

‘Seussical’ at Herndon High

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Herndon High School junior Drew Lytle will be performing the role as Cat in the Hat in this year’s production of “Seussical” at Herndon High.

Race For 86th District Still Undecided

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The McLean Citizens Association hosts a meeting about the proposed Residential Studios Zoning Ordinance Amendment Wednesday, Oct. 30 at McLean High School.



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Citizens Oppose Residential Studios Proposal

Amendment would allow for low-income residential studios in many residential districts.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The McLean Citizens Association hosted a public forum to address the county's proposed Residential Studios Zoning Ordinance Amendment Wednesday, Oct. 30. The proposal would allow for a special exception on land zoned residential R-E through R-30, commercial C-1 through C-9 and industrial I-1 through I-9. The exception would allow residential studios to be built on that land if the county grants a special exception to the builder.

A residential studio has been defined by the county as a building or portion of a building of three to 75 units per lot. They are limited to rental only.

No less than 80 percent of the units are for households making no more than 60 percent of the Area Median Income (which is about \$45,000) for a one person household.

THE STUDIOS can be no more than 500 square feet per unit, and each unit must include an in-studio kitchen and bathroom. The land must have direct access to a collector street or major thoroughfare, and there must be at least one parking space per unit provided.

Additional standards include: one washer and dryer per 10 units, if one is not within each unit and a resident manager, on-site manager or Board of Supervisors-approved off-site management.

The plan must also conform to "character, building size, height, intensity, use and scale" of any other development on the site and the surrounding neighborhood.

The maximum capacity of the unit is three people, which includes up to two children.

"The amendment addresses a number of the board of supervisors' affordable housing initiatives going back a decade or more," said Donna Pesto, of the county's Department of Planning and Zoning. "It is not intended to meet all the affordable housing initiatives of the county, because they are just zero bedroom efficiency units, and all rentals, not everyone wants to live there. This is intended for a segment of the population."

According to Pesto, less than two percent of rental units in the county are efficiencies.

"We don't have entire buildings of efficiency units, we have people who are over housed, people who have to pay too much for housing in a one or two-

bedroom because that's all that has been built in Fairfax County for ages," she said. "The statistics are there, but the development community is not voluntarily building them because there's not a lot of bucks to be made, so that's the reason why we're doing this."

Almost everyone who commented at the Oct. 30 meeting said they were opposed to the proposal, with concerns ranging from decreased neighborhood safety around any such units to enforcement should too many tenants live in a unit.

"I think this is asking for problems any which way you look at it. I think you're going to see developers trying to squeeze these types of units on a lot of properties where it won't fit, and there's no restriction on what kind of zoned residential property they can go on," said Samuel Feller of McLean. "I know Ms. Pesto stressed that they must meet with the surrounding specification, but I feel like this amendment put in writing opens the way for things to slip through the cracks, and it's the neighbors that will have to deal with it."

Others felt that such residences would lower value of adjacent properties, as well as negatively affect quality of life of current residents.

"She wouldn't call them projects, but I have a feeling that's what these types of units would turn into, especially if it becomes a large building with nothing but these units," said Ester Browning of McLean. "I feel like the fact that an exception can be had on any property zoned any kind of residential completely throws away the reason we have different kinds of residential districts."

SUPERVISOR JOHN FOUST (D-Dranesville) said he doesn't think the scope of the plan is appropriate for many residential districts.

"Personally, I think this is a good product in the right zoning category, but I don't think it's the right product for low-density residential," he said. "In my opinion, most of the board members feel that way. I don't think it would pass if it came in the way it's been presented."

The Fairfax County Planning Commission has a committee that will hold four workshops where the public can comment on the plan. The next meeting will be Wednesday, Nov. 20 at 7 p.m. at the Herrity Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, in Conference Room 106 and 107.

More information can be found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning/rsu/rsu.htm.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DULLES REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Jennifer Boysko, who ran against Del. Tom Rust (R-86) Tuesday, Nov. 5, trails by 57 votes, but provisional ballots are still being counted, and a recount is likely.



Del. Tom Rust (R-86) leads his opponent Jennifer Boysko by 57 votes from the Nov. 5 election, but the race isn't over yet.

Race For 86th District Still Undecided

Del. Tom Rust (R-86) leads Jennifer Boysko by 57 votes, provisional ballots and recount likely to come.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

According to the results of the Tuesday, Nov. 5 election, Del. Tom Rust (R-86) leads challenger Jennifer Boysko 10,386 to 10,329, a margin of only 57 votes.

Voters who used provisional ballots, where votes are accepted but not recorded until the voter's eligibility is confirmed, had until Friday to present proof of their eligibility.

According to the Fairfax County Board of Elections, there were 493 provisional ballots cast in the county. As of Sunday, Nov. 10, 136 of those had been accepted and none have yet been rejected.

There is no word on how many of those ballots are in the 86th district, which covers parts of Herndon, Oak Hill and Chantilly as well as parts of Loudoun County.

Currently in Fairfax County, Boysko leads Rust by 96 votes,

while Rust has a 153 vote lead in Loudoun County.

All provisional ballots must have been certified and approved by 11:59 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 12 in order to count. Once the provisional ballots are counted, the Virginia code states that a recount can be requested by one or both of the candidates.

Boysko said she will not concede the race, and will continue to follow the processes allowed by law.

"There's a specific process involved at this stage and given the close nature of these results, we owe it to the nearly 21,000 voters to make sure that all of their votes have been counted and for election officials to complete their work," she said.

Rust released a statement the night of the election thanking his supporters for re-electing him, and said he planned on starting his new appointment as chairman of the House Transportation Committee.

Voters Pass \$250 Million School Bond

Fairfax County voters overwhelmingly supported a \$250 million school bond. With 239 (100 percent) precincts reporting, the bonds passed with 214,171 yes votes (73.89 percent) over 75,677 no votes (26.11 percent). In a news release, Fairfax County Public School officials said the money will be used to:

- ❖ Build two new elementary schools
- ❖ Help renovate 22 schools
- ❖ 17 elementary schools
- ❖ 2 middle schools
- ❖ 3 high schools

- ❖ Buy land for the South West County High School
- ❖ Enhance the capacity of one elementary school and one high school
- ❖ Replace or improve infrastructure, such as roofs, major mechanical systems, and parking lots.

For more information, visit the Fairfax County Public Schools 2013 bond referendum web page at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bond/>

The site includes bond referendum fact booklet, maps and project details, as well as materials printed in Spanish and Korean.



PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

Third grade teacher Jean Peretzman paints a dish with her students at Hutchison Elementary School in Herndon.

Clay Café Continues Art Outreach

Hutchison Elementary students 'experience the art first hand.'

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

On Nov. 6, third grade students at Hutchison Elementary School in Herndon had the opportunity to paint pre-fired ceramic plates in the school's theatre room. This was possible due to an art outreach program coordinated by the Herndon Council for the Arts and Clay Café Studios of Chantilly, Inc.

"It was 152 kids in total, all third graders who were present at school that day," Clay Café owner Grace Han Wolf said. "These pieces keep for a long time, it is something they can keep for a long time. They are really proud of them." A member of the Herndon Town Council, Wolf previously served as President of the Council for the Arts of Herndon.

Jean Peretzman, resident of Arlington and third grade teacher at Hutchison Elementary, was also participating in the art function. "Students here normally have an hour a week of art related activities," Peretzman said. "I thought it was really great for the kids. It is one of the experiences the kids will remember and make a lasting impression on their minds. It was really wonderful."

"We started the program about four years ago and we were talking about making art more accessible to kids in the community," said Wolf. "We realized

we needed to bring art to them and we got the idea of bringing art to the community in the programs. We wanted kids to experience the art firsthand."

Wolf was able to begin the ceramic outreach program at Hutchison Elementary after successfully networking with Hutchison Elementary staff including Principal Judy Baldwin and Administrative Assistant Mary Ann Hall. "Grace [Wolf] is the one who came to us," Hall said. "The program has been a tremendous success. The nice thing is what you create is your own, they are experiencing art in itself. It has been a positive experience all the way around," Hall said. The Council for the Arts of Herndon (CAH) funds the entire program, with Grace Wolf and the Clay Café providing the labor. "Art should be affordable and accessible," Wolf said. "Art should not be reserved for special occasions, it should be something accessible daily."

"We do hope to continue with the program, as CAH feels strongly that the arts not only provide developmental benefits to children, but also enhance their collaborative and non-verbal communications skills," wrote Director of the Council for the Arts of Herndon Signe Friedrichs in an email statement.

Located at 13894 Metrotech Dr., Chantilly, Clay Café Studios is a do-it-yourself craft outlet where kids and adults can purchase a variety of pre-made pottery pieces and then customize them with glazes and other materials. A flat \$6 studio fee covers paints, materials, glazing and firing. "I have not raised those prices in 12 years," said Wolf. "I have many regular customers, and we are very family-oriented."

To learn more about Clay Café, visit their website at <http://www.claycafechantilly.com>.



Student Luis Trejo displays a plate he painted. Grace H. Wolf, owner of Clay Café Studios of Chantilly, Inc. hopes to have the plates glazed and returned to the students in two weeks.



Third grade student Beatriz Saenz paints a plate. Approximately 152 kids were able to participate in the day's art outreach at Hutchison Elementary School.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

An extension of Fairbrook Drive is one of the Comprehensive Plan Amendments recommended by the Town of Herndon Planning Commission Tuesday, Nov. 5., as part of their annual five-year review of the town's comprehensive plan.

Planning Commission Makes Recommendations

Review process leads to Comprehensive Plan Amendments.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The Town of Herndon Planning Commission unanimously approved several changes to the town's Comprehensive Plan Tuesday, Nov. 5. The current plan was approved in August 2008, and Code of Virginia specifies that local comprehensive plans shall be reviewed by the local planning commission.

Since the last plan was adopted in 2008, several amendments have been added. The downtown plan was adopted Feb. 22, 2011, and the Metro plan was adopted Feb. 28, 2012. There was also an amendment passed in October 2011 that made a minor alteration to a residential streetscape plan.

"This has been a banner two years for the comp plan. We've had two major amendments, for the downtown and Metro area, plus this amendment tonight," said Kevin East, chair of the commission.

The commission's decision includes nine recommendations to the Town Council, which include: ensuring the town's facilities serve all generations, development and enhancement of pedestrian facilities, monitor the development of high-quality, mixed-use development and workforce housing, support the Virginia Chesapeake Bay Act requirements and to support cooperation between Fairfax and Loudoun Counties when it comes to transit oriented devel-

opment.

Three specific amendments were added to the plan. The first calls for the development of a "plan implementation chart with appropriate target years for completion of specific items from the plan."

"The implementation plan is what says 'OK, this is what we are going to do, this is how we do it.' It takes idea behind comprehensive plan and puts actions behind them, both for planning commission and town council," East said.

The second calls for an extension of Fairbrook Drive, which is located on Herndon Parkway, about .3 miles southwest of the intersection with Spring Street.

"From the existing fairly short segment on Fairbrook Drive off Herndon parkway, we would add a longer portion of street linking the Fairbrook property and other areas, with Spring Street at traffic signal near Fairfax county parkway ramps," said Dana Heiberg, a senior planner with the Town of Herndon.

Several commission members said that plans for the extension should be planned carefully.

"The Fairbrook extension is at precise point where you exit Spring Street to get onto Fairfax county parkway southbound," East said.

"That right now is difficult intersection to manage, if you put a new street, we'll really have to figure out how to do it well."

THE COUNTY LINE

PHOTOS BY JOAN BRADY/JOANBRADYPHOTOGRAPHY.COM



Fairfax Families4Kids coordinates activities mentors and youth in foster care, including outings and community service. Paris, who was recently adopted, visited the honey farm of Dan Price with other young people and mentors, getting to see first hand how honey is made, and picking sunflowers to be delivered to people in nursing homes.



Dan Price of Reston, founder of Sweet Virginia Honey with Dante, a young man who is being mentored by volunteers with Fairfax Families4Kids.



A Sweet Virginia beekeeper makes the bees sleepy so visitors can see inside the hives.

Sweet Gathering in the Sunshine

Mentors, foster children and other youth learn about bees; county needs more foster families, mentors.

On a beautiful day in late summer, a group of young people of varied backgrounds, including some youth in foster care, gathered with their adult mentors under the ongoing auspices of Fairfax Families4Kids on a field trip into the countryside.

Their destination was a farm that is home to bee hives and sunflower fields owned by Dan Price.

Price first got involved with Fairfax Families4Kids several years ago when he contacted advocate Joan Brady of Great Falls after reading about the potential demise of the program due to budget cuts.

Price offered to donate money to help keep the program that matches older foster children with adult mentors going. He funded a trip for the group to go to New York to see the Lion King a few years ago, and has kept in touch since. He was impressed with the program and the long-term connections it created for young people who, by definition, had been through some very tough times.

Several weeks ago, the group visited his farm to see how honey is made.

"It's a very nice program, the mentors are very kind hearted," Price said. "The kids are just terrific, teenagers, they were all just very nice people."

ON AVERAGE there are about 300 foster children in Fairfax County during any given month, about one-third of them between 12 and 17.

Because of a shortage of foster families in Fairfax County, about 40 percent of foster children are placed outside of the county, some as far away as Richmond and beyond. This makes it even more difficult for them to maintain any sense of community, and makes it impossible for them to continue in the same schools.

Even within Fairfax County, there aren't enough foster families to ensure that children won't be living an hour away from their homes and schools because the county is so large.

"Removing a child from the home is used as a last resort – whenever possible we try to provide services that allow children to remain with their families or at least to be placed with relatives," said Amy Carlini, communications director for Fairfax County Department of Family Services. "Events leading up to removal are often traumatic, as is being placed with a family the child doesn't know. If the foster family lives far away from the child's original home, it can compound the disruption, making it challenging to remain in contact with friends and relatives, continue with after-school activities and more."

Foster children who reach the age of 18 without being adopted or reunited with relatives is another crisis of foster care in Fairfax County. Last year, 49 foster children in Fairfax County "aged out" of foster care at age 18 because they were not able to return to their families or be placed with relatives, and the county was not able to find adoptive families for them.

Get Involved: Become a Foster Parent

There is a shortage of foster parents in Fairfax County, and as a result, about 40 percent of the 300 or so children are placed in foster care too far away to stay in the same schools and maintain their existing connections.

Fairfax County holds a monthly orientation session to find out more about being a foster parent; the next meeting is Nov. 18.

To find out more, call 703-324-7639, TTY: 703-222-9452, or attend an orientation meeting. See visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/childrenyouth/fca.htm>

Several foster children in Fairfax County are waiting, hoping to be adopted. You can see photos and descriptions at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/childrenyouth/adoption-creating-connections.htm>

Get Involved: Become a Mentor

Fairfax Families4Kids coordinates group and individual mentoring for young people 12 to 21, many currently living in foster care. Opportunities to spend quality time in the community engaged in regularly scheduled, structured group activities and community service projects. Fairfax Families4Kids gives individual adults and groups an important role to play in helping youth and teens find permanent families, and lasting connections with caring, supportive adults. There are many upcoming events. Call coordinator Beverly J. Howard, Ph.D., at 703-324-7518 or e-mail at beverly.howard@fairfaxcounty.gov

The stakes are high. A 2010 study at the University of Chicago found that only about 6 percent of former foster children aged 23 or 24 had graduated from college with either an associate's or a bachelor's degree. Several surveys in other parts of the country show that between 18 and 40 percent of former foster children have been incarcerated for at least one night as adults.

Sweet Virginia

Sweet Virginia is a Reston nonprofit founded by Dan Price that advocates for honey bees, and provides students a hands-on experiences in world of honey bees and the art and science of beekeeping and honey bee sustainability.

In addition to providing educational opportunities to groups like Fairfax Families4Kids, Sweet Virginia is partnering with George Mason University's New Century College to address the collapsing honey bee population through education and by establishing apiaries. GMU's recent course on beekeeping and sustainability was full and had a waiting list of more than 100. Sweet Virginia is raising money through indie-gogo at indiegogo.com/projects/hivestarter to build more apiaries, expand bee sustainability curriculum into public schools and expand George Mason's university level training to develop more professional beekeepers.

Sweet Virginia Foundation, 1760 Reston Pkwy, Reston, VA 20190. www.sweetvirginia.com

IT'S CRITICAL to increase quality foster care where children and youth can stay connected to support communities, to have long-term mentors for foster youth and to find adoptive families for the children and youth waiting to be adopted.

Mentors can provide a window for foster children and youth to a life beyond foster care.

"They need a connection with a caring adult," said Beverly Howard, coordinator of Fairfax Families4Kids and also an adoptive parent. The organization sets twice monthly up group activities for mentors, prospective mentors and foster children, including sports, visits to places like the Sweet Virginia apiary, community service projects like assembling back packs for school children in Haiti and many others. This group mentoring gives adult volunteers and foster children a chance to get to know each other. This arrangement has led to many long-term mentoring relationships and also quite a few adoptions.

OPINION

Proof Every Vote Matters

Elections have consequences, including very close races.

EDITORIAL

Tuesday morning, a full week after an Election Day that included races that were more suspenseful than anticipated (and also many races that were foregone conclusions), we are probably more than a month away from certifying the winner of the Virginia Attorney General race.

At press time, the State Board of Elections reported, unofficially, that Mark Herring (D) had 1,103,610 votes with 49.89 percent of the vote; Mark Obenshain (R) had 1,103,493 votes with 49.88 percent of the vote. The 5,152 write-in votes are huge in a race that at one point had Obenshain ahead by 15 votes.

The process of canvassing or verifying the

vote has been revealing, including a malfunctioning voting machine that had more than 2,000 votes uncounted in Fairfax County, a voting machine in Richmond that hadn't been counted at all and many smaller errors. Human error and computer error are to be expected.

It will make a difference which man is elected as Attorney General. The current Attorney General, Ken Cuccinelli, demonstrated the influence that office can exert on many fronts, from academic freedom and scrutiny to the challenge of health care reform to implementation of environmental regulations to investigations of the household staff of the Governor's mansion.

Del. Tom Rust (R) won reelection by just 57 votes, with 50.1 percent of the vote over Jennifer Boysko with 49.74 percent. Del. Barbara Comstock (R) won reelection with 50.64 percent of the vote over Kathleen Murphy (D) who received 49.19 percent, a margin of less than 500 votes. All results are still unofficial.

Consider another close race, in November 2007: then state Sen. Ken Cuccinelli (R-37) won re-election by less than one-half of a percentage point, with an edge of just 92 votes out of 37,185 ballots cast, beating Democrat Janet Oleszek. Approximately 32 percent of registered voters in the 37th District cast ballots at the polls in that election.

Retiring Del. Jim Scott was elected in 1991 with a margin of a single vote.

Just a few of many examples that prove that every vote really does matter.

— MARY KIMM,

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Library Reorganization Deserves More Work

BY SHARON BULOVA
CHAIRMAN/FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS

In September, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors called for the suspension of a major reorganization proposed to our Fairfax County Public Library system. The suspension was requested in order to provide more opportunity for outreach to concerned library employees and patrons so that proposed changes could be explained, evaluated and vetted among stakeholders. The Connection Newspaper has covered this issue.

As our nation and Fairfax County have struggled with the effects of the Great Recession and its lengthy aftermath, we have needed to make reductions to the many services and programs the county provides. Throughout this time, our Board has sought to maintain taxes at a level that is affordable for our community. I applaud our County staff for proposing efficiencies and reorganizations during this time that have helped us maintain high quality ser-



vices that also save taxpayers money. Over the past few months, I have received a number of letters, emails and phone calls regarding the proposed library reorganization as well as the "floating collection" and issues around the discarding of books. I believe, based on the feedback I have received, that the reorganization as proposed was too much for the organization to absorb. Many of the ideas contained within the plan, however, have value and should continue to be explored. Our shared goal is to make sure our libraries continue to be the vital and vibrant places that our community can enjoy and rely upon well into the future. The quality of our collection and the services we offer should reflect the standards Fairfax County residents expect.

I would like to thank members of the Library Board of Trustees and library staff for their efforts during the past few months as they have conducted a series of discussion forums on the proposed changes. I understand the meetings have been constructive and have included

some spirited debate. I especially want to thank Deputy County Executive Dave Molchany for his personal investment of time and energy to assist library staff with ensuring a thoughtful and insightful process. Our Board has asked for a progress report from the Library Board of Trustees to be presented at our Board meeting on Nov. 19 and I am looking forward to hearing directly from them.

During these recession years, library systems around the country have had to reduce hours, cut services or even close library branches; Fairfax County is not alone in this struggle. Libraries across the country have also been exploring innovative ways to contain costs while at the same time maintaining or even improving services to meet the needs of their residents. I am confident that Fairfax County will prove to be a leader in achieving this goal.

This issue has served to energize those in our Fairfax County community who appreciate the value our outstanding library system affords us. Thank you for rallying to support our libraries!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Storm Recovery and Resilience in Northern Virginia

To the Editor:

As terrible as this may sound, when I think back on my experiences with Hurricane Sandy I seem to most vividly recall the five-day weekend.

As a senior in high school I was more than thrilled to spend a few extra days at home (granted, without power) and "catch up" on schoolwork, otherwise known as

saving the work for another time. Surely I wasn't the only student with this mentality. However, if I placed the five-day weekend in the back of my mind for a moment, it is evident that Hurricane Sandy tested the resilience of the counties in northern Virginia. It is safe to conclude that we were not prepared for the "Frankenstorm" that sent our trees and power lines crashing down. Now that the anniversary of the storm is amidst us, I pose the question:

Have we improved our resilience?

I'm sure we all recall the last minute scurrying that took place before the storm touched down in

our neck of the woods. Virginia residents hustled around running errands just in time for Sandy's arrival: stocking up on groceries, grabbing flashlights and batteries off the shelves of Home Depot, and closely monitoring the constant news reports for any possible updates.

The "Frankenstorm" did in fact strike the area with the roaring gusts of winds and inches of rain that had been predicted.

Power lines and massive tree trunks collapsed onto roads and residential yards. Families remained in their homes for about a week without power, telephones or utilities. Public transportation

systems such as Amtrak, Metrobus, Metrorail, and Railway Express Service temporarily discontinued their services. Flights arriving at and departing from Dulles Airport, Reagan National and BWI were all cancelled. Finally, last but not least, the counties of Northern Virginia reported school cancellations.

And recovery was slow.

Tree trunks and power lines remained in streets and yards for quite some time, making transportation, or just leaving the house for that matter, almost impossible. Power, utility and phone companies slowly restored their services

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Country Current is the US Navy's premiere country-bluegrass ensemble. They entertained an audience at Herndon United Methodist on Nov. 9.

Musician 1st Class Joe Friedman, Herndon United Methodist Congregation Director of Traditional Music, Shannon Wise, and Musician 1st Class Kenny Ray Horton.



PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

Country Current Comes to Herndon

United States Navy Band plays for United Methodist Congregation.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

On Nov. 9, members of the United States Navy Band Country Current preformed before an audience at Herndon United Methodist Congregation. "It was a nice concert, very well attended," Burke resident Sarah Hooke said. Hooke has been the church organist for 19 years.

"It was wonderful, the musicianship was outstanding," said Mike Wise, a resident of Herndon and member of the congregation. "I was impressed with the number of songs the lead singer Kenny wrote." Approximately 165 people attended the music show, which was open to the public.

The church's Director of Liturgical or Traditional Music, Shannon Wise, helped arrange the concert. "This is the first time we have had a bluegrass music show," Wise said. "There is a desire for culture in this area, and it is a good way to reach out to the community. I try to get a good mix of music to our concerts. We never charge admission for the concerts and we provide free childcare," Wise said.

The United States Navy Band Country Current is the Navy's premiere country-bluegrass ensemble. Formed in 1973 by banjoist Bill Emerson, the band has a legacy of notable alumni. Under the direction of Senior Chief Musician Keith Arneson, Country Current has become renowned for its musicianship, performing a blend of modern country music and cutting-edge bluegrass.

"We have a lot of fans locally and we usually get a good turn out," said Musician 1st Class Kenny Ray Horton. "We do national tours once a year. Our primary duty is

to take care of ceremonies and entertainment for the office of the President, the Vice President, and the top brass."

The band played 15 songs, one of them was "Hope It Grows" composed by band member Horton. Horton released his first bluegrass album in 2009 and plans to continue writing and recording for future records to be released as well.

"About 14 months ago I finished the song up and brought it out before the band, I told them I did not think it was ready but the band disagreed... Eventually it will end up on one of my personal records," Horton said. His inspiration for the song came from friends and family members who were farmers. "The song fell out in about 10 minutes... I've tweaked it a little bit here and there but it always goes back to the original."

Before the performance ended, the band played songs of the military branches including the Air Force, Army, Marines, Navy, and Coast Guard. All current and former military service members were invited to stand as their branches' song was played.

One of the next upcoming musical events at Herndon United Methodist Church will be the Dec. 8 Herndon Ecumenical Choir Christmas Concert and Sing-along. This event will include members of local congregations including St. Joseph's Parish and Holy Cross Lutheran. "We are hoping to have a really good turn out," Wise said. To learn more about upcoming Navy Band shows and upcoming concerts, visit their website at: <http://www.navyband.navy.mil>. To learn more about Herndon United Methodist Church, visit their website at <http://www.herndonumc.org>.

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NEWS

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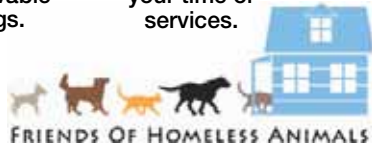
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Connolly in Herndon, to Honor Veterans

At the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month, Congressman Gerry Connolly (D-11) joined veterans on the Herndon Town Green to honor the service of those who defended our nation in war. Connolly addressed veterans at an 11 a.m. ceremony sponsored by the American Legion, Wayne M. Kidwell, Post 184 in Herndon.

"We must remember the sacrifices made by the men and women of our armed forces and we must honor our nation's sacred trust with our veterans, service members, and military families," Connolly said.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



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NEWS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Herndon Boy Scout, Aidan Toole, achieved the rank of Eagle at St. Joseph Church in Herndon.

Herndon Scout Achieves Eagle Rank

Herndon resident Aidan Toole was honored at St. Joseph Church parish hall on Sunday, Nov. 3, for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout with Boy Scout Troop 913. Toole, 16, has been a scout since 2003 when he joined Cub Scout Pack 913 in the first grade as a Tiger Scout. As an outdoor-oriented and environmentally-conscious person, Toole was drawn to the opportunity to have a long lasting impact on the environment. In support of the Virginia Department of Forestry's tree nursery program, Toole held an acorn collection at St. Joseph Church in October 2012. He advertised his collection date and many families dropped bags of acorns off at his collection site. Many scouts also

helped Toole collect acorns at the homes of residents throughout the community. He cleaned, separated, bagged and labeled nearly 300 pounds of acorns spanning a variety of native Virginia species. These acorns were planted and will be sold as thousands of seedlings, generating revenue for the state while preserving the environment, enhancing the beauty of Virginia and providing shelter for the State's various wildlife species.

Toole is Troop 913's 49th scout to achieve the rank of Eagle.

He is a Junior at Langley High School, where he ran cross-country for two years and managed the team this year. He is interested in studying marketing and graphic design at one of Virginia's finest schools.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

WEDNESDAY/MONDAY/NOV13DEC.16

Toys for Tots Drop-off. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays, at National Realty, located at the corner of Reston Parkway and Sunrise Valley Drive, 11890 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Drop a new, unwrapped toy in the donation box in the lobby. All toys will be distributed to needy children within Loudoun County and to Herndon & Reston children via the non-profit Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc. "Newborn to 1-Year Old" and the "Teens" age groups are particularly needed. 703-860-4600.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 13

Nature at Night. 6-7:30 p.m., at the Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Grandparents bring grandchildren out for an evening hike to see what animals are still awake in the woods after dark (owls, flying squirrels and other nocturnal creatures); the evening ends at the Nature House with some warm refreshments. Reservations by Nov. 8. \$5/child for Reston Association members; \$8/child

non-members. naturecenter@reston.org, or 703-476-9689 and press 5.

FRIDAY/NOV. 15

Environmental Film: In Organic We Trust. 7-9 p.m., at the Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Filmmaker Kip Pastor investigates the organic food industry, arguing that the label has been cheapened by large corporations cashing in on a trend. His documentary examines other alternatives for consumers, like farmer's markets and school gardens. \$5. naturecenter@reston.org, or 703-476-9689 and press 5.

MONDAY/NOV. 18

Caregiving 101. 7-8:30 p.m., at Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Learn about resources and get useful information to help begin caregiving. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hscode/EReg/Registration.aspx?groupID=1>.
Park and Leister Exhibit. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, at GRACE, 12001 Market St., Suite 103, Reston. Leister's sculptural installations and Park's mixed media works are on exhibit. 703-471-9242 or www.restonarts.org

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10 11990 Market Street #1815, Reston — \$1,165,000



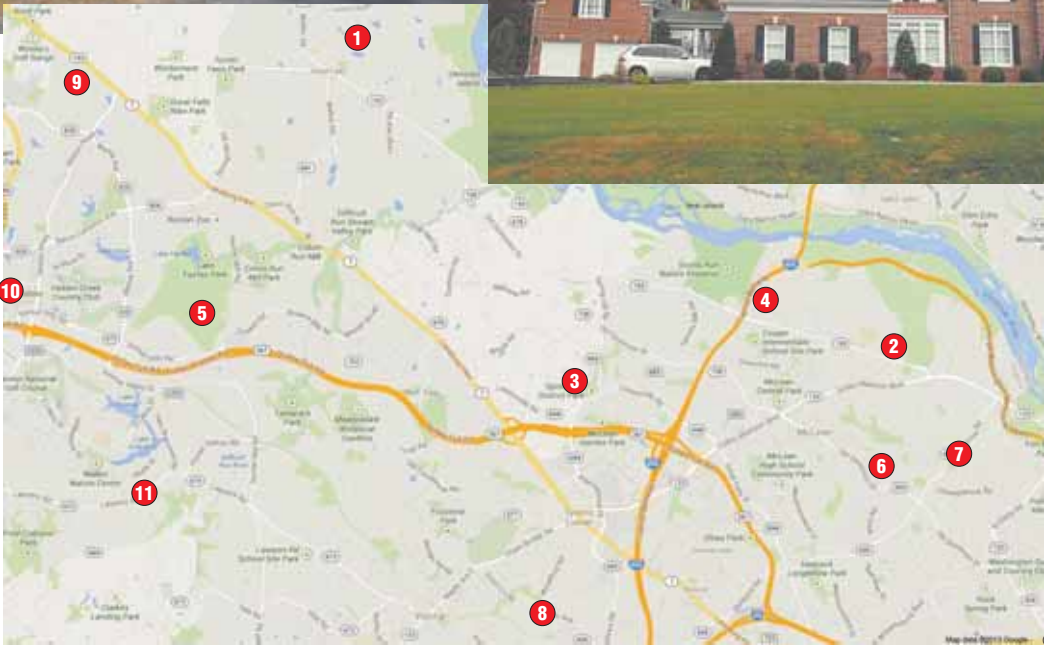
11 11111 Lawyers Road, Reston — \$1,045,000



8 8514 Electric Avenue, Vienna — \$2,700,000



9 11602 Tori Glen Court, Herndon — \$1,365,000



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1 576 INNSBRUCK AVE	6	..	7	..	2	...	GREAT FALLS	\$7,400,000	...	Detached	...	5.00	22066	...	GUNNELLS RUN FARM	...	09/04/13
2 1001 DOGUE HILL LN	5	..	5	..	2	...	MC LEAN	\$5,570,000	...	Detached	...	0.89	22101	..	LANE ON GEORGETOWN PIKE	..	09/12/13
3 8304 FOX HAVEN DR	5	..	5	..	2	...	MCLEAN	\$2,700,000	...	Detached	...	0.83	22102	...	FOXHALL OF MCLEAN	...	09/05/13
4 7025 BENJAMIN ST	6	..	5	..	1	...	MCLEAN	\$2,325,000	...	Detached	...	0.97	22101	...	LANGLEY FOREST	...	09/26/13
5 1631 ADMIRALS HILL CT	7	..	7	..	2	...	VIENNA	\$2,140,584	...	Detached	...	1.74	22182	...	BACHMAN PROPERTY	...	09/19/13
6 1523 FOREST VILLA LN	5	..	5	..	2	...	MCLEAN	\$1,978,955	...	Detached	...	0.58	22101	...	FOREST VILLA	...	09/26/13
7 1591 MADDUX LN	6	..	5	..	1	...	MCLEAN	\$1,900,000	...	Detached	...	0.52	22101	...	CHALICE CREST	...	09/24/13
8 8514 ELECTRIC AVE	9	..	8	..	1	...	VIENNA	\$1,595,000	...	Detached	...	0.57	22182	...	ALAN CAVACAS PROPERTY	...	09/16/13
9 11602 TORI GLEN CT	7	..	6	..	1	...	HERNDON	\$1,365,000	...	Detached	...	0.90	20170	...	OAK CREST ESTATES	...	09/12/13
10 11990 MARKET ST #1815	3	..	2	..	1	...	RESTON	\$1,165,000	...	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	20190	..	MIDTOWN AT RESTON TOWN	..	09/27/13
11 11111 LAWYERS RD	5	..	4	..	1	...	RESTON	\$1,045,000	...	Detached	...	2.09	20191	...	LAWYERS CREST	...	09/30/13

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Dave and Nancy Mulligan, who have occupied their spacious Oak Hill Colonial for more than 20 years, wanted their kitchen to better accommodate daily needs and social gatherings. Dave, who is passionate about cooking, worked closely with an interior designer at Sun Design Remodeling.

Home for the Holidays

BY JOHN BYRD

As Dave Mulligan tells it, he owes the long-coveted “blue eyes” granite countertops now in his kitchen to events that started with a leaking shower one floor above. “From a few drops a mighty torrent ensued,” Mulligan chuckles, referring to the flood of creativ-

ity that eventually transformed his entire house from top to bottom.

But to begin at the beginning...

In the early 1990s, Mulligan and wife Nancy purchased the spacious Oak Hill colonial they still occupy. The house was 2 years old and completely up-to-date in every respect. Moreover, with four bed-

SEE AMATEUR CHEF, PAGE 12

PHOTOS BY BRYAN BURNIS



A double course of mosaic tiles delineate the new kitchen from the family room. The coffered ceiling, which supports an upgraded lighting system, was custom constructed on-site.

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PHOTO BY BRYAN BURRIS

To make en suite dining more inviting, seats at the counter are slightly lower than standard height. Mulligan calls this a great spot to sample his dishes.

Amateur Chef Gets His 'Dream Kitchen'

FROM PAGE II

rooms, a 500-square-foot kitchen with breakfast zone, a family room, and a 1,500-square-foot lower level, there was more than adequate space for two people.

"About my only peeve was that I *hated* the tile countertops in the kitchen," Mulligan said. "Otherwise, I saw the interior as completely in vogue...even when friends began telling me it wasn't."

The leak, however, was a sign that the house now needed attention — which, in turn, prompted Mulligan to call Sun Design Remodeling, the firm that had executed an award-winning whole house makeover for his brother, Bob, a few years ago.

It is at this point that Craig Durosko, Sun Design's founder, enters the story.

"As we talked out our visions for a new master bath," Dave Mulligan said, "I realized that Nancy and I had a lot of ideas for improving the house we'd just been putting off."

IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, Nancy Mulligan and Sun Design's Christy Doebel took charge — completely renovating the master bathroom, then the guest bath; then adding a full bath to the lower level.

For Dave Mulligan, who is the family's passionate cook, the makeover agenda didn't become really personal until conversation shifted to the kitchen.

"With the holidays coming up, I suddenly saw that our kitchen was stuck in the 1980s," Mulligan says. "For people who like to entertain as much as we do, the old plan didn't make much sense."

Indeed, with its U-shaped counter surfaces, 30-inch cooktop range, limited storage and drab lighting, the existing kitchen was a kind of cockpit in which the cook toiled away in self-imposed isolation.

When there was a party underway, it was also up to the Mulligans to regularly convey edibles between the kitchen and the formal entertainment areas.

"I understood what an open kitchen-centric plan had to offer," Dave Mulligan said. "But it's the details that make it work."

So the question that really unleashed Dave Mulligan's involvement was: "how do you want the

new kitchen to *feel*?"

"I pictured a gathering place," he said. "A lively hub where the entertaining occurs."

That said, new ovens and cutlery drawers were less important than welcoming ambiance and uncluttered traffic patterns.

To create continuity with the rest of the house, Durosko and team relocated an obtrusive hall closet, widening an archway so that the kitchen would be in view from the front foyer. Sightlines being critical, ceiling-flush HVAC bulkheads were re-routed to make way for tall cabinets trimmed in crown molding. Other finishwork details — cherrywood cabinet facings, stainless steel appliances, textured marble backsplashes — converge to present a warmly textured, yet visually neutral surface.

All of which inspired kitchen's *piece d' resistance*: a custom-designed coffered ceiling.

"I knew right away that this was the magic I'd been looking for," Dave Mulligan said. "I wanted the ceiling to be just as eye-catching as the walls and counters."

On the other hand, there's much to be said for the custom-designed food preparation island and dining counter. With its 6-foot by 6-foot by 8-foot triangular surface, the configuration supports food preparation and clean-up tasks while accommodating place settings for five.

To make the island still more inviting, seats at the counter are slightly lower than standard height, a psychological invitation to join the party reinforced by the soft-leather chairs.

"You're dining in the chef's kitchen now," Dave Mulligan said. "To sample dishes, sip wine...and enjoy."

On the more functional side of the equation, the new kitchen is also equipped with two microwave ovens, two refrigerators, a convection steam oven and a 48-inch gas range with six burners. With the addition of a walk-in pantry, storage capacity has been increased by 50 percent.

Better yet, the space makes entertaining "pure pleasure," Mulligan said.

"We're hosting Thanksgiving this season for the first time in years — and it's wonderful to be so thoroughly prepared."



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Herndon High School junior Madison Hummel, sophomore Robin McGrath and Bonnie Sasseen in a dress rehearsal for the fall 2013 musical "Seussical."

PHOTOS BY
RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

'Seussical' Musical To Show At Herndon High

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

Since September, students of Herndon High School have been practicing and perfecting their presentation of "Seussical," a musical by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty based on the books of Dr. Seuss that debuted on Broadway in 2000. "This is the debut production of 'Seussical' at Herndon High School," Zoë Dillard, Herndon High School Theatre Director said.

"Reston Community Players has produced this show, and we are indebted to them for the use of some of their costumes, which we integrated into our student costume designs," Dillard said. Colorful costumes abound in this musical. In "Seussical", The Cat in the Hat tells the story of Horton, an elephant who discovers a speck of dust containing Whos, including Jojo, a Who child sent off to a butter-battling military school for thinking too many "thinks."

HERNDON HIGH JUNIOR Drew Lytle will be performing the role as Cat in the Hat, with Solomon Dixon as understudy. "I went out for this character because he is almost everywhere in the show, it is a good challenge for me as an artist," Lytle said. "The Cat in the Hat is not only the narrator but the emcee, in many scenes he is the persona for many characters, he is really high energy."

Henry Metcalf returns to the stage in the role of Jojo, the Mayor's son. "Jojo is a character that goes along with the Cat, a lot of the play involves Jojo's imagination... At first I did not know who the character Jojo was, and then I realized he was a main character and I tried out for him. I have to memorize a lot of lines and that was a bit of a challenge."

Catherine "Cassie" Szymczyk, a senior at Herndon High is performing the role of Sour Kangaroo. "Sour Kangaroo is like a pseudo antagonist, she is full of sass throughout the entire musical," Szymczyk said. "I've been with the theatre department since my freshman year. As this is a musical, we will be bringing the vocal talents, and the acting talents, as well as the orchestra... This has been one of the more complicated shows we have done but also the most rewarding because the cast is so supportive and the show is about bringing back the imagination of childhood."

"It is a great experience, the bonding is incredible. It is a great thing to watch the entire musical come



Since September, students of Herndon High School have been perfecting their presentation of "Seussical." This musical will show on Nov. 15, 16, and 17.

together," said junior Zach Klein, who is playing the role of Who Mr. Mayor. Herndon High School Music Department teachers Dana Van Slyke and Chris Cunningham, Orchestra Pit Director, helped guide musical operations. Alexandra Touzinsky, Herndon High School's new Orchestra Teacher, committed to playing piano in the Pit Orchestra for this show.

High school senior Alissa Clayton and other light technicians and crew help make sure the production is a success. "This is my fourth show doing lights," said Clayton. "With this show, there is much more creativity involved. We have moving lights and changing colors on the stage."

"I am so grateful for all of the people who have supported the creation of this show and all of the hard work the students have put in," said Dillard. "The musical is a major event that requires major effort and sacrifice, but it's worth it, because we create this magical experience together and we get to share it with our community... I'm really thankful for the purity of that opportunity, working with these students, parents and colleagues is a privilege."

"SEUSSICAL" will take place at Herndon High on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 15 and 16, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 17 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased online at herndondrama.org or at the door.

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WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY/NOV 13-30

Ventures and Puzzles. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday, at Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Abstract oil paintings by Frank Eifert, in an exhibit in which "Half-Reflections" accompany each picture to metaphorically suggest some of the intentions, surprises and significances encountered in the creation of the picture. In this series of paintings, Frank developed a "multi-directional" style, painting from all four sides and four corners (for square pictures), essentially providing up to eight distinct pictures, the multiple options of viewing reflecting the ambivalence and ambiguity of our time. 703-467-4500 or www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY/NOV 13-DEC. 9

The Artists of Montorno. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday-Saturday; and 1-5 p.m. Sunday, at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Montorno painting workshops in Seravezza, Italy, have been a refuge for artists to study with famous painters and sculptors for almost two decades. The exhibit features the work of Montorno instructors Danni Dawson, Mike Francis, Trisha Adams, Mary



Quarry Panorama photography by Judy Morse. Featured at the Artists of Montorno exhibit at Artspace Herndon. For almost two decades, Montorno studio in Seravezza, Italy has been a refuge for artists to study the arts with famous painters and sculptors

Del Popolo, Peggy Feerick, Gavin Glakas and Kurt Schwarz—locally and internationally known artists. Portraits, landscapes, still life paintings, drawings, pastels, printmaking and photography are featured. 703-956-6590 or www.artspaceherndon.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 16

The Rite of Spring Double Feature. 8 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The CenterStage celebrates the 100th anniversary of Stravinsky's ballet and orchestral concert piece with performances by the Bowen McCauley Dance Ensemble and Darryl Brenzel and the Bohemian Caverns Jazz Orchestra. \$25 Reston,

\$50 Non-Reston. www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

Ed Levin Jewelry Trunk Show at Reston Town Center, 11877 Market Street, Reston. Ed Levin 2013 jewelry collection of over 200 different designs.

SUNDAY/NOV. 17

Dabbling in Magic. 4 p.m., at Hunters Woods, Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The first concert of the 26th season of the Reston Community Orchestra directed by Dingwall Fleary, featuring guest Cheryl Roeske on the harp. Admission is anon-perishable good to support Reston's annual Thanksgiving food drive. www.restoncommunityorchestra.org.

library/.

Gustafer Yellowgold. 3 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Morgan Taylor brings his character to life in a child-friendly performance featuring live music, animated illustrations, and storytelling. \$5 Reston, \$10 Non-Reston; register for a pancake breakfast before the show. www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

The Churchmen. 7:30 p.m., at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road (one block off Elden Street), Herndon. The bluegrass gospel group plays Southern, traditional music with harmonies and elaborate instrumentation. \$15; free for children under 12. 703-435-8377, www.thechurchmen.com or http://www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net/?page_id=18.

TUESDAY/NOV. 19

Design and Wine. 7-9 p.m., at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Join for "Design and Wine: Zinfandel and Zentangles," with guest artist Keith Naquin. Zentangles is a purposeful doodling art form that's a cross between meditation and graphic design. \$30. 703-956-6590 or artspaceherndon.org.

THURSDAY/NOV. 21

Politicians and the Press. 8 p.m., at Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, 1441 Wiehle Ave., Reston. Washington correspondent for The New York Times Sheryl Gay Stolberg shares insight on the interplay between politicians and the press, sharing examples from reporting during the George W. Bush and Obama administrations.

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

Fairfax Water

NOTICE OF WATER RATE PUBLIC HEARING

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 12, 2013, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2014, include the following:

1. An increase in the Availability Charge from \$3,850 to \$3,950†.
2. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$9,500 to \$9,750.
3. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,050 to \$1,090†.
4. An increase in the Account Charge from \$35 to \$36.
5. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$9.20 to \$9.80†.
6. An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$2.29 to \$2.42 per 1,000 gallons of water.
7. An increase in the Peak Use Charge from \$3.45 to \$3.55 per 1,000 gallons of water.
8. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge and Peak Use Charge.
9. An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$44 to \$45.
10. An increase in the Returned Payment Charge from \$17 to \$20.

A copy of the proposed changes can be viewed on our Web site at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org/rates/index.htm>. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017. Interested parties also may submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

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

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, December 11, 2013 to be included in the record of the public hearing.

†Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

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It Wasn't Fun While It Lasted



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

But it was only a week, and I was able to leave under my own power, assisted by a wheelchair, which is of course standard procedure when leaving a hospital after an admission, so it wasn't a total loss. It was three months ago today, Friday, August 2nd that I was "ambulanced" to Holy Cross Hospital where I spent the beginning of my seven, first-ever nights in a hospital; pretty fortunate track record for someone my age. Now, however, with a terminal cancer diagnosis, the tables may have slightly turned (you think?) and hospital admissions may not be so few and far between. Hopefully not, but appointments with oncologists in chemotherapy infusion centers while being I.V.-injected with cancer-fighting drugs have a way of cutting all other extraneous interruptions to the quick. When that needle goes in, the light definitely goes on: pay attention, your life is officially at stake.

Oddly though, this three-month anniversary seemed to grab my attention/focus more than my usual 27th-of-the-month anniversary – of my original diagnosis, always does. The 27th is the anniversary (some anniversary) of when I first met my oncologist and received confirmation that I had a malignant growth in my lungs that had metastasized and when I was given my 13-month to two-year prognosis. That was four years and eight months ago, I'm proud to say. And as such, I note it every month. Not exactly another "notch on my lipstick case" but an acknowledgment nonetheless of how well I've done and how lucky I am. With the help of friends, family and health care professionals, I have survived, mostly even thrived, under these most unfortunate of circumstances. But I digress.

The point of this column was/is that this most recent hospital anniversary completely overshadowed/took mental precedence over my still-being-alive-nearly-five-years-later anniversary on the 27th, which rarely happens. In fact, I completely forgot about it; didn't even note it on the calendar or mention it to my wife, Dina or my brother, Richard – which I always do. It wasn't until a few days later that I realized I had not made my usual reinforcing mention of my status still being quo. Unusual, in that a terminal diagnosis tends to stick with you and occupy lots of mental space, so forgetting about the circumstances that are likely shortening your presumptive, normal life expectancy is perplexing. These circumstances would seem to be a front and center, dominant part of your day that you NEVER forget.

But I did. And I don't know if that's healthy, a sense of accomplishment, a sense of enlightenment, naiveté, delusions of a grander future, mental gymnastics, compartmentalization at work or just plain forgetfulness; as in, even for a cancer patients: life can still be normal. Or maybe, after four and a half years, this whole cancer thing has become sort of ho-hum. Not exactly passé, but certainly familiar and part of my daily routine. But a hospital stay, that was different, that was traumatic, that was scary. The cancer used to be scary. But I've been there and have done that for a while now. I had not been previously hospitalized, however. That may have been when my circumstances again reared their ugly, realistic head. Just another reminder that I didn't really need.

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

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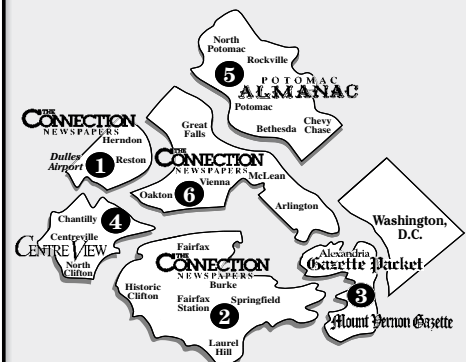
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COMMUNITY

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church Hosts Annual Chili Cook-off

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Herndon held their annual Chili Cook-off on Saturday, Nov. 9. The event was well attended, with 17 different chilies in the competition. The previous year, there were 12 chilies in the competition. "I think what is great about St. Timothy's is that it has a great diversity of folks of different ages and stages of life," said Herndon resident Matt Schumann. Jill Cox, chair of the church's Open Arms Ministry, participated this year in the chili cook-off. "The cook off competition is as a memorial to a former congregant, and we decided to keep it up in his memory," said Cox.

The event was a fundraiser for the upcoming Lakota Mission trip to South Dakota in May 2014. In addition to chilies, congregants supplied side dishes, desserts, and beverages. "Northern Virginia can be a rough place to live, building connections is sometimes done on the fly," said Reverend Brad Rundlett. "This cook-off was



The chili cook-off was well attended, and raised money for St. Timothy's Episcopal Church's upcoming Lakota Mission trip to South Dakota in May 2014.

started by a member so people could socialize and have some downtime."

Sean Brady, a member of the congregation for 18 years, was participating in the competition. "I obtained an electric smoker and decided I wanted to try it on a chili recipe," said Brady. Oak Hill resident and congregant Allison Dodd brought a meatless chili, and her

husband Brian Dodd brought a chili with no beans to the event. Everyone attending the cook-off could vote for six possible winners in different categories of chili.

At the conclusion of the event, \$239 had been raised for the next year's Lakota Mission trip in May. Congregant Kent Miller announced the six winners:

No Beans Chili – Brian Dodd,



Allison Dodd, member of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church congregation, was one of six winners for the annual chili cook-off event.

Chili with Beans – Kent Miller, Meatless Chili – Allison Dodd, White Chili – Carol Hamm, Overall – Brad Rundlett, Spicy Chili – Patrick Hobson. Carolyn Hamm, resident of Herndon since 1997, mentioned this was the second fundraiser held this month for ministry related activity. St. Timothy was one of the founding churches of The Closet thrift shop



Jill Cox, chair of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church's Open Arms Ministry, participated this year in the chili cook-off.

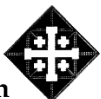
located in Herndon at 845 Station Street. Also, the church has an annual mission trip to Chapateau, Haiti. A mission team from the congregation left for Haiti on Saturday, Nov. 9 and is expected to return Thursday, Nov. 14.

To learn more about St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, visit their website at <http://www.saint-timothys.org>.

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SPORTS

Oakton Wins Individual, Team Region Cross Country Titles

Stoney wins boys' title, Oakton girls win team championship.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Oakton senior John Stoney said he won't be concerned about his time while running in the VHSL state cross country meet on Nov. 15 at Great Meadow. All that matters is the place in which he finishes.

During the 6A North regional meet, Stoney earned the best of both worlds.

Stoney won the boys' individual 6A North regional championship while achieving his goal of a sub-15-minute time on Nov. 6 at Burke Lake Park. Stoney produced a time of 14 minutes, 54 seconds, finishing 11 seconds ahead of Osbourn Park senior Nick Causey.

"This one was more definitely about time," said Stoney, who also won the Conference 5 title a week earlier. "I definitely wanted to go under 15. But next week is just going to be about winning, [not] time. Time doesn't really matter next week."

Stoney's effort helped the Cougars place sixth as a team and earn a berth to the state meet (top six teams advance to states). Stoney, Simon Iyob (33rd, 15:50), Matt McKew (39th, 16:02), Isamu Hosokawa (41st, 16:09) and David Atkinson (44th, 16:14) were Oakton's top five finishers.

"The boys, we definitely want to improve from where we were last year [during the state meet]," Oakton head coach Alisa Byers said. "Last year, we were second in the region and then we went to the state meet and we kind of pooped our pants a bit and we came in eighth, so they want to improve upon that."

Oakton finished with a total of 142 at regionals. Chantilly won the region title with a total of 100, followed by Battlefield (107), Osbourn Park (111), Robinson (136) and Lake Braddock (138).

Lake Braddock's Alex Corbett placed third among individuals with a time of 15:09, followed by Chantilly teammates Ryan McGorty (15:13) and Dakota Lange (15:21).



The Oakton girls' cross country team won the 6A North region championship on Nov. 6.



Oakton senior John Stoney won the individual 6A North regional cross country championship on Nov. 6.

Madison's Matthew Calem finished ninth with a time of 15:26. The top 15 finishers earned all-region honors.

In girls' action, Oakton won the team championship with a total of 66. Washington-Lee placed second (92), followed by West Springfield (113), Lake Braddock (118), Robinson (148) and Battlefield (192).



Oakton junior Allie Klimkiewicz finished third at the 6A North regional cross country championship on Nov. 6.

The Cougars' performance came one week after winning the Conference 5 championship.

"The goal is always to make it to the next level," Byers said. "The northern region is a tough group of kids with a scrappy bunch of coaches. With the girls' performance last week, I knew there was a good chance that we could win,

but I never sell any of the other teams short because everyone's conferences are small and once you get extra people in there, it really motivates people to run fast."

Allie Klimkiewicz, a junior, led Oakton with a third-place finish. She recorded a time of 17:21, 50 seconds behind meet-winner Caroline Alcorta of West Springfield, whose time of 16:31 was the third-fastest in the history of the Burke Lake Park course.

Hailey Dougherty (17:47), a senior, placed eighth for Oakton. Freshmen Casey Kendall (18:03) and Leya Salis (18:09) finished 15th and 16th, respectively, for the Cougars, and junior Kara Kendall (18:42) finished 26th.

The Oakton girls' team placed second at states last year. Klimkiewicz finished fifth as a freshman and ninth last year as a sophomore.

"Hopefully as a team we can improve from last year," Klimkiewicz said. "We got second, so hopefully we can improve. As an individual, I really hope to PR on [the state] course and place higher up than I have in the past."

South Lakes Football Qualifies for Playoffs

The South Lakes football team is in the playoffs, but it needed some help along the way.

South Lakes lost its regular-season finale against Fairfax, 24-7, on Nov. 8, meaning the Seahawks, now 5-5, would need some help to get into the postseason. Langley beating McLean on Friday helped South Lakes' cause, but the Seahawks would also need T.C. Williams to beat West Potomac the following afternoon in order to get in the playoffs.

South Lakes head coach Marvin Wooten was in Maryland during the time of the TC-West Po game, so he followed the action on Twitter.

"It was exciting," Wooten said, "just because you knew, looking at those updates, [when] you reloaded you were hoping to see something you wanted."

T.C. Williams jumped out to a 14-0 lead. West Potomac battled back to tie the score at 14-all entering halftime. Then, T.C. Williams scored the only 10 points of the second half and won, 24-14, sending South Lakes to the playoffs.

"It was definitely an exciting feeling," Wooten said. "I was happy we had the opportunity to play another game, happy we had the opportunity to get better and happy just to work with the kids."

It's South Lakes' first trip to the playoffs since 2010, third trip in the last 12 years and first at the 6A level. The Seahawks enter the 6A North region playoffs as the No. 16 seed and will travel to face top seed and undefeated Centreville at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 15. The Wildcats have won each of their 10 games by at least 21 points.

While South Lakes is a heavy underdog, Wooten said that's nothing new to the Seahawks.

"We just approach it like the way we approached the first 10 games," Wooten said. "... We've been the underdog in most of the games we've played this year. We understand how to fight through that adversity. Centreville is rated by many to be the best, definitely in this area, if not the entire state. It's definitely going to be an experience to get out there and play with a team of that caliber."

— JON ROETMAN

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

while angry residents placed incessant pressure on them. Have we now, a year later, learned from the experience?

To increase our resilience to such inevitable natural disasters, we should always be prepared. Flashlights, batteries and food that does not require refrigeration should be stored in homes to ensure we don't encounter the empty shelves at Wal-Mart in the face of an impending storm. Also, fami-

lies should establish plans regarding shelter areas, especially those living in wooded neighborhoods. What if the tree that fell in the front yard had fallen a little closer to your home?

In the midst of Hurricane Sandy's anniversary, we should assess our resilience to future storms that may heavily impact us as a community. Are we prepared? Are our homes, buildings and power lines strong enough to endure the wrath of another storm? Or did we simply fix the damage,

without taking measures to ensure that this level of destruction does not occur again?

Throughout the observance of Sandy's anniversary, we are reminded of the importance of resilience in our communities and the significance of having a plan in the face of natural disasters.

Noelle Dorgham
Oakton

The author is a student at George Washington University whose relatives were effected by Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

WEEK IN HERNDON

Parenting Strategies for Toddler Tantrums

The MOMS Club of Herndon is hosting guest speaker, Karla Fife, LCSW (Licensed Clinical Social Worker), BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst), who will present a Parenting Strategies talk on Thursday, Nov. 21 from 10 a.m. – Noon at Trinity Presbyterian Church (615 Dranesville Rd, Herndon, VA 20170). Fife will discuss tactics for handling toddler tantrums and other basic strategies for dealing with the trials and tribulations of toddlerhood.

Fife received a Masters in Social Work, with a concentration in health, mental health and disabilities, from Columbia University's advanced standing program. She earned a B.S. in social work from George Mason University, where she was honored with the Outstanding Graduate Award. Fife's career includes more than ten years working with children with a range of special needs, including autism, ADHD, anxiety, social skill deficits, and behavioral issues. She's the mother of two and a resident of the Town of Herndon.

For more information or to RSVP contact Tomoko Azuma, Membership VP at Herndon_moms_info@yahoo.com. The Herndon chapter offers events and support for moms and their children in the 20170 and 20171 zip codes.



























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