

13 Vie for Herndon Council Seats

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Herndon High Drama Produces 'Blithe Spirit'

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The play "Blithe Spirit" will be produced at Herndon High the first week of May. Pictured are Herndon students Jessie Jorgensen, Hunter Robinson, and Bonnie Sasseen.

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13 Vie for Herndon Council Seats

Town election for mayor, council on May 6.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Herndon's seats for mayor and council will be left up to voters on Tuesday, May 6.

The town elections, between two mayoral candidates and 11 council candidates, will be held at Herndon Community Center at 814 Ferndale Ave.

Lisa Merkel, current mayor, will face contender Connie Hutchinson, current vice mayor.

"I think she has a different vision for the town," said Hutchinson. "I think she wants Herndon to be different from the way it is now. I'd like it to stay true to its unique identity."

Merkel agrees they have different visions for the town.

"I ran for council and for mayor because I really think Herndon can have it all," she said.

Merkel said her vision for a walkable town plaza near the future metro station will not happen overnight. She said it could take up to 30 years.

"People who are young, maybe single or with kids, want to live in that type of area," she said. "Businesses want to live in that type of area."

She addressed some of the comments about her campaign donations that were made at the last election. She said the owners of the building the Green Lizard coffee and bicycle shop is in gave her a \$500 campaign donation recently - which some council members hinted was a conflict of interest because of a zoning ordinance that was changed.

"That was a purely political move," she said.

Hutchinson raised \$3565.97 and Merkel raised \$22,467.79, according to <http://cfreports.sbe.virginia.gov>.

Steven Lee Mitchell and Jasbinder Singh, both running for town council, did not respond to emails sent to them last week.

Current town council members running for reelection include Charlie Waddell, Grace Wolf, Dave Kirby and Sheila Olem.

"With the metro station coming in, there's the potential to want to capitalize on that, but I want to protect and preserve our history" said Waddell. "I like working with people and working with the community. I want to improve the quality of life for the people here."

Olem said no matter who is elected, whether for council, town mayor, or country president, she believes it is the town's duty to put political differences aside to work with them.

"I've got a lot of land use experience and my background is in public health," she said. "We want to get people out of their cars."

She said bike and walk paths to the new metro station would help to alleviate traffic created when the station opens.

Kirby wants to see a vibrant downtown.



Lisa Merkel;
running for Mayor
Age: 41
Current job: Town of Herndon Mayor
Education: Auburn State at Montgomery, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, MS, Curriculum and Instruction
Family: Married to Dave. One boy, one girl.



Connie Hutchinson,
running for Mayor
Age: 59
Current job: General manager for Boren Fine marketing and public relations group, Fairfax
Education: Executive Assistant degree at Virginia Computer College
Family: Four children

"I'm not overly concerned about the restriction for 50 foot height for buildings," he said. "I think I have a good understanding of what it takes to get a developer out here."

Wolf said she supports smart growth within the town.

"I am committed to fiscal responsibility and making sure taxpayer monies are carefully spent - I proposed new policies for the Town's non profit grants that incorporate best demonstrated practices and require all non profits to match Town monies with their own independent fundraising, thereby increasing the efficacy of our grants and eliminating wasteful spending on organizations that mismanaged taxpayer money," she said in an email.

Also running are seven residents who are not currently on the council.

"I am an active volunteer and leader who will take a collaborative, analytical and open-minded approach to solving the Town's challenges," said Jennifer Baker. "I value Herndon's unique charm and walkability. I'm eager to see the Town execute our downtown master plan and encourage more businesses to invest here."

Because Jeffrey Davidson is retired, he said he would make a great council member because it would be his full time job. He said he wants to give back to the community.

"I ran for election and lost by just a few votes," he said. "I want to correct that."

Eric Boll said the town needs to build its commercial tax base.

"I will work to move forward on revitalization of Herndon's downtown while maintaining a charm unique to Herndon," said Boll. "I have traveled extensively and lived in several countries and seen firsthand how vibrant town centers create a sense of community."

David Webster said he knows exactly how to bring more business in the area.



Jennifer K. Baker, running for town council
Age: 41
Current job: IT Sales Professional
Education: BA in Mathematics
Family: Married to Edward Terrenoire



Eric H. Boll, running for town council
Age: 56
Current job:
Education: McGill University in Montreal, Canada, Bachelor of Engineer Degree (Electrical)
Family: Married with a daughter and a son



Jeffrey Davidson, running for town council
Age: 64
Current job: retired; former Department of Defense division chief
Education: Tulsa State, undergraduate in social science; University of Maryland, undergraduate in computer science.
Family: single



David "Dave" A. Kirby, running for town council
Age: 66
Current position: retired; former telecommunications officer for the Central Intelligence Agency
Education: Coyne Electrical, associates degree in electrical design and drafting; Cleveland Institute of Electronics
Family: Married to Mary. Two boys



Richard W. "Rick" Nagel, running for town council
Age: 48
Current position: Management Consultant
Education: BA, University of North Carolina at Charlotte; JD, Thomas Goode Jones School of Law
Family: Single. One son

SEE TOWN ELECTION, PAGE 3

Herndon-Reston FISH volunteers Marcia Di Trapani and JoAnn Bordeaux were recognized for their work with FISH at the Annual Fish Fling held at Crowne Plaza Dulles Airport Hotel on Saturday, April 26. With them is Susan Sather, a FISH community board member.



PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN/ THE CONNECTION

Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc. Holds Fish Fling

Event honors volunteers who contribute to FISH's efforts.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping families meet emergencies and short-term needs, held its 9th Annual Fish Fling Gala at the Crowne Plaza Dulles Airport Hotel on Saturday, April 26, from 6 to 11 p.m. The gala was FISH's largest fundraising event to acquire the financial support for its Family Assistance Program. In 2013 FISH worked with over 1,300 area families.

Since 1969 Herndon-Reston FISH has offered immediate assistance to local residents in short-term crises. FISH's mission is to provide friendly, instant, sympathetic help or emergency support within the community.

The 2014 FISH Fling Gala included a sit-down dinner, auction with dozens of great items, and live music by The Franklin Project band. The annual fling honors volunteers and partners who contribute to FISH's effort. Fling chair Susan Sather said, "This annual FISH Fling Gala is an important event for us to recognize our supporters, as well as to obtain funds for our program."

Attending the event were U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) and state delegates Ken Plum (D-36) and Tom Rust (R-86). Individuals honored at the FISH Fling for their extra volunteer service included Marcia Di Trapani, JoAnn Bordeaux, Suzanne Rudiselle, and Myra Santoro. "We have some wonderful community support," said Bordeaux.

The goal of FISH is to prevent evictions, keep utilities from being turned off and help people pay for their prescriptions. They work closely with social workers from Fairfax County, local hospitals and other nonprofit organizations. Additionally, Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc. operates an Information and Re-



Barbara Williams and April Elliott who oversee operations of The Bargain Loft for Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc. attended the 9th Annual Fish Fling Gala in Herndon.

ferral Service, funded by a grant from Fairfax County, which provides all callers with information about sources of long and short-term assistance available in Fairfax County through public and private agencies. This service also arranges rides for Herndon and Reston residents to get to medical appointments. FISH runs a monthly Financial Workshop to teach individuals and families financial literacy.

FISH also operates The Bargain Loft, located at 336 Victory Drive in Herndon. The Bargain Loft was started in 1981 as a volunteer-run thrift store selling household items, furniture, toys and more. Profits generated by The Bargain Loft support the FISH assistance program, providing residents with emergency needs. Barbara Williams and April Elliott oversee the operations of The Bargain Loft. "It is a multifaceted part of community outreach and fundraising," said co-manager April Elliott.

Lisa Groves, a resident of Reston and graduate of South Lakes High School, class of 1978, helped with the raffle of televisions donated by CDW Corporation. "This event is held so business and individuals can come learn about us, it is meant to be a community building event," said Groves. Before the meal, U.S. Rep. Connolly was invited to say a few words. "Let us redirect ourselves to our neighbors and our community... God bless the work of FISH and all the volunteers," said Connolly.

For more information on Herndon-Reston FISH, visit herndonrestonfish.org.

Town Election on May 6

FROM PAGE 2

"I am running because Herndon is a small town and needs citizen legislators to run our government," he said in an email. "I believe in public service and also believe my knowledge and experience will benefit the Town and its citizens.

What sets me apart from my opponents is that I am the only candidate who has significant experience involving public/private business partnerships. I was directly involved in negotiations with D.C. and Virginia government officials regarding construction of a new Redskins stadium."



Sheila A. Olem, running for town council
Age: 58
Current position: Insurance salesperson at Aflac
Education: University of North Auburn; University of Memphis, masters in Health;
Family: Widow. Two sons.



Charlie D. Waddell, running for town council
Age: 60
Current job: Senior Applications Developer, Accenture
Education: Undergrad at Randolph-Macon College, sociology; currently enrolled in Masters program at George Mason University; computer forensics.
Family: Single. One son and daughter



Grace Han Wolf, running for town council
Age: 49
Current position: Owner of Clay Cafe in Chantilly
Education: S.C. Johnson Graduate School of Management at Cornell University, MBA in Finance and Strategy; Cornell University, BA in Physics and Economics
Family: Married. One daughter



David N. Webster, running for town council
Age: 52
Current position: Attorney, The Webster Law Firm
Education: College of William & Mary, Catholic University Law School
Family: Single



Cathy Waters with Reston resident Linda Strup, both members of the Giving Circle of Hope at the 2014 Empty Bowls Fundraiser in Herndon at Floris United Methodist Church.



Members of the Giving Circle of Hope Roxanne Rice, Cathy Waters, and Jessica Cogen at the 2014 Empty Bowls Fundraiser at Floris United Methodist Church in Herndon.

Filling Empty Bowls in Herndon

Empty Bowls fundraiser held at Floris United Methodist Church.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

Friday evening, April 25 the annual Empty Bowls event was hosted by the Giving Circle of HOPE at Floris United Methodist Church on Frying Pan Road in Herndon. All proceeds went directly to Food for Others, the largest distributor of free food to needy people in Northern Virginia. "This is a collaboration between the Giving Circle of HOPE and a local organization," said Linda Strup, a resident of Reston and member of the Giving Circle of HOPE.

The Giving Circle of HOPE was founded in January 2004 with four members. Since then, membership has grown to over 100 individuals. Voting members contribute a minimum of \$1 per day and are eligible to vote on grants. Service members do not vote but may participate in all service programs and social events. "This is our seventh year of doing an Empty Bowl event, and we have sold out our tickets," said Strup.

"We have a small staff of nine employees and about 500 volunteers," said Jessica Cogen, director of development and outreach at Food for Others and resident of Arlington. "This event is a tremendous support for us and clients from these jurisdictions... This is one of the biggest events for us in the year." Food for Others is a tax-exempt nonprofit organization funded in part by the Fairfax and Arlington County governments. They also receive funding from foundations, churches and many generous individuals. Dedicated staff and volunteers allow them to maximize service to those in need.

Fairfax County is one of the wealthiest



At the 2014 Empty Bowls Fundraiser in Herndon participants receive a soup supper and a handmade ceramic bowl as a reminder there are those in the community who have empty bowls.

jurisdictions in the country with a poverty rate of 6.8 percent. However, due to its large population, Fairfax County has more residents living in poverty than any other jurisdiction in Virginia. The City of Richmond has a poverty rate of 26.9 percent, but has 52,459 residents living in poverty compared to Fairfax County's 73,794. According to studies by the U.S. Census, in Fairfax County 1 of 6 people is food insecure. Based on U.S. Census figures, more than 90,000 people are living in poverty and 30 percent are children. "Our organization has had a continually high level of demand that has not gone down since the high levels of the recession between 2008 and 2009," said Cogen.



Supervisor Catherine Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) attended the April Empty Bowls event hosted at Floris United Methodist Church on Frying Pan Road in Herndon.

EMPTY BOWLS is a grassroots program designed to help end hunger in the United States and worldwide. It was developed by John Hartom, a Michigan art teacher who came up with the idea when he joined a community drive to raise charitable funds. One evening of the event, for a small donation, guests receive a soup supper and a handmade ceramic bowl as a reminder there are those in the community who have empty bowls.

"We had over 700 bowls made by local potters from the Reston Community Center, Herndon Community Center, the Bowman House Arts and Crafts Center in Vienna, and Clay Connection in Alexandria," said Cathy Waters, an event coordinator with the Giving Circle of Hope. Approximately 60 potters helped make the

ceramic bowls. "They start making new bowls almost as soon as the event is over," said Waters.

The Reston and Herndon pottery classes at their respective Community Centers made hundreds and hundreds of ceramic bowls for the Empty Bowls fundraiser to benefit Food for Others. "It is a phenomenal thing, I am proud that our community provides food for our neighbors in Northern Virginia," said Deb Joder, a ceramics instructor at Reston Community Center.

Tim Groszkowski, owner of a Great Harvest Bread Company franchise in Herndon, Ashburn, and Vienna attended the event and provided bread with the soups. Great Harvest Bread Company has supported Giving Circle of HOPE's Empty Bowl event since the beginning seven years ago. "It is a nice event, and we love to be part of it to support the community," said Groszkowski.

Girl Scouts from Association 56 and Association 51 refilled drinks, cleaned and bussed tables, greeted guests and helped pick out their bowls upon arrival. Deborah Miles, a Girl Scout Troop advisor for Troop 5644, has volunteered for the event since the beginning back when she was just one of 14 girls from her troop. This year Miles was working with over 76 girls and 28 parents. "The girls love this event, and they ask about the event months before it happens," said Miles. "The Girl Scouts are phenomenal," said Reston resident Evelyn Mercantini.

VOLUNTEERING with other members of Girl Scout Troop 6105 was Corina Gribble, a sophomore at Oakton High School. "This is my fourth time volunteering for this event," said Gribble. "It brings a lot of people together." Also attending the event was Supervisor Catherine Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill). "The most important part is raising the issue of local hunger," said Hudgins. "I am glad to be here."

More information on Food For Others can be found at www.foodforothers.org.

Spring Street Closes Until Mid-August

The Town of Herndon has announced that they will be closing Spring Street between Elden and Locust Streets. The closure began on April 28 and is expected to continue through mid-August. Detours will be marked with large message signs.

This closure is necessary because of work to replace existing water and sewer lines, and installation of utility conduits and duct banks.

For more information, contact the Town of Herndon Department of Public Works at publicworks@herndon-va.gov or call 703-435-6853.

Friday Night Kicks Off May 2, Seeks Volunteers

Friday Night Live! kicks off its 20th season next Friday, May 2 with a performance by Love Seed Mama Jump! The concerts will be held every Friday night May through August, 6:30 - 10:30 p.m. at Herndon Town Green.

Why not join in the fun and help ensure this event is the best that it can be? Every Friday, chamber members volunteer to staff a special booth where kids of all ages receive special rub-on tattoos reminding them of their experience at this event. This free activity is offered by the chamber to help the community remember the organization that brings them this entertainment each year.

Volunteer shifts are available every Friday night through the end of August. Shifts run from 6 p.m. to sunset and include beer and food vouchers.

When you're done, stay and enjoy the music — the good times don't end 'til 10:30 p.m.

To participate, email Lauri Swift at lsswift@dullesregionalchamber.org. The chamber needs 2-4 volunteers every week.

Kia to Sponsor Fine Arts Festival

The Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) announced that Kia Motors America (KMA), and its new K900 luxury sedan, has become the Signature Sponsor of this year's Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival, held May 16-18 at Reston Town Center. In making the announcement, GRACE released its new festival logo that will appear in all promotional and marketing materials for the event.

Joseph Iannucci, 87, of Herndon, Dies

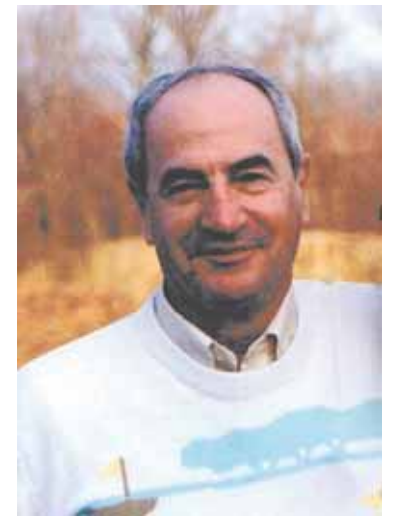
Joseph Iannucci, 87, originally of Millbrook, N.Y. died Tuesday, April 22, 2014 at his home in Herndon. Born in Fondi, Italy on October 12, 1926, he was the son of Giuseppe and Assunta Pannozzo Iannucci. Joe served his country during WW-II with the US Army from March 1945 - December 1946. He graduated from Millbrook High School in 1947 after being discharged from the Army. He was Class President and President of the Student Council.

After the Army, Joe attended Niagara University, and was captain of the golf team. Joe graduated in 1951 with a degree in chemistry.

His years following graduation were spent working as a chemist for Squibb, McKesson & Robbins, and Chesebrough Ponds/Unilever. After retiring from Unilever, Joe worked part-time at Imaginative Research Associates as a consultant.

Everyone who knew Joe knew how much he loved to golf. In fact, he was Grand Champion of his golf club. His love of golfing brought him to many beautiful places throughout the U.S. and he spent a good deal of time in Florida and South Carolina after he retired. He was a kind, funny man who always brought a smile to anyone who came in contact with him. His love for his family was his greatest gift of all.

Joe is survived by his three children, Lisa Nicholls of Virginia, Melissa Lisec and her husband Jon of Colorado, and Christopher Iannucci and his wife Colleen of New Jersey; his five grandchildren, Matthew Nicholls, Alessandra Iannucci, and Grayson, Sophia, and Vaughn Lisec; sister, Fanny Turner; brother Gino Iannucci and his wife Ginny; sister-in-law, Gilda Iannucci; and several nieces and nephews.



Joseph Iannucci

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NEWS

Herndon Holds Taste of the Town

Town fundraising event showcases local restaurants.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

Herndon's annual Taste of the Town event was celebrated April 24 at the Herndon Worldgate Center. The annual event has been known as a showcase for destination dining, but was not held in 2013. "I am thrilled that this event is back, it is a great opportunity to try food from around the town," said Herndon Mayor Lisa Merkel. "I am extremely happy with the turnout, it was missed when it was not held last year," said Herndon resident Linda Downer.

"It is good to have Taste of the Town back again," said Jimmy Cirrito, owner of Jimmy's Old Town Tavern. Cirrito along with other local restaurant owners had food samples ready for guests attending the ticketed event. There



PHOTO BY RYAN DUNN / THE CONNECTION

HCTV volunteer Roscoe Lindsey interviews Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova who helped serve drinks and beverages at the Herndon Taste of the Town event in April.

were 19 food vendors participating in the event including JJ Deli, Matsutake Japanese Restaurant, Vocelli's Pizza, The Chocolate Chick, Pizzanese, Chantel's Cakes and Pastries, and others. Several sponsors helped with the event including MEDA, Herndon Florist, Rappaport Companies, XOXO Photos, and Meadows Farms Nurseries.

Helping orchestrate the event

and coordinate volunteers were Herndon residents Sharon Nachman and Mercia Hobson, Vice President of the Herndon Foundation for the Cultural Arts. "The Council For the Arts of Herndon has done this event for over 20 years, and the Herndon Foundation for Cultural Arts hosted the event this year because we think it is important for the

SEE TASTE, PAGE 7



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NEWS

Taste of Town Returns

FROM PAGE 6


community,” said Sharon Nachman, a member of the Board of Directors for ArtSpace Herndon. The objective for the Herndon Foundation for the Cultural Arts is to make a permanent arts center in Herndon, one that will accommodate a theater for performances, gallery for exhibits, and classes for teaching.

Local celebrity bartenders such as state delegates and Town of Herndon council members served drinks and beverages. Some of the bartenders included Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, Del. Tom Rust (R-86), and CEO of the Dulles Chamber of Commerce Eileen Curtis. Herndon’s local non-profit, cable access PEG station Herndon Community Television (HCTV) was also there to cover the event. “Everybody had a good time, the auction bidding was new but people seemed to enjoy it,” said Nachman. “We had wonderful sponsors for the event, and we are looking forward to doing it next year.”

“By all indications the event was a success. Everybody who attended had a great time, there was a lot of positive feedback,” said Lawrence “Larry” Verbiest. “This is a great event,” said Herndon resident and volunteer Jennifer Baker. For more information on local restaurants in the Herndon area, visit www.dineonherndon.com.



Nick Newlin and Joanne Flynn provided entertainment for the April Taste of the Town event. It was hosted at Herndon Worldgate Center.



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Chorale

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“I’m Isabel
and I like
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Isabel Doran
Promising ballerina



OPINION

Trending in the Right Direction

Commitment to ending homelessness shows progress, but more affordable housing is needed.

On one night in late January, local jurisdictions in our area fanned out to count the number of people who were literally homeless. Fairfax County released its numbers last week; Arlington and Alexandria will do so in the near future.

In Fairfax County, the commitment in 2010 to end homelessness in 10 years has resulted in significant progress, even in the wake of the great recession. The number of people literally homeless decreased by a third from 2008 to 2014, from 1,835 to 1,225 counted this year.

Many non-profit organizations have partnered to prevent homelessness one family or individual at a time for those on the brink and to house chronically homeless individuals. There is so much still to be done.

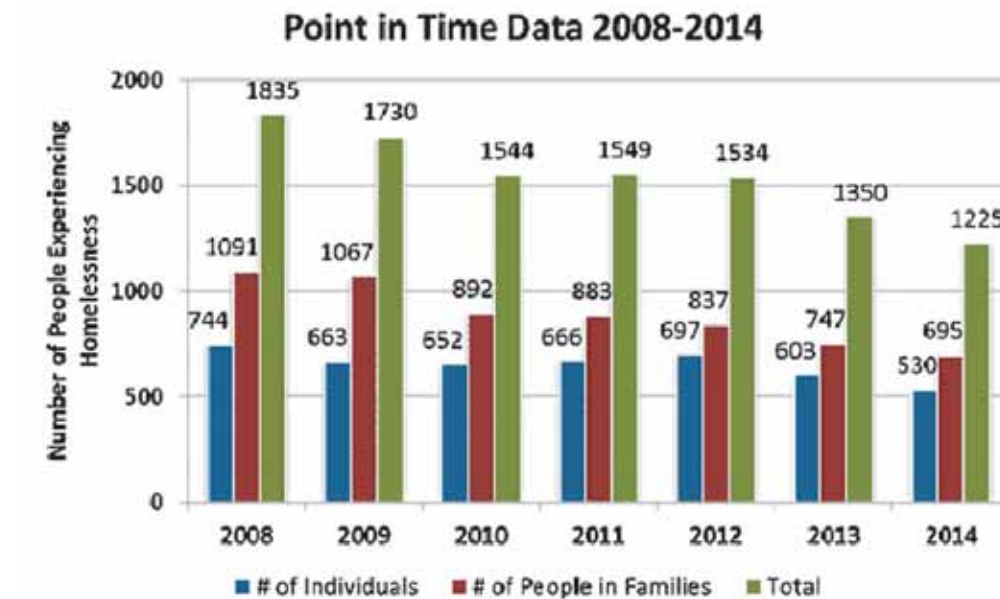
On the night of Jan. 29, 2014 there were 1,225 people who were literally homeless in the Fairfax-Falls Church community, a 9 percent reduction from January 2013, or 125 fewer people.

The 2014 point-in-time count of people experiencing homelessness includes people who are described as “literally homeless,” those who are in shelters, in time-limited transitional housing programs, or unsheltered and living on the street at one “point in time.” It does not count the individual who might be homeless but is sleeping on a friend’s sofa or the family squeezed into an uncle’s “spare” bedroom after being evicted from their own apartment.

Two sentences from the county report are worth repeating, even if they are obvious:

“The results would be even more substantial if additional housing options were available. The reduction in homelessness will not continue at the same pace in the future without significant increases in the availability of affordable housing.”

A year ago, the coalition of partners committed to ending homelessness embarked on the local piece of a nationwide effort to provide housing for the chronically homeless people in our community. There were an estimated 150 such individuals, living in the woods and in cars and on the street, in the county, and a year later, FACETS and others met this



Point-in-time data on the number of people literally homeless 2008-2014.

year’s milestone of bringing 50 such individuals into housing. These are people who need a continuum of services get on their feet.

Despite the good news on the steady decline, the past few months have been marked by push-back from some residents about allowing more affordable housing in the form of efficiency apartments and by several members of the Board of Supervisors expressing lack of support for even the concept of providing more affordable housing.

This misguided attitude on the part of some county leaders ignores the fact that this region cannot be economically vibrant if there is no place affordable to rent even for households who make \$50,000, never mind the households that get by on less than half of that.

Two full-time \$10 an hour positions yield \$40,000 a year. Last year, a family needed an annual income of \$56,472 to afford to pay the \$1,412 per month rent on the “fair market rate” for a two-bedroom apartment in Fairfax County. Rents have continued to rise.

Many working families living in Fairfax County struggle financially, balancing choices every month between rent, transportation, food, medical costs and other expenses that are not optional.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.CO



PHOTO BY MARY KIMM

After being homeless for five years, Sandara Perry, left, recently moved into permanent housing with ongoing support provided by FACETS. Perry grew up on Route 1 in Mount Vernon, and was placed in foster care while her mother struggled with addiction. Without support to make the transition from foster care, Perry struggled with alcohol and abusive relationships. She shared her story at the FACETS annual breakfast last Thursday, April 24, and she is pictured here with FACETS Executive Director Amanda Andere.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fighting for Tigers

To the Editor:

As a senior at Penn State University, I am taking a course on human geography and sustainability. As a citizen of Virginia, I am concerned. There is an international issue that is threatening one of our greatest, most majestic creatures in the world, and we are not doing enough to protect and preserve them. While

the tigers that we nobly admire at the National Zoo are safe and secure, the wild tiger population of Southeast Asia is being poached to near extinction. As my class has taught me this semester, it is our duty as human beings to sustain the environment for future generations, thus making it our duty to put an end to the illegal poaching and trading of tigers throughout the world. While it is simple to adopt an “out of sight, out of mind,” mentality with these creatures, the rapidly declining tiger

population will directly impact our future generations here in the Washington, D.C. area. If we want our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren to admire the majesty of a tiger, we need to take responsibility for human action and strive for change. The keeping of tigers for pets, the illegal hunting, the black market for tiger bones - these are all actions of humans that are directly contributing to the inevitable extinction of the tiger population. But how can we help? We aren’t the ones

buying tiger bones for ancient medical practices, or poaching tigers in the wild. We are, however, the ones with the significant financial and political means to end this global epidemic. As an American, I urge you to donate to organizations such as World Wildlife Foundation, write letters to your congressmen, and generate as much attention for this issue as possible. We must fight for the tigers.

Allison Baker
Oakton

Oak Hill & Herndon CONNECTION

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The cast and crew for “Blithe Spirit” by Noël Coward which will be produced at Herndon High in the first week of May. A witty comedy, this play is intended for mature audiences.



PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN/ THE CONNECTION

Herndon High Drama Produces ‘Blithe Spirit’

Herndon spring play begins May 1.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

“It is hilarious how witty and comical this play can be, I am looking forward to performing with my classmates,” said Jessie Jorgensen, a Herndon High sophomore. Jorgensen is performing as the character Ruth in the May spring production of “Blithe Spirit” a play by Noël Coward.

Herndon High junior Bonnie Sasseen has the role of Elvira Condomine. “I had read the play before and the character is very fun,” said Sasseen. “She is a very physical character, she is both exciting and amusing to play.” Taking the role of Charles Condomine is Herndon senior Hunter Robinson. “The whole show is a very witty fast paced comedy,” said Robinson.

In the play, English author Charles Condomine living with his second wife consults a psychic which leads to a séance and return of his first bride. Chaos and hilarity ensues as Condomine addresses the ghost of his first wife and demands of his present, living wife. “I enjoy doing this sort of comedy,” said Robinson, who intends to study theatre at Temple University in Pennsylvania.

“The script is very funny,” said Herndon High junior Claire Smallwood, who was cast as the maid Edith. “There are lots of SAT words. This is my first spring show.” Playing the role of Mrs. Bradman is sophomore Rebecca Wichman. “I am really looking forward to the special effects used in this show,” said Wichman. Portraying the psychic Madame Arcati is senior Cassie Szymczyk. “I am looking forward to bringing the physicality to this part,” said Szymczyk. Stage manager for this production is Nathan Hawn.

Unlike musicals, this spring production has a smaller cast. For seniors, this will be the second to last high school production before graduation this year. Directing the production is Ms. Zoë Dillard. “I choose this play because we had never done a Noël Coward production before, and I felt it was a style of



In May the Herndon High drama will produce the comedic play “Blithe Spirit” with junior Bonnie Sasseen as Elvira Condomine, senior Hunter Robinson playing Charles Condormine, and Jessie Jorgensen as Ruth.

comedic theatre we should explore and the students could enjoy,” said Dillard. “The vocabulary is very sophisticated, and doing this play not only teaches about a 20th century playwright but exposes them to a language that will serve them well. The witty dialogue has been fun for us to discover as well.”

The ticketed production of “Blithe Spirit” will be shown at the Herndon High School theatre May 1st, 2nd, and 3rd at 7:30 p.m. The play is not designed for young children, but mature audiences. For more information, visit www.herndondrama.org



PHOTO BY REENA SINGH/ THE CONNECTION

Herndon passes the FY2015 budget at April 22 town council meeting.

Herndon Passes Nearly \$49 Million Budget

Tax rate will remain the same.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

The Herndon Town Council approved its \$48,827,100 2015 budget.

The budget, which maintains the current tax rate of \$0.2650 per \$100 of assessed value, was passed 6-1 at the April 22 meeting.

Council member Charlie Waddell was the only one who voted against the budget. He wanted to see a lower tax rate.

“I’m not ready to pass the budget, as is,” he said. “I might be in a couple of weeks.”

Council members Sheila Olem and Grace Van Wolf felt the tax rate was necessary to keep many of the town’s services.

“I think it would be better to do that than to cut out a lot of our services,” said Olem.

Council member David Kirby noted that nearly everyone’s taxes are going to go up because housing assessments recently saw a rise in the community.

“My taxes will be 10.5 percent higher than they were last year,” he said. “That’s just simple math.”

According to the town website, the average citizen will see a real estate tax bill of \$924.71, based on the formula.

Even so, Kirby said he was comfortable passing the budget this year. He said he hopes more people and businesses move to the town next year to help share the costs to maintain the town.

Mayor Lisa Merkel noted that most other jurisdictions will see an increase in taxes rather than seeing them maintained like they will be in Herndon.

“The adopted budget maintains our current tax rates and continues the provision of resources toward redevelopment of our downtown, planning for transit-oriented development near our future Metrorail station and continuation of the services and programs our citizens expect and enjoy,” she said in a press release. “We appreciate the input of citizens who helped us determine how to best allocate town resources.”

“We appreciate the input of citizens who helped us determine how to best allocate town resources.”

— Herndon Mayor Lisa Merkel

Next year’s biggest cuts were for interfund transfers and capital.

In other business, the town council approved of a historical marker design, changed a zoning ordinance to allow some multi-family residential dwellings within the Central Commercial area

The next Town Council public hearing will be at 7 p.m. on May 13. The agenda can be found on the town website closer to the meeting’s date.

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

SATURDAY/MAY 3

Fox Mill Woods Swim & Tennis Club Open House. 12-3 p.m.
2634A Black Fir Court, Reston. Learn about membership, register for our swim team, and meet tennis pros. fmwstmembership@gmail.com.

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/olderadults 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.

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CALENDAR

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

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 30

Reston Friends Spring Book Sale. 5-8 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston.

Kirby Celebrates "Reston at Fifty" in Photos. Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Reston Center Two Building, 12005 Sunrise Valley Dr., Reston.
www.leagueofrestonartists.org

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 30 – FRIDAY/MAY 2

Sunrise Orthodontics Youth Art Exhibit. 11490 Commerce Park Drive, Reston. The artwork featured is from the GRACE Art program at Lake Anne Elementary influenced by the art of Wassily Kandinsky.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 30-SUNDAY, MAY 25

Far & Wide: Travel as Muse. - In Far and Wide. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Join artist Trisha Adams on a journey where unique architecture and distinctive trees offer interesting new shapes, where plants, earth, and buildings present novel color palettes, where each painting imparts a part of itself to the next as the viewer circles the gallery.
www.artspaceherndon.org.

THURSDAY/MAY 1

Reston Friends Spring Book Sale. 10 a.m. -8 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston.

FRIDAY/MAY 2, 3, 9, 10

"Chapter Two." 8 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Neil Simon's sparkling comedy. Tickets can be purchased at www.restonplayers.org.

FRIDAY/MAY 2

Reston Friends Spring Book Sale. 10 a.m. -5 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston.

First Fridays Art House Cinema and Brew. 7 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Watch The Conspirator, a historical drama about the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Advance reservations are required, made through our website, 21+, \$10 for the movie and two microbrews. Check out website for listings.
www.artspaceherndon.org

SATURDAY/MAY 3

Reston Farmers Market Opening Day. 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. Lake Anne, 1609 Washington Plaza N, Reston.

Reston Friends Spring Book Sale. 10 a.m. -4 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston.

Far and Wide: Travel as Muse Exhibit Opening Reception. 7-9 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. In Far and Wide: Travel as Muse, join artist Trisha Adams on a journey where unique architecture and distinctive trees offer interesting new shapes.
www.artspaceherndon.org

SUNDAY/MAY 4

Book Look. 2-3 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Join ArtSpace Herndon for this month's children's book selection The Gingerbread Man Loose on the Fire Truck, by Guest Author Laura Murray. With snappy rhymes and



PHOTO BY TRACI J. BROOKS STUDIOS/COURTESY OF NEXTSTOP THEATER

Nora Palka as Little Red Ridinghood in NextStop Theater Company's 'Into the Woods.' Playing at the Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon, May 1-June 1; Thursday-Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.

fresh illustrations, the Gingerbread Man goes on a school field trip adventure to a firehouse. Includes a poster with fire safety tips and activities. The reading is free and open to the public, but seating is limited so reservations are strongly recommended. 703-956-6590
www.artspaceherndon.org

March for Babies 2014. 10 a.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. March for Babies is the March of Dimes premier fundraising event. Participants will walk 4.5 miles. The free, family-friendly event will be held rain or shine. March for Babies supports March of Dimes research and other programs nationwide and in our community to help both babies born healthy and those who need help to survive and thrive. To learn more and to register, please visit www.marchforbabies.org or call (888) 274-3711.

Reston Friends Spring Book Sale. 12-3:30 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston.

3rd Annual Stop Hunger Now! Meal Packaging Event. 2 p.m. United Christian Parish, 11508 North Shore Drive, Reston. Needed are 120 volunteers to package 30,000 meals. Both standing and sitting jobs are available and children of all ages may participate. For more information or to sign up in advance, contact organizer Steve Lambakis at slambakis@verizon.net or the church office at 703-620-3065.

Wild Edibles. 1:30 - 4 p.m. Walker

Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Many naturally occurring plants can make a nutritious and tasty addition to your diet. Sample some "wild" dishes and take home recipes to try on your own. After an indoor presentation that includes the ethics of collecting and how good foraging starts at home, hike the trails in search of edible plants. Each participant will harvest some to take home. Reservations required by May 2. Fee: \$7/person RA members, \$9/person non-members. For more information, email naturecenter@reston.org, or call 703-476-9689 and press 5.

MONDAY/MAY 5

Reston Photographic Society Meeting. 7-9 p.m. Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. John Eppler, a published nature photographer and Reston native, will share his images and discuss his techniques.

THURSDAY/MAY 8

Author Event. 7 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Author Michael J. O'Brien will discuss We Shall Not Be Moved, his highly regarded history about one of the iconic moments in the Civil Rights movement, the 1963 Jackson Mississippi Woolworth's sit-in. O'Brien's book is on the FCPL "Top History Picks" reading list. Adults. Free.

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SPORTS

Herndon's Alston Named East-West MVP at Cap Classic

Herndon's Auslander, Oakton's Bacon compete at event.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Brandon Alston experienced a lot during his senior year of high school. He transferred from St. Benedict's in Newark, N.J., to Herndon High, returning to the community in which he grew up. After joining the school's boys' basketball team, the Hornets experienced the joy of a Conference 5 championship and the pain of a season-ending overtime loss to Woodson in the region semifinals. Alston also decided to continue his basketball career at Lehigh University.

On April 26, Alston added an MVP award to his busy 2013-14 campaign.

Alston, a 6-foot-5 guard, scored a game-high 25 points for the West all-stars, leading the team to a 126-115 victory in the East-West all-star game during the 41st Annual Capital Classic at T.C. Williams High School.

Alston shot 6-for-14 from the floor, including 3-for-4 from 3-point range, and made 10 of 11 free-throw attempts. He grabbed six rebounds and tallied five assists en route to MVP honors.

It was an impressive showing for Alston as he prepares to play Division I basketball at Lehigh.

"It's been a lot, but at the end of the day I found a good school I like," Alston said about his senior year. "... The goal was to get to a good college, so I got to a good college in the end."

Alston was part of a West team,



Herndon senior Brandon Alston, left, scored a game-high 25 points for the West all-stars and was named MVP of the East-West all-star game during the 41st Annual Capital Classic on April 26 at T.C. Williams High School.



Herndon senior Kent Auslander scored 11 points, including a trio of 3-pointers, for the West during the Capital Classic's East-West all-star game on April 26 at T.C. Williams High School.



Oakton senior Robert Bacon scored six points for the South all-stars during Capital Classic's North-South all-star game on April 26 at T.C. Williams.

led by W.T. Woodson head coach Doug Craig, which shared the ball

well, scored 46 points in the first quarter and led 78-53 at halftime.

"Our coach is a good coach," Alston said. "We actually had two

"It's been a lot, but at the end of the day I found a good school I like. ... The goal was to get to a good college, so I got to a good college in the end."

— Herndon senior Brandon Alston, who will play basketball at Lehigh University

practices, so it wasn't really the first time we played together. We knew we had a lot of shooters, so we just got it to the open man."

Kent Auslander, Alston's teammate at Herndon, also suited up for the West squad. Auslander was in the starting lineup and finished with 11 points. He made 4 of 7 field-goal attempts, including 3 of 6 from behind the arc. He grabbed six rebounds and finished with three assists.

Eight of the nine West players scored in double figures.

"We told them before the game, just everybody share the ball with each other because everybody here can play," Craig said. "If we share the ball, everybody will score, everybody will look good and we'll get a 'W.'"

Earlier in the North all-stars defeated the South all-stars 109-106. Oakton senior Robert Bacon started for the South team and finished with six points and five rebounds.

Clinton Christian's Byron Hawkins, a member of the South squad, scored a game-high 29 points and earned MVP honors.

In the main event, the U.S. all-stars defeated the Capital all-stars 139-134.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

South Lakes Baseball Swats Hornets

The South Lakes baseball team defeated rival Herndon 6-1 on April 26.

The South Lakes Seahawks and the Herndon Hornets waited weeks before finally getting a chance to play on a gorgeous Saturday afternoon. The fans were ready to watch some baseball.

Senior Terry Petersen took the mound for the Seahawks.

Petersen kept the Hornets off balance

for five innings, allowing just two hits and no runs while striking out four Hornets. The Seahawk bullpen, led by freshman Noah Luckenbaugh, junior Ben Darby and senior JoJo Lear, finished the game for the Seahawks.

South Lakes started the game with a double by Lear and a walk by senior Justin Cosing. Lear scored on a couple of wild pitches and Cosing stole a base and scored on a ground ball by sophomore Marty Gryski.

The Seahawks picked up the third run in the second inning on a leadoff single by

junior Jared Abelson, who moved to third on a single by Gryski and scored on a wild pitch.

The Seahawks picked up another run in the third inning on a single by Gryski, who moved to second on a wild pitch, stole third, and scored on a sacrifice fly by junior Matt Wojciehowski.

The Seahawks pushed another run across in the fourth when junior Jared Abelson reached on a Hornet error and scored on a single by junior Kyle King.

The Seahawks picked up their final run in the fifth inning when Gryski was hit by a

pitch, moved to second on a balk and scored on a single by Abelson.

The Hornets avoided the shutout by picking up a run in the sixth on a couple of walks and a single by senior Thomas Duggleby.

South Lakes defeated Fairfax 5-1 on April 28, improving its record to 6-7. The Seahawks will host Madison at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, May 2.

Herndon (6-4) will travel to face Robinson at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, May 2.

— KEVIN DARBY

NEWS

Officer Presgrave Hangs Up His Hat

HPD Captain retires after 41 years of service.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

In 1972, American soldiers were fighting in the Vietnam War, the Watergate scandal broke and NASA received their first pictures from Mars from an orbiting probe.

That August was also Police Captain Robert Presgrave's first month as an officer for the Herndon Police Department. More than 41 years later, he is retiring from the everyday business of keeping the town a safer place.

"There are a thousand stories I can write," he said. "If I could write like an author, I'd write a book."

Officially, his last day was today, April 30.

His plans are to continue fixing his neighbors' lawn mowers and chainsaws as well as cruise around town in his remodeled 1964 Corvette. At the April 22 Herndon Town Council meeting, the board members and many of the town's residents honored him with kind words and a shadow box filled with badges as he rose the ranks from officer to lieutenant to captain.

"You have served with distinction, honor and we will miss you greatly," said Chief of Police Maggie DeBoard.

Every one of the board members had a memory of Presgrave - and many had inside jokes about chainsaws and cars.

"I don't think you've got anybody who doesn't like you," said board member Charlie Waddell. "You made so much more than a difference. You created a legacy."

He started out as an officer at the Fairfax County Police Department. However, it was a big step for him as a first job. He remembered his days visiting Herndon with his father as a boy. When he saw



The Herndon Town Council and Herndon Police Department recognized Captain Presgrave's work on April 22.



Captain Robert Presgrave at his desk.

Herndon Police Department had an open position after just a couple years on the job, he applied.

"I vividly remember my first day here," he said. "I was very excited and happy to be here, and I still feel the same way today."

Now, years later, he has memories of chasing a goose through a grocery store, seeing a man panic behind his steering wheel after being shaken awake in his car, and seeing how the town changes after midnight.

He said some of the back-to-back shifts have been hard on his body. He has missed birthdays, holidays,

dinners, weekend trips and many other family and friend functions - like many officers do - because of his hectic work schedule.

During his retirement ceremony, he told his colleagues that they have chosen one of the most challenging jobs they can have.

"I've missed so much, but that's just what this job requires," he said. "You're not obsessed with the job, but you love it. Policemen love midnights, but it's hard on the body."

Even so, he loved every year he served for Herndon Police Department. He said he will miss the daily interactions he has with the town's residents.

"This is a people business," he said. "It's not guns, handcuffs and high-speed chases."

PHOTOS BY REENA SINGH / THE CONNECTION

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PHOTO GALLERY!

"Me and My Mom"

To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Connection will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to:

herndon@connectionnewspapers.com

Or to mail photo prints, send to:
The Oak Hill/Herndon Connection, "Me and My Mom Photo Gallery,"
1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314

Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable.

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Father and Son "Twogether"

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



As a born, bread and buttered Bostonian (Newton Centre, a suburb, to be specific), one of my enduring and genetic passions has been to live and die (figuratively speaking; this is not a cancer column) for The Boston Red Sox. My father sold concessions at Fenway Park (the stadium home of the Bosox since 1912), during the Depression when he was a little boy (not yet an adolescent even). He was nicknamed "Beezo," (his given name was Benet, although he was always called Barry) so he could gain full acceptance to a local knothole gang. Named after the wooden planks which surrounded the old Braves Field in Boston (a National League team called Boston its home as well back in the day), the kids ("gangs") would stand and peer through the knotholes in the wooden planks which otherwise blocked their view. It was a privilege and an honor for my father to be so connected to the game this way. He grew up loving baseball, and as a parent, he passed his love of the game on to me – and my brother.

Growing up in the suburbs, there were no planks surrounding our fields and no knotholes. The grass might have been a little thin though. It was on these fields where I played "sandlot" baseball. Close to home but miles away from Fenway Park. Here we mapped out our own base paths and used hats, gloves, coats, etc. to identify the bases, the pitcher's mound and of course, home plate. To fill out the respective teams, we often split however many kids we had into however many positions we needed filled, often with some kids playing multiple positions on both teams. Anything to get a game in. I spent many afternoons and evenings before the age of 10 practicing in this manner.

I thought I had become pretty good, too – for a kid, so when Little League tryouts were announced – for ages 9–12, I was very excited. My goal was to play baseball. My older brother had done so; now it was my turn. Unfortunately, my tryout was not very successful. I was not picked for "The Majors." I was picked by a "Minor" League team and that's where I began my career. I pitched a few games, even caught a few games, not really distinguishing myself in either endeavor. Still, about halfway through the season, I was called up to "The Majors," by the Boston Red Sox, (Little League version). I was thrilled by the selection and even more excited that I'd be playing for the Red Sox – of all teams, wearing a similar uniform and colors of my heroes at the Big League level. I chose uniform number 16; to this day, I always look to see who's wearing that number on the current Sox (Will Middlebrooks, currently) and then envision myself being in that uniform. Wearing that uniform, and hat, solidified my dream. I wanted to play for the Boston Red Sox in Fenway Park when I grew up, and for the next 10 years or so, through Little League, Junior High School, Babe Ruth League, High School; in spring, summer and fall, I pursued that dream. I tried out for my college team, but ultimately, that's where the dream ended.

Still, it was during these extremely formative years when my father and I built the foundation of our relationship: baseball. We practiced together, played catch together, attended all my games together, went to Fenway Park together, listened to games on radio together, watched games on our black & white television together, and filled up my scrapbook together; in essence, we enjoyed our life together – through baseball.

And even though the prospects of fulfilling my dream were never particularly realistic, its common pursuit by me and my father made for memories that have lasted over 50 years. My father may be gone, but he'll never be forgotten. Every time I watch a baseball game, I remember how it all began – for me, throwing a ball to my father. That was no field of dreams; that field was, and is, my reality.

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

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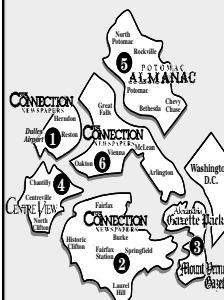
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Wiehle Avenue Station at night

Silver Line Phase 1 Reaches 'Substantial Completion'

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority announced its concurrence Thursday with an April 9 Declaration of Substantial Completion for Phase 1 of the Silver Line Project to extend the Washington region's Metrorail public transit system. The concurrence affirms that the Phase 1 construction by Dulles Transit Partners, a construction consortium led by Bechtel Corp., has satisfied the contract requirements applicable to the project's major functional elements.

"Achieving substantial completion is a significant milestone," said Airports Authority President and CEO Jack Potter. "We have conducted a thorough review of the contractor's submission and are satisfied that Phase 1 has met the contractual requirements that will allow the project to now move to the next steps in the process to begin passenger service. We appreciate the close cooperation among WMATA and our partners in moving this large and complex project forward."

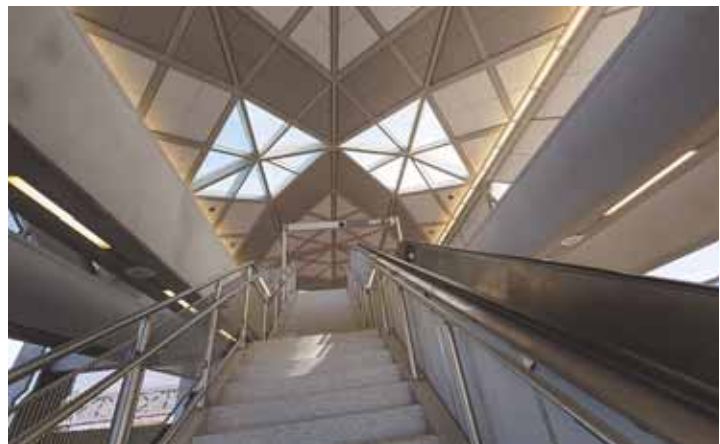
Phase 1 of the Silver Line project is an 11.7-mile segment with five stations serving McLean, Tysons Corner and Reston in Northern Virginia, which are among the fastest-growing communities in the National Capital region. The Airports Authority is managing construction of the project.

The Airports Authority's determination that Phase 1 has reached substantial completion follows a 15-day period during which Airports Authority staff re-

viewed documentation and test results on the work performed by Dulles Transit Partners. The concurrence decision recognizes that work to finalize a number of items will continue beyond the substantial completion date, as outlined in agreements with WMATA and Dulles Transit Partners. Following substantial completion, Dulles Transit Partners will continue working on remaining punch list items and performing other tasks under the agreements. That work relates to train and track communications systems, power equipment, tunnel handrails and cables, elevator, and leak and drainage issues.

The next step in the process toward passenger service is WMATA's decision to take over the Phase 1 project so it can conduct its own inspections, testing, and training. While WMATA is performing these activities, additional reviews of the project will be undertaken by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration and the regional Tri-State Oversight Committee. Following those reviews, WMATA will be in a position to formally accept the Phase 1 project and commence passenger service.

Phase 1 of the Silver Line connects to Metrorail's Orange Line in Falls Church, and runs to the eastern edge of Reston, with four stops in Tysons Corner. Work also has begun on Phase 2 of the project, which will connect the Metrorail system with Dulles International Airport and points in Loudoun County.



Wiehle Avenue Station: The Silver Line is a 23-mile addition to the Metrorail system.

PHOTOS BY TERRY LOWENTHAL/BECHTEL



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Summer 2014 Camps

Education & Activities



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Choosing a Summer Camp

Now is the time to register; many choices.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Many families with school age children will plan to have their children spend some of the much-anticipated summer season in camp. If you haven't yet selected camps for your children, now is the time.

"Popular classes and programs always fill early," said Kevin Rechen, camp director of Summer at Norwood in Potomac, Md.

Whether you choose a traditional day camp, a specialty camp or a sleep away camp, the Washington, D.C. region has a multitude of offerings.

"Summer camp is an opportunity for children to develop social skills with their peers," said Linda Gulyn, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington. "Camps give the benefits of social interaction in a more relaxed setting."

When selecting a camp, there are factors

that parents should keep in mind. "When parents are looking for a camp they should try to find a camp where they're comfortable with the facility, the programming and counselors and staff," said Rechen.

An array of specialty camps offer children a chance to focus on one activity.

"Developmentally, as children get older they get more specialized in their skills and interests," said Gulyn. "Summer camp is an opportunity to hone in on those skills. Go with the child's interest and skills and further develop those because they are an important part of a child's identity."

St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria offers camps that include Quadcopters and Video Editing, MiKiDo Mixed Martial Arts, CSI Detective, Hunger Games, Civil War, Fantasy Battle Gaming, Filmworx Movie Making, Eco-Adventures, Junior Musical Theater, Zoology, [and] Junior Veterinarian, said Linda Stratton of SSSAS.

Other specialty camps include cooking



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

Campers at Hidden Oaks Nature Center marvel at a crayfish they netted.

camps, yoga camps and sports camps that run the gamut from tennis to hockey.

At George Mason University, high school juniors and seniors will have an opportu-

nity to attend a camp that will give them a head start on college. "It's not your parents' summer camp," said Sudha Kamath. "Mason is giving high school juniors and seniors

Many Ideas for Summer Activities

Avoid those dreaded words: 'I'm bored.'

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Molly McAlister enjoys the freedom of summer, but there are three words she dreads hearing: "Mom, I'm bored." Creating activities to keep her three children busy during the summer is a task she enjoys, but it isn't always easy.

"I can't afford to send all three children to camp," said McAlister who lives in Centreville. "I love taking the kids swimming or on bike rides, but sometimes I run out of ideas."

Many parents allow "screen time" to keep children happy, but it's important to interact with them

as well.

"Some parents will give their child an iPhone or an iPad to entertain them," said Michele C. Garofalo, Ed.D., assistant chair, Department of Counseling and a professor of Psychology at Marymount University in Arlington. "Interacting with children and being involved with them rather than giving them electronic activities is important. It is important for kids to figure out how to interact with their parents and friends."

"Summer is a wonderful time for parents to get to know their kids and interact with them in a different way," said Garofalo, who lives in McLean.

One way that families can spend

quality time together is by creating art, said Dabney Cortina of the McLean Project for the Arts in McLean. In addition to summer camps, McLean Project for the Arts offers family workshops where parents and children create art together.

"The whole process of creating is so important to a child's development and it's so important to be with your children and create something together," said Cortina. "I see the smiles as the children and adults put their heads together to create things. I think it's also a wonderful release for adults."

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS are a great way to

spend time and help children learn during the summer.

"Let them spearhead a yard sale," Garofalo said. "Kids gather the items, make flyers and put the flyers in everyone's mailbox. They can donate the money to charity so you can tie in a service project."

Spend time in the kitchen. "You and your children can do a lot of baking and donate the items to a homeless shelter," said Garofalo. "With parental approval and guidance, kids can also do dog walking or water flowers for neighbors who are away."

For families who want to spend time in nature, Len Annetta, Ph.D. Professor in the College of Education and Human Development at

George Mason University suggests the Manassas National Battlefield Park. The park, which is home to more than 160 species of birds, has been recognized National Audubon Society as an Important Bird Area.

"Our area has so much history," said Annetta. "Most of these place don't cost money but can immerse students in something educational, which is really critical."

FOR PARENTS who plan a summer of varied activities, specialty camps as well as parent-child activities are worthy options. Even one or two sessions of week-long specialty camps can add to a child's summer.

the chance to take some rare classes for college credit, covering everything from insects that crawl underground to objects that spin through outer space."

Cathy Evans, director of special projects at George Mason University said, "Subjects include astronomy, biology, chemistry, computer science, economics, environmental science, ethics, global affairs, health behavior, history, mathematics, nutrition and public speaking. The sky's the limit as students explore topics like 'Stars, Galaxies and the Universe' and 'The Ecosphere.'"

Camp Greenway at The Madeira School offers three options for two-week camp sessions with outdoor and indoor activities, said Laura Temple, spokeswoman for school in McLean, Va. "Water sports, games, team sports, music, arts and crafts, and MAD Science are all part of the daily action for campers."

The Fairfax County Park Authority offers camps nature camps that are designed to immerse children in the outdoors. "We want the children to connect with the world around them," said Judy Pedersen, Public Information Officer, Fairfax

County Park Authority. "When they leave camp, we hope that they have a deeper appreciation for the world around them for and the environment." You don't need to be a resident of Fairfax County to attend the camps.

ANOTHER OPTION is sleep away camp. How does a parent know that their child is ready for to make this leap?

"It is going to vary from child to child and family to family," said Michele C. Garofalo, Ed.D., assistant chair, Department of Counseling and a professor of Psychology at Marymount University in Arlington. "I think if a child has spent time having sleep overs with friends and has done ok, and is independent and feels comfortable sleeping at friends' houses then it should be fine."

Garofalo suggests that the first sleep away camp experience should be brief.

"The first summer, send them to a four-day camp to test the waters. Their first experience should be at a camp that is close to home. Don't send them to a camp in California the first time."

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Summer Learning Activities

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When summer vacation begins and school ends in a few weeks, learning doesn't have to take a hiatus. Students can keep their academic skills sharp without entering a classroom or even sitting down with a pencil and paper.

Local educators say opportunities for reading, math, science and history skills are plentiful and none require that children set foot in a school. From a walk in the park to a trip to the grocery store, teachable moments are virtually everywhere.

"There are a thousand ways to do it, but reading is critical," said Marjorie Myers, Ed.D., principal, Francis Scott Key Elementary School in Arlington. "I think the most important thing to do is read in a fun way. Read as a family. Parents can read challenging books to their children. Go to your local library and take advantage of fun activities there."

Some elementary schools encourage their students to read and discuss what they are reading with

their parents.

"We ask kids to read and then have discussions with their parent about what they are reading," said Blake M. Giliotti, staff development teacher at Potomac Elementary in Potomac. "We don't ask them to do anything written because we don't want them belabored by school work during summer."

WHEN IT COMES TO science, Len Annetta, Ph.D., professor of Science at George Mason University says he and his wife Jennifer spend a lot of time at the Smithsonian museums with their two children, Samantha, 13, and Joey, 11.

"We particularly like the Air and Space Museum," he said. "It keeps them engaged in science. We walk around together and we ask them questions after we leave a museum. When they get home they get to go online and do more research on things that interest them."

There are subtle science lessons to be learned even when taking a summer stroll. "We're out for a nature walk and we see an animal or plant and we start talking about

it," said Annetta. "We also look at and talk about grasses and trees and animals."

A shopping trip can also be an opportunity for a math lesson, said Myers. "Take your children to the grocery store and use actual money instead of credit cards, so the children can see a value for money and numbers," she said. "Give children an allowance so they can make the connection between money and the cost of things they want to buy."

This area offers an abundance of locations for history lessons. "I go out to the battle fields near Manassas," Anetta said. "There are placards that help describe what is going on. There are a lot of local museums that offer the same opportunities."

Keeping a journal is another way to keep skills sharp outside of a structured setting.

"Keeping a travel or camp journal is a fun and easy way to support academic skills," said Benita Cathey, director of admissions at Grace Episcopal School in Alexandria. "A travel or camp journal reinforces writing, geography and social studies and organizational skills."

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