimmer on the Kingstream Kahunas, who won first place in the 11-12 Boys 50 Meter Freestyle, said that he enjoys "having his name announced and getting to swim against kids on a bunch of different teams at the Herndon Olympics."

Three individual records were broken this year. Josh Zhang set new records in the 11-12 Boys 50 Meter Breaststroke and Freestyle and Christian Ginieczki broke the 13-14 Boys 50 Meter Backstroke record. The Reflection Riptides swim team was given the Sportsmanship Award.

brings the whole community together for fast swimming, sportsmanship and lots of fun!" said Mary Elizabeth Caldwell, 19, who is a coach for Hunters Creek and had swum in the Herndon Olympics many times, herself. Many of the coaches, parents and spectators at the Herndon Olympics have been a part of the Herndon Swim League for years and continue to support it even when "I like the Herndon Olympics because it they are no longer swimming themselves.

## –Viewpoints—

# 'This Is Where the Dreams Begin'

Josh Davis, who won three gold medals at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta and two silver medals at the Olympics in Sydney in 2000, said about the Herndon event: "This is where dreams begin and champions are made as they take pride representing their neighborhood and their city. ... Of the 4,000 summer league swim championships going on this month, this is one of the best ones in the country."

Swim Team Chairperson for Kingston Chase Pool Kelly Ginieczki assisted in the event's program. She said, "I have been team representative for 10 years, and this is our fourth year hosting the Herndon Olympics. About 350 of the fastest swimmers from nine teams with pools located throughout Herndon attended this year and some records have been set this morning.'

"This is our 34th annual Herndon Olympics," said event organizer Kerstin Severin. "It was first created in 1980 by Joe Smith, head coach of the Herndon High swim team at the time. It is a good opportunity for the kids and everybody to get some exercise. It was also a way for the swimmers in different leagues throughout Herndon to come together and compete before entering high school."

-Ryan Dunn



Olympic gold medalist Josh Davis and Kelly Ginieczki.

Photos by Ryan Dunn/The Connection

Kerstin Severin, one of the event organizers.



Olympian Josh Davis, Mayor Lisa Merkel, and Del. Tom Rust (R-86) all spoke at the opening ceremony for the Herndon Olympics, urging the youth to do their best.