

Art Taking Over Town Center

NEWS, PAGE 3

GRACE representatives Erica Harrison and Holly Koons McCullough have been busy preparing for this year's Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival in Reston, May 16-18.

Langston Hughes Middle Celebrates Poetry

NEWS, PAGE 16

High School Scholarship Seeks Donations

NEWS, PAGE 3

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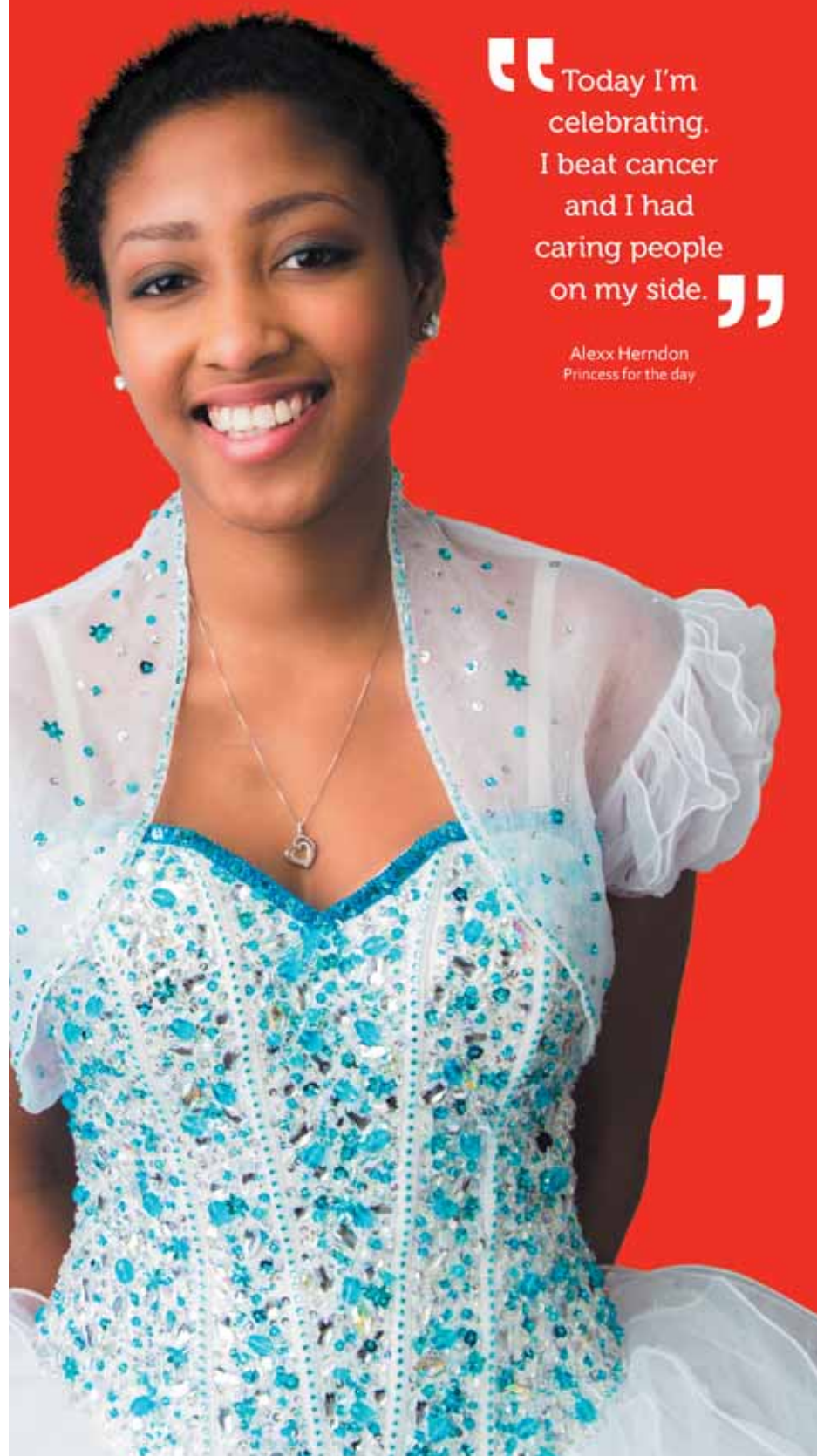


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Alexx Herndon
Princess for the day

GRACE representatives Erica Harrison and Holly Koons McCullough have been busy preparing for this year's Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival, May 16-18.



PHOTO BY REENA SINGH/ THE CONNECTION

Art Taking Over Town Center

Popular fine arts festival this weekend, May 16-18.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

One of the largest outdoor festivals on the East Coast will come alive in Reston Town Center this weekend.

The 23rd annual Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival will fill the streets with more than 200 artists and street performers on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 16-18, to raise money for Greater Reston Arts Center.

"If you can think of a form of art, you'll probably find it there," said GRACE associate curator and festival manager Erica Harrison.

Many types of media, ranging from jewelry and wooden cutlery to massive metal kinetic animals and intricate block prints will be represented at the juried, outdoor festival.

"It's a great opportunity to buy gifts for weddings or parents," said Harrison.

GRACE Director and Curator Holly Koons McCullough said the festival offers something for everyone because of its festival-like atmosphere. In addition to a bevy of street performers in the town center, there will be hands-on science crafts for children.

"The festival is actually our major fundraiser of the year," she said. "We have been here for 40 years and this is how we promote ourselves to the community."

The festival is one of the 25 top art festivals in the country, she said, and more than 800 artists applied this year to secure a table. Nearly a quarter of the artists are from the D.C. metro area, and some are coming as far away as Canada and Washington state.

"The setting in Reston Town Center is very desirable because it's a pedestrian-run area," she said.

This will be the first year the festival will have "soft gates," said Harrison. A suggested donation to enter is \$5 and includes a program guide with coupons to local restaurants. Tickets can be bought in advance for \$4 on GRACE's website. Visitors 18 and under are free.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Transparent watercolor paintings by Virginia Fergus, Atlanta, will be among the art featured at the festival.

What and When

NORTHERN VIRGINIA FINE ARTS FESTIVAL, MAY 16-18.

Reston Town Center, Friday, 5 - 8 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. \$5 suggested donation for adults

"A lot of the top ranked festivals are \$20, \$25 dollars to enter, and that's how they fund themselves," said McCullough. "We hope it's not too much to ask."

Additionally, the festival adds Friday and extended hours on Sunday in case shoppers or retail salespeople want to browse the art. GRACE will also have extended hours for those who want to wander through the gallery.

Last year, about 30,000 people showed up. With the extended hours, McCullough hopes to convince more people in the D.C. metro area to visit the festival.

"We're looking forward to having a successful event this year," she said. "We want it to be the not-to-be-missed event in Reston Town Center."

For more information or directions to the event, visit <http://northernvirginiafineartsfestival.org/>



Laptops for Success program founder Marie Assir and former Principal Bruce Butler in a photo from 2009, play with the newest Macbook model.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

High School Scholarship Seeks Donations

Laptops for Success provides computers for college-bound seniors.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

Shahkat Ali, a South Lakes High School alum, was among the first class that received a laptop through a new school scholarship in 2006.

After completing his junior year at George Mason University in 2010, he helped to hand out 10 laptops to students who needed the help just as much as he did.

The SLHS program has given more than 50 laptops to students in need before they head to college since the scholarship started. However, the school has none to offer so far this year.

"The [Parent-Teacher Student Association] has been a huge supporter," said Career Center specialist Karen Burke. "Last year, we wouldn't have had laptops if it weren't for them. It's been a slow start getting it running again this year."

However, there are students pursuing the scholarship even though a laptop has not been secured this year. During an interview at the school, two students stopped by the Career Center to ask when they can turn in the paperwork.

"Since 2006, Laptops for Success has given computers to 59 students. In recent years the applications have outnumbered the funded laptops by three to one," PTSA member Elizabeth Vandenburg wrote in a press release.

The program is geared towards students from lower-income families, but students who come from wealthier families may have a chance if they have special circumstances like high medical bills or lots of siblings who are in college. Students also have to have a GPA of 2.5 or better and be headed to a two or four year school.

The previous career center specialist, Marie Assir, started the program when she realized that most scholarships go directly to colleges to cover tuition rather than books or other tangible things necessary for the student to be successful in their classes.

"Some engineering and architecture programs actually require you to have a laptop to certain standards," said Burke. The school buys pricier Mac Notebooks, because they tend to last longer than the alternatives. The cost is roughly \$1,000, and includes sleeve to protect the student's new computer.

"We want it to last through all of college and possibly grad school," she said. The laptops are usually given out on Senior Awards night, which is an exciting and emotional night for many of the students and teachers.

"The best reward is to see the look on their face and just the relief that they will be equipped for school and not have it be a financial burden for their parents," said Burke.

She hopes to raise enough funds before the end of the year to purchase at least one computer. The high school's PTSA has set up an online donation button on their website at <http://southlakesPTSA.org/> for anyone who wishes to send money for the cause. Burke asks that donations be made by the end of the month.

"We'll take anything we can get - even just one - to help someone get their start," said Burke.

C-Section Boom in Northern Virginia

Region has some of the highest rates of cesarean-section deliveries for low-risk pregnancies.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Behind the closed doors at Inova Fairfax Hospital in Falls Church and the Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington, a quiet change has been taking shape over the last few decades. Doctors at these two hospitals have been performing cesarean-section deliveries for low-risk pregnancies at a rate that far exceeds what happens at most hospital across America. Last week, the two hospitals landed on Consumer Reports' top 10 list for hospitals with high C-section rates.

"It's an alarming trend," said Dr. Michele Davidson, associate professor and coordinator of the PhD Nursing Program at George Mason University. "You have a much higher maternal mortality and morbidity rate when you perform a C-section versus a normal birth. So you're taking a surgical risk that does not need to be taken."

C-section deliveries have long been used for high-risk pregnancies, when the health of the mother or the baby is at risk. Since the 1960s, though, doctors have increasingly been performing C-section deliveries for low-risk pregnancies. These include women who have never had a C-section before, are not delivering prematurely or are pregnant with a single baby that is properly positioned. Critics say the procedures drive up costs and increase risks for mothers and babies, although hospitals say they are providing options to women.

"We work closely with expectant mothers and physicians to support choice, while providing a safe and personalized birth experience," said Maryanne Boster, director of corporate communications for the Virginia Hospital Center. "We are partnering with our physicians to constantly monitor and balance the needs of the mother and baby while ensuring we work towards the best outcome for both."

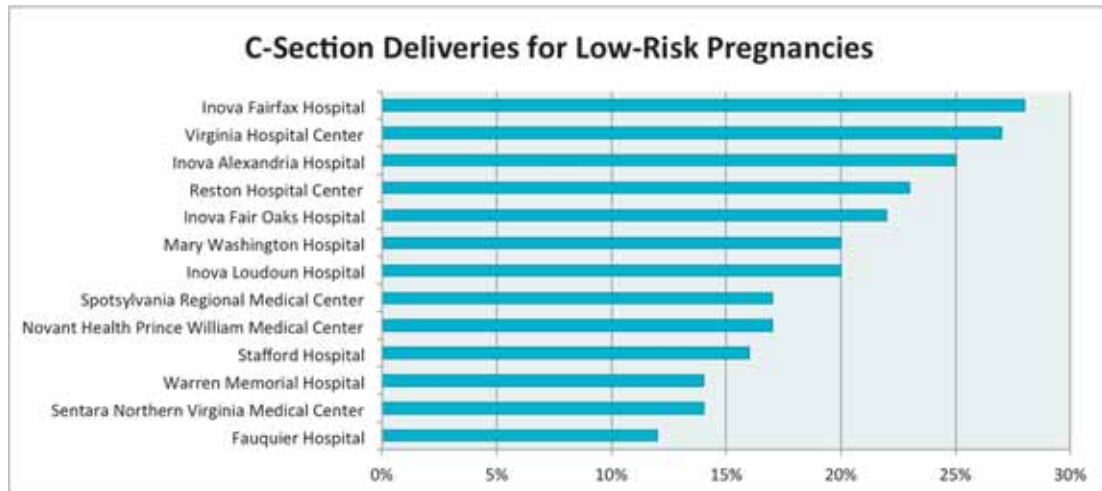
SINCE 1970, the number of C-sections performed in the U.S. has increased 500 percent. Davidson said a number of reasons are driving the trend. One is fear of litigation, largely driving by high-profile lawsuits

involving women whose uterus ruptured when they tried to induce labor in a pregnancy following a previous C-section delivery. Another trend driving the increased number is that more and more women are electing to have the procedure, a practice known as cesarian-on-demand.

"They're done with such frequency that they are a very safe procedure," said Del. Patrick Hope, who is a lobbyist with the American College of Cardiology. "Of course, what we are seeing is that the health plans are paying it. And so the health plans, which have everything at stake and are looking at the procedures and looking at the guidelines, they are clearly indicating it's appropriate."

Ultimately, though, the higher numbers may be related to money. Doctors can get higher rates of reimbursement when they opt for C-section deliveries. They also free up their schedule, allowing them to see more patients. The average labor time for a first-time baby is 16 to 18 hours, precious moments for doctors whose time is money. Davidson said she once worked at a hospital in Washington, D.C. where one doctor had a 100 percent C-section delivery rate.

"The only way one of his patients would delivery vaginally is if she walked in complete and he wasn't there," said Davidson. "He C-sectioned everyone because he didn't want to wait around for these women to deliver."



SOURCE: CONSUMER REPORTS

"It's an alarming trend. You have a much higher maternal mortality and morbidity rate when you perform a C-section versus a normal birth. So you're taking a surgical risk that does not need to be taken."

— Dr. Michele Davidson, associate professor and coordinator of the PhD Nursing Program at George Mason University

ANOTHER POSSIBLE explanation for Northern Virginia having higher rates of C-section deliveries for low-risk pregnancies has to do with the culture in the region. Many professional women want to have a baby on their schedule rather than waiting around for labor. And military families are often under pressure to have babies on a schedule that has a strict deadline related to deployment. In many cases, these women undergo selective induction, a process in which labor is induced on demand.

"When you give someone the medication to start labor when her body is not really ready, you start to see failed inductions

which lead to a C-section," said Davidson. "So that's another factor that we did not have in the 1960s at all."

In March, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine published in new practice guidelines designed to curtail the number of unnecessary C-sections. The two groups acknowledged that, in some cases, the procedure is medically necessary for the health and well-being of the mother or the baby. For example, the groups concluded cesarean delivery is firmly established as the safest route of deliver when when

have conditions such as placenta previa or uterine rupture.

"Childbirth by its very nature carries potential risks for the woman and her baby, regardless of the route of delivery," the women's health organizations reported. "For most pregnancies, which are low-risk, cesarean delivery appears to pose greater risk of maternal morbidity and mortality than vaginal delivery."

ALTHOUGH MOST of the increase in C-section deliveries came in the 1970s and 1980s, recent years have seen yet another spike. Since the mid-1990s, C-section deliveries have increased yet again. In 2011, for example, one in three women in the U.S. gave birth by cesarean delivery, a 60 percent increase since 1996. Some are concerned that the rapid increase in cesarean birth rates raises significant concern that cesarean delivery is overused without clear evidence of improved maternal or newborn outcomes. Some leaders in the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists are calling it a "epidemic."

"I like to use that word because it's dramatic," said Aaron B. Caughey, M.D., a member of The College's Committee on Obstetric Practice who helped develop the new recommendations. "I use that word because this is nationwide and worldwide. It's something that's occurring that we need to understand better, and in my opinion it's something that we should work to forestall."

Communities to Discuss School Start Times

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) will hold eight community meetings—one per cluster—in May and June to gather feedback from students, parents, employees, and community members on proposed adjustments to school start times. Participants are welcome to attend the meeting that is most convenient for them.

All meetings will run from 7 to 9 p.m. with the exception of the meeting at Poe

Middle school on Saturday, June 7, which runs from 10 a.m. to noon. The schedule for community meetings on school start times is as follows:

Monday, May 19 — Hayfield Secondary School (Cluster 4)
Tuesday, May 20 — Langley High School (Cluster 1)
Tuesday, May 27 — South Lakes High School (Cluster 8)
Wednesday, May 28 — Madison High

School (Cluster 2)

Saturday, June 7 — Poe Middle School (Cluster 3)

Monday, June 9 — South County High School (Cluster 5)

Tuesday, June 10 — West Springfield High School (Cluster 6)

Wednesday, June 11 — Centreville High School (Cluster 7)

The Fairfax County School Board adopted a resolution in April 2012 to seek solutions to establish high school start times at 8 a.m.

or later. In March 2013, the Board awarded a contract to Children's National Medical Center (CNMC) to develop a proposal to achieve this goal. CNMC presented several scenarios to the Board at its April 23 work session. These community meetings are designed to gather input and feedback from stakeholders.

Additional information about the four options being considered is available online.

COMMENTARY

What Price Business?

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



Last month Governor Terry McAuliffe announced that Virginia will participate in the Business Incentives Initiative, a joint project of The Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW) and the Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness (CREC) and six other states (Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Oklahoma and Tennessee) to "reform economic development incentive reporting policies and practices."

While millions of dollars are spent on tax incentives and grants to lure business to Virginia each year, there is no evidence that the programs are actually working as intended. There is a national debate across the country about the necessity and value of tax incentives to encourage economic development.

In a report issued earlier this year the Pew Research Center issued a fact sheet, "Evaluating State Tax Incentives: How to Measure Economic Impact" (The Pew Charitable Trusts, February 7, 2014), about high-quality evaluations of tax incentive programs in Minnesota, Louisiana, and Massachusetts in what they termed "models for other states to follow when measuring the results of their own incentives."

In Minnesota, evaluators estimated that 79 percent of the jobs created at companies receiving incentives were likely to have been generated without them. Jobs created cost the state more than \$26,000, or about five times more than originally estimated according to the analysts.

Louisiana's evaluation of its Enterprise Zone program found that in certain economic sectors 90 percent of new jobs created in the program were displacing jobs with other employers. Evaluators concluded that the program had created about 3,000 jobs instead of the more than 9,000 jobs that participating businesses had reported.

An analysis of the Massachusetts film industry tax credit reported by the Pew Center found that the more than 5,900 jobs created from 2006 through 2011 cost the state

\$326 million dollars that had to be offset by cuts elsewhere in the budget. The evaluation estimated that these cuts cost the state more than 3,700 jobs, leaving Massachusetts with a net gain of 2,200 jobs for its investment making each job gain much more costly than had earlier been estimated.

At the direction of the General Assembly, Virginia's Joint Legislative and Audit Review Commission (JLARC) undertook a review of the effectiveness of economic development incentive grants available in Virginia and issued a report in November 2012 titled "Review of State Economic Development Incentive Grants." During the time-frame of the study, fiscal years 2002 to 2011, there were 3,372 incentives offered. JLARC researchers looked at more than 80 econometric studies published since 1979 that concluded that incentive grants may sway, on average, ten percent of the site location decisions of businesses that receive an award. While these results are still debatable, JLARC staff concluded that there is no empirical evidence to suggest that "most or even the majority of business location decisions are swayed by incentive grants."

The work of the Business Incentives Initiative is long over-due. Its recommendations will help the Commonwealth make better decisions in investing taxpayer dollars, and it will help evaluate the outcomes of investments that are made.

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444.

By e-mail:
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—Jacob M. Braude

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OPINION

Virginia Proves Elections Matter

Health and economic issues are entwined.

Some people continue to assert, either with their words or by simply abstaining, that voting just doesn't matter. Here in Virginia, nearly every day we prove that is incorrect.

All of Virginia's elected representatives who are elected by the entire state are of the same political party. They are all Democrats: Gov. Terry McAuliffe, Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam, Attorney General Mark Herring and Virginia's two U.S. Senators, Mark Warner and Tim Kaine.

None were elected by a landslide but the trend is undeniable; the results are tangible.

Herring won his race over Mark D. Obenshain (R) by fewer than 200 votes out of more than 2.2 million votes cast. But that slimmest of margins has cleared the way for a new approach on many issues, especially after the previous four years of Gov. Bob McDonnell and Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli.

In January, Herring announced his office would support legal arguments that Virginia's

ban on same sex marriage is unconstitutional. Judge Arenda Wright Allen on Valentine's Day overturned that ban, and on Tuesday, May 13, the U.S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond begins the process that should result in same sex couples being able to marry in Virginia.

In April, Herring advised that Virginia students who are lawfully present in the United States under the Federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program qualify for in-state tuition, provided they meet Virginia's domicile requirements.

This week, Gov. McAuliffe began administrative processes to blunt the effects of restrictive regulations placed on women's health centers that provide abortion, that would essentially have forced most to close by applying onerous standards intended for hospitals.

"I am concerned that the extreme and punitive regulations adopted last year jeopardize the ability of most women's health centers to keep their doors open and place in jeopardy the health and reproductive rights of Virginia women," McAuliffe said. He also began the process of changing the makeup of the Board of Health via appointments, including return-

ing James Edmondson of McLean to the board.

In the meantime, the gerrymandering of district lines for members of the General Assembly maintains the conservative, Republican super majority there. Those members of the House of Delegates in particular seem prepared to cut off their noses to spite their faces, to do almost anything to deny health care to more than 200,000 very poor Virginians who could be covered by expanding Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. Not only would this be fully covered by Federal funds for the first years and covered 90 percent thereafter, but it would bring enormous economic benefits to Virginia. McAuliffe is correct to look for ways to expand Medicaid administratively, bypassing the General Assembly. It has been done elsewhere.

"This is not just a health issue — it's an economic issue," McAuliffe said yesterday in announcing review of the regulations on women's health clinics, but the statement applies also to expanding health care in Virginia. "In order to grow and diversify our economy, Virginia needs to be open and welcoming to all."

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Why Doesn't Reston Recycle?

BY JOHN LOVAAS
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST



INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

Spring is here. The sky is a clear, lovely blue. The Reston Farmers Market is open and bustling with festive shoppers. Flowers are blooming all around us. Yet, as we walk the sidewalks, plazas, and the pathways around our lovely lakes, it is also hard to miss the unsightly plastic bottles and aluminum cans strewn along the walkways, in the yards, and worst of all, floating in our beautiful lakes. Once in our lakes, the bottles and cans detract from the natural beauty while wreaking havoc on the habitat of the fish, amphibians, and birds. And, they last forever. Why is it that Reston, of all places, is having a hard time figuring out how to recycle bottles and cans in our public places? Not all places have basic trash receptacles, but most do. But, rarely do you see recycle receptacles for cans and bottles beside them, as has long been the practice throughout Western Europe and in recent years in metro Washington. If you have clearly marked, decent looking receptacles side by side, people can learn not only to use them, but also to distinguish the two different kinds of refuse and deposit them accordingly. Reston Association is responsible for public areas along

our pathways and around our lakes, pools, picnic and recreation areas. Fairfax County is responsible for public areas around our schools and community centers. The remainder of our public areas, village and commercial centers, are the responsibility of management companies or condo associations. Reston Association generally does a better than the others at recycling on common areas, but frankly RA falls short of the standard we should expect. Fairfax County does almost no recycling on school grounds—cans and bottles are evidence of their low standard. Worst are the village and commercial centers, including those located closest to our lovely lakes. That is, the areas that generate the most cans and bottles invest the least in collecting and recycling them. The time for action is long overdue. Reston Association, which aspires to be more than a run-of-the-mill homeowners association, should take the lead, by setting an example and setting the standard for recycling community wide. I recently surveyed RA common areas and found that many recreation areas (tennis, b-ball, baseball, soccer) have no recycling receptacles or substandard ones, e.g., cans-

only or ones that are inconveniently located. There are none along the dams by our lakes or along the 55 miles of RA pathways. Receptacles are rare but sorely needed in picnic and pool areas. RA says that when swimming pools open, there will be recycling inside pool areas. Fairfax County has minimal, poorly located recycling inside its community centers, but almost none on their perimeters. School grounds have cans and bottles, but no recycling equipment. The management companies and condo associations responsible for village and commercial centers provide virtually zero recycling on their plazas and public areas located closest to the sources of offending plastic bottles and aluminum cans. Only in Reston Town Center are there bare beginnings of recycling in public areas. RA, it really is up to you! The Association should establish, publicize and help to implement a community-wide policy for the placement of recycling receptacles co-located with regular trash receptacles in all commercial areas covered by the Reston covenants. Fairfax County facilities and our Metro stations should be held to the standard, too. Surely America's No. 1 planned community of 60,000 inhabitants, about to have its own Metrorail service, can figure out how to recycle its cans and bottles!

LETTERS Not the Answer

To the Editor:

Delegate Ken Plum (D-36) tries to make the argument for expanded Medicaid rolls ("Contrasting Views," Reston Connection, May 7-13, 2014), touting "free" government money, but inhibits rational argument with his inability to resist cheap partisan invective. There is a debate to be had here, but Mr. Plum will have none of it. He describes the laudable efforts of volunteer Remote Area Medical clinics (we can all agree that we need more of these) and observes that its president, Stan Brock, makes "no references to politics, ideology, or partisanship." Needless to say, Delegate Plum does it for him, tiresomely dredging up the cliched bogeymen du jour — yes, you guessed it, the "Koch brothers".

He vilifies those representing the majority will of Virginians opposed to a budget-busting expansion of Medicaid as "legislative puppets," omitting to mention any of the enormous deficiencies of Obamacare — malfunctioning websites, sky-high premiums, and bureaucratic medical diktat — of which Medicaid expansion is essentially a part.

Expanding a failing program devouring 21 percent of the General Fund and with costs growing at 9 percent annually is not the answer for Virginia.

Harry Locock
Reston

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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 Rehmattulla
Editorial Assistant
703-778-9410 ext.427
arehmattulla@connectionnewspapers.com

Reena Singh
Community Reporter
rsingh@connectionnewspapers.com

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor ♦ 703-778-9410
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com
@jonroetman

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

ADVERTISING:
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Trisha Hamilton
Display Advertising
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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



WEEK IN RESTON

Free CPR Classes at Reston Hospital

American Heart Association CPR Anytime Class will be held on Monday, June 2, at 4:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., or 6:30 p.m. at the Reston Hospital Center Medical Plaza, 1800 Town Center Drive, Suite 120 in Reston. Free and open to the public.

June 1 – 7 is National CPR & AED Awareness Week and Reston Hospital Center is celebrating this observance by offering free

CPR classes* to the members of the community. The classes are free but reservations are required by contacting Melinda Wieland at 703-689-9105 or melinda.wieland@hcahealthcare.com. This class is for the general public and is not a healthcare provider course. A CPR card is not issued after completion of the course. Get more information at restonhospital.com.

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.

SATURDAY/MAY 17

Nature Walk: Twin Branches Trail. 2 - 3:30 p.m. Twin Branches Trail – Park on Glade Drive near Twin Branches Road. Join a naturalist for a hike along the renovated Twin Branches Nature Trail to experience its diverse habitats. Discover dragonflies and tiger beetles in a sunny meadow. Reservations required by May 14. Free. For more information, email naturecenter@reston.org, or call 703-476-9689 and press 5.

Rain Barrel Workshop. 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Rain barrels are a great way to help capture and control stormwater from rooftops, prevent erosion, improve water quality, and conserve water. This workshop is a quick and inexpensive way to recycle a black pickle barrel into a rain barrel for your home. Participants must register and submit payment online at www.arlingtonenvironment.org/barrel.php. Reservations required by May 14. Fee: \$55 per barrel (Limit 2 per household.) For more information, email naturecenter@reston.org, or call 703-476-9689 and press 5.

SUNDAY/MAY 18

Eggs-traordinary. 2 - 3 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. All ages. Eggs are the beginning of life for many animals. See examples of many different types of eggs, and try to guess who comes out of them. Touch real birds' eggs, big and small. Find out how squishy frog eggs can be. Learn how animals hide their eggs to protect them. Reservations required by May 15. Fee: \$5.00/person RA members, \$7.00/person non-members. For more information, email naturecenter@reston.org, or call 703-476-9689 and press 5.

MONDAY/MAY 19

NARFE Dulles Chapter 1241 Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. Amphora Diner, 1151 Elden Street, Herndon. VFC Service Officers Dr. Constance Bails and Mr. John Bails will talk about what service officers do and how they can assist members and survivors. The luncheon entrée cost is \$18. This includes tax and gratuity. Make checks payable to NARFE Dulles Chapter 1241 or have exact cash ready. Please call and make your reservation to Louise Rooney at 703- 435-3523 no later than May 15.

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Local REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



March, 2014 Top Sales in Vienna, Oakton, Reston and Herndon

2 1221 Kelley Street SW,
Vienna — \$1,355,000



6 12018 Creeknead Drive, Reston — \$1,065,000



5 10101
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8 1557 Regatta Lane,
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1 1680 DREWLAINE DR #3	5	..	4	..	1	VIENNA	\$1,539,820	Detached	0.39	22182	WOLF TRAP DOWNS	03/31/14
2 1221 KELLEY ST SW	5	..	4	..	1	VIENNA	\$1,355,000	Detached	0.32	22180	VIENNA WOODS	03/21/14
3 901 OLYMPIAN CIR SW	5	..	4	..	1	VIENNA	\$1,353,755	Detached	0.38	22180	VIENNA WOODS	03/26/14
4 10008 MURNANE ST	5	..	4	..	2	VIENNA	\$1,320,000	Detached	0.50	22181	LITTLE VIENNA ESTATES	03/06/14
5 10101 COPPER CT	11	..	4	..	1	OAKTON	\$1,190,000	Detached	0.50	22124	OAKTON ESTATES	03/04/14
6 12018 CREEKBEND DR	5	..	4	..	1	RESTON	\$1,065,000	Detached	0.41	20194	RESTON	03/31/14
7 2262 COMPASS POINT LN	4	..	3	..	0	RESTON	\$1,060,000	Detached	0.35	20191	RESTON	03/31/14
8 1557 REGATTA LN	4	..	3	..	0	RESTON	\$1,033,500	Detached	0.13	20194	RESTON	03/31/14
9 3127 OXFORD FOREST DR	4	..	4	..	1	HERNDON	\$975,000	Detached	0.83	20171	OXFORD FOREST	03/21/14

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Outdoor Entertaining

Local style gurus offer tips for alfresco soirees.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

The mild temperatures that usher in late spring and early summer beckon many outdoors for alfresco parties. Whether held on a patio, deck or veranda, the necessary logistics for coordinating even a simple gathering can be daunting.

Local tastemakers have unveiled the latest in elegant accessories, colorful furnishings and creative strategies for transforming a simple outdoor party into a chic and elegant endeavor. From serveware and centerpieces to lighting and cushions, style gurus explain how you can keep your cool while hosting a warm weather event.

"We love using our indoor-outdoor rugs as the starting point for decorating outdoor spaces," said Ann O'Shields of The Nest Egg in Fairfax. "We have a huge selection of patterns and colors from Dash & Albert that are perfect for grounding your space and creating an area to entertain."

Marrying comfort and style in outdoor seating can transform virtually any space into a festive oasis, say designers. Sunbrella fabrics are the ideal textile for upholstered furniture and throw pillows, says O'Shields.

Outdoor pillows by Elaine Smith are the top choice of interior designer and home furnishings boutique owner Victoria Sanchez of Victoria at Home in Old Town Alexandria. She says that the cushions are polished enough to adorn

a home's interior, but hefty enough to withstand exterior elements. "The pillows have grommets and embellishments, but are machine washable and can sit outside," said Sanchez. "Something like that can do a lot to spiff up the same old furniture and set a tone for a festive environment."

When it comes to place settings and serveware, resist the urge to bring indoor dinnerware outside, eschew the disposable varieties, and instead opt for dinnerware made of melamine. "It is perfect for outdoor entertaining because it's durable and won't break if dropped," said Courtney Thomas of The Picket Fence in Burke. "A bright serving tray or bowl adds some fun to outdoor dining."

Whether from one's own garden or a favorite florist, no smartly dressed table is complete without fresh foliage. "Flowers go without

"Flowers go without saying. They add color, and when your guests walk in and see fresh flowers, it signals to them that the event is special and festive.

— Victoria Sanchez, Victoria at Home

saying," said Sanchez. "They add color, and when your guests walk in and see fresh flowers, it signals to them that the event is special and festive."

To create bouquets with bursts of vibrant summer colors, Evelyn Kinville of The Behnke Florist Shop in Potomac, Md. recommends graceful blossoms like lisianthus, iris, hydrangea and godetia. "These can all be used together. Godetia is very pretty and comes in cherry red, salmon and fuchsia," said Kinville.

When choosing a color scheme, try going back to the basics. "It



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

When guests arrive and see fresh flowers, it signals to them that the event is special and festive, says Victoria Sanchez of Victoria at Home in Old Town Alexandria.



PHOTO COURTESY OF COURTNEY THOMAS

Silicone lids are a stylish way to keep food, says Courtney Thomas of The Picket Fence in Burke.

mer soirée essentials. "For entertaining, it's always fun to have great music and refreshments which are fun to serve in buckets filled with ice and drinks," said O'Shields.

When in doubt, opt for understated décor. "Keep it simple and colorful," says Sanchez. "No one knows what you forgot. They only see what is there."

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ENTERTAINMENT

Erica Rebollar



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RESTON COMMUNITY CENTER CENTERSTAGE

Memorable Evening of Movement and Dance

Three local professional dance troupes pull into Reston's CenterStage.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Its successful season of adventuresome professional touring artists series nearing its close, Reston Community Center is bringing the contrasting styles of three local professional dance troupes to CenterStage.

"The Washington D.C. metropolitan area has become known as an exciting center for modern dance. Choreographers move here to explore their art form and choreographers stay here to perfect their vision," said Paul Michnewicz, CenterStage arts and events director.

The dance companies include those under the direction of prominent choreographers Daniel Burkholder, Erica Rebollar, and Daniel Phoenix Singh.

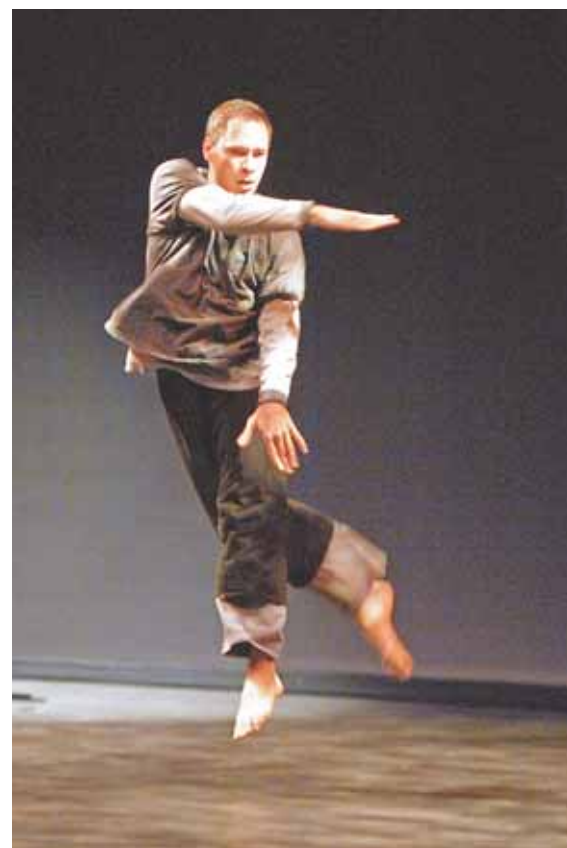
"Dance matters because everyone moves. Dance matters because, like all art, it is a place to start conversations," said Burkholder. "Dance matters because it allows the visceralness of the body to be acknowledged, honored and celebrated not for being a thing of beauty, but because what it does is beautiful."

From Burkholder/The Playground, the audience will see "Acts of Home" which ranges "from subtle gestures to large, athletic movement, combined with spoken word and live music. The work moves between various sections that sometimes shift gradually, and at other times are abrupt," explained Burkholder. "It is a reflection on leaving home, finding a new home, and creating a home."

"Dance is about the subtleties of life, about finding the gray areas and looking at life from various angles," said Phoenix Singh. "Most importantly dance is about self-reflection and awareness...and dance provides this place where you are able to explore communication without being constrained by words."

The audience will see Anna Sokolow's "September Sonnets." It explores a couple in a relationship. "The dance brings Sokolow's hallmark starkness which allows the dancers and audience members to focus on just the essentials and everything superfluous falls away," noted Phoenix Singh.

"Dance reveals our cultural ideals, fascinations, and



Daniel Phoenix Singh

Where and When

"Modern Moves" in partnership with Dance Place, performed at Reston CenterStage, Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Performance: Wednesday, May 28 at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$15 Reston, \$30 non-Reston. Call 703-476-4500 or visit: www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

shortcomings," said Rebollar, a recent Fairfax Arts Council Strauss fellow. "It tells a deeply visceral story that words alone cannot... Dance is a living, yet temporal art...unlike a static painting, recorded music, or other performance genres of traditional theater and symphony in which text/music is more heard than seen."

Rebollar Dance is premiering a new work based on writer Donna Haraway's "Cyborg Manifesto." There will be "five women dancers exploring the body as a machine, using detailed choreographic structures to challenge ideas of identity within one's public and private personas," explained Rebollar.

"Modern Moves" will set the stage for choreography to express inner emotions in a way to behold.

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A group of nine ballerinas in white tutus and pointe shoes are performing a synchronized dance move in a studio. They are arranged in a line, with the central ballerina slightly forward. All ballerinas have their right arms raised high, with hands together, and their left arms extended to the side. They are all looking towards the camera. The background is a dark, solid color, and the floor is a light-colored, reflective surface.

The Ravel Dance Studio will perform ‘Swan Lake’ at the Reston Community Center Stage on Friday, May 23, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, May 24, at 2 p.m.

Audiences of all ages will have the opportunity to see the quintessential ballet “Swan Lake” performed by the Ravel Dance Studio. This, the most popular of all classical ballets, captivates audiences with a romantic yet tragic love story and brilliant music to accompany its unfolding. The heroine of Swan Lake is a princess of the night: she is all magic, a creature of the imagination. To behold the spectacle of 24 swan maidens emerging on a stage to dance by a moonlit lake is a breathtaking experience that should

The performances will take place at the Reston Community Center Stage on Friday, May 23, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, May 24, at 2 p.m. Tickets are general admission \$18, and at the Dominion High School on Saturday, June 7, at 5 p.m. Tickets are adults \$18 and children \$12.

Call Ravel Dance Studio 703-437-9664 for ticket information. Write info@raveldance.com or visit www.raveldance.com

**WEDNESDAY/MAY 14-
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.

23rd Annual Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival. Reston Town Center - 12001 Market Street, Reston. Contemporary artwork from over 200 artists in 16 categories. www.restonarts.org.

FRIDAY/MAY 16

Jazz Dessert Concert. 7:30 p.m.
Reston Community Center, 2310
Colts Neck Road, Reston. Featuring
the South Lakes High School Jazz
Hawks and Langston Hughes Middle
School Jazz Ensemble. \$15 Adults,
\$8 Students, free for age 5 and under
with an adult. Tickets at the door or
online at www.SouthLakesBand.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 17

Community Yard Sale. 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Reston Association parking lot, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Come by to browse for great bargains at our 95 family yard sale. This event is an opportunity to find great buys for a new home or college dorm. Vendor space is sold out. Contact Ashleigh@reston.org or call 703-435-6577 for information on weather related cancellations.

Open Mic Night. 7-9:30 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Open Call for singers,

dancers, musicians, poets, actors. This is your chance to try out that new routine on an audience of fellow performers, family, and guests who share your love for the performing arts. Youth Performances aged 10 and up start at 7 p.m., and adult Performances start at 8 p.m. To register go to www.artspaceherndon.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 17

Hope for Haiti - Building a Sustainable Haiti. 4:30 – 6 p.m.
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 432 Van Buren, Herndon. Pere Milor (the Priest-in-Charge) will be available to the discuss the situation today in Chapoteau, Haiti. St. Timothy's currently supports 25 children at St. Matthieu's school and a mission team makes two trips each year to make contact with the families and identify the most critical needs of the community. <http://www.saint-timothys.org/index.php?page=haiti>. 703-437-3790.

SUNDAY/MAY 18

Reston Community Orchestra
Annual Youth Concert – “Bring
in of Noise! Bring on de Fun.” 4
p.m. Reston Community Center
Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck
Road, Reston. Join the Reston
Community Orchestra in a concert
for the young and young at heart.
Admission is free, but tickets are
required – contact the RCC box office
at 703-476-4500.
restoncommunityorchestra.org

TUESDAY/MAY 20

Third Tuesdays - Design and Wine.
7-9 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750
Center Street, Herndon. You will
enjoy the beauty of spring flowers on
a canvas created by you. Reservations

are required, \$30 fee. 703-956-6590.
www.artspaceherndon.org

Terrific Turtles. 10 - 11 a.m. OR 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Ages 3 to 5. Learn about the many turtles of Reston. Meet our resident box turtle, touch real turtle shells, and make a turtle craft to take home. Go on a short hike to look for turtles in the forest and at the edge of Lake Audubon. Reservations required by May 16. Fee: \$7/child RA members, \$9/child non-members. For more information, email naturecenter@reston.org, or call 703-476-9689 and press 5.

THURSDAY/MAY 22

Calling All Poets. 7 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. An open mic evening for all poetry lovers, writers and readers. Share your favorite poems - your own, or a work by a favorite poet. May's featured poet is Emily Dickinson. Adults. Free.

**FRIDAY/MAY 23 –
SATURDAY/MAY 24**
“Swan Lake.” Friday at 7:30 p.m.;

Saturday at 2 p.m. Reston Community Center. Engage in this tragic love story ballet performance. Tickets: \$18. www.raveldance.com

WEDNESDAY/MAY 28

Modern Moves, in partnership with Dance Place. 8 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. Three of D.C.'s most prominent choreographers – Daniel Burkholder, Daniel Phoenix Singh and Erica Rebolgar – come together to create an eclectic evening of thrilling modern dance. \$15 Reston/\$30 Non-Reston. www.restoncommunitycenter.com or 703-476-4500.

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PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

From left, Thomas and Jack with many bags of donated baseball clothing items.

Supporting Baseball in Cuba

Herndon area sixth graders Jack Connell and Thomas Latham, members of Floris UMC's Crossroads youth program, recently coordinated the donation of over 125 items of gently used baseball uniforms. The clothing—jerseys, pants and caps—will be taken by the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission to Cuba on May 22, where they will be given to local youth. The boys were told about Cubans' love of baseball by mission team coordinator and Floris member, Aldo Gonzalez. On Opening Day, they invited their team and the CYA league to help the mission group's efforts to support the local Cuban community.

Jack Connell and Thomas Latham.



Langley Girls Lax Continues Solid Season

The Langley girls' lacrosse team concluded its regular season with a 13-6 victory over South Lakes on May 12. The Saxons will enter the Conference 6 tournament on Thursday, May 15 with a 7-4 record.

Langley started off the season strong, winning its first three matches, but then hit a tough period right before Spring Break when they played arguably three of the top teams in the state — reigning champion Madison, Westfield, and Oakton — losing to all three despite some spirited play. Then, between the week off and some rainouts, Langley didn't play another game for three weeks. So, two weeks ago, they were excited to take on Stone Bridge (11-2), and prove their mettle.

The Stone Bridge game on May 3 started off well for the Saxons, with Langley sprinting to a 7-1 lead behind a flurry of goals by sophomore Halle Duenkel and senior co-captain Lauren Clubb. But,



the Bulldogs took a timeout, regrouped, and then proceeded to dominate the Saxons for the next half hour of the game, helped by a flurry of fouls handed out to the frustrated Saxons, including five

yellow cards.

Despite these challenges, the Saxons rallied and scored two goals and had a game-tying goal called back before dropping the tight contest, 11-10.

Going into a May 9 contest against the Marshall Statesmen, the Langley Saxons were looking forward to playing an opponent with a strong record (9-3) and proving they could beat a top

team.

The Saxons beat Marshall handily, 19-11, with close to a 10-goal lead midway through the first half.

Goals were scored by Duenkel (6 with 1 assist), senior Katherine Gallo (3 with 1 assist), freshman Anna Hofgard (3 with 1 assist), junior co-captain Aubrey Zarella (2), junior Nicole Lee (2), sophomore Morgan Kuligowski (2 with 1 assist) and Clubb (1 with 1 assist). Junior Bethany Bacso also contributed three helpers.

Freshman goalie Megan O'Hara played another strong game, saving close to 50 percent of the shots she faced.

"The team really played a strong game against a good opponent, and they really rebounded from the tough Stone Bridge loss last week," Langley head coach Rebecca Watkins said. "We continue to get scoring from a wide variety of players, and I feel we are in a good place before starting the playoffs."

South Lakes Girls' Soccer Finishing Strong

The South Lakes girls' soccer team defeated Langley 2-1 in overtime on May 8, improving its record to 8-2-2.

The Seahawks went 3-0-1 after suffering back-to-back losses against Stuart and Stone Bridge.

South Lakes concluded its regular season against Falls Church on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline.

South Lakes Baseball Wins Three Straight

The South Lakes baseball team beat Langley 12-2 on May 9, giving the Seahawks three straight victories.

Entering its regular-season finale against Hayfield on Tuesday, South Lakes had won six of seven games after returning from spring break action in South Carolina.

The Conference 6 tournament begins Friday, May 16.

Herndon Baseball Beats Westfield

The Herndon baseball team defeated Westfield 2-0 on May 9, improving its record to 9-6. The victory snapped a two-game losing skid.

Herndon faced Centreville on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Hornets will close the regular season at Oakton on Friday, May 16. The Conference 5 tournament begins Tuesday, May 20.

Herndon Softball Wins 2 of 3

The Herndon softball team earned wins against Chantilly (4-1) and Tuscarora (10-1) before losing to Westfield (2-0) on May 9. The Hornets entered Tuesday's matchup against Centreville with a 7-8 record. Herndon will conclude the regular season with a pair of games against Oakton — at home on Wednesday, May 14, and on the road Friday, May 16, before competing in the Conference 5 tournament.

Langley sophomore Morgan Kuligowski, right, battles for one of her many ground ball pickups against Stone Bridge.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Herndon Police Department's officer Eddie Stapleton, Corporal Christopher Farbry, Chief Maggie DeBoard, officer Stephen Monahan and officer Ron Eicke during a lunch stop in Fairfax.



PHOTOS BY REENA SINGH/ THE CONNECTION

Riding for the Fallen

More than 100 officers cycle through Virginia, for cause.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

Police officers from all over the country vowed to “ride for those who died” this week.

Police Unity Tour Chapter IV - also known as the Virginia chapter - challenged officers on a three day bicycle tour from Richmond to D.C. in memory for fallen officers.

Before the last stop at Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium, the group of 122 officers and loved ones of fallen police stopped for lunch at McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center Monday in Fairfax as a tribute to the county most the officers served.

“We had a good group of people this year,” said Herndon Police Chief and Chapter IV President Maggie DeBoard. “A lot of them never knew each other, but now we’re like family.”

She said seven family members of fallen officers joined the tour this year. She also noted that some of the officers came from as far away as Las Vegas and Ohio.

Last year, the event raised \$1.7 million towards the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. To ride, each bicyclist must raise at least \$1,700, she said.

Many of the police - most dressed in official Police Unity Tour uniforms - showed slight signs of pain after the three day cycle event despite the rigorous training many go through on the job.

“This is the most difficult chapters to ride because of the hills,” said DeBoard.

THE COURSE’S FIRST STOP after departing Richmond is Charlottesville. The cyclists then head through the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains to Warrington and Fairfax before finishing in Washington, D.C.

HPD officer Steven Monahan said the weather during prime training season kept many officers from practicing properly.

“Because the winter was so harsh, it was hard to train outdoors,” he said. “At the end of the day, though, it’s not about the pain we feel. It’s about who we’re riding for. That’s what keeps me going.”

Deputy Chief Tammy Hooper rode the tour for the first time this year to honor Charlie Hill, an officer



122 officers and survivors rode in Chapter IV’s Police Unity Tour over the weekend.

who died 25 years ago.

“It’s also my 25th year on the police department, so I thought it would be a good tribute,” she said, showing the blue metal bracelet on her wrist with Hill’s name on it.

According to odmp.org, Hill was killed in March 1989 after opening fire on a drug dealer who held a gun to a hostage’s head, demanding that his debt get paid. The suspect had enough time to open fire before he was killed, mortally wounding Hill and injuring a second officer.

Hooper said she met Hill during police academy on the shooting range, where he was an instructor.

Lucas County Sheriff’s Department Deputy Rob Sehermerhorn came down from Ohio to ride with the Virginia chapter.

“My friend, Keith Dressel, died in the line of duty,” he said. “He interrupted a drug bust.”

Dressel, with Toledo Police Department, was shot by a juvenile suspect in the chest when he pursued him by foot. Sehermerhorn wanted to honor his friend by riding what he considered to be a very difficult course. He joked that New J

JERSEY’S COURSE - mostly flat - would have been more similar to cycling in Ohio.

“You can’t say enough nice things about the people that put this together,” he said. “You don’t have to worry about nothing but riding. I can’t wait to actually practice and come again next year.”



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Hunters Woods Elementary School came in third place at the Virginia State Tournament.

Hunter Woods Team Completes Successful Odyssey

Division 1 team consisting of Julie Joffe, Meera Gupta, Natalie Waple, Niyathi Shah, Pratika Katiyar and Sahiti Rachakonda from Hunters Woods Elementary School chose problem 2 “Not So Haunted House” for the Odyssey of the Mind tournament. The team had to create and present an original performance that included a “pop-up-style” not-so-haunted “house” where four special effects take place. The intent of the special effects was to scare others, but they produce a different result instead with a surprise ending. In addition to the, long-term problem, there is a spontaneous question round in the tournament. The team came in first place in the Re-

gional Tournament held at Oakton High School on March 8. With that it became eligible to compete in the Virginia State Tournament at Franklin County High School near Roanoke on April 26. In a very tough competition of all the regional winners in the state tournament, the team came in third place. The team was coached by Neelesh Katiyar, Prerana Katiyar and Anil Shah along their journey to the state tournament. This was a very rewarding experience for the team and the team members are thankful to the coaches and parents for their support in this successful odyssey.

— FORAM SHAH



Fundraising for Lake Anne Elementary

Lake Anne Elementary PTA held a fundraiser called the ‘Dolphin Dash’ after the school’s mascot. In this fundraising dash the children go out and receive pledges (or a simple donation) for every lap they make around the parking lot. To date, they have raised upwards of \$13,000 for the school. Pictured: Principal Brendan Menuey, Ed.D. and the parent who spearheaded this, Michelle Brennan, along with the dolphin and the students — Bahrn; Jinan and Martha, all fourth graders.

Still Curious, But Maybe Not Dying

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Although one never knows, especially if that one is living in "cancerville." And by "cancerville" I mean, euphemistically speaking, anywhere where one of us diagnosed with cancer is living. Living being the operative word. Still, as my column from a few weeks ago entitled, "Dying With Curiosity" discussed, cancer patients are often besieged by their subconscious, changing fact into fiction and manipulating feelings into inevitabilities. If only there was a switch to turn off the mind games that don't exactly mind their "man-ners" or "women-ers" for that fact, I'd flick it in a second. Cancer creates physical problems – as we all know, but I have to tell you, it's the mental problems that can be just as deadly.

It was in this column that I attempted to flesh out why I was – at this particular point in my cancer career – thanking people, people I had never previously thanked and people who quite frankly needed thanking. But was I thanking them ("I Thought You Were a Goner" and "Thanks, Coach") because it was the proper thing to do, or was it my subconscious cashing a check that I had not realized needed to be written – if you know what I mean? And if you don't, to clarify: did my subconscious know something that my conscious mind had yet to find out? Was I in fact getting things in order before it was too late?

Conversely (oddly enough), my columns published over the most recent two weeks were what we call non-cancer columns: "Father and Son 'Twogether'" and "A Tale of Two Seasons," as if a didn't have a cancer thought on my mind, subconsciously or otherwise, that needed to be written. No feelings – or facts for that matter, about cancer that one might interpret as creepy or curiously prophetic, given the terminal diagnosis with which I live every day. No. Just normal, everyday-type minutiae that those familiar with my first 10 years of columns published in this space (I guess we'll call them pre-cancer columns now), are likely familiar. Topics ranging from the mundane to the ridiculous, as if I didn't have a care in the world; certainly not a cancer care, that's for sure.

And so it dawned on me: were these two columns ("Father and Son 'Twogether'" and "A Tale of Two Seasons") examples of my subconscious mind once again exerting its power over my conscious mind and providing fodder for non-cancer columns because it could? Or was this my subconscious mind telling me to relax and not think so much, especially about the two "thank-you" columns: "I Thought You Were A Goner" and "Thanks, Coach"? Either way, it seemed to me an odd juxtaposition of material over a 4-week period: two columns that contemplated death (sort of) and two other columns which contemplated nothing, really, certainly not death, anyway.

The upshot of which has been to unburden me a little bit, to make me a little less focused on the presumptive path that lies ahead and instead direct me onto an alternative route, one that features more future and less past. I'd like to think I can live like that; I just hope my subconscious mind has no more to say about it.

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

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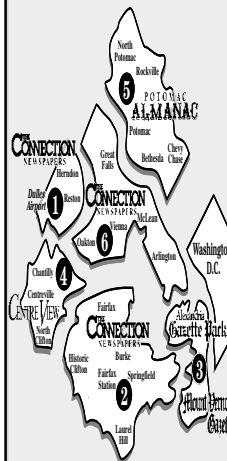
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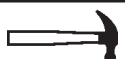
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PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN / THE CONNECTION

The U.S. Navy Concert Band conducted by Captain Brian O. Walden played at Herndon High School on May 9. At the end of the concert, the U.S. Navy band played songs associated with the uniformed services of the United States.

Navy Band Performs at Herndon High School

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

Herndon High School hosted the United States Navy Band the evening of May 9. The band performing was the U.S. Navy Concert band, based in Washington, D.C. This is the fourth time Herndon High School (HHS) has hosted a performance with the Navy Band. "It is a wonderful opportunity that the Navy Band gives freely of their time and talent to encourage the musical growth of our children," said Rhonda Reeves-Long, a member of the school band's boosters group.

Captain Brian O. Walden conducted the evening concert which included music from composers John Williams and Karel Husa. "It is great to be able to come play before such an enthusiastic crowd," said Walden. The Navy Band requested top seniors perform a selection with the band. The HHS seniors who performed with the Navy Band were: Kimberly Strother (flute), Dasha Bradfield (clarinet), Tiberiu Baicoianu (clarinet), Jay Kotra (bass clarinet), Michael Chen (trumpet), Trevor Little (trumpet), Lewis Morgan (trombone), Blake Morgan (percussion), and Dylan van Vierssen (percussion). "We are honored to host this wonderful, patriotic band," said Kathleen Jacoby, HHS Band Director. "Our seniors who are performing will cherish this opportunity to play with these talented group of musicians."

Returning to Herndon for the show was Chief Musician Stacy Loggins. A resident of Alexandria, Loggins joined the Navy Band in 1994. "It is nice to come back," said Loggins. From September 1994 to November 2005, Loggins taught the Herndon High School drum line and was a percussion instructor and composer. Senior student Blake Morgan took the opportunity to greet Loggins. "He was my teacher back when I was in middle school, and was a major influence for me," said Morgan. In January 2014 Morgan showcased his talent dur-



U.S. Navy Captain Brian O. Walden with Herndon High senior Trevor Little. Little with other high school senior students joined the U.S. Navy band to perform a music segment.



When the U.S. Navy Band played on May 9 at Herndon High, senior Blake Morgan met his former music teacher U.S. Navy Chief Musician Stacy Loggins. Loggins is a former drum line and percussion instructor at Herndon High

ing a halftime performance at the nationally broadcast U.S. Army All-American Bowl in San Antonio, Texas.

"We feel fortunate we have such an amazing group live by so closely and play before us," said Jacoby. "Nothing compares to a live performance."

The Herndon High School Bands next performance will be the Spring Concert scheduled for Tuesday May 20 at 7 p.m. at the Herndon High Auditorium. This event will feature percussion, flute choir, sax choir, jazz band, symphonic band, and the Wind Ensemble. To read more about Herndon High Band, visit herndonband.net.



PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN / THE CONNECTION

Participants in the 2014 Langston Hughes Middle School poetry contest have a group photo with poetry contest coordinator and author Norman Barry Carver.



Langston Hughes Middle School PTA sponsor Sumi Vintimilla, NWFCU representative Nicolette Watkins, guest and musician Tim Johnson, and event coordinator Norman Barry Carver.

Langston Hughes Middle Celebrates Poetry

Poetry contest inspires creativity.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

At the end of April, Langston Hughes Middle School held an after school award ceremony for the annual poetry contest. Approximately 80 poems by students were entered in this year's annual poetry contest, and winners were announced. The contest, sponsored by Northwest Federal Credit Union (NWFCU) and the school's PTA, offered students an arena to express ideas poetically. Representing NWFCU was Nicolette Watkins. "It has been a wonderful opportunity for the credit union to work with this school," said Watkins.

"We're so proud of all our students here at Hughes," said Hughes Principal Aimee Monticchio. "They show dynamic range in their writing far beyond their years." Representing the PTA at the event was Sumi Vintimilla. "I was impressed with the pro-



Reston resident and author Norman Barry Carver who helped coordinate this year's poetry contest.

found potential of the poets," said eighth grade teacher Bob Dopko. "I think it was handled beautifully," said seventh grade teacher Hannah Prince. "This event was



Langston Hughes Middle School Principal Aimee Monticchio with second place poetry winner Sarah Mamros.

months in planning and we agreed cash prizes were a good prize."

Reston author and poetry contest coordi-

nator Norman Barry Carver announced the winners of the contest, which was judged by students in the International Baccalaureate program at South Lakes High School. Tim Johnson, resident of Alexandria, also attended the event and encouraged all the young people present to get in the habit of writing or making journals. Johnson also brought a chocolate cake to the event.

After the awards were handed out, Carver congratulated all the contest participants. "You have really done something by being artistic, what will you do tomorrow?" asked Carver. Student participants were then invited to read their poems. "It is very exciting that they came forward to recite their work," said local resident Fabiana Cesa.

First place prize was awarded to student Chelsea Le Sage for her poem "Where Have You Gone?" Sarah Mamros won second place for her work "Shine Through the Darkness." Other winners who placed in the contest were Johnny Norton, Ethan Spira, Talia Makarov, Elizabeth Shaw, Nicole Eubanks, Margaret Vicheck, Yesenia Roman-Longoria, Louise Singer, Carolina Torres and Maeve Keck.

National Merit Scholarship Winners

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) has named 31 Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students winners of \$2,500 National Merit Scholarships. The students are part of a group of approximately 2,500 National Merit finalists chosen to receive scholarships primarily financed by the NMSC.

Winners of the scholarships, with their probable career fields in parentheses, are:

- ❖ Emily Schaal of Herndon High School (economics).
- ❖ Tae-Jung Yang of Herndon High School (chemical engineering).
- ❖ Nathaniel Speiser of Langley High School (physics).

- ❖ Leah Surratt of Langley High School (engineering).
- ❖ Katherine Tan of Langley High School (undecided).
- ❖ Matthew Cohen of Madison High School (history).
- ❖ Paul Burke of Oakton High School (nuclear engineering).
- ❖ Monica Hanratty of Oakton High School (economics).
- ❖ Ajay Mehta of Oakton High School (medicine).
- ❖ Rhea Singh of Oakton High School (surgical medicine).
- ❖ Sreenath Are of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) (computer science). Hometown: Herndon

- ❖ Rohan Banerjee of TJHSST (aerospace engineering). Hometown: Oak Hill
- ❖ Owen Gray of TJHSST (biotechnology). Hometown: McLean
- ❖ Veronica Lee of TJHSST (electrical engineering). Hometown: McLean
- ❖ Andrea Li of TJHSST (biological engineering). Hometown: Vienna
- ❖ Ivy Ren of TJHSST (physics). Hometown: Springfield
- ❖ Emily Schneider of TJHSST (medical research). Hometown: Fairfax.
- ❖ Joseph Valery of TJHSST (physics). Hometown: Great Falls
- ❖ Victoria Xia of TJHSST (computer science). Hometown: Vienna
- ❖ Jennifer Yin of TJHSST (finance). Hometown: McLean

- ❖ Kelly Giddens of West Springfield High School (international relations).
- ❖ Isabella Brahm of Woodson High School (engineering).
- ❖ Chloe Yun of Woodson High School (medicine).

Each scholarship winner was evaluated on his or her academic record, including difficulty level of subjects studied and grades earned; scores from two standardized tests; contributions and leadership in school and community activities; an essay describing interests and goals; and a recommendation from a high school official. The number of winners named in a state is in proportion to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating high school seniors.