

Rain did not stop bicyclists Kerie Hitt, Bruce Wright, and Bill Threlkeld from visiting the Reston pit stop for this year's Bike To Work Day. Bruce Wright is chairman of the Fairfax Advocates for Better Bicycling (FABB).

## Biking to Work Despite Rain

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## Trained in Prison, Healing in N. Virginia

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## NEWS



From left, the founders of Giving Circle of Hope, Diana Katz, Mary Narayan, Joan Kasprovicz and Linda Strup.



Co-founder Diana Katz does the honors, presenting the Giving Circle of Hope's first ever Impact Grant Award of \$25,000 to Connections for Hope Partnership of Herndon.



Del. Ken Plum (D-36) was recognized as the Giving Circle of Hope's first Community Partner for his decades of service and commitment to the people of the area. Plum accepted the award from Giving Circle of Hope co-founder Linda Strup.

# Giving Circle of Hope Honors 2013 Nonprofit Partners

## Connections for Hope Partnership of Herndon receives first ever Impact Grant Award of \$25,000.

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

**H**idden Creek Country Club in Reston was the venue on May 14 for the Giving Circle of Hope's annual gathering to showcase the nonprofit partners to whom the organization's members have chosen to award grants for the coming year. Each fall, eligible members of the Circle – persons who have contributed at least \$1 per day for the year to the Grant Fund – review applications and vote to award grants for specific projects that help people in need in Northern Virginia.

The Circle began more like a square when four local women got together after a community garage sale and decided to take their involvement to the next level. Diana



Representatives of the nonprofits that were awarded 2013 Giving Circle of Hope Grants.

Katz, Mary Narayan, Joan Kasprovicz and Linda Strup met around the kitchen table to create “fun with a purpose,” as Strup described their initial goal. “We had a manic spirit of energy and an abundance of passion and compassion,” said Strup as she welcomed the attendees. “But there was lot we didn’t know when we started...like why was giving away money so difficult?” she asked with a laugh. She says the group also didn’t know that they would become an award winning service organization, that they would help launch other Circles of Giving, or

that they would ultimately develop a number of their own ongoing service programs like the Kids’ Club which provides enrichment and recreation for homeless children, or Helping Hungry Kids which distributes weekend food for needy K-6 graders.

**OVER THE YEARS**, the four have grown to over a hundred and more than \$400,000 has been granted to dozens of nonprofits providing services to people of all ages and covering a wide variety of needs. The Circle continues to live by its founding principles of

“doing more than giving money” and instead, seeks to partner with the nonprofits to “learn about the local needs and together find creative, effective solutions for resolving them.” This year the cocktails and hors d’oeuvres reception honored not only the 2013 Grantees, but doubled as a Tenth Birthday Party for the Circle. To celebrate that milestone, the members decided to award a special 10th Anniversary Impact grant. Circle Co-founder Diana Katz explained that 28 members came forward, donating \$1000 each to provide an amount far above than usually awarded. After a recruiting and selection process that included concept papers and presentations by the applicants, three were chosen as finalists, and at the event Connections for Hope Partnership of Herndon was officially announced as the Impact Grant Winner, receiving \$25,000 toward their work in bringing together nonprofits, county services, community leadership and service providers to more effectively integrate services for low-income and vulnerable citizens.

**ANOTHER FIRST** for the Circle this year was the presentations of Community Partner and Corporate Community Partner Awards. Del. Kenneth Plum (D-36) was recognized as the organization’s inau-

## The 2013 Giving Circle of Hope Nonprofit Partners

- ❖ All Ages Read Together
- ❖ Computer Core
- ❖ Empowered Women International
- ❖ Friends of Guest House
- ❖ Greenbriar Learning Center
- ❖ Literacy Council of NoVa
- ❖ Stroke Comeback Center
- ❖ The Arc of Northern Virginia
- ❖ The David H. Lawson Foundation

## Tenth Anniversary Impact Grant Awards

- ❖ Connections for Hope - \$25k
- ❖ The Arc of Northern Virginia
- ❖ Centreville Labor Resource Center

gural Community Partner, while Upper Quadrant, Inc., a cloud-based workflow technology business (and long-time supporter of the Giving Circle of Hope) was named the Corporate Community Partner. This year’s official recognition event may be over, but the Giving Circle of Hope already has plans afoot to keep the circle widening. Information on how to join, either as a voting or a service member, and to read more about their programs and services can be found at [www.givingcircleofhope.org](http://www.givingcircleofhope.org).

## WEEK IN RESTON

### RCA Looks for Board of Directors Candidates

Reston Citizens Association (RCA) election for its Board of Directors is gearing up. This year the RCA is working hard to educate the community on the new development spurred by the arrival of the Silver Line and Phase 2 of the Reston Master Plan while also recommending smart growth solutions to local and County officials and associations to help protect Restonian’s quality of life and Reston’s founding principles.

If you want take an active role in the future of Reston, the RCA is encouraging you to consider running for a

seat on their board.

There are five seats up for election this year: North Point Director, Lake Anne/Tall Oaks/Town Center Director, South Lakes Director, Hunters Woods Director, and At-Large Director.

How do you know which District you’re in? It depends on where you vote in state and federal elections.

❖ North Point: If you vote in North Point, Stuart, or Aldrin Precincts (at Aldrin or Armstrong elementary schools)

❖ Lake Anne/Tall Oaks/Town Center: If you vote in Reston I, Reston II, Reston III, or Cameron Glen Precinct (at Lake Anne or Forest Edge elementary schools)

❖ South Lakes: If you vote in Sunrise Valley, South Lakes, or Terraset Precinct/(schools)

❖ Hunters Woods: If you vote in Dogwood Precinct, Hunter Woods Precinct (schools), or Glade Precinct (at RCC Hunters Woods)

In order to run for a seat on the RCA Board, you must be at least 18 years old. In order to run for a District Director seat, you must live in that district. To run for At-Large Director, you may live anywhere in Small Tax District 5. All Directors serve three-year terms. It does not matter whether you’ve lived in Reston for 30 days or 30 years, whether you’re a homeowner or a renter, or what political party you belong to (RCA is non-partisan).

If you want to actively protect Reston’s founding prin-

SEE WEEK, PAGE 7



# Biking to Work Despite Rain

BY RYAN DUNN  
THE CONNECTION

**O**n Friday morning rainy weather hit Northern Virginia, yet volunteers at 14 bike stations throughout Fairfax County still assisted bicyclists for the annual Bike To Work Day. Coordinated by Commuter Connections and Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA), the Bike to Work Day event attracts participants from around the Washington metropolitan region. This year's theme was "Get your work out before you get your work in."

The number of persons that pedal to work is up 60 percent over the past decade according to a report from the Census Bureau. And with new metro stations preparing for activation along the Silver Line, organizations such as the Fairfax Advocates for Better Bicycling (FABB) hope events like Bike To Work day will build greater appreciation for bike lanes and alternate methods of transportation. In Washington, D.C. another 14 miles of bike lanes will be added this year to the 50 already in place.

"It is a great event, it brings some people out to work who have thought about it but not tried it," said Bruce Wright, Chairman of FABB. Wright helped form the Fairfax Advocates for Better Bicycling in 2005. "Fairfax County needs to keep up with its neighbors," stated Wright. "Arlington County, with one-fifth our population, has six full time people devoted to building bike facilities, encouraging people to bike, and educating cyclists and motorists. Because we haven't invested in a fully funded bicycle program, our bike coordinator doesn't have the funds to do the job." According to a demographics report published in January 2014 with the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, Fairfax County has forecasted 2014 population of over one million residents with an average annual increase of 4,700 persons.

At a meeting in January this year the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved approximately \$40 million in funding for bike projects over six years as part of a major six-year transportation funding package. Fairfax County has a Bicycle Master Plan that has been in draft form for nearly two years with public hearings postponed until September. A version of the plan is expected to be available sometime soon. "We think it

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



**At Reston, the Bike To Work pit stop was held at the plaza of the new silver line metro stop at the Reston East Metro station.**



**Reston residents John and Kelley Westenhoff and Amy Shaw. Westenhoff was at the Reston Station representing the Reston Pedestrian and Bicycling Advisory Committee for the Bike To Work Day event.**

has taken so long because the county has not devoted enough resources to a county bike program," said Wright. On Wednesday, May 21 Fairfax County bike coordinator Charlie Strunk will present a final draft of Bicycle Master Plan to Fairfax County Planning Commission's Transportation Committee at the Fairfax County Government Center. This will initiate the Commission's review process.

"In spite of the torrential rain and winds, we still had bikers, both seasoned commuters as well as some new riders trying biking to work for the first time," said Charlie Strunk, bicycle coordinator for the Fairfax County Department of Transportation. "Overall in Fairfax County at our pit stops, we saw about 20 percent of the registered riders participating. Considering the weather, I thought this was impressive. You also have to be appreciative of all the volunteers who man the pit stops." Some volunteers were out as early as 4:30 a.m. setting up in the rain. According to Strunk, the biggest bike station stops in Fairfax County for Bike To Work Day are at Herndon, Reston, and Vienna.

**IN RESTON**, the pit stop was held

at the plaza of the new silver line metro stop at the Reston East Metro station. Comstock Partners opened the lobby of one of the buildings on the development, which was used by the event guests throughout the morning. "It was unfortunate that it rained, but Comstock was great to provide us with this space," said Larry Butler, Senior Director of Parks Recreation and Community Resources with Reston Association. Approximately 483 persons had preregistered to come to the Reston Station, but due to the rain under 200 checked in.

The new Reston-Wiehle East Station will feature Fairfax County's first enclosed, secure bicycle parking facility with a capacity for over 200 bicycles.

At the Reston Station, Reston Association President Ken Knueven, Del. Ken Plum (D-36) and Supervisor Catherine M. Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) stopped by to say a few words and thank volunteers for their services. "Bike to Work Day emphasizes what Reston residents already know, whether it's walking, riding a bike, catching a bus or the Metro, or sharing a ride in the carpool, multi-modal transportation is critical to our future way of life," said

## Bike To Work Day highlights alternative travel in Fairfax County.



**Green Lizard Cycling employee Brad Kendall was at the Herndon pit stop to assist anyone who needed bike service on Bike To Work Day.**



**Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority representatives Karl Mohle and Andrew Kaganowich were both at the Herndon pit stop the morning of Bike To Work Day. The W&OD trail is classified as a regional park, and is maintained by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority.**

Knueven. "Reston is ripe with enthusiasm to make it work." Friday's event typifies what two of Reston Association's committees, the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Pedestrian and Bicycling Advisory Committee (PBAC), focus on everyday representing and sharing the community's interests in improving the area's transportation needs. "We thank the sponsors and volunteers who were on the planning committee and everyone who came out despite the weather," said Reston Association special events coordinator Ashleigh Soloff.

"I saw more women bicyclists than in previous years, even with the rain," remarked Kelley Westenhoff. Westenhoff was at the Reston Station with her son John, representing the Reston Pedestrian and Bicycling Advisory Committee.

"It was awesome and cool to see the space at the new metro station," said Reston resident Amy Shaw who was volunteering with the event along with Brian Jacoby.

As part of National Bike to Work Day, 79 pit stops were set up throughout the D.C. area, up from 70 last year. Approximately 14,000 registered to make a pit stop along

their commute Friday. Much of the D.C. metro area has invested heavily in its bike infrastructure for two-wheeled commuters. In the Town of Herndon, plans are underway to light a 3,800 foot section of the W&OD Trail with R.E. Lee as contractor for the project. Approximately 39 light posts will be installed along the trail, as well as necessary above ground transformers.

**IN DOWNTOWN HERNDON** by the W&OD trail there was a pit stop from 5 a.m. to 10 a.m. compliments of A-1 Cycling. "It was slow, but we had people coming in," said David Meyer, owner of Green Lizard Cycling, which hosted a booth at the Herndon station.

"We had a number of bike adjustments for folks. Spirits were high, people had a good time." At the Herndon stop, set up began at 5 a.m. with the first rider arriving at 5:44 a.m. "This event is a great way to learn about biking to work and alternate exercise," said Alex Rekas, representing the Town of Herndon Parks and Recreation Department.

To learn more about Bike To Work Day, visit [www.biketoworkmetrodc.org](http://www.biketoworkmetrodc.org).



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## NEWS



**Parent Kim Johnson looks at some of the winning photographs at the 10th Annual Technology and the Arts Competition Awards.**

PHOTOS BY  
REENA SINGH  
THE CONNECTION

# Rebranding Their Passion

## 10th annual Technology and the Arts Awards presented.

BY REENA SINGH  
THE CONNECTION

**T**hink S.T.E.A.M., not S.T.E.M. That was the message Leidos Director of Advertising, Branding and Creative Chris Green told a group of student artists at the 10th Annual Technology and the Arts Competition Awards at the ASCE World Headquarters in Reston on May 14.

S.T.E.A.M is adding art to the push for science, technology, engineering and math in education recently. He showed a picture of business mogul Warren Buffett next to one of famed artist Jackson Pollock. Then he said the students could choose to have it all in the world of creating ads and doing graphic designs for world-renowned companies in their backyard rather than living as stereotypical starving artists.

"We have the obligation to take what we're best at and help the rest of the world that is dealing with terrible things," he said.

Additionally, he said most companies look for good attitude and effort when hiring fresh graduates. He said those two factors are key to finding an occupation they love - not just in the art world, but in all professions.

"You don't see major talent there, do you?" he asked. "You see attitude and effort."

The students were granted with scholarships from event sponsor Herndon Council of the Arts and presented with a U.S. Congress resolution congratulating them on the award, on behalf of Rep. Gerry Connolly.

"I had a lot of things on my mind," said winner of the Arts Council for Fairfax Uphoff Award scholarship Adrian Caballero. "I decided, why not put them in an animation."

The 19-year-old from Lake Braddock Secondary School started taking graphic arts in ninth grade and thought that animation would be fun to learn. He said he wanted to thank his teacher, Mrs. Dim, for all her help.

He also was awarded second place in digital animation for his piece: "I draw."

He plans on majoring in information technology



**From left, Herndon Council for the Arts President Michael O'Reilly, CAH Director Signe Friedrichs, Connolly representative Michael Collins, Uphoff winner Adrian Caballero and an Arts Council of Fairfax representative.**

when in college.

Second place winner of the digital art award, 18-year-old Cheyanne Oakton started taking photography classes three years ago. She said the photo, taken on a field trip, was meant to be a present for her teacher.

"I actually took it for my government teacher, because he loves photography," she said. "I was so focused on my college portfolio, but my photography teacher made me [enter the competition]."

She plans to continue taking photography at Northern Virginia Community College before transferring to a four year school.

CAH Executive Director Signe Friedrichs said the digital art competition was originally started for students in Herndon who were blending art with technology.

"What I believe is when the previous executive director was in the position 10 years ago, her son and daughter were artistically and technologically inclined," Friedrichs said.

The competition quickly opened to students throughout the county afterwards. She said Congressman Connolly - who was a part of a company that previously sponsored the program - has been a major champion for the program since the beginning.

"We are definitely looking for new sponsorships for artists and students," she said.



**Friday - May 30, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.**  
**Saturday - May 31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**  
**Sunday - June 1, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

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## PHOTO GALLERY!

### "Me and My Dad"

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[reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com)



## COMMENTARY

# Post-Game Analysis

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



While I enjoy watching college athletic competitions, I do not watch many professional sports on television. For sure I do not watch any of the post-game shows. Panels for these shows seem carefully selected to ensure controversy and banter to fill the time slot.

I have the same feeling about post-election panels that provide an instant analysis with conflicting views of why the voters voted as they did. Some thoughtful commentary after the fact can be useful to understand the mood of voters and implications for the future, but a panel of so-called experts who continue to talk well after they have made their point can get to be irritating. I suppose the same could be said about weekly columnists!

In weeks (not months) the Silver Line extension of Metro will be opening. For someone who has been working on this project for nearly two decades, the setting of the actual date to start service is particularly exciting. I share the frustration of many that the stations and tracks have appeared to be ready for about six months, yet pesky but important details have prevented the announcement of a start date. As Chairman of the Board of the Dulles Corridor Rail Association, an organization I formed nearly 20 years ago to boost the project when I was the only elected official to endorse it, I am especially eager to see the trains start running.

With the delay in opening, a post-construction

analysis has been underway. Contrary to some suggestions, there is no great conspiracy delaying the opening; no one profits from a delay. The system must be deemed safe for it to open. Yes, Bechtel was part of the "big dig" in Boston and its problems, and Bechtel is one of the partners in Dulles Transit Partners that built the Silver Line, but the Silver Line work and outcomes have no correlation to what happened in Boston. Yes, the project manager left early, but he left

to take over as head of the Long Island Rail Road.

The Silver Line is the largest infrastructure project underway in this country. The budget is \$2.9 billion, and the project will be finished on budget. Some argue that a \$150 million increase in the budget to cover costs of updated standards should be considered an overrun. If so, the project would exceed budget by less than two percent. Know any other project of this magnitude that has come that close?

The opening date for the project will be set by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) which will operate the Silver Line as part of the larger Metro system. The opening date will be seven months beyond the best case projection but still before the December 2014 date the Federal Transit Administration had set for the project.

I continue to nudge the process along to ensure that public dollars are appropriately spent and contractual obligations are met, but you will not see me as part of any panel speculating what may have been. The project will bring immense benefits to our region.

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### FRIDAY/MAY 23

**ESL for Beginners.** 10 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr, Reston. Join Elayne's conversational group. Adults.

**Let's Talk: ESL for Intermediate Students.** 11 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr, Reston. Join Richard's conversational group. Adults.

### MONDAY/MAY 26

**ESL for Intermediate Students.** 11 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925

Bowman Towne Dr, Reston. Join Candith's conversational group. Adults.

### TUESDAY/MAY 27

**ESL for Beginners.** 10 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr, Reston. Join Elayne's conversational group. Adults.

**ESL for Advanced Students.** 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr, Reston. Join Bob's conversational group. Adults.

**ESL Writing & Grammar for Intermediate Students.** 1 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr, Reston. Join Sandy's Tuesday class. Adults.

### WEDNESDAY/MAY 28

**Young Science Explorers.** 11 a.m.

Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St, Herndon. All aboard for a S.T.E.A.M. (science, tech, engineering, art and math) storytime that features building materials and strength. Includes hands-on, interactive activities. Ages 3-5. 703-437-8855.

### THURSDAY/MAY 29

**Reading Buddies.** 4-4:45 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr, Reston. Reading Buddies encourages children to read in a fun, low-stress environment. Bring your own book or choose a book from the library. Call or sign up online for a 15-minute session. Ages 6-9. 703-689-2700. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/rr/>.

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# Remembering on Memorial Day

Fewer deaths as military operations wind down, but 22 veterans a day die of suicide.

In Arlington over the coming Memorial Day weekend, the organization TAPS, or Tragedy Assistance for Survivors, will hold its 20th annual Military Survivor seminar and Good Grief camp for young survivors, children of all ages. TAPS offers support to anyone who is grieving the death of someone who died in the military, whether from combat, suicide, terrorism, homicide, negligence, accidents or illness. <http://www.taps.org/>

One veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan recently related that he had lost more of his military family to suicide post-deployment than he did from combat. Reports by the Veterans Administration set the number of suicides among veterans nationwide at about 22 per day.

On Memorial Day, we remember all of those who have died in military service, more than 400,000 in World War II, more than 30,000 in Korea, more than 50,000 in Vietnam.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 6,400 U.S. military service men and women have died in support of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Nearly 50,000 U.S. military service members have been wounded, although that number is likely to be revised upward. Last year, the military confirmed traumatic brain injury in more than 220,000 of the more than 2.3 million troops who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. The long-term consequences of many of these injuries are unknown, but they will require a national commitment to excellence in health care and services for both active duty military personnel and veterans. Virginia's U.S. Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine continue to advocate for better service from the Veterans Administration.

Since Memorial Day 2013, with military operations winding down in Afghanistan, the Department of Defense announced the deaths of two military service members from Virginia. Army Sgt. Lyle D. Turnbull, 31, of Norfolk, died Oct. 18, 2013 in Kuwait, from a medical emergency. Capt. Brandon L. Cyr, 28, of Woodbridge, was one of four airmen who died April 27, 2013, near Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, in the crash of an MC-12 aircraft.

1st Lt. Robert J. Hess, 26, of the Kings Park West neighborhood of Fairfax, was killed by enemy fire on April 23, 2013, Afghanistan. Hess was known as "RJ" and graduated from Robinson Secondary School in 2005, where he played football, lacrosse and was the captain of the swim team. He was a U.S. Army Blackhawk helicopter pilot who deployed to Afghanistan on April 11, 2013. His family remembers his sense of humor and his natural leadership ability.

Lance Cpl. Niall W. Coti-Sears, 23, of Arlington, died June 23, 2012, while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. Coti-Sears loved music, played the guitar, composed songs and entertained family and friends at holiday gatherings. Niall was very close to his grandfather, William Coti, who was a Marine. "He was always my protege," William Coti told the Arlington Connection. "He always wanted to be a Marine and he followed my example. It weighs heavily on me that this had to happen."

Chief Warrant Officer Five John C. Pratt, 51, of Springfield, died May 28, 2012 in Kabul, Afghanistan, when his helicopter crashed. Staff Sgt. Jessica M. Wing, 42, of Alexandria, Va., died Aug. 27, 2012 in Kuwait City, Kuwait.

In February, 2012, Brig. Gen. Terence J. Hildner, 49, of Fairfax, was the highest ranking military officer to die in the war. Hildner died Feb. 3, 2012 in Kabul province, Afghanistan.

**OTHER VIRGINIA DEATHS** in Afghanistan in the year before Memorial Day 2013: Sgt. Aaron X. Wittman, 28, of Chester, Va., died Jan. 10, 2013 from small arms fire. Sgt. David J. Chambers, 25, of Hampton, Va., died Jan. 16, 2013 from a roadside bomb. Sgt. Robert J. Billings, 30, of Clarksville, Va., died Oct. 13, 2012 when enemy forces attacked with an improvised explosive device. Staff Sgt. Jonathan P. Schmidt, 28, of Petersburg, Va., died Sept. 1, 2012 from enemy small arms fire. 1st Lt. Stephen C. Prasnicki, 24, of Lexington, Va., died June 27, 2012, from a roadside bomb.

Here we remember the local men and women who have died since Sept. 11, 2001 in the wars that resulted from that day:

Aaron Carson Vaughn, 30, was one of 30 American service members and 22 Navy SEALs killed Aug. 6, 2011 when their Chinook helicopter was shot down in Afghanistan. Vaughn's family has ties to McLean and Burke. He is survived by his wife, Kimberly, and their two children.

Spc. Douglas Jay Green, 23 of Sterling, died Aug. 28, 2011. when insurgents attacked his unit using a roadside bomb in Afghanistan. Green enlisted in 2007, after attending Potomac Falls High School.

Pfc. Benjamin J. Park, 25, of Fairfax Station, died June 18, 2010 at Zhari district, Kandahar, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device.

May 12, 2010, Donald J. Lamar II, 23 of Fredericksburg, was killed in Afghanistan. Christopher D. Worrell, 35 of Virginia Beach, was killed in Iraq on April 22, 2010. Steven J. Bishop, 29 of Christianburg, was killed March 13, 2010 in Iraq. Kielin T. Dunn, 19 of Chesapeake, was killed Feb. 18, 2010 in Afghanistan. Brandon T. Islip, 23 of Richmond, was killed Nov. 29, 2009, in Afghanistan.

Stephan L. Mace, 21 of Lovettsville, died Oct. 3, 2009 in Afghanistan.

Bill Cahir, 40 of Alexandria, died Aug. 13, 2009 of a gunshot wound while conducting combat operations in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. After 9/11, Cahir decided to leave his career as a journalist and join the Marine Corps. His application to become a Marine was denied because of his age, but he lobbied members of Congress to get a special exemption.

Lance Cpl. Daniel Ryan Bennett, 23 of Clifton died Jan. 11, 2009, in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

2nd Lt. Sean P. O'Connor of Burke died Oct. 19, 2008 while stationed at Hunter Army Air Field, Savannah, Ga. O'Connor was an athlete in soccer, baseball and football who attended Fairfax County Public Schools and was a 1999 graduate of Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School in Arlington.

Pfc. David Sharrett II, 27 of Oakton, died Jan. 16, 2008 in Iraq. On Oct. 24, 2008, his father, David H. Sharrett, was on hand as the Oakton Post Office on White Granite Drive was renamed to honor his son. But the senior Sharrett has battled to learn the truth about his son's death, that he was killed by his lieutenant in the confusion of a firefight. In, April, 2012, Sharrett Sr. obtained documents confirming some of the details

of his son's death and a subsequent cover-up.

Army 1st Lt. Thomas J. Brown, a George Mason University graduate and Burke resident, died on Sept. 23, 2008, while serving in Iraq. His unit came under small arms fire, and Brown, 26, died from his wounds.

Sgt. Scott Kirkpatrick, 26, died on Aug. 11, 2007, in Arab Jabour, Iraq. Kirkpatrick, who graduated from Park View High School in Sterling, and also considered Herndon and Reston as his hometowns, was a champion slam poet. His father, Ed Kirkpatrick, calls him the "warrior poet," and he and his wife help injured vets at Walter Reed through the Yellow Ribbon fund ([www.yellowribbonfund.org](http://www.yellowribbonfund.org)).

Ami Neiberger-Miller of Sterling lost her brother, U.S. Army Spc. Christopher Neiberger, in August 2007 when he was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq. He was 22.

Staff Sgt. Jesse G. Clowers Jr., 27, of Herndon, died when an improvised bomb exploded near his vehicle in Afghanistan on Aug. 12, 2007. Jonathan D. Winterbottom, 21, of Falls Church, died in Iraq on May 23, 2007, when an IED exploded near his vehicle.

Nicholas Rapavi, 22, of Springfield, died Nov. 24, 2006, during combat in Anbar province in Iraq. Army Cpl. Andy D. Anderson, 24, was killed by enemy fire in Ar Ramadi, Iraq on Tuesday, June 6, 2006.

Spc. Robert Drawl Jr., 21, a 2003 graduate of T.C. Williams High School, was killed by a bomb in Kunar, Afghanistan, on Aug. 19, 2006.

U.S. Army Specialist Felipe J. Garcia Villareal, 26 of Burke, was injured in Iraq and flown to Washington Hospital Center, where he died Feb. 12, 2006. He was a graduate of Herndon High School.

Capt. Shane R. M. Mahaffee, 36, a 1987 graduate of Mount Vernon High School, died May 15, 2006. He was a lawyer, married, with two children. His parents live in Alexandria.

U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas Kirven, 21, was killed in Afghanistan in 2005 during a firefight in a cave with insurgents. He enlisted while still in high school after 9/11.

Fairfax Station resident Pfc. Dillon Jutras, 20, was killed in combat operations in Al Anbar Province of Iraq on Oct. 29, 2005.

Maj. William F. Hecker III, a 1987 graduate of McLean High School, was killed in action in Iraq, Jan. 5, 2005. Staff Sgt. Ayman Taha, 31, of Vienna, was killed Dec. 30, 2005, when an enemy munitions cache he was prepping for demolition exploded. Army Capt. Chris Petty of Vienna was killed Jan. 5, 2006.

Staff Sgt. George T. Alexander Jr., the 2,000th soldier to be killed in Iraq, was literally born into the Army here in Northern Virginia, at DeWitt Army Hospital at Fort Belvoir. Alexander died at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, Oct. 22, 2005, of injuries sustained in Iraq five days earlier.

Fairfax Station resident Pfc. Dillon Jutras, 20, was killed in combat operations in Al Anbar Province of Iraq on Oct. 29, 2005.

Lt. Col. Thomas A. Wren, 44, of Lorton, died in Tallil, Iraq on Nov. 5, 2005. Marine Capt. Michael Martino, 32 of the City of Fairfax, died Nov. 2, 2005, when his helicopter was brought down in Iraq.

1st Lt. Laura M. Walker of Oakton was killed on Aug. 18, 2005, in Kandahar, Afghanistan. CW4 Matthew S. Lourey of Lorton died from injuries sustained on May 26, 2005 in Buhriz, Iraq. Operations Officer Helge Boes of Fairfax was killed on Feb. 5, 2003, while participating in counterterrorism efforts in eastern Afghanistan.

Among other local lives lost: Lance Cpl. Tavon Lee Hubbard, 24, of Reston; 1st Lt. Alexander Wetherbee, 27, of McLean; 1st Lt. Jeff Kaylor, 25, of Clifton; Coast Guard Petty Officer Nathan B. Bruckenthal, 24, of Herndon; Army Chief Warrant Officer Sharon T. Swartworth, 43, of Mount Vernon; Command Sgt. Maj. James D. Blankenbecler, 40, of Mount Vernon; Capt. James F. Adamowski, 29, of Springfield; Sgt. DeForest L. Talbert, 22, of Alexandria; Marine Cpl. Binh N. Le, 20, of Alexandria; Staff Sgt. Russell Verdugo, 34, of Alexandria. Army Capt. Mark N. Stubenhofer, 30, from Springfield; Marine Gunnery Sgt. Javier Obleas-Prado Pena, 36, from Falls Church; Marine Sgt. Krisna Nachampassak, 27, from Burke; Army Staff Sgt. Nathaniel J. Nyren, 31, from Reston; Marine Lance Cpl. Tenzin Dengkhim, 19, from Falls Church, Navy Chief Joel Egan Baldwin, 37, from Arlington; Maj. Joseph McCloud, of Alexandria, and Major Gloria D. Davis, 47 of Lorton.

**OTHER VIRGINIA** service members lost:  
SEE REMEMBER, PAGE 7

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## OPINION

# Remembering on Memorial Day

FROM PAGE 6

Capt. Jesse A. Ozbat, 28 of Prince George, Va., died on May 20, 2012 in Afghanistan from a roadside bomb. Constructionman Trevor J. Stanley, 22, of Virginia Beach, Va., died April 7, 2012 while deployed to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. Pfc. Michael W. Pyron, 30, of Hopewell, Va., died Jan. 10, 2012 in Afghanistan. Maj. Samuel M. Griffith, 36, of Virginia Beach, Va., died Dec. 14, 2011 in Afghanistan. Staff Sgt. James Ronald Leep Jr., 44 of Richmond, died Oct. 17, 2011 at Forward Operating Base Kalsu in Iraq. Spc. Levi Efrain Nuncio, 24 of Harrisonburg, died June 22, 2011 in Afghanistan. Capt. Michael Wray Newton, 30 of Newport News, died June 11, 2011 in Afghanistan. Capt. Charles A. Ransom, 31, of Midlothian was one of eight airmen who died April 27, 2011, at the Kabul International Airport, Afghanistan, from gunfire.

Sgt. Sean T. Callahan, 23, of Warrenton died April 23, 2011 in combat in Afghanistan.

Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Venetz Jr., 30, of Prince William died Jan. 28, 2011 in Afghanistan, after being seriously wounded months before.

Spc. Sean R. Cutsforth, 22, of Radford, died Dec. 15, 2010 in Afghanistan. Spc. William K. Middleton, 26, of Norfolk died Nov. 22, 2010 in Afghanistan. Staff Sgt. Christopher F. Cabacoy, 30, of Virginia Beach died July 5, 2010, in Afghanistan.

If you know of someone who should be included in this list, or if you would like to share how you are honoring the memory of a family member or friend lost, or about the progress of someone injured, please let us know.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## WEEK IN RESTON

FROM PAGE 2

ciples and quality of life, fill out an application for the RCA election which will be held this year between June 7 and June 22.

The RCA application is available online at [bit.ly/rca-form](http://bit.ly/rca-form). Your completed application must be received by RCA by May 23 by email to [granicsv@hotmail.com](mailto:granicsv@hotmail.com) or postal mail to 2033 Approach Lane, Reston, VA 20191.

If you have questions, contact Tammi Petrine at [para1010@verizon.net](mailto:para1010@verizon.net).

## 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](mailto: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](http://restonhospital.com).

## Soapstone Connector Advances to Design Phase

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors endorsed the Soapstone Connector feasibility study alternative recommending advancement to the preliminary design phase. The Soapstone Connector will provide a new north-south route over the Dulles Toll Road. The Soapstone Connector will include a bridge structure with pedestrian/bicycle access along the roadway extension. This additional access will help alleviate congestion around the Wiehle-Reston East transit station area and provide an essential piece of the new street grid system. The Soapstone Connector was based upon recommendations from the Wiehle Avenue/ Reston Parkway Station Access Management Study (RMAG study). "The approval of the Soapstone Connector is an important step to creating more access opportunities in the Wiehle-Reston Metrorail area. This will be a key part of the new street grid in this transit area. The street grid will help relieve congestion and provide more access to our new Metrorail amenities. Furthermore, it will also help spur redevelopment on both sides of the Dulles Toll Road," said Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins. The next step for the project will be the preliminary design phase. It will look at issues involving the environment, property, transportation, and utilities.

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Nicholas Harrelson, formerly of Centreville and McLean, suffered a traumatic brain injury from an IED in Iraq.



Veteran John Flanagan, with MAGNOLIA, who will be his psychiatric assistance dog.



Sabrina Rigney of Lorton, ex-Air Force with NOEL, who will help her with her PTSD.



Trish, at podium, tells her emotional story for the first time; sharing the past is part of the healing process in the paws4prisons program.



paws4people

## Paws4potential

**Disconnected Youth: young people between 16 and 24 who are neither in school nor employed**

“Disconnected Youth” is a population identified by the June 2012 Youth Leadership Institute's report to the White House. The group is comprised of young people between the ages of 16 and 24 who are not in school or employed.

More likely to end up living on the streets, becoming parents before they are ready and/or in our jails and prisons, these young people cost society \$4.7 trillion, according to the Economic Value of Disconnected Youth researchers.

We simply cannot afford to continue to ignore this growing portion of our population.

Paws4people.org, an organization with a successful track record for creating successful rehabilitation and redemption programs for federal and state criminals, believes they can change the statistics. And I believe them.

The new program, paws4potential will combine housing, employment and a supportive environment that includes the healing power of dogs.

Paws4people.org is currently seeking funding for this exciting program.

To learn more about paws4people and the new program, paws4potential, visit [paws4people.org](http://paws4people.org) and click on the program: paws4potential, or contact me directly at [joan@joanbradyphotography.com](mailto:joan@joanbradyphotography.com) or 202-256-1311.

— Joan Brady



paws4people

BY JOAN BRADY

Rebecca, a pretty blonde in her mid-40s, is holding Ziva, the puppy she is currently training. We might have been two strangers at a local dog park, caught up in a conversation that could have gone on for hours.

But we weren't at a dog park. We were sitting inside Lakin, an all-women correctional facility in West Virginia. And Rebecca, an assistance dog trainer for paws4people.org's in-prison training program, paws4prisons, is serving a sentence of life without parole for a murder committed 21 years ago.

And that comfortable scene on April 4, 2014 was a far cry from how I felt on my first prison shoot, over four years ago.

When I first started going inside prisons for paws4people.org, my job was three-fold: to capture, through photography, the connection between the dogs and their inmate trainers, to provide images that reflected the accomplishments of months of training and to document the moment that veterans, children and young adults were matched with their assistance dogs.

On my first visit, I was scared. No open-toed shoes. No open-heeled shoes. No jewelry. No underwire bra. No khaki clothing. Cell phone and drivers license were left

behind and I shuddered a little as the first set of metal doors clanked behind me. Shivering with cold, I walked through the next set of gates into the West Virginia winter, casting furtive glances at the barbed wire fences that surround the prison.

Almost five years later, khaki uniforms,

barred windows, loudspeaker announcements and door buzzers all melt away as Rebecca and I chat comfortably about her past, her present and her future behind bars.

For Rebecca, it's personal. The paws4prisons program staff and volunteers “give you the tools from a caring position

to show you how to work through ... the mistakes you make in life In order to be a better person.” Rebecca adds that, for her, it's been “life-changing.”

One of the tools is mutual sharing. Stories of isolation, drugs and alcohol, abuse, fear and loneliness are the rivers that have carried each speaker to this day.

Hyper-vigilant veterans wrestling symptoms of PTSD anxiously wait to share their stories with inmate trainers, prison officials and paws4people staff and volunteers. Only after that do they get a turn to meet the dogs one at a time in a ritual called a “bump” where paws4people staff determine if there is a match. Before and after each person shares, soft, cuddly puppies are passed around to help calm nerves.

For the trainers, it's more complicated. In addition to sharing their stories publicly, their skills as trainers will be on display. They are as anxious as parents that their dogs do well during demonstrations and the matching process. They will be proud if their dog is matched, but they know that a match today will bring them one step closer to losing their canine companion.

The room set-up is reminiscent of an old-fashioned wedding, with an inmate-trainer side and a free-civilians side. Thirty dogs, mostly golden retrievers, rest quietly on both sides of the aisle.

**SNIFFLING CAN BE HEARD** quietly echoing off the cement walls as Melissa, an inmate trainer, stands at the podium to share her story. She tells of a happy childhood ending when an uncle took her to a secluded woods and raped her so violently that she had to have a full hysterectomy, at



Tiffany, an inmate at Lakin Correctional serving a 15-year-to-life sentence, is training TANNEN.



Rebecca, an inmate at Lakin Correctional serving a sentence of life without parole, is training Ziva.

age eight. No charges were filed.

Years later, grief stricken by the loss of her grandfather, Melissa started taking drugs to numb the pain of her loneliness and she began breaking into houses to pay for the drugs. She had several stints in rehab, but none took. Looking back, “[I] just wasn't ready. [paws4prisons] has been the best rehab... Sometimes I wonder if [the paws4prisons staff] know how big an effect this has on us.”

That's a refrain I've often heard from veterans, trainers, parents of children and volunteers. For many of the inmate trainers, the caring from the paws4people team is remarkable.

“To have people that don't even really know you ... care, even though you are in prison and you have made all of those mistakes. [It's] an amazing feeling,” explains Tiffany.

Dogs can make a difference that people can't. Air Force veteran Sabrina Rigney of Lorton, looks forward to having a companion who will be persistent about getting her

out of bed in the morning. “I can't get mad at her for pulling the covers off me, because I've really got to get up and feed her and take her out.”

When paws4prisons inmate trainers are released from prison, they have marketable skills. They are highly effective dog trainers. In fact, four former inmate trainers are now paid employees with the organization and two more volunteer.

On this day, David Burry, managing director of the paws4people for-profit training arm, Paws Training Centers, is on hand to encourage and inspire trainers. “As a result of my greed and pride, I lost everything,” he tells the group. “I pled guilty to bank fraud, wire fraud and money laundering and I was sentenced to 151 months in prison. I now owe the government \$41 million dollars in restitution and the IRS \$12 million. I know that all sounds pretty grim, but in fact I've never been happier.”

Since serving his sentence, Burry, formerly an inmate trainer, has teamed up with his daughter, Ashley O'Hara, to train privately

owned dogs as assistance dogs for qualified owners as well as to provide basic obedience and behavior modification for pet dogs in West Chester, PA. “It's amazing to know that I'm making difference and helping others.”

Last year, Paws Training Centers were opened at locations across the country. These for-profit training centers provide employment for ex-inmate trainers and others and help to fund the work of the non-profit. One paws trainer is in Leesburg.

Trish, from the inmate side of the aisle, steps up to the podium and reveals a lifetime punctuated by abuse, rape and trauma perpetrated by family and foster care. It's impossible not to want to reach out and give Trish a hug as she tells her story. But there is no touching at Lakin. A fellow trainer stands with her, but cannot comfort her. She appears relieved to return to her seat where she is surrounded by her four-legged support system.

Carol Hancock is the Veteran Client Advocate for paws4people's “paws4vets” pro-



FINLEY, third dog from left, is the mother of eight puppies who arrived at Lakin Correctional at the age of four months to begin training.



# 'You Are Not Your Mistakes'

BY JOAN BRADY

"S he was one of the most disagreeable people I had ever met," says paws4people Chairman and COO, Terry Henry, remembering his reaction to meeting Rebecca at Lakin Correctional Center, more than three years ago.

Seeing her now with her earnest smile and a well-behaved puppy happily nestled in her lap, it's hard to imagine the Rebecca he describes.

The old Rebecca had a nickname she chooses not to explain, because it reflects a part of the past that she doesn't want to talk about. And it was the old Rebecca who committed murder during a roadside altercation. That same bad attitude she had in her early 20s got her kicked out of the "paws4prisons" assistant dog training program in her 40s, three years ago.

Rebecca's childhood is devoid of memories of birthday parties, school concerts and family trips. The second of four children, what Rebecca recalls is abuse, as far back as she can remember, the only one of her siblings, she says, to suffer at the hand of her mother.

It's hard not to feel the pain with her as she recalls how she felt when she was fired from the paws4prisons program. "[I was] embarrassed, ashamed and hurt." And then she adds, "It was life changing though and now



**Harper, a labradoodle trained at Lakin Correctional, with Julia, 14. "Wherever Julia needs extra supervision, companionship, responsibility or a bridge to human connection, Harper is there," says Julia's mother.**

I'm thankful for it."

After 19 years in prison, she had a goal. She was determined to get back into the assistance dog training program. Rebecca is serving a life sentence, without the possibility of parole. She wanted her time to mean something. After a year of continu-

ous re-application, Rebecca was conditionally reinstated.

She describes how it felt to come back, now two years ago. "I was still embarrassed. ... I felt like I was still being judged." But then she realized, not only was she not being judged, but "they were trying to help

HEALING POWER



paws4people

me to understand myself. ... They wanted to show me how to change."

This support was new for Rebecca, "It was the first time I felt like someone cared about me. It's not easy to feel deserving, when no one had ever cared before."

Learning to accept caring support was just one of her challenges. Cece Miller, Director of the paws4prisons program, really pushed her to grow; trainers have to pass a rigorous academic curriculum that includes tests and essays. They must become proficient public speakers. And they must be able to take direction and correction and work with others.

Two years after that reinstatement, Rebecca has earned her role as a leader in the program says Cece Miller, Director, paws4prisons. "I am very proud of her and I have loved watching her grow."

Rebecca relishes the opportunity to help others. "They have a story. They have prob-

SEE REBECCA, PAGE 11

## Sharing Burden of PTSD

BY JOAN BRADY

Paws4people assistance dogs sprinkle the country, matched with children and veterans whose lives have been forever changed. More than ten of those dogs have benefited from Tiffany's loving training at Lakin Correctional Center in West Virginia.

While paws4people breeds dogs with specific qualities to help ensure more successful assistance dogs, the organization also rescues dogs domestically and even some from Afghanistan.

Tiffany says her biggest challenges have come working with dogs who have been traumatized. It's difficult, when they can't talk to you about what happened, "to re-program a scared dog to letting him know that the world is ok and people are ok."

The work that Tiffany does is as healing for her as it is for the dogs she trains and the clients who are matched with her dogs.

She describes a challenging childhood in which her parents split up when she was five. When her mother remarried and started a second family, Tiffany moved in with her beloved grandmother and was raised jointly by her grandmother and her father.

Her voice cracks a little when she talks about feelings of isolation and not fitting in at school. By 13, she was acting out and turning to drugs and alcohol that she felt allowed her to fit in somewhere.

At 14, her grandmother and father agreed that a change of scenery might help. What followed was a wrenching move to South

Carolina to live with her dad. But Tiffany didn't find it any easier to fit in in South Carolina, especially, she remembers with a wry smile, with her blue hair. From that point, she was passed back and forth between grandmother's home and father's home whenever she got into trouble.

"I felt like nobody really cared what happened to me... I just acted crazy and acted out and rebelled... I made bad choices and mistakes and ended up here."

Tiffany's life stopped when her fiancé died of a drug overdose. Suffering from PTSD herself, it's important to Tiffany that she is able to help the paws4people veteran clients with their PTSD by training dogs that will allow them to resume normal activities like going into a grocery store and getting gas.

Sabrina Rigney, ex-Air Force, was thankful to meet Tiffany and to learn more about NOEL, who will become her assistance dog.

"It was really great to meet someone who has had a chance to get to know and love NOEL. And she didn't mind me pestering her with questions about what NOEL likes, what she doesn't like." The nuggets shared by Tiffany will help Sabrina get through the long months of training both she and NOEL will go through before NOEL can join her permanently at home.

Tiffany gives her all to the dogs she trains, the clients who get matched with them, and her two half-brothers. She especially worries about the brothers, aged 17 and 19, with whom she speaks daily.

"I try to stay so close to them to keep them from turning out like [me] ... I ask them



**Veteran Sabrina Rigney, right, was matched with NOEL, trained by Tiffany, serving 15 years to life at Lakin Correctional in West Virginia.**

about their day. Every day. I try to relate to them ... because I just wish that I would have had somebody doing that for me."

She thinks that if there had been a program with dogs for her when she was younger, one where she could get the caring support and job training she is now get-

ting, "things would have been completely different."

And completely different would mean that Tiffany's fiancé was still alive and she, not serving a sentence of 15 years to life in prison, for providing the drugs that killed him.



# Dogs' Unconditional Love

FROM PAGE 9

Lakin hoping to be matched with a psychiatric assistance dog. As a medic, she did one tour in Kuwait and then another in Baghdad. She described tending to a 19-year-old soldier as he begged her not to let him die. "You pretty much know that when they say that, they're gone. I'll never forget that," she tells her audience.

After her third tour, back in Northern Virginia, Sabrina was scheduled to be a living kidney donor for a close friend, when her orders to redeploy for the fourth time came in. She declined redeployment in order to move forward with the kidney donation and was later denied the opportunity to re-enlist, after eight years of service.

Her pain is palpable as she describes what it felt like to lose her military family.

Sabrina suffers from PTSD. While she is employed as a paramedic, she often finds it difficult to be around people. Some days she can't bring herself to leave her home. There are 22 suicides of veterans every day, she tells her audience. And three times, she was almost one of them.

When she began working with a therapist who included a therapy dog in their sessions, tiny pieces began to heal. Today she hopes that she will be matched with an assistance dog who will help her to get her life back.

Those listening to Sabrina on both sides of the aisle nod in sympathy and wipe away tears.

Two other veterans with PTSD tell their stories. All have military friends who have committed suicide. One says he lost more of his fellow soldiers to suicide after deployment than during combat.

By the end of the day, each veteran has been joyfully matched with a dog and train-

## HEALING POWER



## paws4people

If you would like to learn more about paws4people and its programs visit [paws4people.org](http://paws4people.org) or contact Joan Brady at [joan@joanbradyphotography.com](mailto:joan@joanbradyphotography.com) or call 202-256-1311.

ers stand by proudly while pictures are taken. Later, there is time to socialize.

"It was really great to meet someone that has had a chance to get to know and love NOEL," says Sabrina of Tiffany, one of the trainers of the golden retriever Sabrina has been matched with today.

Many of the trainers have had little encouragement in their lives. And it's isolating to be in jail where inmates share stories of being abandoned by friends and family. But today, they bask in the applause for the difference they are making.

This is a three-legged stool of inmate trainers, dogs and clients – with the paws4people organization creating the right environment for each group to thrive as they travel their personal journeys of redemption and healing accompanied by the caring support of others and the unconditional love of dogs.

As trainers file out and the civilians behind them, there is a connection between those who sat on either side of the aisle that will remain forever unbroken.

ably still be closed up. And now... she is so outgoing, happy and confident. [she has] self respect and self esteem... [it] touches your heart."

And Rebecca herself has touched the heart of Terry Henry.

"I have never witnessed a more dramatic change in a person than the change I have witnessed in Rebecca. ... The world is now a much better place and Rebecca has only begun to have an effect."

With the caring motivation of paws4people, Rebecca has learned a critical lesson: "You are not your mistakes."



PHOTOS BY JOAN BRADY

# Rebecca

FROM PAGE 10

lems. [I can] help to teach them to be better people."

For her, it's not as much about the dogs she trains, although that's very important. What touches her the most is "watching the other girls' faces... watching them grow and heal [because of the dogs they have trained.]"

Julia, 14, is on hand to show the trainers how well she is doing with Harper, a Labradoodle who was trained at Lakin. Julia has a genetic disorder which causes abnormal blood vessel malformations to grow in her brain. She has been through four surgeries to date, to stop brain hemorrhages.

"Harper fills the holes in Julia's life," Julia's mother says. "Wherever Julia needs extra supervision, companionship, responsibility or a bridge to human connection, Harper is there."

Julia would not speak to the audience, but happily took center stage to show off her assistance dog, Harper.

Rebecca, who met Julia before she was matched with Harper, describes how she felt when Julia began demonstrating. "At that moment, you are thinking, well just think if she didn't have that dog, she would prob-

# Never Too Young for Poetry

Local educators say exposing children and even babies to rhyme and rhythm can help develop reading and language skills.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Though Keith Ward's son is still a baby, the young child is already being exposed to exposed to not just silly stories, but poetry, and a variety of poetic forms at that.

"My son is only 6 months old, but soon I will be challenging him to find, for example, just the right word for the shade of green he is trying to describe — or imagine," said Ward, who is head of the English department at the Madeira School in McLean. "Maybe it's a word and a color we have yet to discover. He's working on it, though."

Local researchers and educators say that young children enjoy poetry. In fact, hearing rhythms, sounds and language patterns play important roles in a child's literacy development.

"Rhythm and rhyme are some key factors in early literacy, and even something as simple as reading and memorizing nursery rhymes with your children can have a huge impact on their later development as readers," said Holly Karapetkova, an associate professor of literature at Marymount University in Arlington. "One research study found that the 3-year-olds who knew eight nursery rhymes were the best readers in third grade. Hearing rhyme and rhythm in language can help children develop phonological awareness and predict word patterns and sounds."

"Without realizing it, students hear poetry and think deeply about sounds and structures in sentences. As a result, they become better readers, thinkers, and writers," said Blake Howard, an English teacher at The Potomac School in McLean.

Howard's students recently studied structural elements, "Such as stanza formations, meter and rhyme, and sound devices like consonance and assonance in poems by Shelley, Keats, Dickinson and Frost," he said. "They practiced scansion of evident rhythms in metrical poems. They learned how and why those devices enhance tone and thematic purpose in the selected poems. Next, they wrote original poems. Some students crafted sonnets with meter and rhyme. They admitted — some reluctantly — that the exercise of reading and writing poetry has made them appreciate the value of precise word choice and balanced syntax."

Ward also encourages the exploration of a variety of poetic forms. "Many students enjoy haiku, too, which are fun and approachable," he said. "They often reward the young poet with a profoundly beautiful



PHOTO COURTESY OF NORWOOD SCHOOL

**Students at Norwood School participate in Poetry Day, an annual event at the school. Poetry is a way to help children develop essential skills while having fun.**

result, which builds confidence and appreciation."

**THE TYPE OF RHYME** doesn't matter, however. Young students at Grace Episcopal School, in Alexandria, explore a different nursery rhyme each month as part of their Music and Performing Arts class.

"We repeat the verses out loud week after week to internalize the cadence, define any challenging words, pair motions with phrases, and culminate the whole affair by acting out each month's poem — complete with props and costumes," said Penelope Fleming, the school's librarian. This [emphasizes] the notion that language has rhythm and also expands students' vocabulary."

"A good poem really comes alive when it is read aloud," said Barbara Vaughan, a sixth grade teacher at Norwood School, in Potomac, Md. "There is such variety in form, length, and subject. Poetry can help readers pause and look at the world in a different way."

In fact, poetry can be instrumental in a child's development. "Rhyme is a great way to encourage word play in younger children," said Vaughan. "With older students, it can be the basis of a more sophisticated structure for a poem. Many poems are wonderful sources of figurative language, creating rich images in the reader's mind. They can be powerful examples that encourage children to use language in creative and unexpected ways."

Poetry that is written for children is often rich in rhymes. "Rhyming is a wonderful way to develop phonemic awareness," said Tyffany Mandov, Lower School reading specialist at Norwood School. "Phonemic awareness, or the ability to recognize and manipulate distinct sounds, is the earliest step in learning to decode words."

"The brain loves rhyme and rhythm and children will naturally want to read and reread poems with their parents and caregivers," said Karapetkova. "The more young children learn to enjoy reading and language, the more likely they are to continue that love throughout their lives."



# South Lakes' Second-Half Turnaround Ends Against McLean

**Seahawks earned No. 2 seed in Conference 6 after 1-7 start.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he South Lakes baseball team started the 2014 season by dropping seven of its first eight games. One month later, the Seahawks had earned the No. 2 seed in the Conference 6 tournament and were playing on their home field with a chance to qualify for regionals.

Unfortunately for the Seahawks, their second-half turnaround ended at the hands of a McLean team with a pitcher bound for Virginia Tech and a cleanup hitter who had a doozy of a day.

McLean senior Joey Sullivan pitched a three-hit shutout and left fielder Grady Paine went 4-for-4 with a home run and five RBIs as the No. 7 Highlanders defeated No. 2 South Lakes 5-0 on May 17 during the Conference 6 quarterfinals at South Lakes High School. With the win, McLean secured a berth in the regional tournament and advanced to the conference semifinals. Meanwhile, South Lakes' season came to an end.

**AFTER STARTING 1-7**, South Lakes closed the regular season by winning eight of 10 and posting a 5-2 record against conference opponents. The Seahawks received the No. 2 seed in the conference tournament, but fell short against McLean. South Lakes finished with a 9-10 record.

"It's been a huge turnaround, as you can tell," South Lakes pitcher Matt Wojciechowski said. "I'm a junior. The past three years I've been here, we've just been getting stepped on every game. Nobody takes us seriously. Then, [we] come back the second half from spring break and we started playing like we know we can."

How did the Seahawks turn things around?

"I think mindset and coaching," Wojciechowski said. "Our mindset completely changed as we started winning and we knew we could hang with anybody. When you start playing with confidence, the whole game changes for you."

Wojciechowski suffered the loss against McLean, allowing five runs



**Junior pitcher Matt Wojciechowski was a key contributor to the South Lakes baseball team earning the No. 2 seed in the Conference 6 tournament.**

— four earned — and seven hits in seven innings. He walked three, hit one batter and struck out seven. The right-handed hurler produced the South Lakes highlight of the afternoon when he struck out the side in nine pitches, the minimum needed to do so, during the top of the fourth.

Wojciechowski said he enjoyed pitching against McLean's Sullivan, who signed with Virginia Tech, and wants to one day play college baseball himself. However, before he plays at the college level, Wojciechowski will have a chance to help South Lakes improve during his senior season in 2015.

"He's the reason we were here this year," South Lakes head coach Galvin Morris said. "He's taking this hard, but I told him, if it wasn't for him, we wouldn't be here. We wouldn't have finished second without him on the mound. ... He was our leader on the mound, he was our guy, so he's going to come back even stronger next year, more competitive next year, he's going

to be our guy next year."

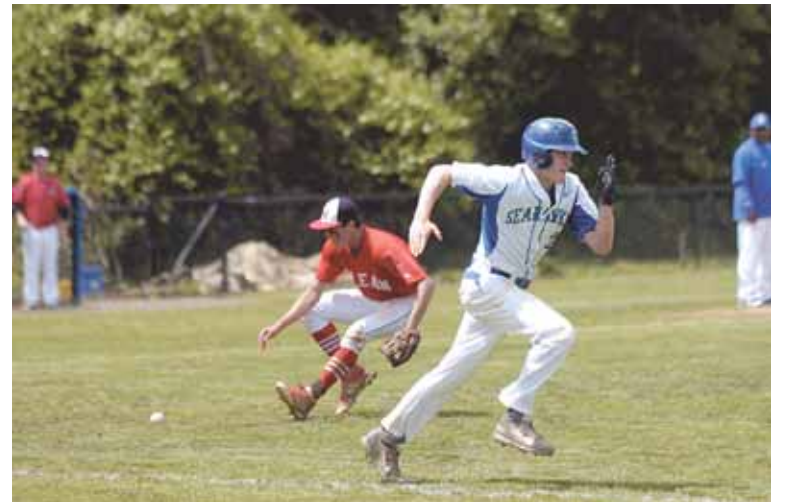
Sophomore shortstop Marty Gryski went 2-for-3 with a pair of singles against the Highlanders.

**THE SEAHAWKS** will return their infield next season, which includes Gryski, Wojciechowski (plays second base when he's not pitching), junior third baseman Jesse True, junior first baseman Kyle King, and junior catcher Jared Abelson.

Senior left fielder JoJo Lear led off the bottom of the first with a single against McLean, finishing with one of three Seahawk hits on the afternoon.

"Like I told the five seniors that we had, they left a legacy," Morris said.

"They started something. I told the young guys, now it's something you've got to continue. We finished 2, now our goal is to finish 1 [so] we [receive a first-round bye and] don't have to worry about having to win a game to get into the next tournament."



**South Lakes junior Jesse True runs down the first-base line as McLean pitcher Joey Sullivan prepares to field a ground ball during the teams' May 17 matchup at South Lakes High School.**

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**"It's been a huge turnaround, as you can tell. I'm a junior. The past three years I've been here, we've just been getting stepped on every game. Nobody takes us seriously. Then, [we] come back the second half from spring break and we started playing like we know we can."**

**— South Lakes junior Matt Wojciechowski**

## SPORTS ROUNDUPS

### South Lakes Girls', Boys' Soccer Teams Advance

The South Lakes girls' and boys' soccer teams each won their respective Conference 6 tournament quarterfinal matchups on May 16. Each team advanced to the semifinals and secured a regional tournament berth. The No. 3 girls' team defeated No. 6 Langley 3-0, improving their record to 9-2-2. The Seahawks faced No. 2 Washington-Lee in the semifinals on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The No. 5 South Lakes boys' team beat No. 4 Fairfax 2-1. The Seahawks faced No. 1 Washington-Lee on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline.

### Langley Crew Produces Six State Champions

The Langley crew team won gold with six of the seven boats which entered events during the state championships on May 10.

The Langley men's varsity 4, women's varsity 4, men's lightweight 4, men's junior varsity 8, women's junior varsity 4, and men's second four each took first place.

### Langley Baseball Earns Regional Berth

The No. 3 Langley baseball team defeated No. 6 Hayfield 7-1 on May 17 during the Conference 6 tournament quarterfinals at Langley High School. With the win, the Saxons advanced to the semifinals and secured a berth in the region tournament. Langley faced No. 7 McLean in the semifinals on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline.



Send announcements to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com). The deadline is the Friday prior to the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

**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](http://www.artspaceherndon.org).

**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.

**“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](http://www.raveldance.com)

**Friday Night Live! The Reagan Years + Six to Midnight.** 6:30 - 10 p.m. Town Green Herndon, 777 Lynn Street, Herndon. A band recreates the music of the 1980s with a party atmosphere. 703-481-6133.

**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](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com) or 703-476-4500.

**Reston at 50: Looking Back at  
Forward Thinking" Symposium.**  
7-9:30 p.m. The Reston Community  
Center, at 2310 Colts Neck Road,  
Reston.

**Wine Tasting.** 4 - 6 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Adults 55 and older. Enjoy an evening of wine tasting in a beautiful setting. Sample red and white wines along with a variety of cheese and crackers. The evening includes a tour of the nature center's gardens and ADA accessible trail. Look for spring wildflowers, as well as birds and insects that are sampling their own sweet "ambrosia". Reservations required by May 27. Fee: \$10/person RA members · \$14/person non-members. For more information or to register, email [Ashleigh@reston.org](mailto:Ashleigh@reston.org) or 703-435-6530.

**Raul Midón.** 8 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. Blind since infancy, Midón uses his songwriting and musical talents to shatter stereotypes while establishing himself as one of music's most distinctive and searching voices. \$20 Reston/\$40 Non-Reston.  
[www.restoncommunitycenter.com](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com) or



**Don't miss Ravel Dance Studio's upcoming production of "Swan Lake," playing May 23-24 at the Reston Community Center Stage. Audiences will be captivated by this romantic yet tragic classical ballet performance.**



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Admission: \$15. [http://  
www.jimmvandmoondi.com/](http://www.jimmvandmoondi.com/)

**Food Wars.** 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 W Ox Road, Herndon. Come to Frying Pan Farm Park to catch and identify animals that help plants grow and discover how plants dominate their territory. The cost is \$20 with a kit and \$6 without one. Register online. For information, call 703-437-9101. [http://parktakes.fairfaxcounty.gov/rev1\\_quickresult.asp?category2=9999&subject=Food+Wars&facility2=M282&age=9999&day=9999](http://parktakes.fairfaxcounty.gov/rev1_quickresult.asp?category2=9999&subject=Food+Wars&facility2=M282&age=9999&day=9999)

**The Self-Sustaining Gardener.** 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. . Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 W Ox Road, Herndon. Join us at Frying Pan Farm Park and learn the holistic approach to growing healthy and productive food plants year after year. The cost is \$20 with a kit and \$6 without one. Register online. For information, call 703-437-9101. [http://parktakes.fairfaxcounty.gov/rev1\\_quickresult.asp?category2=9999&subject=Sustaining&facility2=M282&age=9999&day=9999](http://parktakes.fairfaxcounty.gov/rev1_quickresult.asp?category2=9999&subject=Sustaining&facility2=M282&age=9999&day=9999)

## D-DAY 70th Anniversary: From

**Normandy to the Battle of the Bulge.** 2 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Relive the Normandy Campaign and the Battle of the Bulge in this slide presentation narrated by local historian Jim Lewis. Teens and adults. Free.

**SpeakeasyDC's Born This Way: Stories About Queer Culture in America.** 3 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. One of the region's premiere storytelling theatres presents an adults only afternoon of entertaining and thought-provoking true stories that showcase a range of perspectives from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) community. \$15 Reston/\$30 Non-Reston. [www.restoncommunitycenter.com](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com) or 703-476-4500.

**Free Comedy Showcase.** Thursdays 8:30 p.m., at Kalypso's Sports Tavern, 1617 Washington Plaza N., Lake Anne Village Center, Reston. Kalypso's hosts weekly comedy shows that feature some of the best national touring and local comedians in the area. Free of charge.

**Family Fun Entertainment Series.** Saturdays 10-10:45 a.m., at Reston Town Square Park, 11990 Market St., Reston. Every Saturday enjoy live shows, children's music and other child-friendly entertainment. 703-476-4500.

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

**Vajrayogini Buddhist Center**, Unitarian Universalist Church  
1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston, holds  
weekly classes starting Sept. 12, Thurs-  
days 7-8:30 p.m., for the general  
public which use Buddhist teachings to  
practice meditation. \$12. 202-986-  
2257 or [www.meditation-dc.org](http://www.meditation-dc.org).

**St. Anne's Episcopal Church,**  
1700 Wainwright Drive in Reston,  
holds Sunday services at 7:45 a.m.,  
9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and contemporary  
service at 5 p.m. Nursery, Sunday

school and adult education available. Morning prayer on Monday at 9:30, Holy Eucharist Wednesday at 8:15 a.m. 703-437-6530 or [www.stannesreston.org](http://www.stannesreston.org).

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

**Trinity Presbyterian Church,**  
651 Dranesville Road, Herndon, has  
Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m.  
and 11 a.m. Nursery and childcare  
are provided and youth and adult  
Sunday school classes are held prior,  
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## Too Patient a Patient

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Since I'm in the honesty business (as you regular readers know; and based on many of the e-mails I receive, commended on being so), if I were to admit anything concerning my behavior during these last five-plus years as a lung cancer survivor, it would have to be my continual tendency to minimize new symptoms, and in turn, not contact my oncologist (which from the very beginning is the exact opposite of what we are told to do). Stupid, stubborn, scared, naive, in denial; you pick.

I mention this subject/behavior because over the last month or so, I've noticed some changes in my breathing. Not characteristic of or similar at all to the symptoms I experienced last July – which led to an eight-day, seven-night stay at a local hospital during which 4.5 liters of fluid were drained from my left lung – still, there have been some challenges/abnormalities of which I have been aware. Challenges which, when they involve your breathing AND YOU HAVE LUNG CANCER, are probably best NOT IGNORED. And certainly I didn't ignore them. I acknowledged them; I simply neglected to do anything about them (now I have, but that's not the point of this column).

Now before you ask the obvious rhetorical question: "How could you (meaning me) be so stupid?," let me try to explain, or for those who know me: rationalize my behavior. I am not assigning any blame here whatsoever. This is my doing, or rather not doing; hopefully which won't lead to my undoing. To invoke and quote Moe Howard from a Three Stooges episode where The Stooges were thought to have kidnapped a baby: "It was my idea and I don't think much of it." The decision (or non decision), the responsibility and/or the consequences fall on me.

As to the specific reasons how I could be so stupid, considering my circumstances, read on, McDuff. It's easy when you're scared. Part of my irrational thinking is (A) these new symptoms are much different from and somewhat less obvious (ergo, easier to dismiss) than those I experienced last August. So maybe it's not as serious? Maybe it's the pollen count? Maybe, maybe maybe. Now before you even think it, obviously I know that there are many cancer-related symptoms and not having a recurrence of one certainly doesn't (shouldn't) minimize or marginalize the others. But from the date of diagnosis, you're in a sort of self-preservation mode; this is yet another example. As George Costanza advised Jerry Seinfeld on how to beat a lie detector test: "It's not a lie, if you don't believe it." So I try not to believe the symptoms are relevant. And (B) if I don't tell the oncologist about these new symptoms, then he can't tell me that my cancer – which has already metastasized and is inoperable (stage IV), has reassured itself and I really am terminal and really should get my things in order. Similar to what he initially advised Team Lourie back on February 27, 2009.

Thinking "(A)" and behaving like "(B)" has finally brought me to "(C)." I am now seeing doctors for an evaluation/assessment, completing lab work and taking diagnostic tests, and waiting for further instructions. And though I may have been late to this party, hopefully, it will have been fashionable, not fatal.

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

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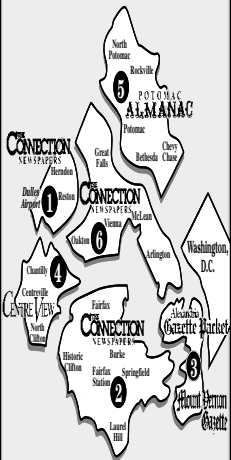
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slow walker,  
but I never  
walk back.  
**-Abraham Lincoln**

## 4 RE for Sale

**The Fairfax County Water Authority** ("Fairfax Water") will be accepting bids from prospective purchasers for the Sale of Property (0.92 acres) "Gunston Manor Well Site-Lot 53" located at 6055 Honeysuckle Trail (IFB 14-06). Interested parties may obtain a copy of IFB 14-06 by contacting the Procurement Department Fax: 703-289-6262, or E-mail: procpu@fairfax water.org.

Bids will be accepted in the office of Fairfax Water's Procurement Department until 2:00 p.m., July 9, 2014.

## 21 Announcements

**ABC LICENSE**  
The Station LLC, trading as The Station at Dulles, 2333 Dulles Station Blvd Unit I-145, Herndon(Fairfax County), VA 20171-6398. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine & Beer off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Ashraf Aly, member NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered to www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200

## 4 RE for Sale

## 4 RE for Sale

**The Fairfax County Water Authority** ("Fairfax Water") will be accepting bids from prospective purchasers for the Sale of Property (0.86 acres) "Hallowing Point Well 2 Site-Lot 19" located at 6037 Chapman Road (IFB 14-05). Interested parties may obtain a copy of IFB 14-05 by contacting the Procurement Department Fax: 703-289-6262, or E-mail: procpu@fairfax water.org.

Bids will be accepted in the office of Fairfax Water's Procurement Department until 2:00 p.m., July 9, 2014.

## 21 Announcements

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### Public Notice

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND DRAFT GENERAL CONFORMITY DETERMINATION FOR THE PROPOSED COVE POINT LIQUEFACTION PROJECT

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) published a Notice of Availability of the environmental assessment (EA) and Draft General Conformity Determination (DGCD) for the Cove Point Liquefaction Project (Project) proposed by Dominion Cove Point LNG, LP (DCP). DCP requests authorization to construct and operate facilities to process and export domestically sourced liquefied natural gas (LNG) at the existing Cove Point LNG Terminal in Calvert County, Maryland. The Project would enable DCP to export approximately 5.75 million metric tons per annum of LNG via LNG marine carriers that would dock at the existing offshore pier.

The EA assesses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the Project in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The DGCD was prepared pursuant to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's General Conformity Regulations (40 CFR Part 93, Subpart B), and addresses air emission impacts associated with the Project.

The EA and DGCD are available for review and comment. The FERC staff mailed copies of the EA with the DGCD to federal, state, and local government representatives and agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American tribes; potentially affected landowners and other interested individuals and groups; libraries in the Project area; and parties to this proceeding. In addition, the EA with the DGCD has been placed in the public files of the FERC and is available for public viewing on the FERC's website at www.ferc.gov using the eLibrary link. A limited number of copies of the EA and DGCD are also available for distribution and public inspection at:

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
Public Reference Room  
888 First Street NE, Room 2A  
Washington, DC 20426  
(202) 502-8371

Any person wishing to comment on the EA or DGCD may do so. To ensure that your comments are properly recorded and considered prior to a Final General Conformity Determination and Commission decision on the proposal, it is important that the FERC receives your comments in Washington, DC on or before June 16, 2014.

For your convenience, there are four methods you can use to submit your comments to the Commission. In all instances please reference the Project docket number (CP13-113-000) with your submission. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has expert staff available to assist you at (202) 502-8258 or efile@ferc.gov.

1. To submit brief, text-only comments, you can file your comments electronically by using the eComment feature on the Commission's website at www.ferc.gov, under the link to Documents and Filings.

2. To submit comments in a variety of formats by attaching them as a file, you can file your comments electronically by using the eFiling feature on the Commission's website at www.ferc.gov under the link to Documents and Filings. New eFiling users must first create an account by clicking on "eRegister." You must select the type of filing you are making. A comment on a particular project is considered a "Comment on a Filing;" or

3. You may file a paper copy of your comments at the following address:  
Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street NE, Room 1A  
Washington, DC 20426

4. In lieu of sending written or electronic comments, the Commission invites you to attend a public comment meeting in the Project area. We encourage interested groups and individuals to attend and present oral comments on the EA and DGCD. The meeting is scheduled as follows:

Date and Time Location  
Saturday, May 31, 2014  
1:00 – 6:00 p.m.  
Patuxent High School  
12485 Southern Connector Boulevard  
Lusby, MD 20657

Additional information about the Project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at (866) 208-FERC, or on the FERC website (www.ferc.gov) using the eLibrary link.

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The streets of Reston Town Center were full of visitors viewing the arts and crafts created by artists from May 16 to May 18.



PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN / THE CONNECTION

Jewelry artist Julie Jerman-Melka shows some of her work to visitors during the May Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival held at Reston Town Center.

# Fine Arts Festival Brings Art to the Community

Signature  
local art event  
enriches  
community life.

BY RYAN DUNN  
THE CONNECTION

“I think the opening night could not be better,” said Derryl Harris, a board member of Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE). Harris attended the Friday opening night event for the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival. The festival, an annual event produced by GRACE, is a competitive, juried, outdoor event showcasing some of the finest contemporary fine art and craft. Each year the Festival features over 200 skilled artisans who utilize both traditional and unconventional materials and techniques to create, hand-crafted, original works of art available for purchase. The diversity of fine art and fine craft at the Festival, now in its 23rd year, ensures there were many tastes. A highlight of the Festival is the opportunity to interact directly with the artists.

The Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival benefits the nonprofit Greater Reston Arts Center, now celebrating its 40th year, and provides critical support for the Center’s mission and operations. It is a success each year due to the continued support of the community, sponsors and volunteers. A \$5 entry donation to the festival on Saturday and Sunday was requested of visitors, which supports the Greater Reston Arts Center’s mission, operations, and programs in the community. The 2014 Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival was held in the streets of



In addition to viewing the craftwork of artists, visitors to the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival at Reston Town Center could enjoy music including members of the South Lakes High School Orchestra. Pictured are students Marisa Liles, Vanessa Smith, and Benjamin Bond.

Reston Town Center.

“I feel the artwork here is great, this year the artwork seems to be up a notch,” said Edward Melick, a resident of Oak Hill who accompanied his daughter to view the art on Friday evening.

Festivities began Friday, May 16

with a ticketed Opening Night Party in the Pavilion featuring music, cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, and a quality silent auction. Approximately 300 persons put in reservations for the party event. Guest speakers of the evening included Jacqui Jeras,



Executive Director and Curator of Reston GRACE Holly Koons McCullough greeted everyone at Friday opening night party for the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival at Reston Town Center.

meteorologist with ABC7/WJLA, Supervisor Cathy Hudgins, and architect Mike Timcheck with The M Group. GRACE staff made sure to thank sponsors including KIA, Reston Town Center Association, The M Group, and Celebrity Cruises.

“In supporting the festival you are supporting GRACE,” said Executive Director and Curator of Reston GRACE Holly Koons McCullough. “Thank you for being here.”

To learn more about GRACE visit [www.restonarts.org](http://www.restonarts.org).

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)