

Extreme Politics

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Virginia Delegate Barbara Comstock (R-34) and Fairfax County Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), both of McLean, shared the stage for the first time during a debate-style forum hosted by The Fairfax Chamber of Commerce at Dominion Power in Herndon on Wednesday, Sept. 3.

Sustainability Fair Saturday

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'Parked Outside the Door' Opens at ArtSpace Herndon

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Full Day Monday Challenges Discussed

School Board wants county help with cost.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

The implementation of “full day Mondays” has been anything but easy for area elementary schools.

The challenges that Fairfax County Public Schools faced to bring more hours to elementary students’ school year was addressed by Superintendent Karen Garza and several board members during Thursday’s school board meeting at Jackson Middle School.

Full day Mondays were approved by the board during its June 2 meeting. “I acknowledged publicly that it was a very aggressive timeline,” said Garza.

She said it was her job to acknowledge that implementation has gone less than perfectly.

Mondays were originally cut in the early 1970s to give elementary teachers more planning time. When Monday was chopped



PHOTO BY REENA SINGH/THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County School Board addressed the challenges elementary schools faced this year implementing full day Mondays.

in half, student recess was also cut. Students had 10-minute recess breaks to make up for lost time in the classroom. With the implementation, students are given 20-minute recess breaks with the additional instruction time.

Garza previously promised that teachers

will still have adequate planning time. Board members agreed that she fulfilled that end of the promise.

“The new schedule seems to be working,” said Dranesville District board member Jane Strauss. “You reassured us that it would work, and I believe you’ve done a good job.”

Garza congratulated FCPS teachers and principals for doing the best they could during the several months they had to prepare for the additional hours.

“I worked with every single principal in the division,” she said. “Every single one.”

AUDIENCE MEMBERS clapped and cheered when she stated that, over the course of a student’s elementary school career, a total of 90 days would be gained with the added hours.

Springfield District board member Elizabeth Schultz said she had fought for implementation for more than two years.

“I know there was a lot of trepidation, especially among teachers,” she said. “They can see how well this plan is going to work and are grateful it is finally rolling out.”

Schultz was in the second grade when her family moved to Fairfax County — resulting in her moving to a FCPS elementary

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Photographer John Petro has an exhibit “Parked Outside the Door” on display at ArtSpace Herndon until Oct. 5. The exhibit explores the relationships of vehicles and buildings.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOHN PETRO

Photographer John Petro’s photo taken at Lake City, Colo. Petro’s exhibit at ArtSpace Herndon will be on display until Oct. 5.

‘Parked Outside the Door’ Opens at ArtSpace Herndon

Photo exhibit examines relationships with vehicles and buildings.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

Photographer John Petro’s exhibit “Parked Outside the Door” has opened at art gallery ArtSpace Herndon. In the exhibit, Petro explores two fundamental constructs of ingenuity, vehicles and buildings. While traveling America, Petro captured scenes of mobility and permanence.

“Vehicles and buildings,” said Petro, “have both enabled and formed the foundation of civilization. In buildings we conduct the business of our lives while our vehicles wait outside the doors, ready to efficiently transport us on to another location, an-

other building. Almost as soon as they made their appearance, these objects went beyond being merely utilitarian. Using his creative nature, man has adorned them and made them unique personal extensions of his individuality.” With off-beat colors, textures, and randomness, images of the vehicles’ make and architecture style are an expression of someone’s individuality and life style.

A resident of Maryland, Petro has exhibited throughout the United States. His most recent solo show, “Signals in the Noise,” was at the Howard County Community College Art Department Gallery, Columbia, Md., in February and March 2014. Two of his photographs were selected to appear in the Maryland Federation of Art juried show “Focal

Point: Fine Art and Creative Photography” from May to June 2014.

“I became aware of photography as a serious art form as a teenager in the mid-1960s when I looked through the pages of Life and Look magazines,” said Petro. “The photographs, whether of a fashion model, miners exiting a coal mine after a long day’s work, or a town in the ‘rust belt’ undergoing hard times, all grabbed my attention, took hold of me and made me take notice. The images in these and other periodicals of the time had an incredibly profound influence upon me, they compelled me to pause and reflect on the human condition... I pursue this goal not simply to add documentation for the historical record but because I personally find beauty and art in such scenes when they are well composed and captured. I want to inspire in others what those photos in Life inspired in me, to grab their attention, to compel them to stop

and take notice, and to reflect on the human condition.”

The photo exhibit is on display at ArtSpace Herndon through Oct. 5, 2014. An artist reception is planned for Saturday, Sept. 13, from 7 to 9 p.m.

❖ In other news the Paint Herndon 2014 Painting Competition will be held at ArtSpace Herndon on Saturday, Sept. 20. The cornerstone of the Paint Herndon event is the Painting Competition designed in the spirit of a “day painting” competition and challenges artists to create works of art in a short period of time. The competition is open to all artists. There are three competitive divisions, each with their own cash prizes. ArtSpace Herndon will celebrate its second annual Fall Gala on Saturday, Oct. 18, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

For more information about ArtSpace Herndon and upcoming exhibits visit www.artspaceherndon.com.

Extreme Politics

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Forget first-debate politeness. Republican Barbara Comstock and Democrat John Foust – the candidates vying to replace long-time Congressman Frank Wolf in Virginia’s 10th Congressional district – sustained the hyper-partisan tenor of their campaigns during a debate-style forum hosted by the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce in Herndon last week.

Sharing the stage for the first time since the campaigning began last February, Foust – a Fairfax County Supervisor representing the Dranesville District since 2007 – and Comstock – a Virginia House of Delegates member since 2009 and long-time GOP strategist – tried to paint each other as “extremists” during the 80-minute forum before a roomful of business and political leaders.

BOTH CANDIDATES forcefully staked out their opposing positions on a wide range of issues, including education, job creation, transportation, the national deficit, women’s health and the Obama administration.

“Elections are about choices,” Foust said after his opening remarks. “Voters in the 10th Congressional District will have a very clear choice on November 4th, between my common-sense, problem-solving record, and my opponent’s extreme right wing agenda.”

Foust frequently cited Comstock’s 2012 General Assembly vote backing divisive legislation that would require women to undergo transvaginal ultrasounds before terminating a pregnancy.

“Barbara Comstock has been obsessed with taking away a woman’s right to choose...” Foust said. “If she goes to Washington she will continue to pursue a hyper-partisan agenda and we already have too many in Congress who do that.”

Comstock just as frequently burnished her GOP stripes, repeatedly denouncing President Obama and the “Obama economy.”

“The Obama economy isn’t working,” Comstock said. “... I am the candidate in the race who has always made jobs, innovation, and a healthy economy my top priorities.”

Foust countered with his pro-business record on transportation and education.

Although both candidates said they supported additional attempts to calm traffic congestion in Northern Virginia, Foust noted that he “stood with the Northern Virginia business community” and supported Governor Bob McDonnell’s historic bipartisan transportation bill.

“Barbara Comstock stood with the most extreme Tea Party Republicans in Richmond and opposed it... You can’t want everything and be unwilling to pay for anything.”

COMSTOCK defended her vote against Virginia’s \$6 billion transportation bill,

Foust, Comstock stake out opposing positions during first debate in hyper-partisan 10th district Congressional race.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FAIRFAX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Virginia Delegate Barbara Comstock (R-34) and Fairfax County Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), who both represent McLean, shared the stage for the first time during a debate-style forum hosted by The Fairfax Chamber of Commerce at Dominion Power in Herndon on Wednesday, Sept. 3.

Opening Comments

Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville)

“You know, I’m often asked why I’m running for Congress...I was born in Johnstown, Pa., born into a working class family. I was the first person in my family to go to college, and the way I was able to do that was by working in the steel mills, working as a laborer on the railroad. When I graduated from college, I wasn’t done. I wanted to get an MBA, I wanted to get a law degree, but I couldn’t afford to go to school some time, so I worked full time for eight years and went to school at night...I learned the value of hard work, and I learned the value of a good education. I’m running for Congress because I want to create opportunities in this country, so more families have the opportunity to live the American Dream the way I have. Unfortunately, the Congress we have now is broken, dysfunctional. Tea Party Republicans in the House are two parties, and they’re not getting the job done. Something has to change. I’ve served on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for seven years. We do things differently in Fairfax County. We do them the right way. I’ve been a leader who works with both parties, and the business community, and the residents.

When I go to Congress, my priorities will be to get past the partisanship and work across the aisle, so we can deal with our fiscal challenges and make Washington work again. We need a functioning Congress. We need to create jobs and opportunities by investing in job creators like education and infrastructure, and research and development.”

Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34)

“Today, the real battles we face aren’t about left vs. right. It’s really about the past vs. the future. It’s the status quo vs. moving forward. What I love about the 10th District is the opportunity to work with an incredibly diverse group of talented people in inventing the future. The people who understand that innovation will restore the American Dream that we’ve all lived, lift people out of poverty, ease the burden on the middle class, and get us all on the path to prosperity. These are people that work in our businesses, our government agencies, our hospitals, our law enforcement, our schools, our startups, and more. As your Congresswoman, I will be focused on your future. I will work to break out of this mess in Washington that creates anxiety, uncertainty, and infighting.”

which included \$300 million for the Metro’s Silver Line, saying she opposed the transportation funding package because it was tied to Medicaid expansion.

“If you blow up Medicaid expansion, then we have less money for jobs and roads,” she added.

Foust slammed Comstock on her voting record on education.

“On education, I stand with the Northern Virginia business community and support investments in K-12 education. Barbara Comstock stood with the extreme right-wing Republicans in Richmond and voted to slash \$620 million dollars from support for public education.”

“My opponent dismisses (my) bipartisan bills, and goes so far as to attack me personally, as not having had a real job or knowing about real jobs,” Comstock shot back, referring to a statement Foust made during a speech in Leesburg on Aug. 20 which inflamed Comstock supporters.

Foust’s campaign later clarified the remark, providing a transcript of the full quote from the candidate’s Aug. 20 speech: “She likes to say she’s a job creator ... What she fails to recognize, and I think it’s because - I don’t think she’s ever had a real job – she’s been, in business or any place else, she’s been a partisan operative in Washington for so long.”

Comstock, a Capitol Hill veteran and former top aide to Congressman Frank Wolf, dismissed the “insider” prod, saying during Wednesday’s debate that “those who know a thing or two about real jobs have looked at both of us and endorsed me.” She then highlighted her business endorsements, which include the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Federation of Independent Businesses and the Virginia Realtors Associations.

Foust has earned support from the Human Rights Campaign, the International Association of Firefighters and leading union groups.

While both candidates sparred on many issues, they agreed on one thing: the necessity to work across party lines and break through partisan gridlock in Washington.

Comstock pointed to several bills that she said demonstrated her ability to work across the aisle.

“We passed the first telework bills, the telework bills that now are providing moms and dads with more work-life flexibility, while keeping more cars off the roads. The research and development tax credit we worked on, first passing it, then re-passing it again this year to extend it... The credit that Governor McAuliffe praised as enhancing Virginia’s business climate,” Comstock said.

She said she was also the candidate who worked on bipartisan efforts to get offshore drilling in Virginia.

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NEWS

County Help Needed

FROM PAGE 3

school. At the June 2 meeting, she said she remembers not understanding why she only went to school for half a day on Monday. During her time on the school board, she asked administrators how the elementary schools were meeting accreditation standards with the hours missed and was dissatisfied with their answers. Schultz said that schools throughout the district had been inconsistent with tracking whether students were in class for the amount of time required by the state.

"Dr. Garza's approach was to have a more unified practice across the board," she said.

According to Schultz, 54 percent of the total student population comprises elementary students. Earlier during the meeting, Garza stated that 186,000 students were enrolled in the school system this year, making it the 10th largest school district in the country.

"Every single elementary student in FCPS benefited from this decision," she said during the meeting. "Every single one."

She elaborated before the closed session that the additional hours allow students in gifted programs to get more time for STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) learning and gives students in remedial programs more time to be helped. Rather than helping only one group of students or a specific grade, she said, it benefited all elementary students.

"That's why we were so passionate about it," she said.

THE FINANCIAL BURDEN the school system is facing as a result of the implementation is also a concern for board members.

"It was estimated that it could cost \$7 million to implement full day Mondays," said Schultz.

She and others, including Braddock District board member Megan McLaughlin said the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors should help shoulder the costs.

"It didn't fall neatly into our budget," said McLaughlin. "It came after the fact."

Because it was approved after the 2014-15 school budget was passed, extra funding was requested.

"We're increasing our services to our students and our families," she said.




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– Linda Weber



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– Scott Kreitz



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OPINION

Change Is Coming, Right?

Legislators on changing the culture of cash and gifts in Virginia: Crickets.

With former Gov. Bob McDonnell and his wife Maureen facing what could be decades in prison after their convictions for corruption, a reasonable person might reasonably expect that members of the General Assembly would be gearing up to make some big changes.

Under Virginia law, there was no barrier to the McDonnells taking tens of thousands of dollars in gifts from a single donor in search of help.

In addition to the gifts, the tens of thousands of dollars in contributions to campaign funds were not part of the corruption trial, but they were certainly part of seeking influence.

Virginia needs real change, but there is silence from members of the General Assembly on any real change.

It turns out that unlimited contributions and

gifts is not good for government, not good for the public, especially not good for elected officials as the recent news demonstrates. It would be better for most businesses to have limits as well so as not to be subject to the expectation of making huge donations.

The National Conference of State Legislatures www.ncsl.org summarizes how the 50 states regulate contributions: "States commonly place limits on contributions to candidates from various sources, and also on contributions to political action committees (PACs) and political parties. Just four states — Missouri, Oregon, Utah and Virginia — place no limits on contributions at all. Another seven states — Alabama, Indiana, Iowa, Mississippi, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and Texas — have minimal contribution limits.

These states limit or prohibit contributions by corporations and unions to candidates, but leave contributions from all other sources unlimited.

In the remaining 39 states, contributions to candidates from individuals, political parties, PACs, corporations and unions are typically limited or, in the case of corporations and unions, prohibited outright."

In Maryland, individuals can give \$4,000 to

any one candidate and \$10,000 total, cumulatively to all candidates in a four-year election cycle. (These limits increase to \$6,000 and \$24,000 in 2015.) In Maryland, corporations and CEOs are not giving \$100,000 and more in an election cycle.

Do we really want to be a state where the rules are so lax, that what barely raises an eyebrow here can send a former governor and his wife to prison for a long time?

The silence is bipartisan. The silence unites NoVa (Northern Virginia) and RoVa (the rest of Virginia). Every incumbent in Virginia thinks they are benefiting from the ability to collect so much cash.

They all know that they would not engage in the kind unseemly behavior that was recently on display in the McDonnell trial. They seem to think that the McDonnells were just an aberration.

Having our legislative process, locally and at the state level, awash in cash and gifts from people with business before the legislative bodies is not good for any of us.

It's time for some real limits and some disclosure requirements with teeth.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

The Legacy of Bob McDonnell

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

I had no idea what to expect when the jury announced it had reached its verdicts on the charges against former Governor Bob McDonnell and his wife Maureen, but when the verdicts were announced I was stunned. The jury of seven men and five women left no doubt in their findings: 11 counts of guilty for the former Governor and nine counts of guilty for his wife! All the efforts to explain away their behavior, redefine their relationship, and nuance words and actions were not successful. Virginia has now achieved the level of disdain we have held towards governors of other states in similar circumstances. We have a former governor found guilty of corruption in office. Somehow with Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson having occupied that seat, it was not supposed to happen in Virginia.

Bob McDonnell is the last person anyone would have thought would have brought this

legacy to Virginia. He served his country in the military. He has three degrees from a Christian university. He married a professional cheerleader from a major league football team. The thesis for his masters' degree spelled out an old-fashioned morality that he thought was essential for how people should behave. He was a prosecuting attorney finding others guilty of crimes in order to keep his community safe. He represented his community in the House of Delegates where he introduced bills that included one for a covenant marriage. His first statewide elective office was Attorney General responsible for seeing that Virginia's laws were fairly interpreted. His win for Governor was by a wide margin. He appeared squeaky clean.

The jury heard in detail what happened during his term as governor and determined he was guilty of corruption. That is the way our system of justice works. Not only is his legacy tarnished so too is that of his wife and family. For the Governor and his family on a personal

level, they have my thoughts and sincere prayers. There will be an appeal no doubt. Whatever the criminal justice system does with the case under appeal will not restore the man to the elevated position he had in the public's mind when he became governor.

We need to turn our attention now to the legacy for Virginia. Maybe we Virginians had it coming for we had become somewhat pompous over our reputation for the clean government we thought we had. Despite some cynics' views, virtually all elected officials and government employees are honest, hard-working people who want to do their best for the Commonwealth.

For those who do not fit this category we need to participate in a whistle-blowing exercise that will expose any who are putting their selfish gain above the public good. And the legislature needs to do more work on its conflict of interest and ethics laws. Maybe those changes can become the legacy of Bob McDonnell.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Programs To Be Proud Of

To the Editor:

In her letter in the ("Opposing Medicaid Expansion," Connection, August 20 – 26, 2014) Elinor Bartlett made it clear that she strongly opposes Medicaid expansion in Virginia. Fine, but while I strongly support her right to hold and express such a view, I cannot accept her use of irrelevant, unsupported, and factually wrong

statements about Social Security and Medicare in support of her position.

As one who has followed Social Security closely for over 70 years (I received a Survivors benefit in 1940 upon the death of my Dad) I want to set the record straight on both these programs.

First, Social Security is not "bankrupt." It has hundreds of bil-

ions in assets sufficient to pay the retirement and survivors benefits under current law for many years to come. Yes! There is an issue about whether benefits will have to be reduced in future years as our aging population lives longer and the size of the workforce shrinks. But that problem does not result from government mismanagement as Ms. Bartlett implies. It results instead from the success

of another Government program, Medicare, which has been the major factor in improving the health and longevity of America's senior citizens. While more needs to be done about greedy medical providers who have sometimes defrauded the system, Medicare delivers health care very effectively. The last time I checked, the

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

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

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

Reena Singh
Community Reporter
757-619-7584
rsingh@connectionnewspapers.com

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor ♦ 703-752-4013
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com
@jonroetman

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

Ryan Dunn
Contributing Writer

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

Kim Taiedi
Display Advertising
703-778-9423
ктаiedi@connectionnewspapers.com

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

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

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

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

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

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

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



Herndon Friends Meeting Collects Bikes for the World

Herndon Friends Meeting is sponsoring its 20th annual Used Bike Collection on Sunday, Sept. 14, between noon and 3 p.m. at the Friends Meeting house on the corner of Spring and Locust Streets in Herndon. The collection will be held rain or shine. It has not rained during a bike collection in 19 years. The collection will support the activities of Bikes for the World (BFW), a locally based non-profit organization. Since its start in 2005 BFW has shipped 97,000 bikes to 15 sponsoring organizations in 14 countries, including three local programs here in the D.C. area. Approximately 2,100 of these bikes originated at Herndon Friends Meeting's summer collections. As a result of these activities BFW is now recognized as the largest bike reuse organization in the United States.

Bikes donated by Herndon-Reston area residents and shipped overseas are today being used to deliver health services in rural areas, sustain small businesses and transport people to and from distant businesses and schools. Sturdy mountain and hybrid bikes are particularly useful in areas with

out paved roads and in cities seeking low-cost transportation alternatives.

Mountain and road bikes, adult and children's bikes, parts and accessories are welcome. Bikes don't have to be in great condition but they must be ride-able. Frames should not have significant rust or cracks; rusty chains and wheels can usually be fixed or replaced.

BFW asks for a contribution of \$10 per bike to defray shipping costs. All contributions are tax deductible and receipts for all donations will be provided at the collection. With advance notification bikes can be accepted early. For donors who can't make it to the collection please call Paul Murphy at 703-517-2784 to make special arrangements.

To find Herndon Friends Meeting on electronic maps the exact address is 660 Spring Street Herndon, VA 20170. For more information about Bikes for the World, including a complete list of partnering organizations, visit their website at www.bikesfortheworld.org.

SCHOOL NOTES *Send school notes to north@connectionnewspapers.com by Friday.*

Emily Schaal, a student at Herndon High School, is the winner of the 2014 National Peace Essay contest for Virginia and has earned a \$1,000 academic scholarship – US Institute of Peace announced. Emily's essay examined how security sector reform contributes to sustainable peace.

Douglas Graney, who teaches history and social studies at Herndon High, was named Virginia Teacher of the Year by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Department of Virginia. Graney was one of three teachers (elementary, middle, and high school) recognized by the state VFW for their commitment to teach citizenship education topics to students, and to promote America's history, traditions, and institutions. Graney received his award in Williamsburg last

month. He teaches U.S. and Virginia history, U.S. government, and philosophy, and recently completed the renewal process for board certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Herndon area students **Michael H. Chen, Emily Schaal, Jefferson Sheron and Tae-Jung Yang** of Herndon High School; and **Jocelyn Huang, Sreenath Are, Rohan Banerjee, Ashwin Basana, Arjun Iyer, Aseem Jain, Anne Li, Soumya Mishra, Christin Park, Rohan Punnoose, Sarah Quettawala, Simran Rohatgi, Snigdha Srivastava and Tony Xiao** of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology are National Merit Scholarship semifinalists.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY COLUMBIA GAS OF VIRGINIA, INC., FOR APPROVAL TO IMPLEMENT A 2015 SAVE PLAN INFRASTRUCTURE RELIABILITY AND REPLACEMENT ADJUSTMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 20 OF ITS GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS CASE NO. PUE-2014-00088

On August 14, 2014, Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc. ("CGV" or "Company") filed an application for approval to implement a 2015 Infrastructure Reliability and Replacement Adjustment ("IRRA") in accordance with Section 20 of its General Terms and Conditions ("Application"), as contemplated in the State Corporation Commission's ("Commission") November 28, 2011 Order Approving SAVE Plan and Rider, as modified by the July 3, 2012 Order Approving Amended SAVE Plan. The Company's SAVE Plan, as amended ("Amended SAVE Plan"), was authorized pursuant to the Steps to Advance Virginia's Energy Plan (SAVE) Act, Chapter 24 of Title 56 of the Code of Virginia.

In its Application, CGV states that its Amended SAVE Plan is a five-year program that commenced on January 1, 2012. According to the Company, the Amended SAVE Plan includes cost recovery mechanisms that are designed to facilitate the accelerated replacement of \$120 million of SAVE eligible natural gas infrastructure in addition to the recovery of costs associated with \$4.5 million of incremental infrastructure replacements occurring in 2011 that were not included in the Company's non-gas base rates.

The costs incurred in replacing eligible natural gas infrastructure are recovered through a SAVE Rider, which is defined in the Company's tariff as the IRRA. The IRRA is comprised of two components: an Infrastructure Replacement Current Rate ("IRCR") and an Infrastructure Replacement Reconciliation Rate ("IRRR"). The two components collectively constitute a single IRRA, which is billed as a fixed charge each month. The IRRR is the mechanism by which the Company true-ups, on an annual basis, the actual IRRA revenues against the preceding year's actual cost of service as determined from actual SAVE eligible expenditures.

In its Application, the Company seeks approval of the following: (1) the Company's 2013 IRRR credit in the amount of \$180,309 to be effective with the first billing unit of January 2015 through the last billing unit of December 2015; (2) the Company's 2015 IRCR to be set at zero effective for the first billing unit of January 2015 and be reset to \$1,725,627, effective for the first billing unit of October 2015 through the last billing unit of December 2015, to recover eligible infrastructure replacement costs that are not otherwise recovered through new base non-gas rates; and (3) the filing of rate sheets implementing the 2015 IRCR and 2013 IRRR. The 2015 IRCR and the 2013 IRRR result in an IRRA total net charge to customers of \$1,545,318 for 2015.

The details of these and other proposals are set forth in the Company's Application. Interested persons are encouraged to review the Company's Application and supporting testimony and exhibits for the details of these proposals.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Comment that, among other things, directed the Company to provide notice to the public and provided interested persons an opportunity to comment or request a hearing on the Company's Application.

A copy of the Company's Application may be obtained at no charge by requesting a copy of the same from the Company's counsel, James S. Copenhaver, Esquire, Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc., 1809 Coyote Drive, Chester, Virginia 23836. The Application and related documents shall also be available for review in the Commission's Document Control Center, Tyler Building, First Floor, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Interested persons may also download unofficial copies from the Commission's website: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>.

On or before September 30, 2014, interested persons may file written comments on CGV's Application with Joel H. Peck, Clerk, State Corporation Commission, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218. Interested persons desiring to submit comments electronically may do so, on or before September 30, 2014, by following the instructions on the Commission's website: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>. Comments shall refer to Case No. PUE-2014-00088.

On or before September 30, 2014, interested persons may request that the Commission convene a hearing on the Company's Application by filing a request for hearing with the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above. Requests for hearing must refer to Case No. PUE-2014-00088 and include: (i) a precise statement of the filing party's interest in the proceeding; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; (iii) a statement of the legal basis for Such action; and (iv) a precise statement why a hearing should be conducted in this matter.

On or before September 30, 2014, any interested person may participate as a respondent in this proceeding by filing a notice of participation in accordance with 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, and 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 5 VAC 5-20-10 *et seq.* If not filed electronically, an original and fifteen (15) copies of the notice of participation shall be submitted to the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above, Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Rules of Practice and Procedure, any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUE-2014-00088.

COLUMBIA GAS OF VIRGINIA, INC.

Be a part of our **Wellbeing** pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

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PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

July, 2014 Top Sales in Vienna, Oakton, Reston, Oak Hill and Herndon



1 3001 Weber Place, Oakton — \$1,656,725

2 305 East Street SE, Vienna — \$1,632,464



4 3200 Barton Way, Oak Hill — \$1,315,000



6 1830 Fountain Drive #1501, Reston — \$1,265,000

3 501 Princess Court SW, Vienna — \$1,500,000



7 1161 Fieldview Drive, Reston — \$1,252,000



Address	BR	FB	HB	...	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	PostalCode	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 3001 WEBER PL	5	4	1		OAKTON	\$1,656,725	Detached	0.92	22124	WEBER PROPERTY	07/28/14
2 305 EAST ST SE	5	5	1		VIENNA	\$1,632,464	Detached	0.51	22180	MURMURING PINES	07/25/14
3 501 PRINCESS CT SW	6	5	1		VIENNA	\$1,500,000	Detached	0.46	22180	MOOREFIELD	07/02/14
4 3200 BARTON WAY	5	4	1		OAK HILL	\$1,315,000	Detached	0.92	20171	OAK HILL RESERVE	07/23/14
5 12228 THOROUGHbred RD	5	4	1		OAK HILL	\$1,276,000	Detached	2.25	20171	VALE VALLEY FARMS	07/07/14
6 1830 FOUNTAIN DR #1501	3	3	1		RESTON	\$1,265,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		20190	PARAMOUNT	07/22/14
7 1161 FIELDVIEW DR	5	4	1		RESTON	\$1,252,000	Detached	0.71	20194	ESTATES AT WYNDHAM HILLS	07/16/14
8 1258 NEW BEDFORD LN	5	4	1		RESTON	\$1,210,000	Detached	0.43	20194	NEW BEDFORD	07/28/14

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Home LifeStyle

Panelists (from left) at the 2014 NVAR Economic Summit: Mitchel Kider, Dr. Michael Frantoni, James Dinegar and David Versal.



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION



“The economy has been bad. Yet in spite of all of this, we’re all still here,” said David Versal, senior research associate at the George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis.

‘Recession Ripple Persists’ at Realtors’ Summit

Private sector job growth key to strengthening regional economy, housing demand.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

“There’s no question the primary economic driver of this region has always been Uncle Sam,” said David Versal, senior research associate at the George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis. “That said, we’re not Detroit.”

That was a year ago, when Versal addressed members of the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors at their economic summit held in George Mason University’s Mason Inn.

At this year’s summit, his past remarks came back to haunt him, if not the whole room. “In 2013, job growth ground to a halt,” he said at the event last Thursday. “July [2013] to July [2014], net was about 20,000 jobs in our region. Who do we come closest to?”

The stunned conference hall full of Realtors, seeing his slide, answered in unison: “Detroit.”

Versal was back again for 2014, along with discussion moderator Kenneth Harney, author of the syndicated column “The Nation’s Housing.”

New panelists included: James Dinegar, president and CEO for the Greater Washington Board of Trade; Dr. Michael Frantoni, chief economist and senior vice president of research and industry technology for the Mortgage Bankers Association, and Mitchel Kider, chairman and managing partner for Weiner Brodsky Kider PC.

THE THEME of this year’s summit was “Housing Hangover: Recession Ripple Persists in 2014: Jobs, Confidence, Mortgages (+ Aspirin) Fuel Recovery.”

Each panelist brought a different perspective to the central concept that no, the re-



Members of the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors met at the Fairview Park Marriott Hotel in Falls Church for their 2014 Economic Summit.

cession is not over, growth is slow and home sales are flat; but yes, the recovery is on and as long as home buyers, sellers and Realtors alike keep in front of the economic and regulatory changes taking place, things are looking up. We’re all still here.

Versal echoed his callout from last year, that since 2010 government spending cuts have decimated the Washington D.C. metro area. “We lost over \$11 billion in federal procurement,” he said, referencing the massive contracting industry, “just in 3 years; \$11 billion that was in our economy in 2010 that is no longer. This is on top of the 20,000 jobs we’ve removed.”

One true gainer in jobs over the same period, he said, has been hospitality — specifically restaurant jobs. However even though those jobs help pad the not-Detroit figure, they don’t exactly help a housing market that’s light on top-end inventory and lacking any semblance of a middle.

“Ask yourselves as Realtors: Are people buying \$6-7-800,000 houses in this region people who work in restaurants? Unless they own the restaurant probably not,” said Versal.

According to Versal, Northern Virginia isn’t creating enough jobs paying in the \$40- to \$70,000 range to stimulate growth in the market’s midsection.

But that’s not all: Another factor — and a continuation from 2013’s remarks — keeping the market from balancing out is the lack of adequate housing construction.

Or rather, construction of homes for purchase. Versal said half of what’s being built is rental property, which doesn’t produce sales and doesn’t help the sagging middle.

But the regional analyst did point out a few bright spots, looking forward. In the next three to four years, Versal predicts, the D.C. metro region will be creating 50-60,000 jobs again, like it was 10 years ago — which should drive demand for housing. However this growth, he stressed, will be borne by the private sector, not the federal government.

James Dinegar of the Greater Washington Board of Trade took that optimism and ran with it, giving a speech that hyped the many “cool factors” of the D.C. metro region.

He cited Forbes magazine recently voting that area “America’s Coolest City.”

He cited things like Bao Bao the infant panda at the National Zoo, Robert Griffin III, Maryland joining the Big Ten major college football conference (and more importantly the Big Ten Network) and capital bike-sharing program that leads the nation in users per capita.

He cited things like numerous top tier universities, the juggernaut of cyber job-creating — NSA at Fort Meade — and being the hospitality capital of the world.

Things that, presumably, should be drawing young, family-oriented and financially stable professionals to the area, or keeping them here.

“You have to get your head around the Big Ten,” Dinegar gave an example. “The BTN reaches 52 million households. We’re not exposed to the Midwest the way we have been in the ACC. We’re on radar screens now we haven’t ever been on.”

According to Dr. Michael Frantoni of the Mortgage Bankers Association, having a greater overall pull would be helpful to attract fresh capital to the nation’s capital. The national trend, he said, is decreased mobility: Recent census data shows that aside from family-related moves, people are staying put more than they used to.

“Moving to a better neighborhood? If anything, people are moving to save money. But they’re not aspirational movers,” he said.

Or maybe they are aspirational movers, but are saving money by living with their parents. That group would be the mercurial, hard to put a finger on, mid-20s to mid-30s bracket referred to as “millennials.” And they’re a key group, being well situated with academic and professional experience to fill the \$40-\$70,000 a year private sector jobs Versal said should be driving the regional economy going forward.

However, said Frantoni, “They’re different in all kinds of ways. They get married later, have children later, come home later. Everything is later. We don’t know why.”

A MILLENNIALS’ HESITANCY to buy property probably doesn’t have much to do with the projected rise in interest rates from 4.3 percent for a 30-year fixed mortgage rate in 2013 up to 5 percent in 2015. But it may have something to do with the fact that student loan debt has ballooned in the last decade from \$200 billion to over \$1 trillion, according to Frantoni.

None of the panelists expects dramatic changes in the next several years. We’re off the roller coaster, they all concurred. We’re still here.

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WEEK IN HERNDON

Herndon MOMS Club to Discuss Healthy Snacks & Lunches

The MOMS Club of Herndon will host a discussion on healthy, kid-friendly foods on Thursday, Sept. 18 from 10 a.m. – noon at Trinity Presbyterian Church (651 Dranesville Rd., Herndon). All Herndon, VA (zip codes 20170 and 20171) stay at home mothers are encouraged to attend.

For more information or to RSVP contact: Kelly McArter, Membership VP at Herndon_moms_info@yahoo.com.

The MOMS Club (“Moms Offering Moms Support”) is an International nonprofit support group specifically for mothers who have chosen to stay home with their children with over 2,000 chapters in seven countries. Our Herndon chapter offers events and support for moms and their children in the 20170 and 20171 zip codes.

lection process is strictly a competitive one.

For more information about the congressional nominating process, contact Mary Ann Cannon in Wolf’s Herndon office at 703-709-5800, or go to wolf.house.gov and click on Academy Nominations under the Need Help? section.

Dance for Sight at Herndon Community Center

Melody Goodspeed lost her sight in 2003 at the age of 26, but thanks to her optimism and determination, lives a life filled with vision and purpose. As the spearhead of the second annual ZUMBA Dance for Sight, Melody wants to invite everyone to join her on Saturday, Sept. 13, at the Herndon Community Center for a ZUMBA dance-a-thon and silent auction to raise money for the Louis J. Fox Center for Vision Restoration, a research institute located at the University of Pittsburgh. “I have faced many struggles and obstacles but I remain hopeful that one day I and many others will see again.” Melody has never seen her four-year-old son.

For a \$15 tax-deductible donation, participants can dance as much or as little as they want to. Last year’s event raised almost \$10,000 for sight research. The University of Pittsburgh’s Medical Center will match 100 percent of what she raises.

To take part in Dance for Sight, drop by the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Avenue on Saturday, Sept. 13, from 3-5 p.m. Those who cannot attend the event can help by visiting www.eyeandear.org and clicking on “Donate Now,” with the designation Dance for Sight Fundraiser.

Melody Goodspeed is an active member of the Sterling Lions Club. For more information about the Lions Club of Sterling Charities, Inc. and this event, visit <http://www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/sterlingva/>, call the Sterling Lions Club at 703-723-0077 or email sterlinglions@verizon.net.

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Service Academy Application Deadline Sept. 15

Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10th) announced that the deadline for students interested in applying for a nomination by the 10th District Service Academy Advisory Board to one of the nation’s military academies for the Class of 2019 is 5 p.m. on Sept. 15.

The deadline is earlier this year because Wolf is retiring from Congress at the end of the year and the nominations by the 10th District Service Academy Advisory Board must be completed before he leaves office.

Applications can be mailed or hand delivered to Wolf’s Herndon office at 13873 Park Center Road, Suite 130, Herndon. Interested students can download a “Candidate Registration” form from Wolf’s Web site at <https://wolf.house.gov/academy>. The se-

Candidates Stake Out Opposing Views

FROM PAGE 4

FOUST noted his seven years as chairman of the Fairfax Economic Advisory Commission and on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors where he helped pass a balanced budget every year.

“I’ve balanced seven budgets in tough economic times by setting priorities and cutting wasteful spending,” Foust said.

“As Chairman of the Board’s Audit Committee, I’ve saved tax payers millions of dollars by cutting waste and inefficiency. And as Chairman of the Fairfax County Economic Advisory Commission, I’ve spent seven years working with dozens of businesses, business and community leaders to make Northern Vir-



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FAIRFAX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Republican Barbara Comstock and Democrat John Foust during a debate-style forum hosted by the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce in Herndon last week.

ginia even more attractive to new and expanding businesses.”

Comstock promised to be focused on the future in Washington. “I will work to break out of this mess.”

Foust said Washington’s partisan gridlock is hurting opportunities for the middle class.

“I want other people to have the opportunities that I was so blessed to have,” he said.

Virginia’s 10th Congressional District – which straggles from portions of Fairfax County through Loudoun County, Manassas, Manassas Park and past Winchester - is currently ranked “leans Republican” by the Rothenberg Political Report/Roll Call analysis.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 5

Administrative cost of running Medicare was about 4 percent, while private sector insurance programs incur costs of about 20 percent. As Americans, we should look upon our nation’s record on these two programs with pride.

Peter Storm
Vienna

CALENDAR

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

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 10 – SEPT. 24

Reading Buddies. 4:45 – 5:45 p.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center Street, Herndon. Teen volunteers (ages 12-19) read with and listen to your child (ages 4-8) read.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 10- MONDAY/OCT. 6

Multicultural Festival Exhibition. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Jo Ann Rose Gallery, 1609 Washington Plaza N, Reston. To help celebrate the Reston Multicultural Festival, area artists are displaying works of art that relate to their cultural heritage. 703-476-4500.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 10 – SATURDAY/OCT. 11

"Signs of Summer." Parkridge 5 Building, 10780 Parkridge Blvd., Reston. This League of Reston Artists' show includes original painting, mixed media, two-dimensional hangable art and photography. www.leagueofrestonartists.org

THURSDAY/SEPT. 11

Backyard Composting. 8 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Learn how to recycle fallen leaves the natural way. Also learn how kitchen waste and other yard debris can be composted right in your own backyard. Admissions: \$5 for RA members, \$7 for non-members. Reservations required by Sept. 8. Call 703-476-9689 and press 5 or email naturecenter@reston.org for more info. For adults.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 12 – SUNDAY/SEPT. 14

Gidion's Knot. Friday 8 p.m. Saturday



Catch The Larry Stephenson Band at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Herndon on Sept. 20. Larry is known for his pure high tenor voice and mastery of the mandolin.

2 and 8 p.m. Sunday 2 and 7 p.m. NextStop's Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Dr., Herndon. Gidion's Knot depicts a parent/teacher conference with a grieving mother and an emotionally overwhelmed primary school teacher's conversation about the tragic suicide of the mother's son, Gidion. As the story of Gidion's suicide is slowly uncovered, the women try to reconstruct a satisfying explanation for Gidion's act and come to terms with excruciating

feelings of guilt. Tickets: \$28. www.nextstoptheatre.org

FRIDAY/SEPT. 12-FRIDAY/SEPT. 26

JamBrew. 6-10 p.m. Town Green Herndon, 777 Lynn Street, Herndon. Recurring weekly on Friday. 703-674-0589.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 12

Live Music at M&S Grill. 7-10p.m. M&S Grill, 11901 Democracy Dr., Reston. Enjoy live performance by Ken Wenzel. 703-787-7766.

Noisy Nature Night. 7-8:30 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Grandparents, bring your grandchildren for an evening hike to explore the woods after dark and listen to nocturnal creatures' sounds. Learn about nocturnal adaptations these animals use to survive and communicate. Admissions: \$5 for RA members, \$7 for non-members. Reservations required by Sept. 8. Call 703-476-9689 and press 5 or email naturecenter@reston.org for more info. For senior adults ages 55+.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 13

America's Adopt a Soldier 5-10K Run/Walk. Lake Fairfax, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. America's Adopt A Soldier, an established nonprofit organization who has through grass roots volunteerism, donations, and partnerships; provided a positive impacted to our Nations Wounded, Deployed Service Members, Homeless Veterans, Veterans and their Families. This year's run is in support of homeless veterans – the goal is 500 Runners and 500 winter coats for local

homeless veterans. One hundred percent of all donations go directly to support their projects and programs. Visit: mericasadoptsoldier.org to register or call 703-278-3718 for more information.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 14

Lake Anne Summer Film Festival. 8 p.m. Lake Anne Plaza (Waterfront), 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Grab a date, the family or a group of friends, bring the lawn chairs and a picnic and enjoy Skyfall under the stars. www.lakeanneplaza.com.

Sunday Bourbon and Blues Brunch. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. M&S Grill, 11901 Democracy Dr., Reston. Live blues musical performance by local artists. 703-787-7766.

MONDAY/SEPT. 15

Mr. Knick Knack! Children's Performance. 10:30-11:15 a.m. Reston Town Center Pavillion, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Unique, heart-centered music for kids. 703-579-6720.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 17

Fall Container Planting. 2-3 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Learn what plants can be used in a fall container garden and discover creative items to use such as gourds or branches. Make a small container garden to take home. Admissions: \$10 for RA members, \$14 for non-members. Reservations required by Sept. 15. Call 703-476-9689 and press 5 or email naturecenter@reston.org for more info. For senior adults ages 55+.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 18

Out with the Old in with the New. 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. Brown's Chapel, 11300 Baron Cameron Ave. (opposite Lake Anne Village), Reston. This class will show us how to overcome negative mental habits of mind such as anger. \$10 (\$5 for full time students/unemployed/ adults 65 and over). <http://meditation-dc.org/reston/>

FRIDAY/SEPT. 19 – SATURDAY/SEPT. 20

Painting Competition for Youth, Teens and Adults. Friday: 3-7 p.m. Saturday: 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. This is day painting competition with cash prizes for youth 8-11 years old, teens 12-17, and adults. Entry fee. For complete rules or to register, visit www.artspaceherndon.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 20

Paint Herndon Celebration. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Come out to celebrate the anniversary of the opening of ArtSpace in this annual celebration of the arts.
The Larry Stephenson Band. 7:30 p.m. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. Stephenson is known for his pure high tenor voice and . Tickets: \$15.
Bike Rodeo. 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Children and youth, bring your bike for a tune-up, learn bike safety tips, have your bike helmet properly fit, and decorate your bike.

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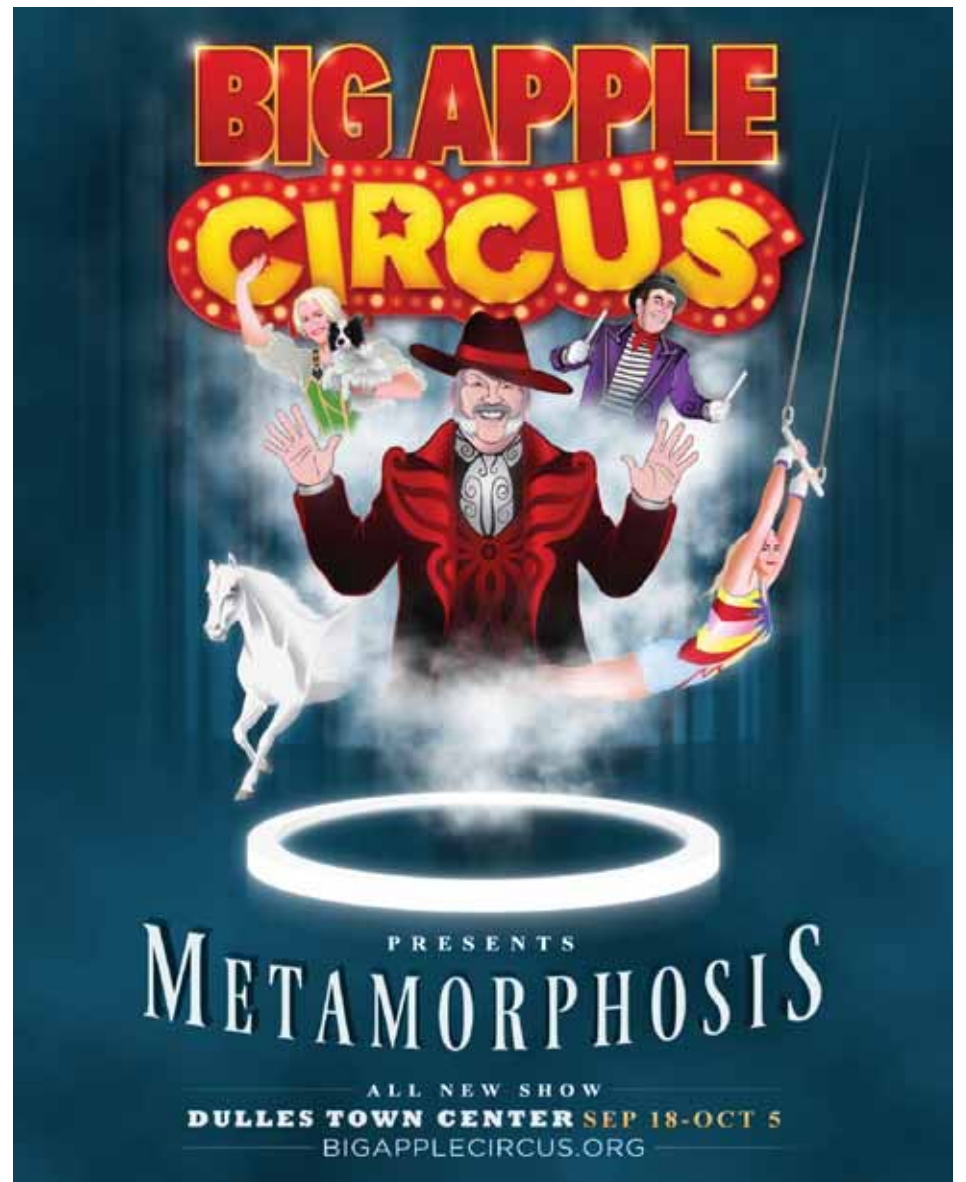
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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS



South Lakes Volleyball Falls Short Against Langley

Senior captain
McBride is Seahawks'
top threat.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

A member of the South Lakes volleyball team started to celebrate what she thought was the winning point in the opening set of Monday's match against Langley. As it turned out, the Saxons kept the ball off the floor, kept the rally alive and wound up with a kill of their own.

Three points later, Langley completed a 5-0 run to win the first set, 26-24.

"We gave up on a couple points," South Lakes head coach Cheri Hostetler said. "We celebrated a little too quick."

South Lakes scored the first six points of the second set and led 18-17, but Langley battled back to win, 25-23.

On a night when South Lakes had an opportunity to deny Langley head coach Susan Shifflett career win No. 300, the Seahawks couldn't put the defending state champion Saxons away, falling 3-1 (26-24, 25-23, 17-25, 25-17) on Sept. 8 at Langley High School. South Lakes fell to 3-6 during the 2014 season, but Hostetler was pleased with the team's effort.

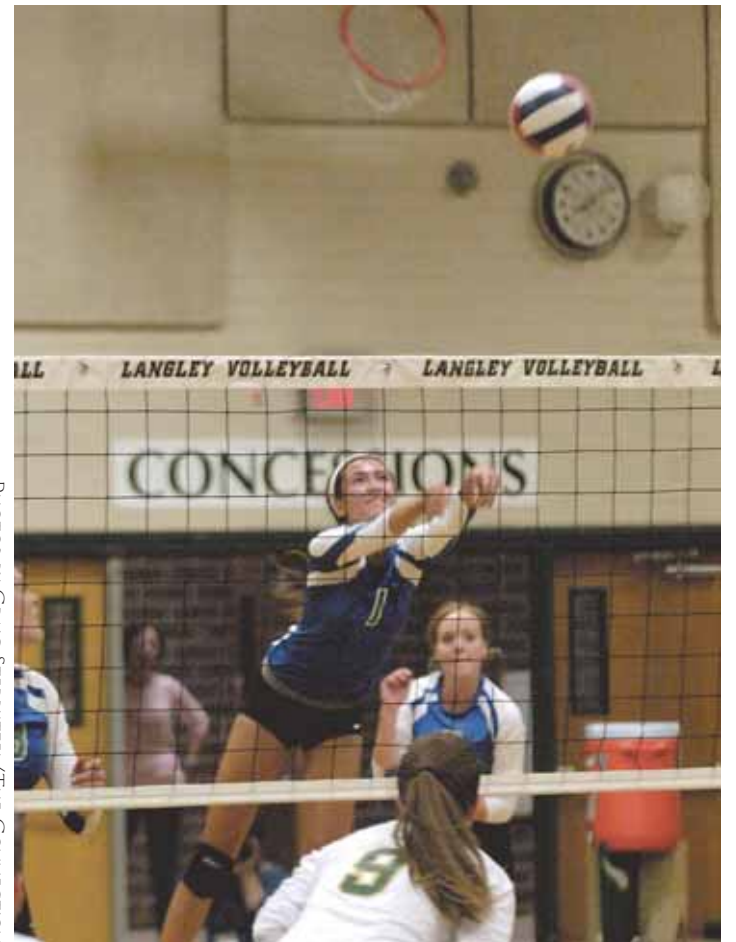
"I think they played the heck out of that match," she said. "They did a really good job."

Senior middle hitter Vela McBride is the Seahawks' most talented player. She is committed to Navy and is one of three South Lakes captains. On Monday, she finished with a team-high 12 kills.



South Lakes senior middle hitter Vela McBride is committed to Navy.

McBride also sets for the Seahawks. "She just brings a lot of energy," Hostetler said. "She's got great knowledge of the game. She knows really how to work the court, who to set, who are the hot hitters, who's not, and really how to attack the defense. She's great. She's very much a leader on the team."



South Lakes junior Melody Caloyannides had nine kills against Langley on Monday.

Junior outside hitter Melody Caloyannides finished with nine kills for South Lakes. Senior setter Jackie Trautman had five kills, and senior middle hitter Kaitlyn Ball, sophomore opposite hitter Emma Youngren and junior outside hitter Kristina Brownell each had four kills.

Ball and Trautman are also captains.

Monday's victory gave Shifflett, who founded Langley volleyball in 1998, 300 victories for her career. Hostetler shared her admiration for the Saxons coach. "She's always the coach you want to beat," Hostetler said. "She's a great coach. I really look up to her a lot." South Lakes will travel to face Stone Bridge at 7:15 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 15.

Madison Senior Swaak Places 1st at Monroe Parker

Warhawks win girls'
team championship.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Madison senior Amanda Swaak's time at Saturday's Monroe Parker Invitational was 21 seconds slower than when she competed in the 2013 6A North region meet on the same course at Burke Lake Park. On this afternoon, however, Swaak focused more on place than time. With that in mind, her performance was an improvement as she took home a pair of championships.

With temperatures in the 80s, Swaak placed first in the girls' varsity race on Sept. 6 with a time of 18 minutes, 6 seconds. Swaak's effort helped the Madison Warhawks finish atop the girls' team standings, as well.

"I thought I ran pretty well," Swaak



Madison senior Amanda Swaak finished first at the Monroe Parker Invitational on Sept. 6 at Burke Lake Park.

said. "This week has been hard for me training-wise — I upped my mileage — so I came into it pretty sore."

Swaak finished four seconds ahead of Chantilly's Xaveria Hawvermale, who placed second with a time of 18:10.

"I had Xaveria running next to me ... so I wasn't by myself," Swaak said. "We both pushed each other until the last bit. ... It helps a lot."

Madison finished first in the team standings with a score of 75. Lake Braddock (99) placed second, and Patriot (140) finished third.

Along with Swaak's first-place finish, Madison's Morgan Wittrock placed eighth (19:04), Laura Sullivan finished 14th (19:20), Devon Williams took 20th (19:33) and Bella Maggio finished 32nd (19:55).

Swaak earned all-state honors as a junior, placing 12th during the VHSL 6A state race at Great Meadow. Wittrock finished 22nd at states last year as a sophomore.

Inspiring Success

Nysmith School challenges students at the level they are ready for.

To those families whose K-8 children are now or previously were enrolled at The Nysmith School for the Gifted in Herndon, the school combines exceptional academics with “serious fun” to create an environment in which the children are motivated to stretch to their limits and maximize their potential.

It was Carole Nysmith’s (Reston resident) vision and educational philosophy that laid the foundation for the school. From Kansas to California to Virginia, her professional career found her learning as much as she was teaching children with the capacity to do more in the classroom. Nysmith discovered that many children were “turned off by education” and that if you tried to teach children something they already knew they would quickly tune you out.

While she enjoyed teaching at Sunrise Valley Elementary School in Reston and working with “gifted” children in Fairfax County’s Accelerated Academics Program (AAP), Nysmith realized the importance of challenging them at the level they were ready for intellectually. She recognized the value of teachers having the flexibility to deviate from a standardized curriculum and of students being placed—and taught material—several grade levels above their age.

Convinced of the need to allow students to learn at a rate that matched their individual capabilities, Nysmith decided to create her own school, one that would provide students with the opportunity to learn at whatever pace was right for each of them.

AS NYSMITH DESCRIBES IT, she sold everything she and her husband owned and even borrowed some recently-inherited money from her two sons, one of whom (Ken) serves as the school’s headmaster. She gave weekly talks at the local community center and anyplace else she could get parents to listen to her. To this day, she remains amazed that people were willing to sign up their youngsters and provide enrollment deposits when there was not yet a building that would house these eager-to-learn students.

The Nysmith School for the Gifted (www.nysmith.com) opened in 1983 at the Reston Visitor Center, one of seven locations to house the school in its first few years of existence. There were 55 K-2 children and six teachers that first year; grades 3-6 and a preschool program were added in the late 80s and early 90s as enrollment was doubling every year. The school was so popular that parents of the sixth graders essentially told Nysmith that “they refused to



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Carole Nysmith’s students consistently place in the top 1 percent in the country in each category of the standardized tests.

leave” Nysmith and insisted that she add an intermediate level (7th & 8th grades), which she did in 1989. Today there are more than 700 students (some of whose families moved to the D.C. area just so that their children could attend Nysmith) and 150 teachers making the most of each day on the 13-acre campus.

WHAT’S THE SECRET to the school’s success? Certainly part of it is the quality - and the continuity - of the teachers, all of whom are interviewed and selected by Nysmith. And the teacher to student ratio of 9:1 is as remarkable as it is conducive to

presenting as many as four different levels of a subject in a single grade to accommodate each child’s needs.

Promoting learning as being both fun and intellectually challenging is not just Nysmith’s philosophy; it is the essence of the experience that exists within the walls of the school. Nysmith students consistently place in the top 1 percent in the country in each category of the standardized tests. Many compete successfully in various local and regional competitions — a team of 7th graders won third place in the World at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals in Ames, Iowa earlier this year.

Plane Pull Returns to Dulles

Power of teamwork on exhibit at the 22nd Annual Plane Pull Sept. 20.

Looking for a great way to unite friends, family and coworkers in a common cause? Rally your fellow weekend warriors and pull a 164,000+ pound Airbus at the 22nd Annual Dulles Day Family Festival and Plane Pull, Sept. 20 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Dulles International Airport. All proceeds benefit Special Olympics Virginia.

Teams of 25 will compete to see who can pull the airplane 12 feet the fastest. Teams must raise a minimum of \$1,500 – that’s just \$60 a person – to participate. Worried about the possibility that a 164,000+ pound machine will prevail? Have no fear! Prizes will also be awarded to the teams who raise the most money, teams who show the most enthusiasm, the lightest and the heaviest teams, and even the slowest team.

Children also can get involved and earn bragging rights for school on Monday morning. The Kids Truck Pull provides a fun challenge for youngest fans to test their strength. Teams of eight will compete to see who can pull the big, red 123JUNK truck 12 feet the fastest. To



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

participate, you must raise or donate a minimum of \$10/person. All participants will receive a Plane Pull T-shirt; a prize will also be awarded to the person who raises the most money.

Prior to the Plane Pull, runners, walkers and stroller pushers will all have their chance to strut their stuff at the 2nd 5K/10K on the Runway. The Dulles Airport Runway will be closed off to airport traffic so participants can run past planes and

along the actual landing strip. This wildly popular event is limited to 2,500 runners. The cost for the 5K is \$30 per participant \$35 until Sept. 17, if space is still available. The cost for the 10K is \$45 until Sept. 17, if space is still available. All participants must register online by Sept. 17.

Not a runner? Don’t have the muscles to pull a plane or truck? That’s OK! You can still join as a volunteer, event sponsor, event exhibitor or even as a “fan” of Special Olym-

pics Virginia. The Dulles Day Family Festival and Plane Pull, presented by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority and Software AG, will also feature live music, a car show, military and civilian aircraft displays, police K-9 demonstrations, business exhibits, and a special Kids Zone. There is no charge to enter the festival, although donations are appreciated. All attendees over the age of 18 will receive a door prize ticket for the chance to win a “weighty” prize.

Since the first-ever Plane Pull was held in 1993 at Dulles International Airport, Special Olympics Virginia has raised more than \$2 million for athletes with intellectual disabilities throughout the state, and also started a worldwide plane-pulling phenomenon. Today, similar Plane Pulls are held throughout the year in Colorado, Maryland, Hawaii, Tennessee and Texas. The Plane Pull is a Law Enforcement Torch Run event. The Torch Run, sponsored by SunTrust and Enterprise, unites law enforcement across the Commonwealth to raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics Virginia. For more information, to register your team, sign up to exhibit or volunteer, or for sponsorship details, visit www.planepull.com or call 703-359-4301.

Time Sensitive



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As much as I don't want to be cognizant of date, time and place, relative to February 27, 2009 when Team Lourie first received the stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer diagnosis on yours truly, I am (a terminal diagnosis will do that to you). Moreover, as often as I write about the need to live forward, rather than die backward (if you know what I mean), I still struggle with the application. Not that I want to be preoccupied with it, but every day, every date presents opportunities, shall we say: anniversaries, birthdays, ages I thought I'd never be, appointments, scans, pills; constant reminders I am not in Kansas any more (in fact, I'm in Indiana as I write this column). Unfortunately, out of town doesn't put cancer out of mind. Though it may obfuscate its effect a little bit, I kind of feel like Al Pacino – as Michael Corleone in "Godfather III" (1990) – when frustrated by his attempts to legitimize the family business, he said: "Just when I thought I was out...they pull me back in again." And it's not as if I'm ever very far from my cancer reality anyway. The prospect of getting out (finding a cure) is probably less likely than the Corleone family going legit. Nevertheless, as I'm fond of admitting: it sure beats the alternative. So far, so good. Five and a half years and still counting.

Thankfully, life goes on and still I hope. And beholden to that hope is the recognition of the underlying facts: stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer is, as my oncologist said, "a terminal disease;" he could "treat me but he couldn't cure me." Meaning, at least to me, at that time: that a normal life expectancy had just left the building, especially since the prognosis I received from him was "13 months to two years." Now let me ask you this: how does one bury that statement of presumptive medical fact and go about your business/life as if everything is hunky dory? You don't, and as often and as consistently as I have attempted to bury that lead, the reality is, there are circumstances at nearly every turn, backwards and forwards, up and down, which make it nearly impossible to live as if I'm cancer-free. As much as I'd like to forget and live life as if the world were my oyster and that I had everything to gain and nothing to lose, the truth is, it's much easier said and written than actually done. And just like "Gold Hat" (portrayed by Alfonso Bedoya) didn't "need no stinkin' badges" in the 1948 film "The Treasure of the Sierra Madre," neither do I need any reminders, "stinkin'" or otherwise, that I have cancer.

Most of the time, I can overcome them. Sometimes I can't, though. No one said this cancer experience was going to be easy; in fact a close friend and fellow cancer survivor told me quite the opposite: that this would be the hardest thing I've ever done, and of course, she was 100-percent correct; and I'm reminded of that reality every single day, whether I want to be or not.

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

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THURSDAY/SEPT. 11

American Red Cross Blood Donation. 8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. redcross.org or 1-800-RED-CROSS.

MONDAY/SEPT. 15

American Red Cross Blood Donation. 8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Cisco, 13600 Dulles Technology Drive, Herndon. redcross.org or 1-800-RED-CROSS.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 18

FAA Reauthorization - What it is and Why it's Important. 11:30 a.m. Crowne Plaza, 2200 Centreville Road, Herndon. Jim Bennett, CEO, JB Transportation Advisors, LLC, will share with the Committee for Dulles what this legislation is about, the prospects for its passage, and what all this means to Washington Dulles International Airport and its airlines. Reserve your space, info@committeefordulles.org

Women's Club of Reston Meeting. 10 a.m. Lake Anne Community Center, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston. The meeting is open to the public and there is no need to be a Reston resident. Some of the many activities include bridge, mahjong, book club and scrabble. There will be representatives from each activity available that day to answer questions & help you sign up. For more information, visit www.restonnewcomers.org or call Margaret at 703-834-0468.

Volunteering 101. 7 p.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center Street, Herndon. Get information about the youth volunteer program at Herndon Library. Volunteers assist staff and earn service hours. Volunteers apply at the program. Age: teen.

MONDAY/SEPT. 22

NARFE Dulles Chapter 1241 Luncheon Meeting. 11:30 a.m. Amphora Diner, 1151 Elden Street, Herndon. Suzanne Scholte (R), Congressional District 11, and Pete Snyder speaking for Barbara Comstock (R), Congressional District 10. Please call in your reservation by Sept. 18 to Louise Rooney 703-435-3523.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 23

Inova Blood Drive. 12-7 p.m. Reston Town Center Plaza, 11900 Market St., Reston. Blood drive occurs monthly on the 4th Tuesday. 1-866-256-6372.

ONGOING

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

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

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

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

Long-Term Care Volunteer Ombudsman Program Needs Volunteers. Ombudsmen advocate for the rights of residents of nursing and assisted living facilities—they also help residents resolve conflict and improve their quality of life. 703-324-5861 TTY 711 or Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Fall for the Book in September

Local book festival has something for everyone.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Your opportunity to be part of a literary celebration is about to arrive. The annual Fall for the Book Festival begins on Sept. 11. It is a week-long, multi-venue affair with free events at locations throughout Fairfax County, and beyond.

From some of America's best-known writers, to emerging names, the Festival showcases a range of authors, including from Fairfax County. Of the Festival's 150 authors, Fairfax County authors include Young Adult author L.M. Elliott (Great Falls), Historian Tim Grove (Fairfax), mystery writers Kathryn O'Sullivan (Reston), Barb Goffman (Herndon) and Donna Andrews (Reston) to name a few.

For O'Sullivan, the book festival "brings people of all ages and backgrounds together who wish to celebrate the joy of reading and writing."

She will be participating on a



L.M. Elliott



Barb Goffman

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Tim Grove



Kathryn O'Sullivan

mystery writers panel discussing her latest book in the series "Murder on the Hoof." O'Sullivan en-

joys "writing about fun, strong women."

According to Elliott, the festival

Where and When

The 2014 Fall for the Book Festival will be held Sept. 11-18 at many Fairfax County locations. General information is at: www.fallforthebook.org/

Scheduling: <http://fallforthebook.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/FftBFestivalProgram2014.pdf>

Sponsors for the 2014 Fall for the Book are at: <http://fallforthebook.org/sponsors/>

Note: Fall for the Book is debuting an app, the "FftB" app. The "FftB" app provides a guide to the festival. It is free; sponsored by the Fairfax County Public Library. For more app information go to: <http://fallforthebook.org/2014/08/04/festival-launches-smartphone-app/>

is "a rich, cross-pollinating festival for everyone, authors included. I've always come away inspired and with new ideas." She will be discussing her "Across a War-tossed Sea" the final novel in a WWII trilogy and companion to "Under a War-torn Sky", the story of a downed pilot and the French Resistance, which has been on Fairfax County Public School's summer reading lists.

Grove noted that "any event that focuses on the importance of the written word and the joy of reading is valuable." And history doesn't have to be "boring". He will discuss "A Grizzly in the Mail and Other Adventures in American History."

It is a collection built upon his many years as a public historian. He is currently with the National Air and Space Museum.

To Goffman, the Festival "is es-

pecially wonderful because it has something for everybody". She will be talking about her mystery short-story collection, "Don't Get Mad, Get Even." It contains stories both previously published and new. Her story "The Lord Is My Shamus," won the Macavity Award last year for best short mystery story.

Andrews will be moderating a session. Her latest book is "The Good, the Bad, and the Emus." She sees her work as "a humorous traditional series" set in a small fictitious Virginia location with its woman protagonist involved "in sleuthing when one of her friends or family members is in trouble." Andrews will "usually look for a situation that can give rise to humor and homicide."

Come on down to the Fall for the Book and find some additions for your reading list.

Sustainability Fair Saturday

Part of the new strategic plan.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

Children and parents alike can learn how to keep the planet healthy on Saturday.

The second annual Northern Virginia Sustainability Fair, an event to get children excited about the Earth's future, will be held 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sept. 13 at Frying Pan Park.

"We are trying to raise awareness and inspire people," said The Three Birds Foundation Founder Joseph Plummer. "We want to show people of all ages that there are opportunities in their neighborhood to have a positive impact on their environment."

He said this is the first year the fair is operating under its

new name.

The fair is geared to young families and will include wagon and carousel rides as well as hands-on activities from organizations throughout the area, like The Children's Science Center and Herndon Environmental Network [HEN].

"A lot of the organizations that we are working with are education focused," said Plummer. "We're trying to work it back into the classrooms, and we think that working with younger families is the way to do that."

He said that having a sustainability fair that appeals to children will hopefully create a generation that is aware of the world they live in - and want to protect it.

"We're going to have a booth with outreach materials about the

community garden," said Herndon Environmental Network Co-President Cristina Lewandowski. "We always have a children's table with coloring activities. We're just hoping to educate."

HEN Vice President Barb Walsh said the Herndon community garden is still in the planning stages and still needs to be funded before the land can be bought.

She said she was worried when she found out some elementary students don't know where vegetables come from.

"It's scary they think that vegetables come from the supermarket," she said. "I have kids, and I'm looking at their future. The stuff we do now impacts them directly."

The Children's Science Center is another organization that will be at the fair for the second time.

"Primarily, we will be there to share our new museum location," said CSC Executive Director Adalene "Nene" Spivy.



PHOTO BY REENA SINGH/ THE CONNECTION

Del. Tom Rust (R-86) and the Founder of Three Birds Joseph Plummer at last year's Sustainability Fair.

The science center will also be bringing a hands-on exhibit, the "Power Up! Renewable Wind Energy" mobile exhibit - that is geared for young minds.

She said that sustainability means ensuring the future of the planet and inspiring the youngest

generation to be a part of the solution.

"We have been working with The Three Birds Foundation for a while now," she said. "We share a lot of common with their mission to get kids inspired and excited."