

Reston
CONNECTION

Celebrating Reston and Simon

**SPRING
FUN
2014**

PAGE 10

NEWS, PAGE 3

In the Sunday concert celebrating Reston and Bob Simon, South Lakes Choral Director Rita Gigliotti conducted the "Freedom Trilogy" with the South Lakes High School Bella Voce and Chamber Singers.

**GRACE Opens
Emerging
Visions Exhibit**

NEWS, PAGE 12

**Final Days of Voting
in RA Election**

NEWS, PAGE 4

OPINION, PAGE 8 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 16 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 18

PHOTO BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

MARCH 26 - APRIL 1, 2014

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Tired of winter? Ring in spring with family fun at RCC.

MR. VAUDEVILLE AND FRIENDS!

with Mark Brutsché



Sunday, April 6 • 3:00 p.m.

the CenterStage • RCC Hunters Woods

\$5 Reston/\$10 Non-Reston

Buddy Silver, the self-proclaimed Mr. Vaudeville and alter-ego of local funny man Mark Brutsché, returns to the CenterStage Motion Picture & Vaudeville House to prove, once again, that nothing can take the place of live entertainment. With help from friends and the audience, it's an afternoon of fun that will leave the whole family in stitches.

FREE

AGES 1-8

EGGNORMOUS EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. • Brown's Chapel

11300 Baron Cameron Avenue, Reston, VA • Located across from Lake Anne Plaza

Once again, Reston Association hosts RCC's Egnormous Egg Hunt at the lovely Brown's Chapel Park. Carnival games, entertainment, moon bounces, prizes and a strolling magician will be featured along with our ever-popular egg hunt.

THE EGG HUNT STARTS AT 10:30 A.M. SHARP.

DON'T FORGET TO BRING:



A BASKET TO CARRY YOUR EGGS



A CAMERA FOR ALL THE PHOTO OPS



A PICNIC TO ENJOY OUTDOORS

For more information, please contact Debbie Heron, RCC Youth Program Director, at 703-390-6163

Rain Date: Saturday, April 19 • Rain dates and times are one hour earlier.



www.restoncommunitycenter.com

2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston VA 20191
To request reasonable ADA accommodations, call 703-476-4500 • 800-828-1120 (TTY).





Sean Fearn helped narrate the Sunday concert at South Lakes High School which was produced by the Reston Chorale.



PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

Reston founder Robert "Bob" E. Simon, Jr. and David B. Lang, artistic director with the Reston Chorale. This April, Simon will be celebrating his 100th birthday.

Reston Chorale Celebrates Founder Bob Simon

Reston and Bob Simon are celebrated at March 23 concert.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

"It is wonderful to be here," said composer Donald McCullough. "It was a really exciting experience because what Bob has created here is really quite astounding." McCullough was at the South Lakes High School stage in Reston. He had been commissioned by the Reston Chorale to create a work that musically expresses what makes Reston a special place. On Sunday, March 23, the audience heard the premiere performance of McCullough's "The Essential Life."

"The Essential Life" included a trumpeter and baritone soloist, and used inspiration from American poets including Walt Whitman, Sara Teasdale, Louis Untermeyer, Robert Frost, and Amy Lowell. In the concert program, it read that the overarching message of "The Essential Life" came from the Sara Teasdale poem, "Barter."

Seventy-five students from South Lakes High participated in this event, all members of the advanced choir groups Bella Voce or the Chamber Singers. "It is a unique opportunity and I am really glad I was involved," said high school junior Jane Oswalt. "It has been an honor to perform along with Amadeus Concert and Reston Chorale," said South Lakes choral director Rita Gigliotti. "The students really enjoyed singing the music. We are so grateful to Mr. Simon and his family for building this wonderful place."

"The original piece was nicely done, very impressive for an event like this," said Stephen Schindler, a resident of Reston since the 1980s. "I came out to Reston when much of this area was a bunch of dirt... It has been a nice community to live in." His wife, Katherine Schindler is a singer with

the Reston Chorale.

"It is a very historic moment, it has made us grow as a choir," said David B. Lang, artistic director with Reston Chorale. Throughout the concert several persons took turns at conducting the music, including Lang, Rita Gigliotti, and Casey Cook. Cook, Reston Chorale's associate director for the 2013-2014, led a production of the American Folk Song "Shenandoah." "I have sung it so many times throughout my life, to have this many singers respond in such a clean way, it is fantastic," said Cook. Other songs in the program included "Lullaby" by George Gershwin and "Jerusalem" by C. Hubert H. Parry.

Another person who helped develop the concert event was Ruth Overton, a resident of Reston and participant in Reston Chorale since 1976. "Also attending the concert were U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) and Del. Kenneth R. Plum (D-36). Plum, a resident of Reston, praised composer McCullough's work. "It was a monumental piece that captures the excitement of living here," said Plum.

Reston Chorale has excited audiences for more than 45 years. The Chorale is a mixed-voice chorus that has performed throughout the greater Washington, D.C. area in venues such as Wolf Trap, George Mason University Center for the Performing Arts, and the John F. Kennedy Center.

At this concert, approximately 85 members of the Chorale participated.

After the concert there was a reception at the South Lakes High School cafeteria. "Some of us have said this may have been the best event we have ever done," said Lloyd Kinzer, resident of Reston since 1970 and bass singer with Reston Chorale. "We had to work really hard, but the event was a sellout."

To learn more about Reston Chorale, visit www.restonchorale.org.

David B. Lang, artistic director with Reston Chorale conducted the Reston Chorale and Amadeus Orchestra in several musical pieces in a March concert to celebrate Reston and its founder, Robert "Bob" Simon.



Reston Chorale joined with Amadeus Orchestra, students in South Lakes choir, and composer Donald McCullough to produce a fantastic March concert celebrating Reston and founder Robert "Bob" E. Simon, Jr.



Members of the Reston Chorale sing at South Lake High School in Reston for a concert to celebrate Reston and its founder, Robert "Bob" Simon. Simon was a founding member of Reston Chorale in 1967.



PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

Candidates running for positions for the spring elections with Reston Association assemble for a photo. From left: Lucinda Shannon, Andy Sigle, Jeffrey Thomas, Colin Mills, Mason Miller, Michael Mackert, Gerald Volloy and Rachel Muir.

Final Days of Voting in RA Election

Election results will be released on April 8.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

Eight candidates filed to run for open seats on the Reston Association Board of Directors this year. The Board of Directors determines the Reston Association's goals and policies. The candidate for the Apartment Owners Representative position is Ellen A. Graves.

Reston Association (RA) members will elect three individuals for RA's board of directors. One will be for the Hunters Woods/Dogwood District for a three-year term, and two for at-large director positions. One of the at-large director positions will be only for one year, as it will be completing the term of a RA board member who moved out of RA boundaries.

Each spring Reston Association members are given the opportunity to elect three new individuals to the Board of Directors. The annual election process is overseen by an Elections Committee, members of which are appointed by the Board of Directors. Members of this year's committee include Ed Robichaud, Sam Stalcup, and Caren Anton. On the morning of Sunday, March 15, the Reston Association had a public meeting so people could meet the candidates at the Sunrise Valley Drive office.

"A person can run for two consecutive terms, and then you have to take one term off," said Ken Knueven, Board President for the Reston Association. The candidate for the Hunters Woods/Dogwood District is Lucinda Shannon, who is running unopposed. "When I decided to run, I did not want to run against people with the same values as me so we formed a group," said Shannon. Colin Mills, candidate for the three year term at-large position and Rachel Muir, candidate for the one year term have been working with Shannon to promote each other's platforms in this election. "If the three of us are elected we will have a stronger voice on the board," said Shannon.

The only incumbent running for re-election is Andy Sigle, who is running for a three year term. In his candidate statements, Sigle stated he wanted to focus the RA board on the goals of increasing engage-



On March 15, Reston Association had a public meeting so people could meet the candidates running for seats on the Reston Association Board. From left: Lucinda Shannon, Michael Mackert, Jeffrey Thomas, Andy Sigle and Mason Miller.

ment with the overall community to accurately understand and represent Reston's interests. Mason Miller, another at-large election candidate said he was impressed with how the Reston Association helped with the candidacy process. "They [the Reston Association] have been very accommodating to help candidates file petitions," said Miller.

Knueven was encouraged by the number of candidates running in the election for the RA board. "This year the election was much more transportation and development oriented," noted Knueven. "The RA staff had done a great job helping the candidates and have made the process easy," said Jeffrey Thomas, a candidate for the at-large position. "Reston twenty years from now will look very different from what it looks like today," said Thomas. "The framework we put in place now will be what drives things for the next ten years."

Candidates running for a one year term are Gerald Volloy and Rachel Muir. Candidates for the at-large election position of three years include Michael Mackert, Jeffrey Thomas, Andy Sigle, Mason Miller, and Colin Mills. All voting for Reston Association candidate must be received by the counting agents by 5 p.m. on March 31. Reston residents can choose one method of voting, either mail or Internet. Results will be announced at the Annual Member's Meeting on Tuesday, April 8 at the Reston Association office.

For more information on the Reston Association, visit www.reston.org.

Budget Competition

Taxes to increase across Northern Virginia, some more than others.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Two things are certain in life, death and taxes. And just as the spring flowers start to bloom this time a year, so do concerns about rising tax bills. As local governments across Northern Virginia consider budget proposals, taxpayers are reaching for their wallets. A review of proposed budgets in the region shows residential property taxpayers in Fairfax are looking at the largest potential increase, more than \$300. Taxpayers in Alexandria are looking at the smallest potential increase, less than \$200.

"There is always a competition among Northern Virginia local governments for who can either cut the most or raise their property tax the least," said Frank Shafroth, director of the Center for State and Local Leadership at George Mason University. "So it is a healthy competition."

Now that government executives have presented their proposed budgets to elected officials, members of the public are presenting their input in a series of formal public hearings and informal discussions. At issue for government leaders is what kinds of investments are necessary to enhance property values, the cash cow for jurisdictions in Virginia. Shafroth says homeowners generally want to see their assessments increase, although nobody wants to pay the higher tax bill.

"All of that, of course, could change significantly if Congress

eliminates the deductibility of the property tax and limits the home mortgage deduction," said Shafroth. "Those two changes would make today's whines seem ludicrous in comparison."

IN FAIRFAX COUNTY, the county executive has proposed a tax rate of \$1.085 for every \$100 of assessed value. Earlier this month, the Board of Supervisors voted to advertise a real estate rate that's two cents higher, \$1.105 for every \$100 of assessed value. Budget officials say one penny of the tax rate is equal to about \$21.9 million in general revenue, and an additional \$50 for the average residential property taxpayer. That means that supervisors might end up increasing the average bill more than \$400.

"It is important that the board allows for flexibility in considering a tax rate so that debate and discussion is not cut off at the very beginning of the budget process," said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova. "The board can adopt a tax rate that is lower but not higher than what is advertised."

Last month, County Executive Ed Long presented a proposed budget with flat commercial tax revenues and lower than expected tax revenues for sales taxes, hotel taxes and business and professional license taxes. Budget officials say the only area that is experiencing an upward tick is the assessed value of residential property. That means homeowners are likely to get stuck with a higher tax bill just to keep the current level of service.

"As the county continues to face fiscal challenges, we must persist in our cautious and deliberative approach to budgeting, only funding items that are sustainable," said Long. "We also must be ready to make the

SEE TAXES, PAGE 6

Proposed Tax Increases

♦ Alexandria: The average residential property tax bill would increase from \$4,901 to \$5,091. The additional \$190 would be a 3.88 percent increase.

♦ Arlington: The average residential property tax bill would increase from \$5,278 to \$5,560. The additional \$282 would be a 5 percent increase.

♦ Fairfax: The average residential property tax bill would increase from \$5,071 to \$5,403. The additional \$332 would be a 6.54 percent increase.

WEEK IN RESTON

Supervisor Hudgins Honored at Transportation Industry Awards

Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) was honored for her work in public transportation by the Conference Of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO). Hudgins and other women in the transportation industry were honored at the 3rd annual COMTO Celebrating Women Who Move the Nation awards breakfast, on March 12, in Washington, D.C.

COMTO was created to provide a forum for senior-level minority professionals in the transportation industry. The mission of COMTO is to ensure a level playing field and maximum participation in the transportation industry for minority individuals, businesses and communities of color through advocacy, information sharing, training, education and professional development.

Linda Fuller to Speak at Greater Reston Women's Club

The guest speaker for the April meeting of the Women's Club of Greater Reston will be Linda Fuller, owner of Lake Anne Florist, Virginia Wine & Gourmet. Fuller will demonstrate the art of flower arranging. Come prepared to be entertained and learn from one of the best. Also on the agenda is an overview of the various activities the Women's Club has to offer. The meeting is Thursday, April 17 at 10 a.m. at the Lake Anne Community Center, 1609-A Washington Plaza in Reston. It is free and open to the public. (No need to be a Reston resident.) Refreshments provided. For more information, visit www.restonnewcomers.org or call Sharon at 571-201-8719.

Planting 50 Trees for 50 Years

In honor of Reston's 50th anniversary this year, Friends of Reston presents 50 Trees for 50 Years, providing fifty (50) trees to be planted on Arbor Day on Monday, April 7 from 9:30 a.m. until noon, rain or shine. Volunteers are now being recruited to help plant the com-

memorative trees plus a variety of shrubs at three locations in Reston. Registered volunteers will be assigned to a location and all participants will be invited to gather afterwards at Nature House for refreshments and more. To volunteer for 50 Trees for 50 Years, contact Ha Brock at Reston Association by email, ha@reston.org, or call 703-435-7986.

"We've selected a variety of native trees and shrubs to plant in specific areas in Reston with many goals in mind," says Katie Shaw,

Executive Director of Friends of Reston.

Reston is a Tree City USA as certified by the National Arbor Day Foundation. After planting, volunteers and staff will gather at the Walker Nature Center for a special Arbor Day presentation and a free pizza lunch. Special guests will include Jim McGlone of the Virginia Department of Forestry, Joe Estrada of Thrive Plant Health Care Solutions and Cate Fulkerson, CEO of Reston Association.

Kidney Walk in Reston on April 13

This spring, approximately 1,000 walkers will step up for the Annual National Kidney Foundation Kidney Walks and help raise awareness and funds to support the fight against kidney disease in the National Capital Area.

The Kidney Walk is a non-competitive 5K stroll that raises funds

to fight kidney disease through prevention, advocacy and education.

The Northern Virginia Kidney Walk will be held at Reston Town Center in Reston on Sunday, April 13 at 3 p.m.

For more information or to support the event, call the National Kidney Foundation Serving the National Capital Area at 202-244-7900 or visit www.kidneywalk.org.

**THE FAIRFAX GREEN ENERGY PARK
WILL REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS
BY 3.6 MILLION TONS.**



TAKE ACTION! Before It's Too Late!

**Go to www.FairfaxGreenEnergy.com/take-action/
Ask the Board of Supervisors to support the Green Energy Park**

**FAIRFAX
GREEN ENERGY
TRIANGLE**

Potholes on North Pitt Street in Old Town Alexandria.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE CONNECTION

Blizzard of Spending

Polar vortex sends financial chill through local governments.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

The unusually hard winter has created a blizzard of spending for local governments across Northern Virginia — bursting through budgeted amounts for snow removal and treating roads, leaving a lasting legacy of potholes that will be plaguing roads this spring. Officials at the Virginia Department of Transportation say they spent \$175 million on snow removal this winter, more than twice as much than they were planning to spend. And that's just for starters.

"This is going to be a much worse pothole season than in years past," said Jennifer McCord, spokeswoman for VDOT. "We've been filling them, basically, since the winter started."

Alexandria spent \$1.6 million on snow control. That's more than twice the amount city officials set aside in the budget, which was \$836,000. And Arlington officials say they've already spent more than \$2 million even though they had budgeted only \$1.1 million. Local governments across the region will be forced to dip into their contingency funds to deal with the record amounts of snow dumped on Northern Virginia this year.

"If they don't deal with these potholes quickly, the cost will become much greater," said Frank Shafroth, director of the Center for State and Local Government Leadership. "Waiting longer means they have to dig up the road bed, which is way more expensive than filling a pothole."

POTHOLES FORM when roads experience moisture and then a rapid freeze and thaw. Moisture gets into cracks in the road, which undermines the road surface. Then traffic pummels the already undermined road surface over and over until the cracks become larger and larger. Over time the cracks start to peel away as pieces of asphalt fly away. When that happens over and over, the cracks start to grow larger and larger.

"That creates a minor depression that can sometimes grow into something much larger that we affectionately call a pothole," said Yon Lambert, deputy director for operations of the Alexandria Department of Transportation and Environmental Services.

Alexandria currently has 574 requests since the beginning of January to March 21, a 552 percent increase over last year, which was 88 requests for service. About 42 of those are still being investigated to see what kind of remedy would be appropriate. That's part of a regional effort to address potholes throughout Northern Virginia, a region that has been hit with a disproportionate amount of precipitation and freezing weather this year. All local governments are trying to figure out how much this year's winter will cost them as the next budget season approaches.

"All invoices for snow-related costs for the last event have not been paid. Some not received yet," said Arlington budget director Richard Stephenson. "In addition, the cost of pot hole repairs will not be known for some time."

THE COSTS of the polar vortex are not easy to grasp, partially because it's difficult to know what the final bill will be and partially because nobody knows how much the damage will be inflicted. Anecdotal evidence is overwhelming. Drivers know that their roads are deteriorating rapidly. Alexandria and Arlington have dominion over their own streets, although the roads of Fairfax County are maintained by officials at the Virginia Department of Transportation, who are scrambling to meet all the requests they have been confronted with since the polar vortex swept into town.

"Our roads are in pretty sorry shape," said Del. Scott Surovell (D-44). "The snow removal expense has now begun to eat into the repaving expense for this year, and so VDOT is having to look at deferring paving projects that were planned for 2014 because of the amount of money that it has to spend on snow expenses."

Budget officials across Northern Virginia will not know the final expense of the polar vortex for some time. That's because all the invoices have not yet been received by local governments. Those expenses will probably become more digestible for budget officials during the mid-year review or the third-quarter review, long after the snow has melted and the spring flowers have wilted. Until that time, government leaders will be working overtime to fix the damage of the polar vortex. One day last week, for example, Alexandria had four crews out repairing 375 potholes using six tons of hot-mix asphalt.

"We can't do a really active and intense period of pothole repairs when temperatures are very cold," said Lambert. "We've had more than 30 inches of snow this year whereas we had less than two inches last year, and that combined with the very cold temperatures has a very big impact on our roads."

Taxes Increase Across NoVa

FROM PAGE 4

necessary decisions to maintain investment in our services, infrastructure and development of the community."

IN ARLINGTON, county manager has proposed a tax rate of \$1.006 for every \$100 of assessed value, which includes the base rate of \$0.993 and the county-wide sanitary district rate of \$0.013 for stormwater management. Last month, members of the Arlington County Board voted to advertise no in-

crease in the rate, which means elected officials must find a way to balance the budget using the increase in property values. Fortunately for Arlington, property values in the county have been some of the strongest in the region.

"The gap between funding for ongoing county services and revenues that I predicted in the fall was eliminated by our higher-than-anticipated real estate assessments," said County Manager Barbara Donnellan. "But we must still work to achieve efficiencies and continue to invest in our community."

In Arlington, unlike Alexandria, the tax base is split evenly between residential property and commercial property. County budget officials say that's a blessing and a curse. When residential values declined during the recession, jurisdictions that were heavily reliant on them suffered. But commercial properties have been sluggish in the wake of sequestration and shutdown because the local economy is so heavily tied to the fate of the federal government. That means that Arlington finds itself balanced between two dif-

ferent markets instead of tied to the fate of one.

"We like to say we like balanced development in the county," said Budget Director Richard Stephenson. "But that can be good or bad depending on where we are in the cycle."

IN ALEXANDRIA, the city manager has proposed a tax rate of \$1.038 for every \$100 of assessed value. Earlier this month, City Council members voted to advertise a tax rate that's half a cent higher. That

"There is always a competition among Northern Virginia local governments for who can either cut the most or raise their property tax the least. So it is a healthy competition."

— Frank Shafroth, director, Center for State and Local Leadership at George Mason University

tax rate of \$1.043 for every \$100 of assessed value would raise the average residential property tax bill by \$230. That's a 7 percent increase compared to last year.

"I did not run to raise property taxes," said Councilwoman Allison Silberberg. "But we have some growing needs."

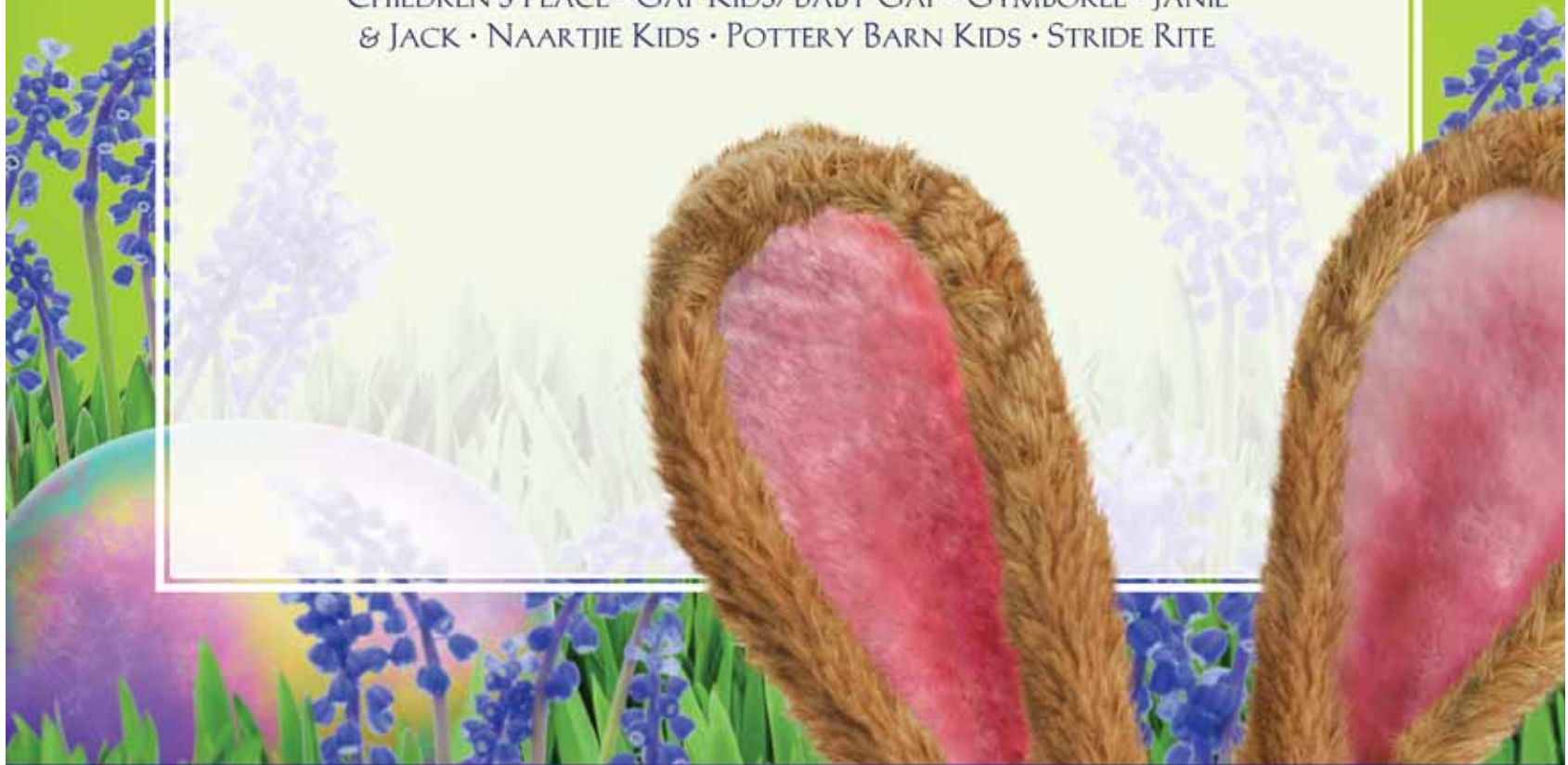
Unlike Arlington, Alexandria's tax revenues lean heavily toward residential properties. Almost 33 percent of the city's revenues come from residential property taxpayers, while commercial property taxpayers contribute only 25 percent of the tax base. That means the average single-family house, which increased about 3 percent this year, is shouldering a disproportionate amount of the burden for the increased cost of government in Alexandria. "We have an 18 percent vacancy rate that's devaluing the commercial side of the ledger," said Alexandria Budget Director Nelsie Smith. "If we had a healthier commercial base that wasn't contributing to an 18 percent vacancy rate, we would not have seen the 0.68 percent growth from last year to this year."

A GREAT PHOTO HOPPORTUNITY

STOP BY BUNNYVILLE, A NEW INTERACTIVE FAMILY
EXPERIENCE, AND HAVE YOUR PHOTO TAKEN WITH THE
EASTER BUNNY! NOW THROUGH APRIL 19, ONLY AT:

FAIR OAKS MALL

LORD & TAYLOR • MACY'S I AND II • JCPENNEY • SEARS
BUILD-A-BEAR WORKSHOP • CARTOON CUTS • THE
CHILDREN'S PLACE • GAP KIDS/BABY GAP • GYMBOREE • JANIE
& JACK • NAARTJIE KIDS • POTTERY BARN KIDS • STRIDE RITE



FAIR OAKS MALL

I-66 AND ROUTE 50 (LEE JACKSON MEMORIAL HIGHWAY) IN FAIRFAX
SHOPFAIROAKSMALL.COM

Challenging Budgets

Local Government should be able to access income taxes to give relief on real estate taxes.

Northern Virginia governments are facing shortfalls in the classic budget sense: projected revenues are less than last year's expenditures plus increases in costs.

Alexandria City Manager Rashad Young Young: "This is the seventh straight year of budgetary challenges, where the cost of current services and previous commitments exceeds our revenue growth." His proposed budget includes \$190.6 million for Alexandria City Public Schools, a 2.62 percent increase over FY2014 but \$2.5 million less than requested by the Alexandria School Board.

Fairfax County Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova: "This will be a very challenging budget." Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Karen Garza proposed an increase of 5.7 percent, \$98 million more than the schools requested last year, but supervisors have said to expect an increase of 2 percent.

Fairfax County, along with Arlington and Alexandria, is wrestling with how to fund increasing financial requests from schools, increasing needs for human services and providing a safety net, and many other areas of local budgets.

In Virginia, localities are allowed few areas of revenue, and local budgets are funded primarily through real estate property taxes. Property values have increased this year, and local

governments are also considering increases in the property tax rate, meaning homeowners will pay more in taxes.

Fairfax County Real Estate Assessments increased 5.8 percent for single family homes, 8.4 percent for townhouses and 10.5 percent for condos. In Arlington, property values grew about 5.8 percent this year. That includes single-family houses and townhouses, which went up 6.2 percent, as well as condominiums, which went up 5.9 percent. In Alexandria, residential assessments increased 4.8 percent.

But just because a home is worth more this year than last year doesn't actually put any more money in anyone's pocket. The increases are mostly modest and necessary in an area that prides itself on providing an exceptional quality of life and thriving business environment.

Employment and jobs are also strong in Northern Virginia, with unemployment at 3.7 percent in Fairfax, 4.1 percent in Alexandria and 3.2 percent in Arlington. Northern Virginia is the economic engine of Virginia. The overall unemployment rate in Virginia is 5 percent, with these statistics from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. These rates are far below the national rate.

But state income tax, paid disproportionately by workers in Northern Virginia, are collected by the state for the state budget. The exact percentage of money that returns to Northern

Virginia is debated, but it is definitely small. Localities should have the ability to add a piggyback tax to the state income tax in order to provide needed and expected services while giving relief to homeowners.

Anyone familiar with the political process in Virginia knows that this is a pipe dream with essentially zero chance. It would have to pass the Virginia General Assembly. Nevertheless, it makes no sense for Northern Virginia to pay income taxes to the state without being able to benefit.

Meanwhile, Arlington FY 2015 tax rate public hearing is March 27 at 7 p.m. More on Arlington's budget: <http://countyboard.arlingtonva.us/budget/>

Fairfax County's public hearings, all in the board auditorium at the government center: Effective Tax Rate Hearing 3 p.m., April 8, 2014; Budget Public Hearing 6 p.m., April 8; 3 p.m., April 9; 3 p.m., April 10. More on Fairfax County Budget, <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/>

For more on Alexandria's budget <https://www.alexandriava.gov/budget/info/default.aspx?id=75641>.

A favorite guideline on testimony at budget hearings comes in Arlington: "Repetitious testimony is discouraged." Good luck with that.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

A Letter from Sandy Hook

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

On the fourteenth of each month, the anniversary of the Sandy Hook tragedy, I join dozens of others at a vigil at the National Rifle Association headquarters to remind everyone of the need for sensible gun safety measures. After the most recent vigil, I got an email from Erin Nikitchyuk which I share with her permission to remind us of how we all need to be concerned about this issue.

"I lived in Reston from the age of two and returned after college, settling in Herndon. We landed in New England after graduate school and eventually in the Sandy Hook section of Newtown, Connecticut. It's a place that reminds us very much of Reston in so many ways.

In fact I know of six other Restonians who ended up here, too. Sandy Hook is very much like

a New England version of the Hunter's Woods or Lake Anne communities where we have our own 'town center' inside the bigger town of Newtown.

I remember your name in the news all the time—it always caught my eye even though I was never very engaged in following politics, especially at a young age. (My maiden name is Pflaum, which is German for Plum, and I always thought how much simpler it would be to just be Plum, too!) I was the same age as my son is now when you were elected to office. My son, 'Bear' as he's known to just about everyone, was a third-grader last year at Sandy Hook School. On that morning of 12/14, he should have been safe at the back of the school with the rest of the older kids, but he and his classmate had the much-coveted helper assignments of office and cafete-



ria messengers. He had just dropped off the attendance forms in the office and was turning to head back to class with his classmate when the window a few yards behind them shattered from gunfire. They were shot at and ran down the hall where a teacher broke lockdown to reach out and pull them to safety.

Today on my Facebook feed someone had shared the photo of you at this month's protest on 3/14 in front of the National Rifle Association. I wanted to reach out and thank you personally for being there. It is a brave thing for politicians to take such definitive and public actions on issues, especially divisive ones like guns and especially in a state with a healthy and thriving gun culture.

Our town here still reels from the losses. From my house to just about anywhere I drive, I pass

seven homes that should have happy second graders in them and one cemetery with a small stone that should not be there. Many days the mental list of names I unintentionally recite as I pass each house still brings me to tears. No town should be like this. There is not a 14th of the month that goes unnoticed now.

We realize it is a rare town that has a tragedy like this, but for many of us it drives home the fact that communities suffer these losses daily, just like a slow-motion mass murder, and they grieve and reel as we do.

There are so many common sense things that we can embrace to keep guns only in responsible hands.

Thank you so much for standing up with us and doing so publicly, especially standing in front of the organization that works so hard to keep us from common sense change."

Thank you, Erin, for writing. The issue can affect any of us at any moment.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

@RestonConnect

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to
connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns,
Call: 703-778-9410
e-mail:
reston@connectionnewspapers.com

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

Amna Rehmatulla
Editorial Assistant
703-778-9410 ext.427
arehmatulla@connectionnewspapers.com

Victoria Ross
County Reporter ♦ 301-502-6027
vross@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
e-mail:
sales@connectionnewspapers.com

Trisha Hamilton
Display Advertising
703-778-9419
trisha@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith
Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411
classified@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Photography:
Deb Cobb, Louise Krafft,
Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher
Jeanne Theismann
703-778-9436
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426
Circulation Manager:
Linda Pecquex
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Short Walk to Save a Life

To the Editor:

As a kidney transplant recipient, I know firsthand how kidney disease impacts a family and how a little knowledge can go a long way.

I ignored the symptoms of my failing kidneys for three years. I chalked them up to stress, poor diet and lack of sleep. One day I passed out, was rushed to the hospital, and immediately put on dialysis. In the blink of an eye, my family nearly lost me.

This spring, I will be walking with kidney patients, organ donors, transplant recipients, family, friends and co-workers to help raise awareness of the 700,000 individuals and their families affected by kidney disease in the National Capital Area. Join me on Sunday, April 13 at the Northern Virginia Kidney Walk [in Reston Town Center] or on Saturday, May 17 at the National Capital Area Kidney Walk.

Funds raised at the National Kidney Foundation serving the National Capital Area Kidney Walks go directly to vital programs that help fight kidney disease through prevention, advocacy and education.

Take the first step, visit www.kidneywalk.org.

Daryle McGhee
Assistant Vice President,
First Citizens Bank

County's Urge to Spend

To the Editor:

The power to tax is the power to destroy.

When the economy was booming Fairfax County spent (and spent) and most of us ere too busy to take as much notice as needed. Now many years later the county urge to spend remains high as if the tax payers have unlimited resources. My tax rate, based on the assessment letter recently received

has a rate in the order of 12 percent in spite of the letter's claim that the increase is (only) 9 percent.

Hopefully the Board of Supervisors will, with taxpayer input, do a line by line review of the draft budget and get the fat out before it's too late.

Bill Finberg
Burke

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY COLUMBIA GAS OF VIRGINIA, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF A SPECIAL RATE AND CONTRACT PURSUANT TO VA. CODE § 56-235.2 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA CASE NO. PUE-2014-00016

On February 24, 2014, Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc. ("Columbia Gas" or "Company") filed an application ("Application") in both public and nonpublic versions with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") pursuant to § 56-235.2 of the Code of Virginia and the Commission's Guidelines for Filing an Application to Provide Electric and Gas Service under a Special Rate, Contract, or Incentive, 20 VAC 5-310-10. The Application requests that the Commission approve a special rate and contract between Columbia Gas and Vireol Bio Energy, LLC ("Vireol"), associated with an ethanol plant previously known as the Appomattox Bio Energy plant ("Plant"), located in Hopewell, Virginia, that was constructed in 2008 and acquired by Vireol in 2013. The Company requests that the Commission act on its Application on an expedited basis.

The Application states that Columbia Gas and Vireol have executed a Service Agreement for Transportation Service dated January 31, 2014 ("Agreement"), under which Columbia Gas will provide interruptible transportation services on the Company's system in order to satisfy the Plant's natural gas requirements, subject to Commission approval. Columbia Gas asserts that the purpose of the special rate contract is to provide Vireol with an individualized cost structure and contract length that will allow it to operate the Plant in Hopewell, Virginia, rather than disassemble the Plant and operate it elsewhere. According to the Application, Vireol expects the Plant to begin operations by April 2014, and it would begin to receive natural gas service from the Company at that time.

Columbia Gas states that for cost allocation purposes, Vireol will be included within the Large Volume Transportation Service customer class, and represents that the Agreement will have no negative rate impact on the Company's other customers.

A public hearing on the Company's Application will be held at 10 a.m. on June 11, 2014, in the Commission's courtroom, Tyler Building, Second Floor, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, to receive into the record the testimony of public witnesses and the evidence of Columbia Gas, any respondents, and the Commission Staff. Any person desiring to testify as a public witness should appear at the hearing location fifteen (15) minutes before the starting time on the day of the hearing and contact the Commission's Bailiff. Individuals with disabilities who require accommodation to participate in the hearing should contact the Commission at least seven (7) days before the scheduled hearing at 1-800-552-7945 (voice) or 1-804-371-9206 (TDD).

Copies of the Application may be obtained at no charge by requesting a copy of the same in writing from the Company's counsel, T. Borden Ellis, Senior Counsel, Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc., 1809 Coyote Drive, Chester, Virginia 23836. The Application and related documents shall also be available for interested persons to review in the Commission's Document Control Center, Tyler Building, First Floor, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia, between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Interested persons may also download unofficial copies from the Commission's website: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>.

Any interested person may participate as a respondent in this proceeding by filing a notice of participation on or before May 2, 2014. If not filed electronically, an original and fifteen (15) copies of the notice of participation shall be submitted to the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above. Interested persons should obtain a copy of the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing for further details on participation as a respondent. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUE-2014-00016.

On or before June 4, 2014, any interested person may file written comments on the Application with Joel H. Peck, Clerk, State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. Interested persons desiring to submit comments electronically may do so on or before June 4, 2014, by following the instructions found on the Commission's website at: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>. All comments shall refer to Case No. PUE-2014-00016.

COLUMBIA GAS OF VIRGINIA, INC.

 <p>25% OFF ALL Nursery Stock</p>	 <p>Pansies are Here! On Sale 97¢ Reg. price \$1.89</p>
<p>FREE ESTIMATES! Patios, Walkways, Retaining Walls, Landscaping</p>	<p>Bulk Mulch, Playground Chips & Organic Compost \$29.99/cu. yd.</p>
<p>60-75% Off Pottery Lowest Prices Since 2008!</p>	<p>Cravens Nursery & Pottery 9023 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax, Virginia 2 miles west of I-495 on Rt. 50, 1 mile from I-66 (Vienna Metro) 703-573-5025 Open 7 days a week Visit our new Web site: www.cravensnursery.com</p>



GREAT FALLS SWIM & TENNIS
The Long Wait is Over!

We Are Excited to Offer A Limited Number of Memberships for This Year or Get on the Fast Track for 2015

Great Falls Swim and Tennis offers its members and their families a casual environment for the enjoyment of swimming, tennis and social programs.

Our facilities include a large, heated pool with two diving boards, a wading pool, changing rooms, a covered pavilion, six lighted tennis courts (4 clay, 2 hard), a heated bubble for indoor tennis from October through April, a lighted platform handball/basketball court, a picnic and grill area, snack bar and large grass area for volleyball, tetherball, lacrosse, soccer and numerous other outdoor games.

Club activities include: adult and junior tennis year-round private and group lessons, camps and tournaments with two of Northern Virginia's top tennis professionals, adult and junior NVTL tennis teams, junior NVSL swim and dive teams, tennis, swim & dive group and/or private lessons and lots of fun, family social activities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
SHERI AT slandf@aol.com | www.gfsandt.com

SPRING FUN 2014

Virginia Bluebells: Native Spring Beauty

Carpets of bluebells coming soon to a park near you.

BY DONALD SWEIG

The Virginia Bluebells are coming!

In early Spring, these beautiful native wildflowers will burst into bloom profusely throughout much of the Washington area. Botanically named *Mertensia virginica*, one of a number of species of *Mertensia*, Virginia Bluebells can be found in many moist, woodland areas, especially along streams and rivers.

Depending on the weather, they first appear in early April as light pink buds, and then open into several shades of pink, blue and even white. In some areas along the local rivers they bloom in stunning profusion, creating a veritable carpet of color.

After perhaps ten-days to two weeks, the blossoms will fade and not appear again until the following Spring. They are not difficult to find in season and most wildflower enthusiasts have a favorite Bluebell haunt.

They are easy to find along the floodplain of the Potomac River at Turkey Run Park, a National Park Service site, on the George Washington Memorial Parkway, just inside the beltway in McLean.

There are also large and popular stands of Bluebells at the Bull Run Regional Park, a Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority site.

Look for them also at Great Falls National Park in Virginia, or along the C&O Canal in Potomac. Take your binoculars; bluebells often grow on the islands in the middle of the river.

Bluebells grow best, and most profusely, in the sandy soils of the floodplain along the local rivers. A particularly stunning and easily accessible stand of Bluebells is in Fairfax County's Riverbend Park, where one can walk the paths both up and down river from the visitor center with copious bluebells on both sides of the path. It's sight to behold. One might also notice other Spring wildflowers along the various trails, along the river floodplains and in the nearby woods.

The annual appearance of the Virginia Bluebells is a treat too sweet to miss. Take your camera to preserve the memory, but please don't pick the wild blue-



Classic Virginia Bluebells in full bloom. There are many local places to enjoy these native Virginia wildflowers, including Riverbend Park in Great Falls, Bull Run Park in Centreville and the C&O National Historical Park in Potomac. See sidebar.

PHOTOS BY DONALD SWEIG



Some Bluebells flower in delicate shades of pink and light blue. There are many local places to enjoy these native Virginia wildflowers, including Riverbend Park in Great Falls, Bull Run Park in Centreville and the C&O National Historical Park in Potomac. See sidebar.

bells; they are very fragile and will soon wither if plucked.

If you are interested in growing these flowers yourself, they like moist to wet soil in part or mostly shaded areas, according to the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia: "Best planted at the edge of a woodland path or by a shaded pond." Bluebells appear to be both deer and rabbit resistant.

(301) 582-0813
<http://www.nps.gov/choh/index.htm>

Look for the bluebells on the floodplain between the canal and the river or on the islands in the river.

Riverbend Park, Fairfax County Park Authority,
8700 Potomac Hills St, Great Falls
(703) 759-9018
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/>

Riverbend is a particularly easy place to see a stunning display of Bluebells. The park is open every day, admission is free. Try calling the park to check when the bluebells are in full bloom. Visitor is center closed on Tuesdays. "Spring is wildflower time. Many species of spring ephemerals grace the river banks from March to June. Take a walk between carpets of Virginia Bluebells and Spring Beauties, and look for Wild Ginger, Dutchman's Breeches and Trout Lilies."

SPRING FUN

Send announcements to reston@connectionnewspapers.com. The deadline is the Friday prior to the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

MONDAY/MARCH 24-FRIDAY/APRIL 11
Artists Honored at LRA's "Winter Dreams" Exhibit. Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Parkridge 5 Building, 10780 Parkridge Blvd., Reston.

TUESDAY/MARCH 25-SUNDAY/APRIL 6
2014 Fine Art Photography Exhibit. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. ArtSpace Herndon's annual Fine Art Photography Exhibit showcases the work of thirty-seven regional photographers. This photography exhibit delivers photographs of astounding colors, extraordinary textures, remarkable faces and breathtaking places; images from a wide variety of artists. www.artspaceherndon.org.

TUESDAY/MARCH 25-MONDAY/MARCH 31
League of Reston Artists Exhibit. 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Reston Center One, 12001 Sunrise Valley Dr., Reston. www.leagueofrestonartists.org

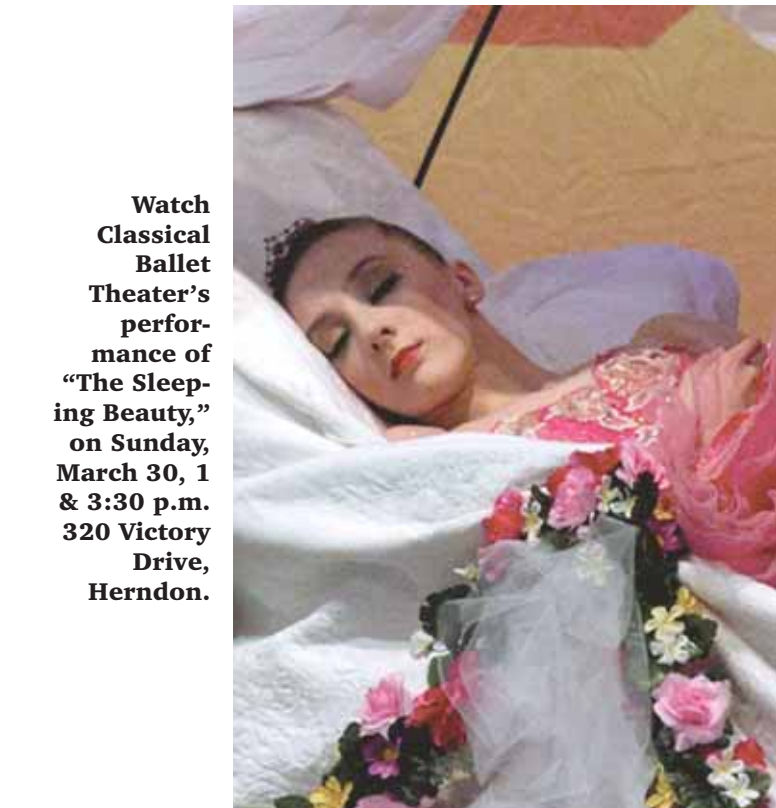
SATURDAY/MARCH 29
Southgate Advisory Council Yard Sale. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Southgate Community Center, 12125 Pinecrest Road, Reston. Southgate Advisory Council will be having a yard sale to assist future programs for the community served by the Southgate Community Center. There will be Vendor Spots available and open to the public to participate within.
Blue Moon Girls. 7:30 p.m. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. Blue Moon Cowgirls take you back in time to the 40's and 50's era in Country music where there were no flaming guitars, torn jeans, stage pyrotechnics — just plain good solid music with outstanding harmonies and musicianship. Admission \$12.

SUNDAY/MARCH 30
Classical Ballet Theater Presents "The Sleeping Beauty." 1 & 3:30 p.m. 320 Victory Drive, Herndon. Designed for our youngest guests, this enchanting performance of Act I of the classic fairy tale is a perfect way to introduce the art of classical ballet to preschool children. Tickets: \$10. Visit <http://www.cbtnva.org/> sleepingbeauty to print the ticket order form and payment instructions. Seating is general admission and limited; doors close at show time.
Requiem by John Rutter. 7 p.m. Herndon United Methodist Church, 701 Bennett Street, Herndon. Presented by the Herndon United Methodist Church Wesley Choir, soloists, and chamber ensemble. Free concert, free childcare provided. Pre-concert dinner and talk by Pastor Gary Robbins at 5:30pm in Doe Fellowship Hall. For more information, visit www.herndonumc.org.

TUESDAY/APRIL 1
Reston Garden Club. 1 p.m. 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Guests are invited to hear the speaker, Renatta Holt from Merrifield Garden Center, talk about the "Well Behaved Garden." Her talk will include the use of new cultivars to minimize maintenance, plants that are bred to be smaller, the right plant for the right space, plants that do well in shady gardens, and plants that are



Blue Moon Cowgirls take you back in time to the 40's and 50's era in Country music where there were no flaming guitars, torn jeans, stage pyrotechnics — just plain good solid music with outstanding harmonies and musician-ship. See them on March 29 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church.



Watch Classical Ballet Theater's performance of "The Sleeping Beauty," on Sunday, March 30, 1 & 3:30 p.m. 320 Victory Drive, Herndon.

deer resistant.

FRIDAY/APRIL 4
First Fridays Art House Cinema and Brew. 7 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. April's movie, Pan's Labyrinth (2006), the tale of 11-year-old Ofelia's dark fantasies set against the reality of The Spanish Civil War. Rated R. Advance reservations are required, made through our website, 21+, \$10 for the movie and two microbrews. 703-956-6590. www.artspaceherndon.org

SATURDAY/APRIL 5
Reston 50/100 Founder's Day Celebration. 12-3 p.m. Lake Anne Plaza, 11426 Washington Plaza W, Reston. Fifty years after Robert E. Simon, Jr. founded Reston, it continues to flourish and over 50,000 residents call Reston "home." Join the Reston Historic Trust and Museum for Founder's Day as they celebrate Reston's 50th anniversary and the 100th birthday of founder, Robert E. Simon, Jr.
CrossCurrents: The Americas Ensemble Concert. 6:30- 7:30 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Life and music weave together in this unique project. The artists of the Americas Ensemble come from places north and south, as do

www.connectionnewspapers.com

SUNDAY/APRIL 6
Mr. Vaudeville and Friends with Mark Brutsché. 3 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, Buddy Silver, and alter-ego Mark Brutsché, returns to to prove, once again, that nothing can take the place of live entertainment. \$5 Reston/\$10 Non-Reston. www.restoncommunitycenter.com or 703-476-4500.
Dry Branch Fire Squad. 3 p.m. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. Dry Branch Fire Squad brings you traditional bluegrass music "on the ragged edge" with soaring vocals and creative work on wood and strings. They are known almost as much for their humor as for their music. \$15. <http://www.drybranchfiresquad.com>.

www.connectionnewspapers.com

COOL crafts

Meet 250 Juried Artisans in Person

- Designer Crafts
- Home Furnishings
- Affordable Art
- Specialty Foods
- Family Fun

Sugarloaf Crafts Festival

APRIL 4, 5, 6, 2014
Montgomery County Fairgrounds
Gaithersburg, MD • EXIT 11 OFF I-270
Admission \$8 online, \$10 at the door - good all 3 days
Children under 12 and parking are FREE
Fri. & Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5

DISCOUNT TICKETS. show info, exhibitor lists, directions and more at:
SugarloafCrafts.com

SUGARLOAF MONTGOMERY WORKS, INC. • 800-210-9900

COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

Welcoming, Diverse, Progressive

**ST. ANNE'S
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH • Reston**



**To Highlight
your Faith
Community,
Call Karen at
703-917-6468**

7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Sunday school: preschool - grade 2
Music: grades 3 - 7
10:25 a.m. Sunday School Grades 3 to 12
Music 4 years to 2nd grade
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
5:00 p.m. Come Just as You Are Contemporary Service
Nursery care provided at 9:00 a.m. service
The Rev. James Papile, Rector
The Rev. Laura Cochran
703-437-6530
www.stannes-reston.org
1700 Wainwright Dr., Reston

DULLES REGIONAL CHAMBER of COMMERCE™

presents the trip of a lifetime to

CHINA

Travel from
October
17-25, 2014

Join us for our China Orientation April 9, 2014

Learn all about this 9 day trip

We will cover destinations, 4 & 5 Star accommodations, included meals, transportation, cost, taxes/fees, English speaking guides & more. \$2,640pp or less

Highlights:

Tiananmen Square	Suzhou
The Forbidden City	Lingering Gardens
Summer Palace	Hangzhou
Great Wall	West Lake Cruise
Ming Tombs	Yu Garden

Staybridge Suites - Chantilly
3860 Centerview Dr. | register at www.DullesRegionalChamber.org
5:00p.m. - 7:00 p.m. There is no charge.

SUN DESIGN INVITES YOU TO OUR REMODELED HOME TOUR IN VIENNA!

Saturday, April 12th, 12pm-4pm
1902 Toyon Way, Vienna, VA 22182

REINVENT YOUR HOME TO ENRICH YOUR LIFE
Why add more square footage when, with careful consideration and armed with a unique design, you can accomplish much more with less? Come see first hand how redesigning existing space created better function, flow, and light in this first level remodel.

SUN DESIGN

design/build | additions | kitchens | baths | basements | outdoor spaces
703.425.5588 SunDesignInc.com info@SunDesignInc.com

Kidney Walk

SUNDAY, APRIL 13
Reston Town Center | Reston, VA
Presented By **EAGLEBANK**

SATURDAY, MAY 17
Freedom Plaza | Washington, DC
Presented By **Ronald D. Paul COMPANIES**

TAKE A LIFESAVING STEP
SIGN UP!
KidneyWalk.org

National Sponsors **AMGEN** **QUESTCOR** Special Thanks to **CONNECTION**



South Lakes High school junior Penny Harte with her father, Roger Harte at the Reston GRACE gallery for the March artists reception.



PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN / THE CONNECTION

South Lakes High School art teacher Marco Rando with seniors Ellie Fialk and Sammy Nazam. Fialk has a sculpture piece on display at GRACE.

GRACE Opens Emerging Visions Exhibit

Art of local high school students on display.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

At the Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE), a new exhibit has opened displaying the art of 62 students from three area high schools, Herndon, Oakton, and South Lakes. The exhibit, "Emerging Visions: Complexities" is the second exhibit GRACE is showing to celebrate Youth Art Month. The gallery is immersed with artwork including drawings, paintings, mixed media works and photography.

"I am hoping to go to Rochester Institute of Technology," said Ellie Hughes, a senior at Oakton High School who has a sculpture piece on display in the exhibit. Hughes also participated in the 2013 art exhibit held at GRACE for high school students. "I am mostly interested in photography," said Hughes.

"That's her love," said her father, Jim Hughes who was impressed with the quality of the art exhibit.

It is really exciting," said Reed Timoner, a junior at Oakton High School. Timoner, Katie Anderson and Allie Cortese all have photography art on display in the exhibit. The evening of March 21 there was an art reception at GRACE and many of the students were there to talk about their work. "Photography is fun, it is a really cool hobby," said Timoner.

"This is an awesome professional experience," said Marco Rando, art and design teacher at South Lakes High School in Reston.

"We are really excited our students were



Oakton High senior Ellie Hughes with her father Jim Hughes at the GRACE artists reception. An art piece by Ellie is on display at GRACE until April 5.

able to participate in such a real world experience," said Tammy Morin, an art teacher at Herndon High. Many of the artists focused on concepts that reflect complex issues such as beauty, forgiveness and love. Some worked collaboratively to address issues of identity and memory.

"The students really stepped up to the plate as far as creating work for a professional gallery," said Alexandra Mamatas, an art teacher at Herndon High. "There is a lot of talent this year, all the pieces are really interesting," said Anne Sykes, an art teacher at South Lakes. "I am always impressed with the art work in such a profes-



Herndon High students LeClare Beres and Sydney Bowden collaborated for their mixed media piece "Choices" on display at Reston GRACE. On the right is GRACE Associate Curator Erica Harrison.

sional setting. It is always good to see the final results."

"This show will always be part of GRACE because it is part of our soul," said Robert Goudie, chairman of the GRACE board of directors. GRACE has long had active student outreach programs, and the annual Emerging Visions show has been one of GRACE's most popular exhibitions. It furthers the art center's mission of supporting young artists and enriching community life by promoting involvement and excellence in contemporary visual arts.

"This show is at the heart of what we do at GRACE," said Executive Director and



Robert Goudie, chairman of the GRACE board of directors welcomed the visitors and thanked them for attending the artists reception.

Curator Holly Koons McCullough. She thanked the sponsor of the show Sunrise Orthodontics. The exhibit was an excellent opportunity for GRACE staff to interact with teachers, students and parents. Goudie also took the opportunity to praise GRACE Associate Curator Erica Harrison. "This show is a product of her persistence and dedication," said Goudie.

"This night is really about the artists and the teachers," said Harrison. The exhibit "Emerging Visions: Complexities" will continue to be on display at GRACE until April 5. To learn more about GRACE exhibits, visit www.restonarts.org.

VIEWPOINTS

What Are You Looking Forward to this Spring in Reston?

Chris Vo, Director of Education for the DC Area Drone User Group

"Now that spring has arrived, I look forward to going out and flying my drones."



Nikolai Teleguine, software engineer

"I look forward to going outside, planting and biking."



Brian Jackoby, co-founder of NOVA Labs

"I have missed mowing the grass and playing with Frensel lenses"



Beverly Bugos, volunteer with NOVA Labs

"I look forward to so many projects with NOVA Labs which will be outside with kids, projects that will study ecology and ecosystems. It helps them understand elements are part of bigger systems."



Andrew Rudin, business and risk management professional

"For me I look forward to bicycling and gardening vegetables. I especially enjoy planting tomatoes."



— RYAN DUNN

THE Y IS THE PLACE KIDS SHINE

Summer Day Camp

Ages 3 to 14

Over 70 camps to choose from: traditional and specialty camps from dance, sports, LEGO activities, arts and crafts, swimming, sailing, archery, equestrian programs and more!

Register before May 31st for great summer day camp offers!

YMCA Fairfax County Reston
12196 Sunset Hills Road,
Reston, VA 20190
703-742-8800
www.ymcadc.org

www.facebook.com/YMetroDC twitter.com/YMCADC



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



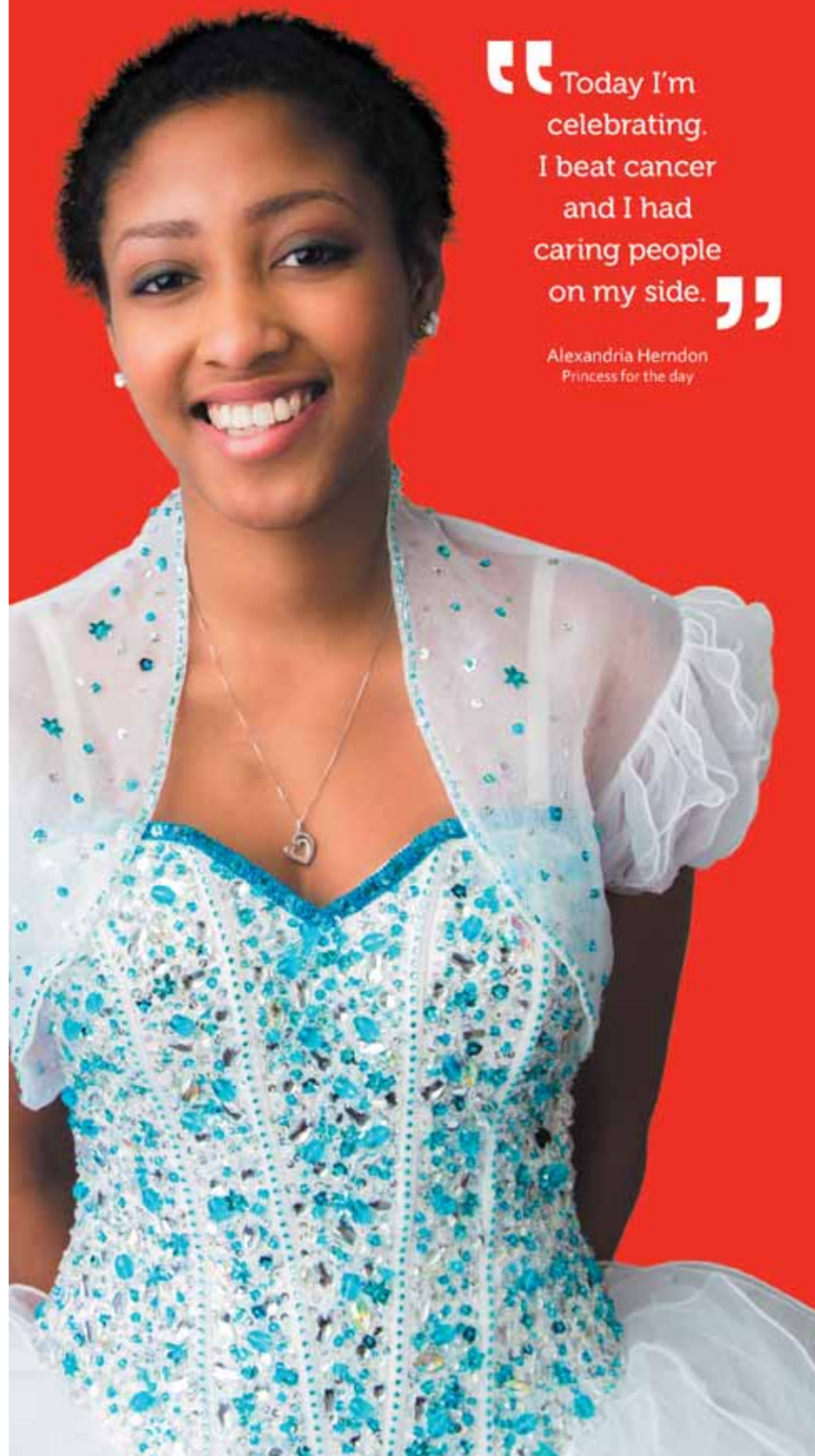
Children's NationalTM
Health System
Just Right

Alex celebrated her 16th wearing her gown, not ours.

Alexandria was diagnosed with bone cancer her first year of high school. Instead of going to an adult hospital, her family got help from a cancer treatment team focused completely on pediatric medicine. Watch how specialized care created a special day at JustRightForChildren.com/Alex.

"Today I'm celebrating. I beat cancer and I had caring people on my side."

Alexandria Herndon
Princess for the day



SPRING FUN 2014

'Carmen' Comes to Area

Virginia Opera brings "Carmen" to Center for the Arts.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Virginia Opera, the Official Opera Company of the Commonwealth of Virginia, will present Georges Bizet's sultry tragedy about opera's most famous femme fatale, "Carmen." The opera has enthralled audiences for more than a century and is one of the most popular. "Carmen" follows Don José and his ill-fated obsession with the alluring Carmen who tosses him aside for another man leading to jealous rage.

"At the Center for the Arts, we strive to offer programming that appeals to our patrons' diverse artistic tastes. Bizet's 'Carmen' is beloved by opera enthusiasts, and even those who are new to the genre are familiar with the music," said Jill Laiacona, George Mason



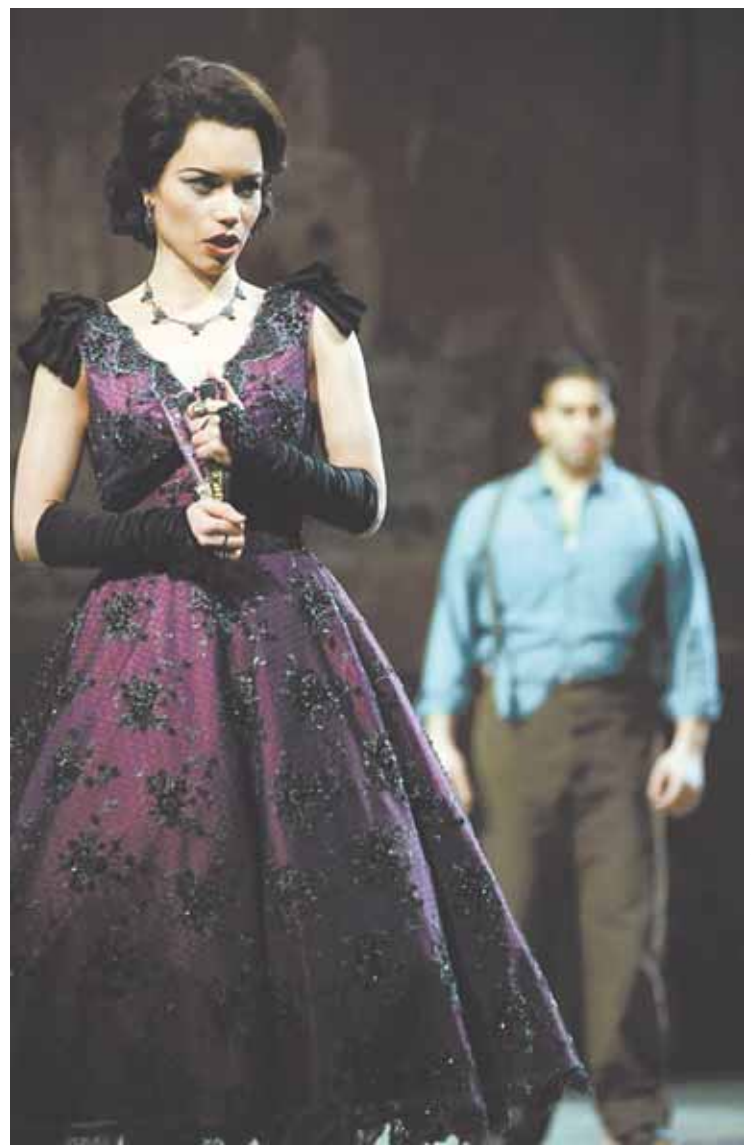
Ginger Costa-Jackson as Carmen and Dinyar Vania as Don Jose in Virginia Opera's production of "Carmen."

Where and When

Virginia Opera's "Carmen" at the George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performances are Friday, April 11 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, April 13 at 2 p.m. Tickets are Friday: \$44-\$86; Sunday: \$48-\$98. Youth Discount: tickets are half price for youth through grade 12. Call 888-945-2468 or visit cfa.gmu.edu

University, Public and Media Relations Coordinator. "One of its most famous arias, 'Habanera,' has

been parodied countless times, including by The Muppets and The Marx Brothers. We're thrilled that Virginia Opera chose this work as the finale for its 39th season." "The team that Virginia Opera brings to lead 'Carmen' has produced incredible opera both on our stage and in opera houses across the world," said Russell P. Allen, president and CEO of Virginia Opera. "Audiences can expect a production of 'Carmen' that will not disappoint."



PHOTOS BY DAVID A. BELOFF/COURTESY OF VIRGINIA OPERA

Ginger Costa-Jackson as Carmen in Virginia Opera's production of "Carmen."

Bathroom Remodel Special \$6,850

Celebrating 15 Years in Business!

TWO POOR TEACHERS

Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



Free Estimates
703-969-1179

Select your products
from our Mobile Showroom
and Design Center



Visit our website: www.twopoorteachers.com

Handyman Services
Available:
Call 703-999-2928



Fully Insured &
Class A Licensed
Est. 1999

For a free digital subscription to one or all of the 15 Connection Newspapers, go to www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

Be the first to know – get your paper before it hits the press.

Complete digital replica of the print edition, including photos and ads, delivered weekly to your e-mail box.



Questions? E-mail:
goinggreen@connectionnewspapers.com

THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS



Photo by Ed Knepley

Spring Community Open House

Put yourself in this picture • Come Live Your Dream!

Sunday, April 6, 2014, Noon – 5:00 p.m.

Active Adult Community (55+ or 20% between 50-54)

- Take a short tour of our golf course (Non-resident Memberships Available)
- Meet a volunteer resident, tour the facilities, ask questions, relaxed environment!
- Enjoy the Dining Room Brunch (9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.) Cost Range \$10-\$17 (Credit Card/Check Only) Reservations required by COB Wednesday 4/2, contact Joan 703-743-1325 (Limited Seating)
- Realtor Open Houses 1–4 p.m. (Independent of Community Open House)

www.heritagehunt.net



www.heritagehuntgolf.com

6901 Arthur Hills Drive • Gainesville, VA 20155 • 703-743-5490 • NewBuyers@heritagehunt.net



State delegates Mark Keam (D-35), Patrick Hope (D-47) and David Bulova (D-37) during the March 22 social progress presentation in Vienna hosted by SALT.



Del. Ken Plum (D-36) remarked he had introduced a redistricting bill back in 1982.

PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

In Search of 'Game Changing' Ideas

Local legislators reflect on social issues addressed by Virginia General Assembly in 2014.

At a presentation hosted by SALT [Social Action Linking Together] on March 22, more than 50 community activists gathered to hear local legislators offer brief comments on social progress in the Commonwealth of Virginia's 2014 General Assembly session. The presentation was hosted at American Legion 180.

State senators Janet Howell (D-32), Barbara Favola (D-31) and Dick Saslaw (D-35), and state delegates Mark Keam (D-35), Ken Plum (D-36), David Bulova (D-37), Alfonzo Lopez (D-49), Marcus Simon (D-53), and Patrick Hope sat on the panel.

LEGISLATORS ON THE PANEL, all Democrats, were invited to speak for five minutes each on bills and issues confronting the General Assembly and the Commonwealth. Few had time to get past introductory remarks and few details on the General Assembly emerged.

Keam, however, addressed a problem confronted by military personnel not deployed overseas when submitting absentee ballots. Keam's House Bill 838 would address an inconsistency in the policies followed by the Virginia State Board of Elections. Because of differences in various federal and state election laws, absentee ballots mailed in from overseas by U.S. military men and women are accepted by election officials even if the inside envelope that contains the ballot is not fully sealed.

"On the other hand, an absentee ballot mailed from within Virginia with the same imperfection on the inside envelope is re-

jected by election officials," Keam said. "My bill would make the process consistent for all absentee ballots, regardless of from where they were mailed."

"My bill passed both the House and Senate with little opposition, which is pleasantly surprising since this is one of the very few bills introduced by a Democrat to allow more votes to be counted, that has passed the conservative Republican House of Delegates."

<http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?141+sum+HB838> includes the language which, essentially, states that an absentee ballot will not be voided solely because the inner envelope containing the voted ballot is imperfectly sealed so long as the outside envelope containing the ballot envelope is sealed, Keam said.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER Richard E. Rubenstein, professor of conflict resolution and public affairs at George Mason University, spoke on the need for "game-changing" ideas to resolve income inequality in Virginia, suggesting that university researchers come together statewide to brainstorm ideas that address the issue. He recommended, also, a state commission addressing the causes of poverty.

"This legislative session created a new opportunity for people to take a fresh look at issues that have been pending for a long time, such as income inequality and what the state is doing on behalf of vulnerable citizens," Keam said in a subsequent phone conversation. "However, these issues ended up with the same result this year because of the same partisan agenda that stalled things in years past."

The morning presentation was co-sponsored by SALT, Virginians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty [VADP], Citizens United for Rehabilitation for Errants -VA [CURE], and Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations [VACOLAO].

—DONNA MANZ

HEARING LOSS OR JUST EAR WAX?

Factory trained representatives with special discounting authority on hand for this one time promotion.

HURRY, ACT NOW 4 DAYS ONLY

Where:
Advanced Hearing Technologies

Date:
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
April 1, 2, 3, 4
Time: 9am - 5pm

Call for an appointment Today!
571-421-2908
1-888-528-8692

THERE ARE LIMITED APPOINTMENTS FOR THIS EVENT.
CALL NOW

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

Ask about our No obligation
60 DAY Risk Free Trial
Financing Available
0% INTEREST FOR 1 YEAR
0% interest with credit approval. See store for details.

FREE VIDEO EAR INSPECTION



YOU SEE WHAT WE SEE!

SPECIAL OFFERS, 35%-50% OFF MSRP
FOR THIS EVENT ONLY! All Digital & Programmable Hearing Aids

CUSTOM CANAL

\$489 ea.

4 Days Only!
Save 50%

Up to 40db loss.



IF SMALL IS WHAT YOU WANT OUR CIC IS NEARLY INVISIBLE

\$689 ea.

4 Days Only!
Save 50%

Up to 40db loss.



Do you have STICKER SHOCK?

Even after advertised discounts are applied?
We will beat any competitors price on exact or similar models.
Compare and save hundreds maybe even thousands.

Federal BC/BS Members GET FREE HEARING AIDS

The Next Generation "Day 4" Circuit
NO MONEY OUT OF POCKET

- 2 separate noise reduction programs
- 4 prescription channels
- Anti feedback, directional microphones
- Optional remote control



Your insurance goes twice as far with
Advanced Hearing Technologies!

Legendary Customer Service Package

FREE Lifetime services provided to every customer
FREE Hearing test/evaluation
FREE Ear canal exam (it may just be wax)
FREE Lifetime hearing aid programming
FREE Lifetime in office service & repairs
FREE Lifetime in office adjustments
FREE Hearing aid cleanings & diagnostics
FREE Behind the ear tube replacements
ALL OF THIS WITH A LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEE
WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO LOSE?

14 Locations • 20 Years In Business • 60,000+ Current Customers

VIENNA
380 Maple Ave. West L-1A

SPRINGFIELD
8136 Old Keene Mill Rd. A304

www.AdvancedHearingTechnologies.com

Copyright © 2014





PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

South Lakes senior and West all-star Abby Rendle, right, reaches for a loose ball during the 10th Suburban Classic on March 23 at Oakton High School.

East All-Stars Beat West in Suburban Classic

McLean's Prock named East MVP; South Lakes' Jensen scores 22.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

McLean senior guard Cami Prock "took a couple emotional days off" following the Highlanders' season-ending loss to T.C. Williams in the opening round of the 6A North regional tournament on Feb. 24.

Following her decompression session, Prock returned to the gym to work on her game. While her time with the McLean girls' basketball team was over, Prock's hard work paid off a month down the road with a strong performance in Sunday's 10th Suburban Classic all-star game at Oakton High School.

As a member of the East all-stars, Prock scored a team-high 12 points and earned team MVP honors as the East defeated the West 78-64 on March 23.

THE SUBURBAN CLASSIC featured some of the top seniors from the 6A North and 5A North regions. The Northern Virginia Women's Basketball Coaches Association sponsored the event and helped raise scholarship money for athletes.

The East all-stars, coached by Edison's Dianne Lewis, led the

West squad, coached by Madison's Kirsten Stone, 34-30 late in the second quarter. Prock helped the East pull away, though, scoring six points in the final 90 seconds of the first half as the team built a 41-30 halftime advantage.

Prock agreed that the environment was a combination of competitiveness and enjoyment.

"It was definitely a great mixture of both," she said. "I know when I'm competing and having fun at the same time, it's a great feeling."

Prock will attend the College of William & Mary next year and is debating whether to attempt to join the university's basketball team as a walk on.

South Lakes guard Caitlin Jensen, a member of the West all-stars, was another athlete who didn't take long to return to the gym after her high school season had ended. Jensen said she went back to work the following day after the Seahawks lost to Centreville in the regional quarterfinals on Feb. 25.

On Sunday, Jensen led all scorers with 22 points, including four 3-pointers.

"I've been working really hard since the season ended," Jensen said. "It's a great feeling."

Jensen will continue her basketball career next season at the Uni-

versity of Mary Washington. On this afternoon, she got to play once again with South Lakes teammate Abby Rendle, and with girls she had competed against during her high school career.

"It was a good experience," Jensen said. "It was nice because I've played against these people forever and now playing on the same team with [Centreville point guard] Jenna [Green] and all them, it's a new feel, but I liked it."

Madison senior Katie Kerrigan has also been working hard, but in a different sport. After the Madison girls' basketball team lost to Stonewall Jackson in the region semifinals on Feb. 27, Kerrigan transitioned to her primary sport of lacrosse, which she will play at Ohio State University. On Sunday, she was back on the hardwood as a member of the West all-stars.

"It was definitely a lot of fun playing with the best players in the region," Kerrigan said. "It's definitely a little hard because I haven't touched a basketball in three weeks. It was fun. It was a great experience. I got to play with a lot of my close friends. It was a great way to end my high school career."

Kerrigan scored six points, played aggressive defense and got to play for Coach Stone one more time.

"It was fun," Stone said of coaching Kerrigan in the all-star game.



South Lakes senior and West all-star Caitlin Jensen led all scorers with 22 points during the 10th Suburban Classic on March 23 at Oakton High School.

"She's just a workhorse. You don't really see many of those. ... I turned to the girls on the bench and I'm like, 'I would hate for her to have to guard me.' And they were like, 'it's awful.'"

THE EAST ALL-STARS led by as many as 22 points, when West Springfield's Amy Berglund scored to give the team a 76-54 advantage in the fourth quarter. Berglund finished with 10 points. She was one of four East players to reach double figures, and one of seven to score at least eight points.

Samantha Porter (Mount Vernon/Christopher Newport) and Amber Bryson (Lee) each scored 10 points for the East all-stars. Tykera Carter (T.C. Williams) finished with nine points, while Michelle Noel (Wakefield) and Tatianna Torres (Edison) each had eight.

Caitlyn Mandela (Lake Braddock) and De'Ja Jeanpierre (Mount Vernon/Barton College) each had four points for the East, and Angie Schedler (T.C. Williams) had three.

For the West all-stars, Centreville's Green finished with 13 points and earned team MVP

honors. Arnelle Collins (Freedom) scored 12 points and Alexia Johnson (Broad Run) had nine. Kayla Hix (Stonewall Jackson) and Bailey Dufrene (Osborn) each had one point. Freedom's Nicole Lubovich also competed for the West team. Centreville's Katie Blumer was a member of the West all-stars but sat out due to injury.

Lewis, who coached Edison to its second consecutive region championship this season, said allowing players to have fun was a priority, but she takes pride in winning.

"Absolutely," she said. "I hate to lose."

There was a 3-point shootout prior to the main event, which Berglund won with nine points in the final round. Dufrene produced a final-round score of eight, while Prock and Green each had a score of seven.

Berglund put up 19 points in the first round.

"My heart was racing, I don't know why," Berglund said. "I was pretty nervous. It was fun. I felt like I was in the NBA all-star [shootout]."

My legs got tired in the second round, that's why my score dropped so much, but it was fun."

SPORTS



Reston United Blue Boys Keep Winning

The Reston U12 United Blue Boys soccer team coached by Kamal Ismail competed and won the PWSI Icebreaker tournament this past weekend. They have put together a very successful program and the boys were proud to represent Reston in the Tournament. They had also won the President's Cup last fall and will now represent Virginia in the Eastern Regionals in Slippery Rock, Pa., over Memorial Day Weekend.

Goldfish Swim School now taking pre-registration

A swim school that has turned a non-swimmer into a triathlete in 15 months is headed to Reston.

Goldfish Swim School, a Michigan-based company that teaches anyone between 4 months to 99 years to swim in Caribbean-like pool temperatures, will open by the end of the year.

The location will be at 12340 Pine Crest Road.

"If you had told me a few years ago that I would open a swim school, I would have fallen out of my chair laughing," said owner of Reston Goldfish Swim School Gina Bewersdorf.

Before June 2011, she did not know how to swim at all. She learned by taking the same classes her children - Arden and Asher - took at the swim school.

After Bewersdorf and her husband "fell in love with the area," she said, she decided to bring the predominantly midwestern chain school to Virginia in conjunction with her move from Michigan to Reston. Although the school will not open until an undetermined date later this year, she strongly recommends parents pre-register their children for swim classes.

"We're already starting pre-registering now," she said.

The school specializes in teaching infants and toddlers, but as Bewersdorf's story shows, adults can take classes as well.

For more information or to pre-register, visit the company's website at <http://goldfishswimschool.com> or its Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/goldfishreston>.



Gina Bewersdorf's son, Asher, learned how to swim at Goldfish Swim School. The school will be opening this year.



Gina Bewersdorf's daughter, Arden, poses during class at Goldfish Swim School.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GINA BEWERSDORF

BULLETIN BOARD

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

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 26

Giving Circle of HOPE

Quarterly Meeting. 7-9 p.m. Cornerstones, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston. Meetings are informal and open to all.

SATURDAY/MARCH 29

Researching Your Veteran's Story.

2 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Commander Victor "Tory" Failmezger, US Navy Retired, will provide an hour-long presentation for family genealogists and others interested in military history who want to begin researching the military service of their relatives but may not know how to get started. A question and answer session will follow. Free. Call 703-689-2700 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library to register.

MONDAY/MARCH 31

Walk in Registration Session.

Crossfield Elementary, 2791 Fox Mill Road, Herndon. 2-7 p.m. Crossfield Elementary School is accepting registrations for the 2014-2015 school year.

THURSDAY/APRIL 3

Walk in Registration Session.

Crossfield Elementary, 2791 Fox Mill Road, Herndon. 4-7 p.m. Crossfield Elementary School is accepting registrations for the 2014-2015 school year.

SUNDAY/APRIL 6

Cat Adoption Event. 1-4 p.m. Reston PetSmart, 11860 Spectrum Center, Reston. www.lostdogrescue.org

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 9

MOMS Club of Reston. 10 a.m. YMCA, 12196 Sunset Hills Rd, Reston. MOMS Club of Reston is a social and support group for mothers who primarily stay at home with their children, including those with home-based businesses or who work part-time. Our only membership requirements are for you to be a mom or dad living in Reston. Learn more at momsclubofreston@yahoo.com.

SATURDAY/ APRIL 12

Take Control of Your Blood

Sugar. 2 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Certified Health Coach and Pre-diabetes Educator Anita Capizzi, R.N. will present ways to lower your blood sugar levels naturally through diet and exercise. Free.

THURSDAY/APRIL 17

Women's Club of Greater

Reston Meeting. 10 a.m. Lake Anne Community Center, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston. The guest speaker for the April meeting will be Linda Fuller, owner of Lake Anne Florist, Virginia Wine & Gourmet. Linda will demonstrate the art of flower arranging. Come prepared to be entertained and learn from one of the best. Free and open to the public. (No need to be a Reston resident.) Refreshments provided. For more information, please visit www.restonnewcomers.org or call Sharon at 571-201-8719.

ONGOING

Fairfax County's Meals on

Wheels urgently needs drivers in the Annandale, Franconia/Kingstowne, Reston, Mount Vernon and McLean areas. 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults.

Knitting Enthusiasts,

Musicians Needed. 10:30 a.m.-noon, at Herndon Senior Center. Herndon Senior Center seeks a knitting enthusiast to teach basic procedures. Musicians to play soothing music on weekend mornings also needed. 703-324-5406, TTY 711, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadult or VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Habitat Heroes Project.

The fourth Saturday of each month. Join the Habitat Heroes in protecting Reston's forests from aggressive plants and restoring them to their natural state. Wear long sleeves, long pants, and if possible, gardening gloves to protect from insects and dangerous plants. R.A. will provide tools, gloves, snacks, and water. To volunteer and find more information, contact habrock@reston.org or 703-435-7986.

Arabic-speaking Older Adult

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

FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community, including special holiday services. Send to reston@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday.

Trinity Presbyterian Church, 651 Dranesville Road, Herndon, has Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery and childcare are provided and youth and adult Sunday school classes are held prior, from 9:40-10:45 a.m. 703-437-5500 or www.trinityherndon.org.

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston, holds weekly classes starting Sept. 12, Thursdays 7-

8:30 p.m., for the general public which use Buddhist teachings to practice meditation. \$12. 202-986-2257 or www.meditation-dc.org.

St. Anne's Episcopal Church, 1700 Wainwright Drive in Reston, holds Sunday services at 7:45 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and contemporary service at 5 p.m. Nursery, Sunday school and adult education available. Morning prayer on Monday at 9:30, Holy Eucharist Wednesday at 8:15 a.m. 703-437-6530 or www.stannes-reston.org.

Adult Sunday school will be held 9:30 a.m. Sundays at the Washington Plaza Baptist Church at Lake Anne Village Center. The group is studying the Gospel of Mark. Services follow at 11 a.m.

Another Milestone

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



March 30, 2014. My age 59 and a half (9/30/54 is my date of birth). The age at which money deposited into an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) can be withdrawn without incurring a 10 percent early-withdrawal penalty from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Not that I'm retiring. I am remembering though when this cancer-centric life of mine began.

I was diagnosed – in person – on February 27, 2009. Coincidentally around the time of the year when I contribute to my/our previous calendar year's IRA. On that fateful February day, I was age 54 and nearly one half, approximately five years away from having penalty-free access to my own "qualified" money. Having just received a "13 months to two years" prognosis by my oncologist, decision-making on subjects A-Z and/or everything in between – from the sublime to the ridiculous – was challenging at best, and practically impossible at worst. Throw in a time consideration – such as the future – to factor into your planning, and topsy-turvy becomes turvy-topsy.

Now complicate the process further by introducing financial issues – past, present and future – along with the incredible uncertainty of a totally unexpected terminal diagnosis (stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer, NSCLC) and you have inaction, inattentiveness and insecurity overwhelming you at every step – and at every stagger, too; physically and emotionally.

As awkward and unfamiliar as this experience was at the time, I recall pondering the merit of investing money then that I would have limited access to until later, five years later in fact (without penalty that is). I mean, who knew/knows what expenses I might incur during my treatment? Fortunately I had health insurance, but considering co-pays, deductibles, "reasonable and customary"-type reimbursements leaving a balance to be borne by yours truly, alternative medicines/treatment options available (likely a total out-of-pocket cost), home health care, caregivers, loss of employment/income and miscellaneous expenses I was too clueless and uneducated to even contemplate and prepare for, and once again, you have potential trouble at every turn. Thinking positively and maintaining a good sense of humor can only keep so many wolves at bay. At some point – or certainly you think so, you are going to have to pay the piper, figuratively and most definitely, literally.

Still, I remember thinking even then, in the haze of this terrible diagnosis/set of unbelievable circumstances, that if I didn't act/live as if I had a future, I likely wouldn't have one. But five years seemed like an eternity, and given my prognosis, didn't seem like time I should necessarily plan for. After all, my doctor had suggested that perhaps I "take that vacation I had always dreamed of."

Well, here I am, five years later, having invested every year in my/our IRA, still alive and extraordinarily lucky to be so. In truth, given the facts and feelings I was presented with in late February, 2009, I didn't think I'd live to see this day. But I have. And even though I'm not retiring and not needing to withdraw any funds – prematurely or otherwise – from my IRA, March 30, 2014 is a date, to me, worth acknowledging. Having lived this long, I suppose it's time to pick another date – in the future. If I don't plan for it, I likely won't get there.

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

EMPLOYMENT

ZONE I: • RESTON
• HERNDON • LOUDOUN

BUSINESS OPP

TELEPHONE
A great opportunity to
WORK AT HOME!
NATIONAL CHILDRENS CENTER
No sell! Salary + Bonus + Benefits!
301-333-1900
Weekdays 9-4

BUSINESS OPP

TELEPHONE
A great opportunity to
WORK AT HOME!
NATIONAL CHILDRENS CENTER
No sell! Salary + Bonus + Benefits!
301-333-1900
Weekdays 9-4

PART-TIME RETAIL

Seeking energetic and friendly individuals for busy backyard nature store in the Reston area. Must have knowledge of backyard birds and be customer service oriented. Average hours: 15-20 per week.
703-403-1283

MUST LOVE CATS

Volunteers needed for cat caretaker shifts with Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation at 7 Corners/Falls Church, Tysons Corner, Reston or Leesburg PetSmart locations. Morning, mid-day or evening shifts available, need varies by location. Shifts are generally 60-90 minutes, training provided. Great opportunity for student service hours. Also opportunities for transport volunteers and fostering. Email cats@lostdogrescue.org with questions or interest.

Branch Executive Director

Great Career Opportunity with a Great Company The YMCA Fairfax county Reston branch has an immediate opportunity for the Branch Executive Director position. If you are an accomplished operator with executive leadership and management skills of a multi-million dollar organization, forward your cover letter and resume to Stacey.leoniak@ymcadc.org.

Principal Systems Architect

(Bachelor's with 5 yrs. exp; Major: CS, Computer Technology, Engg, Math or equiv; Other suitable qualifications acceptable) – Herndon, VA. Job entails working with and requires experience including: Designing, deploying & customizing IBM Tivoli solutions including OMNIBUS, WebGUI, Impact, ITNM, TNPM, ITM/ITCAM, TADDM, TBSM to monitor, manage & discover complex systems and networks; Implementing ITSM modules including change, problem, and incident through BMC Remedy ARS/ITSM solutions; Developing & customizing complex Netcool rules to optimize NOC visibility. Relocation and travel to unanticipated locations within USA possible. Send resumes to Softential, Inc, Attn: HR, 607 Herndon Pkwy, Suite 202, Herndon VA 20170.

Educational Internships

Unusual opportunity to learn many aspects of the newspaper business. Internships available in reporting, photography, research, graphics. Opportunities for students, and for adults considering change of career. Unpaid. E-mail internship@connectionnewspapers.com

THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

CLASSIFIED

703-917-6400

ZONE I Ad DEADLINE:
MONDAY NOON

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Advani, Inc trading as Supper Club of India, 364 Elden St, Herndon, VA 20170. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer/Mixed Beverage Restaurant on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Naresh Advani, Member of Inc. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

26 Antiques

We pay top \$ for antique furniture and mid-century Danish/modern teak furniture, STERLING, MEN'S WATCHES, jewelry and costume jewelry, paintings/art glass/clocks. Schefer Antiques @ 703-241-0790. Email:theschefer@cox.net

21 Announcements

"We are looking for mechanics that worked for Kmart Auto in Springfield and Herndon, Virginia between 1970 and 1972. Please call 888-900-7034"

21 Announcements

I Never think of the future.
It comes soon enough.
-Albert Einstein

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

Outer Banks, NC Vacation Homes!

Brindley Beach
VACATIONS & SALES

Over 500 Vacation Homes, from Duck to Corolla, Oceanfront to Soundfront, Private Pools, Hot Tubs, Pets and More...

Book Online at www.brindleybeach.com
1-877-642-3224

"SERVICE FIRST... FUN ALWAYS!"

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LIFETIME METAL ROOFING

by VaCarolina Buildings, INC



100% Financing
Free Estimate
Free Roof Inspection

1.800.893.1242
metalroofover.com

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

URGENT NEWS IF YOU USED TESTOSTERONE HEART ATTACK or STROKE?

Studies show that using Testosterone products may significantly increase your risk of a heart attack, stroke, blood clots and death. If you or a loved one has suffered any of these injuries, call 1-800-THE-EAGLE now about making a claim for substantial monetary compensation. No fees or costs until your case is settled or won. We practice law only in Arizona, but associate with lawyers throughout the U.S.
GOLDBERG & OSBORNE
915 W. Camelback Rd. Phoenix, AZ 85013
1-800-THE-EAGLE
(1-800-843-3245)
www.1800theeagle.com Open 7 Days a Week

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

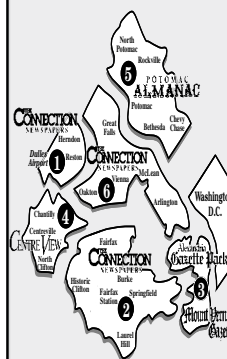
21 Announcements

Free Bankruptcy Advice
877-933-1139
Mortgage Help (not rent)
888-216-4173
Student Loan Relief
888-694-8235
Debt Relief
888-779-4272
www.careconnectusa.org
A Public Benefit Organization

Employers:

Are your recruiting ads not working in other papers?

Try a better way to fill your employment openings



• Target your best job candidates where they live.

• Reach readers in addition to those who are currently looking for a job.

• Proven readership.

• Proven results.

THE CONNECTION
to your community

703-917-6464

classified@connectionnewspapers.com

Great Papers • Great Readers
Great Results!

ZONE I: • RESTON
• HERNDON • LOUDOUN

HOME & GARDEN

CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CONTRACTORS.com

703-917-6400

ZONE I Ad DEADLINE:
MONDAY NOON

ELECTRICAL

K & D ELECTRIC
COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE
Family Owned & Operated

Recessed Lighting
Ceiling Fans
Phone/CATV
Computer Network Cabeling
Service Upgrades
Hot Tubs, etc....

Licensed/Bonded/Insured
Office 703-335-0654
Mobile 703-499-0522

ELECTRICAL

IMPROVEMENTS

IMPROVEMENTS

The HANDYMAN
A DIVISION OF NURSE CONSTRUCTION

BATHROOM REMODELING, DRYWALL, PAINTING, CERAMIC TILE, CARPENTRY, POWER WASHING & MUCH MORE

You have tried the rest - **NOW CALL THE BEST!!**
Proudly serving Northern VA - 46 yrs. exp.

Licensed We Accept VISA/MC
Insured **703-441-8811**

HAULING

AL'S HAULING
Junk & Rubbish
Concrete, furn., office,
yard, construction debris
Low Rates NOVA
703-360-4364
703-304-4798 cell

7 DAYS A WEEK

LANDSCAPING

A&S LANDSCAPING
Planting • Mulching • Sodding
Patios • Decks • Driveway Sealing,
Asphalt • Retaining Walls
Erosion Control • Drainage Solutions
703-863-7465

GUTTER

GUTTER

GUTTER CLEANING
Gutters and Downspouts Cleaned
Small Repairs • Gutter Guards

PINNACLE SERVICES
lic/ins **703-802-0483** free est.
email jamie@lawnsandgutters.com
web: lawnsandgutters.com
Friendly Service with a Friendly Price!

A&S Landscaping

- All Concrete work
- Retaining Walls • Patios
- Decks • Porches (incl. screened) • Erosion & Grading Solutions
- French Drains • Sump Pumps
- Driveway Asphalt Sealing

703-863-7465
LICENSED
Serving All of N. Virginia

HANDYMAN

HANDYMAN

Hand and Hand Handyman

General Remodeling Residential & Commercial
Specializing in:
Kitchen/Bathroom/Basement Remodeling
Plumbing • Electrical • Custom Carpentry
Doors Windows • Hardwood Floors
Crown Molding • House Cleaning
Interior/Exterior Painting • Brick/Stone Work
Ceramic Tile • Decks, Fences, Patios
HOA Maintenance, Granite Counter Tops
Realtors Work and Much More

Licensed and Insured Serving Northern Virginia
703-296-6409

LANDSCAPING

LANDSCAPING

Remodeling Interior,
Bathrooms, Kitchens,
Floors, Ceramic Tile,
Painting, Decks,
Fences, Additions.
703-863-1086

THE CONNECTION CLASSIFIED

Classified or Home • Lawn • Garden:
703-917-6400

Employment: **703-917-6464**

E-mail: classified@connectionnewspapers.com

IMPROVEMENTS

IMPROVEMENTS

R&N Carpentry

♦BASEMENTS ♦BATHS ♦KITCHENS
Foreclosure specialist/Power washing
♦Exterior Wood Rot More!
Deck & Fence repair, Screen Porches
No jobs too large or small
Free est. 37 yrs exp. Licensed, Insured
703-987-5096

PINNACLE SERVICES, INC. LAWN SERVICE

MOWING, TRIMMING, EDGING, MULCHING & TRIM HEDGES
Friendly Service for a Friendly Price
703-802-0483

MASONRY

MASONRY

Potomac Masonry
703-498-8526

New Installations & Repairs
Stone - Flagstone - Brick - Concrete
FREE ESTIMATES!!
Lic. & Ins
potomac-masonry.com

TREE SERVICE

TREE SERVICE

Quality Tree Service & Landscaping

Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured
Spring Cleanup...
Tree removal, topping & pruning,
shrubby trimming, mulching, leaf
removal, planting, hauling, gutter cleaning,
retaining walls, drainage problems, etc.
25 years of experience - Free estimates
703-868-5358

24 Hour Emergency Tree Service

HOW TO SUBMIT ADS TO

THE CONNECTION

Newspapers & Online

CLASSIFIED

DEADLINES

Zones 1, 5, 6.....Mon @ noon
Zones 2, 3, 4.....Tues @ noon

E-mail ad with zone choices to:
classified@connectionnewspapers.com
or call Andrea @ 703-778-9411

EMPLOYMENT

DEADLINES

Zones 5, 6.....Tues @ 11:00
Zones 1, 3.....Tues @ 4:00
Zone 2.....Wed @ 11:00
Zone 4.....Wed @ 1:00

E-mail ad with zone choices to:
classified@connectionnewspapers.com
or call Andrea @ 703-778-9411

ZONES

- Zone 1:** The Reston Connection
The Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
- Zone 2:** The Springfield Connection
The Burke Connection
The Fairfax Connection
The Fairfax Station/Clifton/
Lorton Connection
- Zone 3:** The Alexandria Gazette Packet
The Mount Vernon Gazette
- Zone 4:** Centre View North
Centre View South
- Zone 5:** The Potomac Almanac
- Zone 6:** The Arlington Connection
The Vienna/Oakton Connection
The McLean Connection
The Great Falls Connection

SCHOOLS

FCPS Students Win Awards at History Day Competition

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) won nine first place awards at the regional competition for National History Day, held recently at Mount Vernon High School. The two best entries in each category and in each age division have qualified to compete in the Virginia History Day contest on Saturday, April 26, in Williamsburg.

First place winners included:

♦ Ian Suzuki and Justin Shaw of Langley High School in Senior Group Documentary for "The Rights of the Quebeois."

♦ Basra Bashir of Mount Vernon High School in Individual Website for "Children Without Childhood."

♦ Jonathan Montgomery of West Springfield High School in Senior Historical Paper for "Geneva Convention: Responsibilities of the State Protecting the Rights of Prisoners of War."

♦ Abdullah Choudhury of West Springfield High School in Senior Individual Exhibit for "The Role of Japanese-Americans in World War II."

♦ Glynnis Farleigh and Alexandra Kraus of West Springfield High School in Senior Group Website for "Rights and Responsibilities of German Citizens During World War II."

♦ Zainab Calcuttawala and Swetha Kota of Westfield High School in Senior Group Exhibit for "Miep Gies Fights for Rights."

♦ Maisha Hoque and Raisa Hoque of Westfield High School in Senior Group Performance for "Akbar the Great: How a Mughal Used His Rights to Fulfill His Responsibilities."

♦ Hayley Seal of Westfield High School in Senior Individual Performance for "The Louisiana Purchase Song."

♦ David Sohn and Andrew Yoon of Lorton Station Elementary School in Junior Group Exhibit for "George Washington's Proclamation of Neutrality in 1793: Rights and Responsibilities of the Newly Independent U.S. Foreign Policy."

Sohn and Yoon also won the George Washington Leadership Prize, sponsored by Mount Vernon, and the first place Citizenship History Award, sponsored by the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Caleb Danen and Chloe Rutley of Lorton Station Elementary School won the second place Citizen History Award, sponsored by the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Westfield High School student Monica Rudolph won the Newseum First Amendment Freedoms Award, sponsored by the Newseum, for her Senior Individual Exhibit, "Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, Leading the Way for Women's Voting Rights." Whitman Middle School student Anna Jackson won the Newseum First Amendment Freedoms Award in the Junior Division for her Junior Individual Performance, "Ooh, What Should I Wear?"

Second place winners included Emily Vang of Langley High School for Senior Individual Exhibit; Brooke Scutt, Ashley Sowell, and Ivania Canizalez of Mount Vernon High School for Senior Group Documentary; Alison Gray and Eva Du of West Springfield High School for Senior Group Exhibit; Christina Starling, Jonathan Hayes, Gari Jimenez-Lugo, and Stephen Scott of West Springfield High School for Senior Group Performance; Catherine Elwell of West Springfield High School for Senior Historical Paper; Celina Paudel of Westfield High School for Senior Individual Performance; and Ranai Kazi of Whitman Middle School for Junior Individual Exhibit.

Third place winners were Flannery Jamison of Madison High School, Senior Individual Documentary; Molly McClelland of Mount Vernon High School, Senior Individual Performance; Robert Marchibroda and Nicholas Phan of Robinson Secondary School, Senior Group Exhibit; Aya Khalafalla of West Springfield High School, Senior Individual Web Site; Brittany Branch of West Springfield High School, Senior Individual Exhibit; Jisun Lee, Sarah Lim, and Asmita Shah of Westfield High School, Senior Group Documentary; Sara Sturm, Kellie Cleveland, and Skye Koutstaal of Westfield High School, Senior Group Website; Shaleen Haque of West Springfield High School, Senior Historical Paper; and Caleb Danen and Chloe Rutley of Lorton Station Elementary School, Junior Group Exhibit.

LONG & FOSTER

Reston North Hills/Herndon/Lake Anne Plaza

1700 Bracknell Drive • Reston, VA 20194 • 703-435-4900

Master's Club



Leslie Thurman Team



Bhavani Ghanta

Founder's Club



Marnie Schaar



Jon Querolo



Mary Miceli



Min & Jimmy O'Burns



Debbie Gill



Marcy Thomas



Karen Swanson



Mark Wilson



Missy Edmondson



Terry Atherton



Dale Repshas

Chairman's Club



Shawna Parde



Debbie Tencza



David King



Diane Bird



Aquina Buehrig



James MacDonald



Cathy Lanni



Carole Burnett



Michelle Chauvin



Stephanie Randall



Ron Rudison



Joanne Hunt



Kim House

President's Club



Piedad Suarez



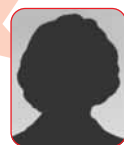
Berta Vasquez



Peter Burke



Pat Orend



Cathy Paynter



Esin Reinhardt



Virgil Frizzell



Randi Halavazis



Carolyn Murray



Mary Wright



Pat Coit



Sam Collins

Director's Club



Elias Jabra



Javen House



Dee Rawski



Deb Pestronk



Pat Gallagher



Trudy Severa



Lidio Vasquez

Executive's Club



Deborah Jackson



Sylvester Tomlin



Jonna Quadt



Priya Sastry



Lisa Carlisle



Karen Fowler



George Brown



"I work hard for my agents so they can work hard for you!"

—Anita Lasansky, Managing Broker

www.Reston-Herndon-Homes.com

1-800-296-2593

