

Robert Simon signed one of Hannah Testa's petitions to help save the rhinos during the fifth grade environmental activist's visit to Reston.

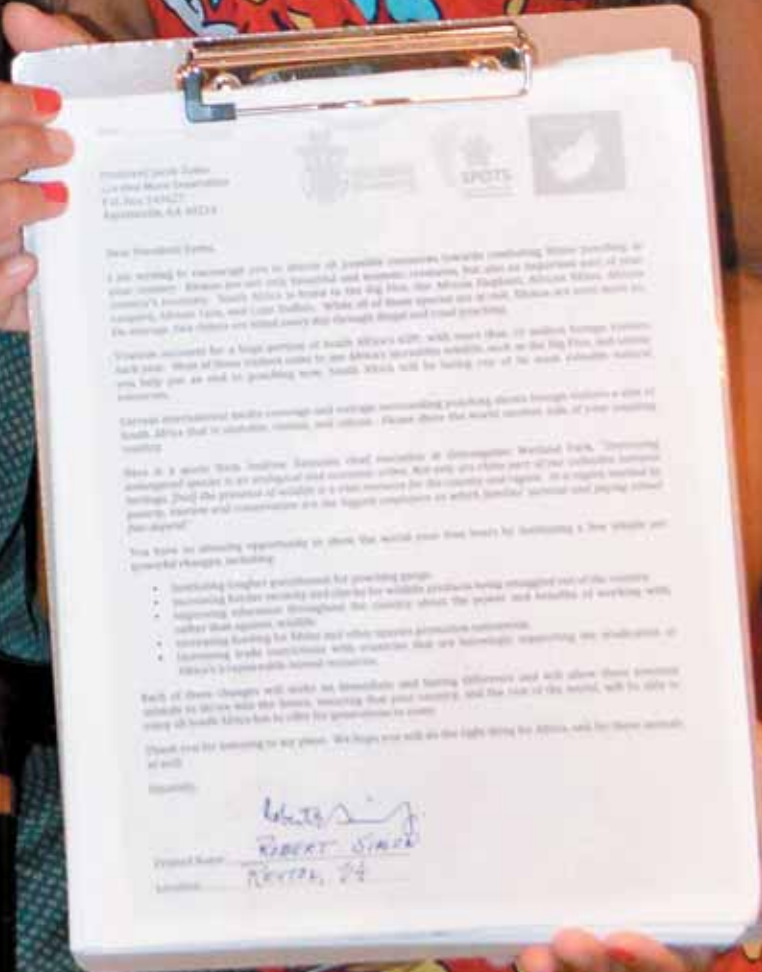
Saving Rhinos

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PHOTO COURTESY OF FARIDA TESTA



PET CONNECTION

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OBITUARY

Restonian William Nicoson, 81, Dies

Nicoson was one of the founders of the Connection Newspapers.

William Jarvie Nicoson, lawyer and first director of the New Community Assistance Program, US Department of Housing and Urban Development, died peacefully at his home in Reston on Sunday, July 7, after a long illness. He was 81.

Mr. Nicoson, an only child, was born on June 1, 1932 in Pittsburgh, Pa., the son of Marion Jarvie and William McGarvey Nicoson. He graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy, Princeton University and Harvard Law School. He spent his junior year of college at the Sorbonne in Paris, where he studied acting with the director of the Comédie-Française. At Princeton, he was a member of the Army ROTC. He served as an officer in the US Army in Germany for two years.

After law school, he joined the law firm of Sullivan & Cromwell and practiced law in New York. He assisted in opening its Paris office, where he practiced law for two years.

After working on Nelson Rockefeller's campaign for the presidency, he came to Washington to be the first director of the New Communities Administration, which was created as a result of congressional legislation passed in 1970. When he moved to Washington from New York, he chose to live in the then-new community of Reston.

Unhappy with the lack of funding provided for the New Community program by the Nixon administration, he resigned in 1972. He began a legal practice in 1972 in Washington, D.C. and worked as a consultant on international finance, institutional design, community development and urban governance around the world.

Nicoson wrote extensively about the new community programs and finance and development issues. He participated in many professional conferences and taught a course in new community planning at the New School in New York City with Reston developer Robert E. Simon, Jr.

Nicoson was one of the founders of the Connection Newspapers in Northern Virginia and served as its publisher for a num-

ber of years. He wrote a weekly column for five years, and, subsequently, wrote a monthly column for the Reston Times.

Nicoson had a tremendous love of the theater and as a teenager wrote reviews of New York plays for his hometown newspaper in Indiana, Pa. He acted in numerous amateur productions produced by the Reston Community Players, served on the board of a Washington Theater Company, reviewed plays for the Helen Hayes Awards, and wrote seven plays. He began to study the piano at an early age and progressed well enough to play at his Exeter graduation. He frequently entertained his family and guests with both classical and ragtime pieces.

As a Reston resident, he was very active in the community, serving on the Reston Association Board of Directors and participating on numerous committees.

He helped create numerous community organizations and served on their boards including the Greater Reston Arts Center, Planned Community Archives, Celebrating Special Children, and the Reston Historic Trust, where he served as president for 10 years. He was recognized for his many community contributions by being awarded the prestigious "Best of Reston" award in 2002.

Nicoson was a voracious reader and an avid chess player. He was a member of the Cosmos Club chess team and its champion for several years. He led the group in playing against the chess teams of other clubs in Washington and London. He took a great interest in food during his years in Paris and put his gourmet talents to work cooking to the delight of his family and friends.

Nicoson was a member of the St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Reston and the Cosmos Club of Washington, D.C.

He is survived by his wife Patricia McLaughlin Nicoson, the president of the Dulles Corridor Rail Association; stepchildren William Todd Fairbairn and Mary Fairbairn Morgan; and five grandchildren. His marriage to his first wife Jacqueline Robb ended in divorce.

A memorial service is planned for the fall.



William Nicoson

PHOTO BY PATRICIA NICOSON

WEEK IN RESTON

Reston Golf Course Appeal Deferred Indefinitely

RN Golf Management, LLC, owners of Reston Golf Course, has requested an indefinitely deferral of their Appeal A-2012-HM-020, said Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill). The appeal had previously been deferred until Sept. 25, 2013. This action removes the case from the Board of Zoning Appeal's schedule indefinitely.

Supervisor Hudgins said, "While I am uncertain of the reason for the deferral, we wanted to provide the most recent information on this issue, which is of great importance to the community. I look at the decision as one step forward in alleviating the concern over loss of this significant open space in Reston."



The Reston Station project will not be affected by the announced delay of the Silver Line.

Metro Silver Line Delayed

MWAA announces at least an eight-week delay in passenger service.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority announced an approximately eight-week delay in the completion of Phase One of the Silver Line.

Dulles Transit Partners, the design-build contractor, informed MWAA's board Wednesday, July 17, that additional time would be needed for further testing, testing that must be completed before the track is transferred to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

The eight-week estimate could be adjusted, according to the Dulles Transit Partners, who announced that additional tests will be done during July and August, and a more concrete estimate would be available at MWAA's Sept. 18 board meeting.

"Any project this large and complex is inevitably going to encounter unexpected issues that require additional tests and adjustments," said Jack Potter, MWAA CEO, in a press release. "With Phase One of the Silver Line nearly complete, there isn't sufficient time in the schedule to recover from recently identified matters within the original plan."

THE ORIGINAL PLAN called for "substantial completion" by September, then the project would be transferred to WMATA for 90 days of personnel training, system tests and operations simulation. After the 90 day period, passenger service is expected to be initiated.

According to the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project contract, "substantial completion" means certification for tests must be provided, all base contract work must be completed, as-built drawings must be pro-

vided, vendor-provided training must be completed, operations and maintenance manuals must be presented and safety documents must be certified.

Larry Melton, the project's executive director for Dulles Transit Partner, estimated that the project was 98 percent complete as of May.

The delay in substantial completion, and subsequent required testing, has moved the opening date of the Silver Line past the expected late December date, and has moved the opening as far back as February.

Meanwhile, several projects that are being constructed to go hand in hand with the Silver Line are proceeding as originally planned. The Reston Station development, a mixed-use complex located at the Wiehle Avenue Station is still on schedule for their original planned opening.

"We're disappointed in the delay, but we're also eager and ready to get Reston Station going," said Maggie Parker of Comstock Partners, the company building Reston Station in conjunction with Fairfax County. "We're ready to hand over the parking garage to the county next week, and we're fully prepared to be ready to go by December, and after that, we'll be anxiously awaiting the arrival of Metro."

The Fairfax Connector bus service has also planned for widespread changes to coincide with the Silver Line's opening, mostly to provide transit to the four stops in Tysons Corner and the one in Reston.

THE NEW ROUTES are scheduled to begin at the same time the trains open to passengers, meaning they will be delayed along with completion of the rail line.

"We don't have a set date for our new/modified service to start. We are still planning to start our new/modified service on day one of Silver Line operations," said Ellen Kamilakis of the county's Department of Transportation. "Until WMATA sets the date, we won't know. Even with the new substantial completion date, we are still planning on having things ready by the end of the year, to stay on our own schedule."

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The bus transfer facility at Reston Station is on schedule and will soon be transferred to the county.



PHOTO BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Dr. Thomas Wilkins with Reston founder Robert Simon. Wilkins, a longtime Reston resident and civil rights activist, passed away Saturday, July 20 at the age of 83.

Dr. Thomas Wilkins Dies at 83

For more than 40 years, Wilkins worked to better lives of those around Reston.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

When Dr. Thomas Wilkins moved to Reston in 1969, he said he did so because it was "an island of equality in a sea of inequality." Wilkins died Saturday, July 20 at the age of 83, having spent 44 years trying to make Reston a stronger community.

"I'm a Restonian," Wilkins said in 2005, while discussing Reston's history of inclusiveness for people of all races. "I'm fighting for what will make our community, not one of the best, but the best community in the United States."

He served in the Army, and graduated from Saint Paul's College before spending a number of years working for the Department of Labor. Later, he was a staff member to Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chair Tom Davis, who would go on to become a congressman.

More recently, he worked with Warren Thompson of Thompson Hospitality, who runs American Tap Room in Reston.

Tammi Petrine, a member of the Reston Citizens Association, remembered Wilkins fondly as the man who officiated the wedding of her son and daughter-in-law at her home in Reston. She remembers the special bond Wilkins formed with their then 3-year-old grandson Robbie.

"Quite a beautiful pair they made; the very tall, distinguished gentleman and a very short, curly haired nymph. Throughout the evening, Dr. Wilkins' kindness never wavered as his little shadow followed him step for step. At the end of the evening when Tom walked outside to leave, Robbie raced after him to bestow a big hug and kiss for his new friend," she said. "The cliché that small children are the best judges of fine character certainly held true on this magical night as our family's seminal event was enriched by the charms of a great man whose life was dedicated to improving this very complex world."

Carol Ann Bradley, past chair of the Reston Community Center and former principal of Terraset Elementary School, said Wilkins was one of the first people she met when she moved to Reston 40 years ago.

"I will always remember Tom first and foremost as a loving father and husband," she said. "The Wilkins home was always a place where my children and I felt welcome, it was filled with food, fun and family. He was a wonderful, caring friend who was always excited to help others."

WILKINS WAS RECOGNIZED for his propensity to help others in 1997, when he was named Best of Reston dur-

SEE DR. WILKINS, PAGE 7



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Louise Archer Elementary School in Vienna is one of the schools benefiting from Our Daily Bread's summer food program, an extension of the nonprofit's Food4Thought weekend program.

Making Sure Children Don't Go Hungry

Our Daily Bread provides meals for children during summer break.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

For most children, summer means the end of homework and tests, and the beginning of cookouts and carefree summer vacations.

For thousands of children from low-income families, summer can also mean going hungry. Free and reduced food programs—which provide children access to nutritious breakfasts, lunches and snacks—end along with the school year, leaving many students at risk for hunger over the summer months.

“Summer is a very difficult time for parents who are depending on the school’s free or reduced lunches,” said Lisa Whetzel, executive director of Our Daily Bread, a Fairfax County volunteer-based nonprofit. “As a community, it’s important to make sure that children have access to the healthy food they need during the summer months.”

To help meet that need, Our Daily Bread launched a new program this summer to provide healthy meals and household supplies to 42 families whose children attend three local elementary schools—Marshall Road, Cunningham Park and Louise Archer.

According to Fairfax County Public Schools, 47,874 students—more than 26 percent of the school system’s total student population—received free and reduced lunches during the 2012-2013 school year.

Whetzel said the program is an extension of ODB’s Food4Thought program, which began in 2011 in partnership with concerned parents at Marshall Road Elementary School. Volunteers created packages of non-perishable food and drinks to send home each weekend with 19 children in the school who participated in the federal food subsidy program. Volunteers collected donations within the school and



Volunteers and staff of Our Daily Bread, a volunteer-based nonprofit that helps low-income residents in Fairfax County, collect food at its Vienna pantry.

supplemented it with food from Our Daily Bread’s Vienna Pantry.

“This new partnership with Marshall Road is successful because there is a champion within the school,” Whetzel said. “If there is not a willing social worker and PTA, it cannot work. We applaud Jean Wyman and the PTA for seeing the need in their school and reaching out to ODB to make this work.”

Our Daily Bread is also working with Daniels Run Elementary School in Fairfax City, and hopes to expand Food4Thought and its summer extension program to more local schools as they gain more funding, community support and resources.

“We welcome working with as many schools as request our assistance. We can help them get started by explaining the process,” she said.

For more information on Our Daily Bread’s programs, go to www.odbfairfax.org. To donate to the Vienna food pantry, contact Christina Garris at 703-273-8829.

Hannah Testa wearing her One More Generation T-shirt.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FARIDA TESTA

The More You Know About the Rhino

Fifth grade environmental activist visits Reston.

BY SARAH ANDERSON

Last Tuesday, 10-year-old Hannah Testa came to Reston to meet with Robert Simon, the founder of Reston, and to give presentations on the plight of the rhinos in South Africa. Hannah has single-handedly collected over 1,600 petitions for this cause and works diligently to educate children and adults about the need to protect the environment.

Hannah Testa is from Cumming, Ga., and sits on the Board of Directors of the nonprofit organization One More Generation, which aims to educate the public about endangered species and environmental issues. She became involved with One More Generation, or OMG, about three months ago after watching one of the organization’s videos online about the Rhino Campaign. She wanted to help OMG with their campaign and pledged to send OMG’s founders, Olivia, 10, and Carter Ries, 11, 500 petitions to save the rhinos in South Africa, who are being killed for their horns. “If we do not do anything to help these rhinos, they will all be gone by 2022. We only have one planet and we need to take care of it,” explained Hannah in a phone interview. As well as working on the Rhino Cam-

paign, Hannah also educates others about plastic pollution and other environmental issues.

During Hannah’s visit to Reston, she gave two presentations. One was in front of over 70 elementary school children at Brown’s Chapel and the other was to employees at Apex CoVantage. Hannah says that her favorite part of presenting was, “seeing how engaged everyone was.” She also met with Robert Simon, who signed one of Hannah’s petitions to save the rhinos.

Hannah’s favorite quote is from Dr. Seuss’ “The Lorax” and it perfectly reflects why she works so hard to protect the rhinos and other endangered animals: “Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”

OMG currently has collected over 6,500 Rhino Campaign petitions, which will be delivered to South Africa’s President, Jacob Zuma in September. Hannah is currently raising money so that she can go on this trip, where she will walk in a parade and deliver the petitions that she has been working so hard to collect. For more information about One More Generation and the work that Hannah Testa has been doing on behalf of endangered species, visit onemoregeneration.org.

PET CONNECTION



Carson Gillions of Reston poses with his dogs, Fergie (left) and Roxy. Gillions has had both dogs since they were puppies.



Tom Walko of Vienna visits the Baron Cameron Dog Park with his Airedale terrier, Nelly.

Meet Best Friends of Reston

BY ASHLEY ADAMS
THE CONNECTION

Reston sure loves its four-legged friends. Whether residents are walking them around Reston Town Center or heading to the Baron Cameron Dog Park, the sight of a Reston resident out and about with a furry companion is a common one, especially during the warmer months.

❖ **Carson Gillions of Reston** is no exception. Gillions and his family are the owners of two small dogs, Fergie, a 3-year-old shih-poo, and Roxy, a 10-year-old cockapoo. The Gillions family has owned both dogs since they were puppies.

"There's a lot of great things about them," Gillions said. "For starters, Fergie is possibly the most affectionate animal I've ever met."

But Gillions also admits that there are ups and downs to being a dog owner.

"Roxy pooped in my bed once," Gillions said, but he's quick to add the incident

hasn't soured their relationship.

"It comes with the territory," he said with a shrug. "And I love her anyway."

❖ **Tom Walko** is another dog owner who happily accepts his pet's flaws.

"She's insane," Walko said of Nelly, his 2-year-old Airedale terrier.

But a little insanity seems like a fair enough trade for a dog as

clearly affectionate as Nelly, who happily passed the afternoon with her owner at Baron Cameron Dog Park. And she's certainly not shy, confidently approaching other dogs and humans as she plays. Her preferred style of introduction might catch strangers a little off guard though, said Walko.

"She likes to go right under people's legs," Walko said.

❖ **Among the dogs** that Nelly played with at the Baron Cameron Dog Park was Revas,

SEE PEOPLE, PAGE 12



Joel Eidelberg of Oak Hill with his dog, Revas, at the Baron Cameron Dog Park. Revas is a rescue dog whose heritage includes American bulldog, Labrador and Finnish spitz.



Linden Abston of Reston poses next to her cardigan Welsh corgi, Abbey. Abston and her family adopted Abbey, who was bred to be a show dog, when she didn't meet physical requirements to compete in dog shows.



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OPINION

Stemming Gun Violence

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

While President Obama in his statement about the Trayvon Martin case reminded us, "we are a nation of laws, and a jury has spoken," he went on to say that "we should ask ourselves if we're doing all we can to stem the tide of gun violence that claims too many lives across this country on a daily basis." Not only are we not doing enough, but we are seeing actions on the part of congressmen and senators and state legislators fearful of the gun lobby that may well result in more gun violence. When handguns used in the commission of crimes were traced to Virginia in such great numbers that the state became known as the "gun-running capital of the east,"



the state legislature put in place a limitation of one handgun purchase per month. This year the General Assembly repealed that law. If 12 pistols were too few a year, one can now buy however many are desired!

According to a USA Today editorial, in 1981 19 states prohibited people from carrying a hidden weapon in public, "but a powerful gun lobby has turned that system upside down." Four states now allow persons to carry hidden firearms without a permit, and in 35 states, including Virginia, officials must issue permits to just about anyone who applies unless they have committed a felony. Hidden guns are now allowed in restaurants and bars and public places.

Most frightening of all are the changes in state law to allow persons to stand their ground and use deadly force in any location one is legally

allowed to be without first attempting to retreat. Florida was the first state to adopt such a law that had been drafted by the National Rifle Association and promoted by the American Legislative Exchange Council to almost two dozen states. The instructions to the jury in the Zimmerman case made it clear that if "he had a right to be where he had a right to be, he had no duty to retreat." Efforts to enact a "stand your ground" law have been made in Virginia and are likely to continue until successful. Not only is there a proliferation of guns, but laws are being rewritten to expand the instances in which they can be used against another.

There were the tragedies at Virginia Tech, Columbine, Newtown and thousands of other instances of gun violence. What will be the tragedy that will cause us to wake up and insist that no constitutional right can be argued that reduces the safety of others and enhances the potential for violence?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Facts About Rec Center

To the Editor:

The misinformation spilling out concerning a proposed recreation center for Reston is shielding the light that could be shining on the subject. No wonder that confusion is prevalent. I hope that presenting some factual information will help clear up the atmosphere and lead to a reasoned conclusion.

For Restonians, today's athletic facilities fall short of meeting their needs. An inclusive indoor facility would be the answer to this shortfall. Such a facility should include a 50-meter swimming pool, space adaptable for basketball, volleyball, track, yoga and the like and a workout equipment room; it could include tennis courts.

Two of the concerns that have been raised about building this facility are, if it is to be built, where should it be located and who would pay for it. RCC (Reston Community Center), a Fairfax County satellite with two centers, the main one in Hunters Woods and the other in Lake Anne) has been considering Baron Cameron Park as the best place to build it. This park is owned by the Fairfax County Park Authority. It consists of 68 acres of land with four ball fields and a dog park. The proposed recreation center would occupy some 5 acres of the 68. None of our pools is as big as 50 meters. Yet the 50-meter pool is standard, and therefore necessary for our swimmers to be able to train for competition.

Bob Simon
Reston

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 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

Benefits of an Extra Year In Preschool

To the Editor:

The recent move to all-day kindergarten in Fairfax County prompted me to write to encourage parents in our community to consider a pre-kindergarten program for children who might benefit from an additional year in preschool. If a child is not quite ready for the requirements of a very challenging all-day kindergarten program, then an additional year to develop further and strengthen needed skills might be advisable.

Heading off to Kindergarten is a wonderfully exciting time. When your child is ready, schooling is a long, happy journey. If you are at all uncertain that your child is ready for kindergarten, to ensure success you should reflect on your child's social, emotional, physical and intellectual development. For optimal success, all four areas of development should be progressing simultaneously.

It is not uncommon for a child to be very bright, yet not physically or socially or emotionally ready for the rigors of working all day in a large group. There are many advantages to enrolling your

child in a pre-k program and spending an additional year in preschool. In my experience, parents agree that you never regret waiting a year, but you might regret pushing ahead with a child who would truly benefit from another year in a smaller setting with more individual attention and support.

Comments from several McLean parents on the advantages of enrolling a child in a pre-k program before proceeding to kindergarten include:

"An extra year in a pre-k program is very important to consider, especially if your child has shown some difficulties in his performance at preschool. Parents sometimes rush in putting their kids into kindergarten without thinking about the challenges that they are going to face at the upper levels."

Another reflection: "I knew my son was ready academically, but I didn't like the idea of him being the youngest child in his kindergarten class. It didn't take long for me to realize that waiting for kindergarten was the best decision I could have made."

Lastly, "My son started preschool when he was 3 years old and when it was time to start kindergarten it was a big decision for our family. My son was very bright, but shy and needed some more time to gain confidence in a small, caring group. This one extra year made him ready for the transition from a small environment to elementary school."

Anne Schwartz, M. Ed.
Director, Dolley Madison
Preschool
McLean

Reston
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Dr. Wilkins Dies

FROM PAGE 3

ing the annual awards ceremony. One of the most lasting parts of his legacy is the Martin Luther King Jr. Cultural Foundation, which he helped found in 1999.

“He founded the Martin Luther King Jr. Cultural Foundation as a member of the Martin Luther King Christian Church, with the idea that the church would organize it, incorporate it and eventually turn it over to the community, which is what happened,” said Roger Lewis, a member of the foundation. “His vision was that the needs of the community wouldn’t be met by just a faith-based organization, but with the efforts of the whole community.”

When the foundation began awarding scholarships in 2000, Wilkins was among the first people to fund one, naming it after his late wife Delores. Since then, they have awarded more than \$250,000 in scholarships to more than 130 local students.

Myrtle Gallow, president of the foundation’s board, called Wilkins a “pied piper” when it came to his interactions with people.

“He was always giving advice, encouraging people to move up, to do better, he wanted everyone to get involved,” she said.

The foundation recognizes several people with the Outstanding Educator Award each year, and Gallow said that future award will be named after Wilkins, himself a past winner.

Retired Gen. William “Kip” Ward and his wife Joyce Lewis Ward first met Wilkins after reading an article about how he came from Joyce’s hometown of Lawrenceville, Va. Upon meeting him, they found that Wilkins had vivid memories of Joyce’s father, and shared them with her.

“That was the start of a wonderful relationship we had with Tom. We were in the same fraternity, and we bonded over our military service. As he got older, we would bring him food, and just sitting talking with him was always a great experience,” Kip Ward said. “He was such a great advocate for development, for investing in human capital. He was an instrumental force in making Reston the diverse and welcoming community it is.”

OTHERS REMEMBERED the warmth and kindness that Wilkins seemed to exude.

“I think we’ll all miss his kindness and friendship most of all,” said Mary Ann Hovis, a member of the Martin Luther King Jr. Cultural Foundation. “And he was incredibly dedicated. He came to every single event he could, including our last board meeting.”

Wilkins was involved in many organizations in his four decades in Reston. He served at the Reston Association’s first (and only to date) African-American president, and he was president of Fairfax chapter of the NAACP.

Wilkins was predeceased by his wife Delores, herself a prominent member of the community who founded the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration in Reston. He is survived by children Tommy, Lisa and Mark, as well as grandchildren Ryland, Walker and Sabrina.

A viewing will be held Thursday, July 25 at 9 a.m. at the Heritage Fellowship Church at 2501 Fox Mill Road in Reston, with a service to follow at 11 a.m.

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PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Volunteers and staff from Dogtopia wash dogs to raise money for service dog groups at Lake Anne Sunday, July 21.



Dog washers from Dogtopia at Lake Anne, where more than 100 dogs were washed to raise money for service dog charities Sunday, July 21.

Lake Anne Goes to the Dogs

Annual Dogtopia charity wash raises funds to train service dogs.

By ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Trina Shaughnessy was with her dog Macro on their usual Sunday afternoon walk on North Shore Drive last weekend, when she heard an unmistakable sound coming from Lake Anne Plaza.

"It was an avalanche of dogs barking, like dozens of them were there, and I figured we just had to investigate," she said. "Macro is usually pretty good around other dogs, but I think he was a little hesitant given all the commotion. But he got a bath out of it."

Macro got a bath as part of Dogtopia's ninth annual charity dog wash, which took place at Lake Anne for the first time. Dogtopia is a dog daycare, boarding and grooming company with several locations in Northern Virginia.

"We have locations in Tysons and Herndon, and we usually have our wash events in stores, but thought this was a good way to get outside in a place that was between the two," said Amy Nichols, CEO of Dogtopia, who opened the first location in Tysons in 2002.

The proceeds from Sunday's wash went to organizations such as America's Vet Dogs and Vet-

erans Moving Forward, which provide service dogs to veterans facing physical and mental health challenges upon their return. "We first got involved with serving the military by sending dogs and treats to dogs stationed overseas, and we were able to send around 50,000 pounds of them over the years," Nichols said. "Now that more and more soldiers are coming home, we felt it was time to start supporting these veterans."

The dogs in Veterans Moving Forward are fostered and trained for 18 months to two years before they are teamed up with a service member, at a cost of around \$12,000 per dog.

"Our customers know the power of having a dog in your life, so I think they can identify with what these dogs can do for these men and women," Nichols said. "Dogs are a way to keep people grounded in reality, and they really take care of the people they're with."

Nichols said they were hoping to wash 100 dogs during the day, and by the halfway point they had given 70 dogs a bath, shampoo, towel dry and patriotic bandana.

Staff members and other volunteers did the washing, as well as branching out to the nearby dog park at Baron Cameron Park.

"I was at the dog park when someone came by with flyers about the dog wash, which was very



Courtney Foster and Justin Martin wash Daddy Junior, an American pit bull, at the charity dog wash event at Lake Anne Sunday, July 21.

smart of them," said Justine Shaw of Reston. "My dog had just spent 20 minutes running around in the dirt and grass, so she could use a bath, especially for a good cause." This was the ninth year Dogtopia has hosted a local wash, but the

first year they declared "National Wash Your Dog Day," with washes at all of their locations around the country. More information on Veterans Moving Forward can be found at www.vetsfwd.org.

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 24

Animators of the 60s Film & Art Gallery. All Day, at 11921 Freedom Drive, Reston. See original images from cartoon classics from the 1960's: The Flintstones, The Jetsons, Scooby Doo, Pink Panther, Top Cat and more; exhibit up through Aug. 5. 703-478-0778 or artinsights.com.

Seniors Movie Day. 10 a.m., at Bow Tie Cinemas, Reston Town Center, 11940 Market St., Reston. Reston Association presents "Quartet"; 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. Ryan Buckle & Friends gives the young and the young at heart science they can sing to and enjoy. www.ryanbuckleandfriends.com.

THURSDAY/JULY 25

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. abadad.com.

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 just yesterday. www.gonzosnose.com/.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JULY 26-27

Bye Bye Birdie. 7:30 p.m., at Herndon High School, Door 6, 800 Bennett St., Herndon. The Grand Summer Theatre Production features local youth talent in the story of a teen heartthrob surrounded in the girl fanfare of a yesteryear Justin Bieber-type star. \$10. www.herndonrocks.com/.

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/>

SATURDAY/JULY 27

Cooking Demonstration at Big Bowl. 9 a.m. Chef Oscar Huerta demonstrates how to prepare Panang Curry Chicken. \$25 for adults, \$10 for children 10 years and under. 703-787-8852 or bigbowl.com.

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. www.thegreatzucchini.com.

Great Paws Walk. 10 a.m.-noon, Great Falls Assisted Living, 1121 Reston Avenue, Herndon. This 1-mile, pet-friendly walk raises money for the Red Star Program by the American Humane Association, a disaster relief program. \$30, registration opens at 9:30 a.m., walkers will receive a dog bandana and refreshments. Visit www.greatfallsassistedliving.com, call 703-421-0690, or email sfields@greatfallsassistedliving.com.

Incendio. 7:30-10 p.m., at the Pavilion, Reston Town Center, 11900 Market

overseas partnering organizations who distribute bike to those in need of transportation; a rain or shine event. Those who can't attend should call to arrange donation; see list of partnering organizations online. 917-716-2841 or www.bikesfortheworld.org.

SUNDAY/JULY 28

Herndon Friends Meeting 19th annual Used Bike Collection. Noon-3 p.m., at the Friends Meetinghouse, 660 Spring St., Herndon. A collection of bikes to go to

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

BULLETIN BOARD

SATURDAY/JULY 27

Habitat Heroes Project. 10 a.m.-noon. Deer Forest Tot Lot, Reston Parkway and Deer Forest Road, Reston. The Habitat Heroes are meeting to eliminate invasive shrubs from the natural area. Park along

Deer Forest Road. Look for the R.A. truck. To volunteer and find more information, contact habrock@reston.org or 703-435-7986.

AUGUST 31, 2013 • 1:00-8:00PM

Sponsored By:

Lake Anne Plaza. Located at Village Drive and North Shore Drive in the heart of North Reston. www.lakeanneplaza.com

7th Annual Lake Anne Jazz & Blues Festival Moved to Labor Day Weekend

Lake Anne's ever-popular Jazz & Blues Festival has been moved from October to Labor Day Weekend, Aug. 31. The free, family friendly, all-day event from 1-8 p.m. features local emerging artists and nationally acclaimed jazz performers. Rashida Jolley is headlining the event for the third year, and brings her R&B-hip-hop-classical-pop fusion, popular from appearances on The Ellen Show, The Today Show, The Mo'Nique Show and most recently on NBC's "America's Got Talent."

St., Reston. Incendio plays Spanish flamenco with a latin fusion mix. <http://www.restontowncenter.com/events.html>.

SATURDAY/JULY 27

BBQ Brawl Presented by Northern Virginia Magazine. 3-5 p.m., Reston Town Center Pavilion, 1818 Discovery Street, Reston. At Nova Wars, a friendly food fight, three restaurants compete for the King of NoVA BBQ title. northernvirginiamag.com/nova-wars/

SATURDAY/JULY 27

Artist's Reception for the Town Calendar Photography Competition. 7 p.m., ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. The Council for the Arts of Herndon and ArtSpace present a reception for the 2013 Town Calendar Photography Competition. Free admission, open to the public, free parking and light refreshments available.

MONDAY/JULY 29

Deadline for "Paint and Beyond" Entries. Artists are encouraged to enter paintings, mixed media, and other hangable two-dimensional works, excluding photography, in the exhibit. Torpedo Factory resident Connie Slack will judge the pieces. The works will be on display at the U.S. Geological Survey Aug. 2-29.

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 or Events@reston.org.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 31

Trip to Toby's Dinner Theatre to see "Les Miserables." 9:15 a.m.-4:15 p.m. Reston Association is having a chartered bus trip to Toby's Dinner Theatre for a buffet lunch in Columbia, Md. to see "Les Miserables." Ages 55 and older, \$62 for RA members, \$68 for non-members, bus pick-up locations include Hunter Woods Shopping Center, Thoreau Place, 1951 Sagewood Lane, Lake Anne Plaza parking lot. Contact Ashleigh@reston.org or call 703-435-6577 for more information.

THURSDAY/AUG. 1

Golf Tournament Benefit for the Council for the Arts of Herndon. 9 a.m. 909 Ferndale Ave, Herndon. This benefit is sponsored by Jimmy's Old Town Tavern. Scholarships may still be available. Call 703-626-1066 for more information.

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. www.reunionmusic.org.

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SPORTS

RSTA Regular Season Concludes With New Champion and Close Meet

It is said that all good things must come to an end and so it was on Saturday as the final meets of the Reston Swim Team Association (RSTA) regular season took place under a hot, humid day. While this area has suffered under a blistering heat wave for the last week, the early morning hours were actually quite pleasant before the sun came out to bake the swimmers and spectators as the morning wore on. The weather may have been an omen for Lake Audubon as their swimmers scorched the pool en route to their victory over Autumnwood. Their victory left them in sole possession of first place with a perfect 6-0 record and another league championship.

And while that victory was somewhat expected by league pundits, the meet between Lake Newport and North Hills was by far the closest and most exciting meet of the day. Trailing by anywhere from four to 42 points after various strokes were swum, the Lightning began their comeback after the Relays. On the back end of the Breaststroke they had reduced the deficit to just 20 points and by the time they were swimming Freestyle and Mixed Age Relays it was either team's meet to win. In the end, their 11-point victory was the closest of the season. "My hat is off to both teams," said Jim Mizner, RSTA board member representing Lake Newport. "With both teams utilizing the same pool for their practices, many of the swimmers and their families know each other so there is a certain amount of friendly rivalry... The enthusiasm and sportsmanship that was exhibited by all of the swimmers was something to behold. It was truly one of the best meets that I have been associated with."

In addition to the excitement surrounding these two meets, there were some longstanding records that were broken.

For Glade, Tyler Ellis broke a record that had stood for twenty-nine years. In the Boys (13-14) 50 meter Butterfly his time of 29.32 bested the old record of 29.51 that was set by Chris Hines back in 1984. For North Hills, Joseph Sciortino set a new record in the Boys (9-10) 50 meter Freestyle. His time of 34.26 beat the old record of 35.09 that was set by Jonathan Pickering back in July of 2006. And for Lake



Lake Audubon's Griffin Scanlan outpaces the field to win the Boys (11-12) 50 meter Butterfly.



Hurricanes Forever: Long time North Hills swimmers Zach Decker and Rachel Swarts pose together for one last time during their final meet swimming for the Hurricanes against Lake Newport. Each has been swimming for North Hills for over 10 years.

Audubon, Nicolas Sobenes set a new record in the Boys (8 and Under) 25 meter Butterfly. His time of 19.68 beat the old time of

19.99 that was set by teammate John Hughes back in 2006. Scores and highlights of Saturday's meets follow.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Trevor Groves (bottom) of Lake Audubon tries to catch Autumnwood's Benjamin Thompson in the Boys (13-14) 50 meter Backstroke.



Lake Audubon's Madeleine Daum brings home the win on the anchor leg of the Girls (15-18) 200-meter Medley Relay.



Sydney Cook of Lake Audubon gives it her all in the Girls (11-12) 50 meter Butterfly.

Lake Newport Lightning (583) and North Hills Hurricanes (572)

For Lake Newport, triple event winners were Matt Colturi, Michael George, Emi Redican, Grant Romero, Casey Storch and Nathan Williams. Double event winners were Fabricio Alvarez, Harry Bear, Jack Edgmond, Lindsey Jacobson,

Isabelle Kahng, Dan Ni, Matthew Schmitt, Britt Truckess and Alan Yu. For North Hills, triple event winners were Katie Cazenias, Aveesh Kachroo, Joseph Sciortino and Rachel Swarts. Double event winners were Marlee Czarny, Greyson Decker, Ryan Hill, Jennifer Koppang, Emily Ren, Samantha Sciortino, Emma Tierney, Amy Wang and Miles Yang.

PET CONNECTION



This is Jill, a former “lost dog” who joined the Howell family and inspired their volunteer work with Lost Dog.



Princess is one of many foster dogs taken in by Marcia Tiersky, president of the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation, over the past 10 years.



This kitten, fostered by Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation volunteer Beth Stevens, is “a polydactyl,” meaning she has extra toes.



Parker, formerly a “lost dog,” was adopted by Beth Stevens before she became a Lost Dog volunteer.



This dog, called Batman, was a foster in Lisa Marie Czop’s home.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Helping Save Lives, One Pet at a Time

Area residents explain their dedication to the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation.

BY AMBER HEALY
THE CONNECTION

Behind every adoption successfully completed by the Arlington-based Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation, there’s a volunteer with a happy heart.

There’s a small volunteer army across Northern Virginia that turns out every weekend to help cats and dogs find homes, but there’s never a shortage of others looking for a safe place to be fed, sheltered and loved. Volunteers are what make the organization run, from walking dogs at adoption events to petting cats to making sure adoptable animals have safe transportation

from rural shelters to this area for medical care.

These volunteers are playing, and will continue to play, a major role in Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation’s participation in the ASPCA/Rachael Ray \$100,000 challenge, an ongoing competition in which the rescue group and others across the country are trying to surpass the number of animal adoptions recorded between June 1 and Aug. 31.

But why do people agree to share their limited free time with animals? What brings them in, and what makes them stay?

Here are a few of their stories:

HER DAUGHTER’S DOING.

Judy Haynes of Herndon was trying to help her daughter find a way to complete her volunteer requirement for an eighth grade civics class. Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation was one of the few groups that would allow 14-year-olds to help out, with parental supervision, so the mother-daughter team signed up.

That was four years ago. “We started out holding leashes for the dogs,” Haynes said. When their own dog passed away, they thought about fostering from the organization.

That led to a “foster failure,” as the family soon adopted a “20 pound terrier who doesn’t tolerate dogs bigger than she is. Now we foster a lot of Chihuahuas,” Haynes said. The family has fostered at least 20 dogs in four years.

The power of knowing a

The Challenge: Joining Together to Save Animals

There are dozens of animal welfare organizations across the country working to secure “forever homes” for dogs and cats of all ages. And while there’s a general camaraderie amongst them, stemming from their common cause, what’s a little friendly competition among peers?

For the past few years, the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) has sponsored a nationwide contest to challenge shelters to see how many more animals they could adopt between June and August beyond the total the year before.

The idea was to “spur innovation, increase public support, empower staff and, most importantly, save more lives,” said Bert Troughton, ASPCA’s vice president and a leader of what has become the ASPCA/Rachael Ray \$100K challenge.

The organizations that adopt the most animals above totals from June to August the year before wins not only in terms of putting cats and dogs in loving, happy homes, but a sizeable chunk of change to save even more.

“We know that the contest can help save more lives in the long-term too, because all of

the added attention and support contestants earn during the contest can be harnessed for continued life-saving,” Troughton said.

ASPCA started the challenge in 2010, and in 2012, TV personality and animal lover Rachael Ray joined up with the organization, as she did again this year, allowing the organization to offer more than \$600,000 in prize grants:

A \$100,000 grand prize grant will be awarded to the organization that reports the largest increase in adoptions over the total from the year before. Other awards include a \$25,000 “community engagement award,” and \$25,000 to the first place finisher in each of five divisions, as well as \$15,000 to the second place finishers. Lost Dog is in eighth place overall and second place in their division as of Monday, July 22.

“It’s a whole lot of work and a whole lot of fun because every single life saved is a victory — regardless of who wins the grant prizes for the biggest increases,” Troughton said.

This year, 49 organizations in 30 states are competing for the grants, he said. To see the challenge details, visit challenge.aspcapro.org.

— AMBER HEALY



PHOTO BY AMBER HEALY/ THE CONNECTION

Barbara Hutcherson and Marcia Tiersky help dogs out of the transport crates loaded into a van used by the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation to bring them to the 11 adoption events the rescue group hosts each weekend.

dog has found the right home is awesome, Haynes added. She recalled one woman and little boy who came in to look at dogs during an event. Through the course of chatting with them, Haynes learned that the boy was in a foster home, and the woman wanted to help him feel more comfortable and safe.

“They were made for each other,” she said.

Staying with Lost Dog now that her two teenagers have surpassed their eighth grade civics obligations was an easy decision.

“It’s very rewarding to do this,” she said. “The volunteers, Barb and Pam, there are so many great people involved.”

THE MIRACLE WORKER. Centreville resident Earl Smith has a reputation for taking sad-eyed, frightened beagles and turning them into happy, friendly, outgoing pets. Case in point: the two dogs he’s recently fostered.

“Blue was a shelter dog. When I took him in, he was less than social,” keeping his head and tail down, not attempting to play with

his own three dogs, Smith said. Within a few weeks, his tail was up and wagging, his eyes alert and on the watch for squirrels or birds.

Another dog, Cappy, had been with Smith for only a few days. “Five weeks ago, he was in a home where he’d lived for 10 years. He got dropped off at an adoption event” without prior warning or explanation by his previous owner.

Smith has been fostering dogs, mostly beagles, for six years, and has turned many fosters into full-time pets.

“My first dog was from Lost Dog,” he said. “Eleven years ago, I got my first beagle. A couple of years later, I got him a buddy. After that, I’d see rescue groups and wanted to volunteer,” and signing up with the foundation was an easy decision to make.

During one of the first adoption events he attended as a volunteer, “there was a dog at an event and she was old. I thought, how can I let this dog go to a kennel? So I asked if I could foster.”

SEE VOLUNTEERING, PAGE 13

PET CONNECTION



Falling in Love With Asia

A few months ago I was invited to attend a meeting of the Bull Terrier Rescue of Virginia, where I shared my latest book, "Dogs of War" (which included General Patton's bull terrier, Willie). One of the members told me about Asia, a young female bullie who had recently arrived from down south and was up for adoption.

We had been looking for a dog for quite awhile, since we had an only child, an 8-year-old autistic boy named Spencer. When Asia came to visit our home, Spencer was enchanted—he said, "dog!" and "woof! woof!" and petted her with a smile, so we knew it was a good match.

She has completed our family and has brought that healing, unconditional love that has made all the difference to Spencer—and to Asia too—she gets to sleep on our king-sized bed every night, enjoys walks on the beautiful Reston trails, and has made friends with other rescue dogs in the neighborhood. We are so blessed to have her.

—KATHLEEN KINSOLVING



Spencer reads "Owl Babies" to Asia.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Snack Time

Nathan enjoying a snack in his outdoor dining area at Walnut Branch Road in Reston.



People and Pets

FROM PAGE 5

a 2-year-old dog owned by Joel Eidelberg of Oak Hill.

Eidelberg's wife rescued Revas at an adoption event at Reston Town Center.

"I was on the golf course when my wife started sending me pictures of him," Eidelberg said. "The next thing you know, I had a dog."

Because Revas was a rescue dog, his heritage was a mystery to the Eidelbergs. With his white fur and distinctive brown markings around his eyes and tail, his ancestry was clearly mixed, but it was unclear which breeds made up his pedigree.

To find out, the Eidelbergs sent Revas's DNA to a lab that specialized in determining dog breeds. As it turned out, Revas had quite the background, with American bulldog, Labrador and Finnish spitz included in his lineage.

❖ **Heritage** was never a question Linden Abston had to ask about her 10-year-old cardigan Welsh corgi, Abbey.

"She was bred to be a show dog, but when she was born her head was smaller than it was supposed to be and her fur was long and fluffy," Abston said. When it became clear Abbey couldn't be show dog, the breeder decided to sell her, and Abston has had her ever since.

But despite her prestigious lineage, Abbey isn't without a couple quirks.

"She prides herself on being ladylike and so she demands that all hats be removed in her presence," Abston said. "She'll bark her head off for hours at anyone who dares wear a hat in her presence."

Like many dog owners, Abston says Abbey's little quirks are part of what makes her so lovable. In describing her relationship with her dog, Abston shares a sentiment that most dog owners can relate to:

"She's my best friend," Abston said.

Indeed, Reston's dogs come in every shape and size imaginable, but the one thing they seem to have in common is their owner's obvious regard for them.


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PET CONNECTION

Volunteering Saves Lives



Mason, a Lost Dog cat, strolls on a leash during an adoption event.

FROM PAGE 11

Since then, he's fostered 45 dogs, often getting animals that appear to have been abused or made to fear humans in some way.

"I have a soft spot for the sad ones, the ones no one has loved for a long time," he said. "With a rescue organization, any home they have is better than the place they were before."

"For me, the best reward is when I get home and the new dog is there with my other dogs waiting to jump on me and say hello," he said, smiling. "I just want to know they're safe."

Some Lost Dog volunteers have taken to calling the beagles that look the most unsure and frightened "Earl dogs," because they know he can work his magic with them.

He admits it's difficult to get attached to a dog knowing the animal's just there temporarily. Some families send pictures through the years so he can see the dog grow up, often with a family's children. Others promise to do so, but forget as time goes on.

"I keep photos of all the dogs I've fostered," he said, opening up his cell phone and scrolling through before and after photos of some dogs mixed in with ones he's been sent of his success stories in their new lives. It's a practice embraced by many volunteers.

A SECOND JOB, A LABOR OF LOVE. Marcia Tiersky was just looking for a way to share her time.

Now the president of the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation board, Tiersky, who started volunteer-

ing with the organization in 2002, helps oversee quarterly board meetings in addition to interviewing potential adopters, answering questions from anywhere and everywhere, fostering dogs and updating the website when new animals arrive.

The organization has grown from three adoption events per week, averaging 20 adoptions each week, to 11 adoption events each week, averaging 50-70 adoptions each weekend. In her 10 years as president, the number of volunteers also has expanded, now numbering in the thousands.

"It's amazing," she said. "And it's all because of our wonderful volunteers. We could not do what we do if we did not have people to hold the dogs, show the cats, conduct interviews, do paperwork, answer adopter questions, respond to emails and calls on the phone line, and generally spread word of mouth about the rescue."

MONEY WON EQUALS LIVES SAVED. All volunteers interviewed were asked what Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation's winning the \$100,000 challenge would mean to the organization, and the response was unanimous.

Winning that money would mean more animals could be saved.

Editor's note: Writer Amber Healy is an occasional cat volunteer with Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation.

Lost Dog: For the Love of Animals

In 2001, there were too many dogs without homes and too few people to help them.

That wasn't acceptable to Pamela McAlwee and Ross Underwood, lifelong animal lovers who wanted to save dogs and cats alike from shelters where their futures were non-existent if they weren't adopted.

McAlwee and Underwood were a few years into running a gourmet take-out pizza deli on Washington Boulevard in the Westover neighborhood of Arlington, when McAlwee went to help a friend find a dog to adopt. While visiting a shelter, she saw six dogs that were about to be put down within a few days. She promptly took all six home that night. She got them spayed or neutered and cleaned up and put a classified ad in a newspaper, and in between orders for pepperoni and cheese and vegetarian pizzas, she worked to find good homes for them all. She did this several times, adopting dogs about to be euthanized and finding homes for them.

That's how the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation was born, out of the take-out phone number for what's now the original location of the Lost Dog Cafe. McAlwee had worked with other rescue groups before, but she wanted to focus more on finding good homes for the animals instead of waiting for a "perfect" placement. The rescue group started with 25 dogs.

Now there are 150 dogs at a ranch in Sumerduck, Va., owned by Lost Dog, as the rescue organization is known, along with 20 cats and an assortment of other animals, including a horse. Other dogs and cats live with fosters — more than 100 dogs are currently in temporary homes until they're adopted.

How to Help

To learn more about the ASPCA/Rachael Ray \$100,000 challenge, find a new pet, donate or volunteer with the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation, go to www.lostdogrescue.org.

"It's amazing what we accomplish with an all-volunteer base," said Barbara Hutcherson, Lost Dog's adoptions coordinator.

Lost Dog is the only organization in Northern Virginia participating in the ASPCA challenge. The rescue had to verify its numbers and qualify in order to

participate, proving the volunteer base and "the commitment to really take this challenge and run with it," Hutcherson said.

If Lost Dog wins one of the grants provided through the challenge, the winnings likely will be used for vet bills. "It's difficult when you're looking at a list of shelter animals and you have to ask if you can afford the big vet bill for one animal" compared to smaller fees for multiple animals, Hutcherson said. "We want to take them all. It's uncomfortable, but we want to do every single thing we can."

Funding for the rescue comes from adoption fees, donations, and from proceeds from the four Lost Dog Cafe locations across Northern Virginia and the Stray Cat Cafe, next to the original Lost Dog Cafe in Westover.

— AMBER HEALY

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A Delicate Balance – At Home



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

How appropriate is it to tell a cancer patient something negative (that he likely doesn't want to hear) – yet needs to know, and which might ultimately quash his fighting spirit and adversely affect his day – and night? Moreover, would withholding certain discouraging observations intermittently along the cancer-treatment way, in order for said patient to feel good and positive about himself – and better prepare him for any and all news/results which might upset his precariously imperfect life and moreover, likely chip away at his emotional wherewithal as well – cause more harm than 100-percent honesty all the time? If this sounds as if I'm splitting philosophical hairs, the tool I would need to do so in any possibly effective way has yet to be invented, literally or figuratively. Yet this is the life I live as a terminal cancer patient, alive and reasonably well, reliant on my wife, primarily, for a kind of support one rarely anticipates providing and for which either one is hardly prepared.

If this quandary were a line, it wouldn't exactly be a line of demarcation, more like a line of decapitation (figuratively speaking of course). These are lines which are clearly not defined. You couldn't find them on a map even if you were a cartographer with 20 years' experience making maps. These are lines which are blurry at best and if seen at all, likely seen from a satellite snooping high in the sky that neither the government says exists, or the reason for its existence, exists. This is a line, to invoke a well-known Ken Beatrice-ism (Ken hosted a sports talk radio program called "Sports Call" for over 20 years in the Washington, D.C. area) on which you wouldn't want to live (meaning the difference between talent and circumstances was impossible to quantify).

But this is the line of my life on which I try to live, balance, navigate, manipulate and delude myself as the various cancer-driven emotions and circumstances arise. It makes the 3.9-inch width of a balance beam seem more like 39 inches. However, there are striking similarities between this apparatus and life as a cancer patient: the falls can sometimes be devastating, physically, but more often, it is the emotional toll which disrupts the most. When I lose my balance and fall, it's as if I actually can't get up.

Most days I can manage this sort of co-dependency. Other days, I can't. Living in the past at the same time as you're trying to live in the present and plan for the future and trying as well to take both positives and negatives in the identical stride are challenges I really didn't anticipate having to overcome at such a relatively early age: 54 and a half.

Nevertheless, life goes on, for which I'm extremely grateful. Some days/circumstances are definitely worse than others, but at least I'm still in the game. For how long, though? (See, I can't even finish a column without stumbling over myself.)

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

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