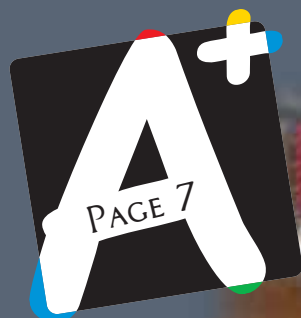


# Oak Hill ❖ Herndon CONNECTION



Herndon High senior Christine Horton looks forward to the Nov. 20 performance at the Virginia Music Educators Association conference in Norfolk. "There is a lot of pressure, but it is a great experience," said Horton.

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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The **Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna** has an urgent need for volunteer drivers to take area seniors to medical appointments and other activities. Opportunities to volunteer for other services are also available. No long-term commitment and hours are flexible to fit your schedule. We hope you can help. Visit our website at [www.scov.org](http://www.scov.org) or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 703-281-5086 or email [volunteer@scov.org](mailto:volunteer@scov.org).

The **Kingstowne Center for Active Adults** in Alexandria needs a Van Driver to take participants on outings and an ESL Teacher. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsand](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsand) click on Volunteer Solutions.

**Meals on Wheels** needs drivers in Chantilly, Clifton, McLean and Falls Church on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Substitute drivers needed throughout the county. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsand](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsand) click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Wakefield Senior Center in Annandale** needs a Chair Exercise Instructor, Spanish-speaking interpreters, an Experienced Canasta Player to teach participants, and certified instructors for classes in Ballroom Dance and Pilates. Volunteer instructor positions could lead to part-time employment. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsand](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsand) click on Volunteer Solutions.

**Fairfax County** needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs; urgent need in Reston area. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsand](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsand) click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Annandale Adult Day Health Care Center** in Annandale needs Spanish-speaking social companions and a licensed hair stylist to wash, cut and style hair for participants. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsand](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsand) click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Hollin Hall Senior Center in Alexandria** needs a DJ to provide a wide array of music from ballroom to line dancing, a Ballroom Dance Instructor and a volunteer with basic carpentry skills to build a "Little Free Library," for people to donate and borrow books from. Center will provide plans and materials. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsand](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsand) click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Sully Senior Center in Centreville** needs a certified personal trainer twice a week, preferably with experience working with older adults. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsand](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsand) click on Volunteer Solutions.

**Korean Meals on Wheels** needs Korean-speaking volunteers to deliver meals Monday, Wednesday and Friday in Centreville, Reston and Annandale. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsand](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsand) click on Volunteer Solutions.

**Respite Care** volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact Kristin Martin at 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or [Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov).



## Many Residents in Opposition to November Elections

### Herndon Town Council holds second public hearing on town charter changes.

BY REENA SINGH  
THE CONNECTION

**H**erndon's town council heard from another crowd of residents about proposed changes to the town's election process.

Residents for and against changes to the number of years councilmembers and the mayor serve and moving the election to November spoke out at Nov. 11 town council public hearing.

"Frankly, I feel these are two separate issues," said former councilmember Richard Downer after thanking the town council for bringing up the potential changes. "I'm sorry they got mixed together."

The proposal changes the number of years the town council and mayor serve - four - as well as staggers them so elections are still held every two years. The vice mayor will be decided by the town council every two years. Additionally, the proposal changes the town elections from May to November.

According to Town Attorney Richard Kaufman, the bill will go into effect next July if both the town and General Assembly approve the proposal. Since there will be no election in May, the next town elec-

tion will be held November 2016.

"There has been some concern about this transitional period," said Kaufman.

He suggested that the council change the proposal so that it either starts earlier, making councilmembers run for re-election early, or start it later so council has to run for re-election once more before the staggered changes begin.

There were others who had concerns about moving the elections to November.

"I strongly feel the election should remain in May," said Downer.

He said keeping it in May keeps the town to one precinct and not get into "political clutter."

Other residents, many of whom were also former councilmembers, agreed.

"I'm very concerned that if you move these elections to November, they will turn partisan, because in past elections, we see more of a partisanship happening," said Steve Mitchell.

He supported having the terms



PHOTOS BY REENA SINGH/THE CONNECTION

**Residents poured into the council chamber to voice their opinion and find out what their neighbors think about proposed changes to the town's election process.**

for councilmembers be every four years in staggered elections, but felt that the mayor should still have to run for election every other year.

Former Herndon mayor Steve DeBenedittis wrote a letter to the town council stating his opposition to all three parts of the proposal.

"These changes would benefit politicians but would not benefit the Town of Herndon citizens in any way," he said.

He believes the proposal, if passed, will weaken the town's election process.

"I ran in three locally-focused May elections and proudly served three two-year terms concurrently with the town council," he wrote in the letter. "I never proposed changing the town's electoral process not because 'we've always done it this way' but because our current system is the best of all possibilities that exist in Virginia. During my service I spoke to many people but no voter ever told me that they wanted to vote less frequently. No citizen ever told me that the town council should be less accountable to the town they serve."

The next public hearing on the proposal will be at 7 p.m. Nov. 25 in the Council Chambers. The town Council will not approve of the proposal until after the Dec. 4 public hearing session.

For more information, visit [https://www.herndon-va.gov/Content/Government/Town\\_Council/town\\_elections/default.aspx?cnlid=1347](https://www.herndon-va.gov/Content/Government/Town_Council/town_elections/default.aspx?cnlid=1347).

## Herndon Rotary Club Opens Little Free Library

### Rotary club holds dedication ceremony in downtown Herndon.

BY RYAN DUNN  
THE CONNECTION

**D**espite cool weather, the Town of Herndon residents and members of the Herndon Rotary Club assembled at downtown Herndon for the dedication and unveiling of the Rotary Club of Herndon's first Little Free Library on Saturday, Nov. 15. The Little Free Library is a neighbor-to-neighbor sharing of books, and was made possible with the support of local businesses and the Rotary Club of Herndon. No library card is necessary to participate in the program.

The Little Free Library (LFL) movement began in 2009 when Todd Bol of Hudson, Wis. built a model of a one room schoolhouse as a tribute to his mother, a former school teacher who loved reading. By January of 2014, the total number of registered Little Free Libraries in the world was estimated to be near

15,000, with thousands more being built.

Herndon Rotary club member Richard Downer welcomed everyone attending the Saturday dedication event. Downer explained how he was inspired to propose the idea to members of the Herndon Rotary club after seeing a LFL in Carrollton, Ga., the previous year. "I mentioned the idea to Mayor Merkel and Mercia Hobson, a fellow Herndon Rotarian," said Downer. "They both thought it was a great idea for Herndon to have their first LFL on our Town Hall/W&OD Depot green."

It was decided to make a weatherproof design using the colors of the historic Herndon Depot building. While Mercia Hobson got applications approved, her husband Al Hobson worked on the lumbar donated by Bob Benedict. The structure is ADA compliant, so a person using a wheelchair should be able to reach the top shelf.

Owners of Green Lizard Cycling on Lynn Street, Beth and Dave Meyer, will help serve as custodians of Herndon's first Little Free

Library. The library is in beeline view of the Green Lizard Cycling on Lynn Street. "It is an honor, we are excited to have a free library, and I think it is another great addition to the community," said Beth Meyer. "The Little Free Library is an exciting new addition to the Herndon Town Hall Plaza," said Signe Friedrichs, Director of the Council for the Arts of Herndon. "It tells the world that Herndon has citizens such as Al and Mercia Hobson and Richard Downer, and the new librarian Beth Meyer, who care passionately about the beauty of our town. I love it!"

Attending were Town of Herndon Mayor Lisa Merkel, Vice Mayor Jennifer Baker, and town council members Grace Han Wolf and Sheila A. Olem. Also attending was Katie Strotman, Deputy Director of Fairfax County Library System. "I am so delighted to welcome the Little Free Library concept to Herndon and thank the Rotary Club for their continuing support for childhood literacy and encouraging a love of reading," said town



PHOTO BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

**Herndon resident Mercia Hobson, a member of the Herndon Rotary Club, with her husband Al Hobson by Herndon's first Little Free Library (LFL). The LFL is located in downtown Herndon near the old town hall building at the corner of Elden and Station Streets.**

SEE LIBRARY, PAGE 5





PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION  
Herndon High junior Jacob Reeves displayed dexterity as he performed Joseph Green's ragtime "Xylophonia" with a xylophone.



In addition to music from the Herndon High wind ensemble, the Nov. 12 evening concert also featured a show by the marching band and color guard.

## Herndon High Holds Fall Band Concert

Herndon band performs free concert at school before trip to Norfolk.

BY RYAN DUNN  
THE CONNECTION

**H**erndon High School band welcomed the community to attend a free concert the evening of Nov. 12 at Herndon High School auditorium. The concert was held to thank the community for generous support during the annual Tag Day fundraiser. In September 2014, 150 Herndon High School Band students went across Herndon for their annual Tag Day event, the biggest fundraiser of the year. Funds raised from the event will help pay for instructors, equipment, instruments, uniforms and other necessities to keep the school band program running.

The concert featured selections from the wind ensemble's upcoming Nov. 20 performance at the Virginia Music Educators Association conference as well as the Pride of Herndon Marching Band's show titled "The Final Frontier."

"I'm very excited about our upcoming performance at the Virginia Music Educators Association Conference in Norfolk," said band director Kathleen Jacoby. "Only three high school bands are selected to perform each year. The Wind Ensemble members have been working since August to prepare an hour's worth of newly published music. The students have run their own sectionals, come in on teacher workdays, and spent many extra hours polishing this program."

The Virginia Music Educators Association (VMEA) is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to provide helpfulness to its membership and promote advancement of music education through schools and educational institutions. VMEA is an affiliated state unit of the Music Educators National Conference: The National Association for Music Education. "Being in the VMEA show



**On Nov. 12 there was a free evening concert at Herndon High School auditorium. Pride of Herndon Marching Band's show was titled "The Final Frontier." Several guest conductors included music teacher Christopher Cunningham.**

is a huge honor," said Herndon senior Christine Horton. "There is a lot of pressure, but it is a great experience." Horton plays the trumpet and is interested in studying music theory.

Herndon High Principal William Bates has also recognized the achievements by the Herndon High band. "I would like to congratulate our Pride of Herndon Wind Ensemble on being selected to represent Fairfax County Public Schools at the Virginia Music Educators Association (VMEA) 2014

In-Service Conference," said Bates. "This superior group of student musicians consistently performs at an exceptional level and regularly earns a status of Honor Band. The Herndon community is proud to claim this group as our own and recognizes that Herndon will be represented well. I would also like to thank Mrs. Kathleen Jacoby, band director for her steadfast dedication to building and sustaining a superior band program. Her tireless efforts to support our students are greatly appreciated by all in the Herndon community."

Herndon band students had a video conference with one of the composers, and a side by side rehearsal with the United States Air Force Band. Students and band leaders agree the process has improved both music making and teamwork skills. In addition to Kathleen Jacoby, the Nov. 12 concert had several guest conductors including Douglas Armstrong, Sharon Bonneau, Christopher Cunningham, and Steven Jacoby.

Herndon resident Sharon Bonneau is acquainted with many of the students in the school band, as she has been Director of Bands at Herndon Middle School since 2001. "Almost every one of them are former students of mine," said Bonneau. In 2010, many of the current 10<sup>th</sup> grade band students went with Herndon MS band director Bonneau to the VMEA state music convention. "Usually this is a once in a lifetime opportunity," said Bonneau. "I am really proud for all of them."

Before the Herndon Marching Band's performed the show "The Final Frontier" Herndon juniors Jacob Reeves and Aimee Toner had the opportunity to perform solo performances. Playing the flute, Aimee Toner performed Joseph Spaniola's "The Three Graces." Jacob Reeves displayed dexterity as he performed Joseph Green's the ragtime "Xylophonia" with a xylophone, duck call and a siren whistle. Reeves looks forward to the VMEA concert. "I do not think I or our band director could be any more proud of the progress we have made," said Reeves.

### WEEK IN HERNDON

## Herndon Turkey Trot 5K Race to Be Held Saturday

Herndon Turkey Trot 5K Race will be held on Saturday, Nov. 22, 2014 at 4 p.m. at the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon.

Runners and walkers will take a fun trial 5K course, which winds around the Herndon Centennial Golf Course. The race will begin at 4 p.m. Packet pick up and race day registration runs from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Long-sleeved Sport Tek T-shirts guaranteed to the first 900 pre-registered runners. Shirts must be picked up the day of the race. Shirts will not be available after race day. Refreshments, entertainment and door prizes will be available after the race to all runners.

Preregistration ends on Friday, Nov. 21 at noon. Race day registration is from 1:30 – 3 p.m. in the Herndon Community Center Gym. Runners of all ages are welcome to compete and prizes will be awarded to winners male and female in the following age groups: 10 & under, 11-14, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70 & over. Overall male and female winners will be given a Thanksgiving turkey with all the trimmings. Registration is currently available at the Herndon Community Center and online at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com).

Pre-registration is \$20 adult/youth with a can of food through noon Nov. 21. Race day registration is \$25 (adults) plus a can of food and \$20 youth (18 & under), plus a can of food. All food will be donated to LINK.

To learn more about the Town of Herndon Parks and Recreation Department, visit at [www.herndon-va.gov](http://www.herndon-va.gov), or call 703-787-7300.





# Barbiere-Rockholt Engaged

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Barbieri of Herndon announce the engagement of their daughter, Michelle, to Daniel Rockholt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rockholt, of Lake Monticello, Va.

The bride-to-be is a 2005 graduate of Herndon High School and is a music specialist at the music school, Bach to Rock, in McLean. The future groom is a 1994 graduate of Herndon High School and is currently an automotive technician at the Stohlman Subaru dealership in Herndon.

A Fall 2015 wedding is planned.



PHOTO BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

**Herndon resident Mercia Hobson, a member of the Herndon Rotary Club, displays some books available at Herndon's first Little Free Library on Saturday, Nov. 15. There are three shelves for donated books in the weather-proof box for books.**

# Herndon Rotary Club Opens Little Free Library

FROM PAGE 3

council member Grace Han Wolf. "There are discussions about installing an additional LFL in Town and I would support and encourage the idea, it is a very Herndon thing to do, sharing your favorite books with friends and neighbors." Wolf is looking to see if another LFL can be installed at the Herndon Community Center at 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon.

The Herndon Rotary club will be stewards of the Herndon LFL. In 1939 the Rotary Club of Herndon was established as a charter member of Rotary International. For the

past 75 years the Rotary Club of Herndon has served as a part of the Herndon community. The Rotary Club of Herndon sees the Little Free Library as an extension of their literacy efforts to all age groups. For pre-kindergarten children the Rotary Club sponsors the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program in Herndon zip codes 20170 and 20171. The Rotary Club of Herndon meets Wednesday mornings at Amphora Diner at 1151 Elden Street at 7:30 a.m. and welcomes visitors to join for breakfast and learn about ways to provide service to Herndon and international projects of Rotary.

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# OPINION

## Why Shop Small? Shop Large Locally

**Small business  
Saturday isn't enough;  
don't wait until then,  
and don't stop after that.**

There is a joy to shopping in local stores at the holidays, to participating in community traditions and celebrations, to walking along a sidewalk with the streets decked out for the holidays, to being greeted by someone likely to be the owner of the store, to finding gifts that are not mass-produced.

One way to be sure holiday shopping comes with some holiday spirit is to do a portion of your shopping in some of the area's locally owned stores. There is special holiday ambiance available by shopping in the heart of a town that is decked out for the season.

Small retail shops are part of defining any community. Their livelihood depends on the livability and quality of the neighborhoods around them. A small business owner pays attention to every detail in his or her business in a way that is otherwise unmatched.

We all benefit when local stores thrive, when local business districts beckon. An effort to support locally owned businesses has resulted in the recognition of Small Business Saturday, the Saturday after Thanksgiving, also called Shop Small. This year that day is Nov. 29.

Locally owned retail shops, services, restaurants depend on vibrant local communities to thrive, and communities depend on those businesses as well. Most small, locally owned busi-

### Celebrate Locally

**Reston Holiday Parade.** Friday, Nov. 28, 11 a.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Come for a full day of community, charity and cheer including the Gingerbread Man Mile & Tot Trot, Santa, tree lighting, sing along and horse-drawn carriage rides.

**The Thanksgiving Story.** Friday, Nov. 28, 11 a.m. Frying Pan Farm Park, 2309 West Ox Road, Herndon. Bring the family and holiday guests to this lively and interactive retelling of the Thanksgiving Story. After the show, stroll the park and visit our animals or take a ride on our carousel or wagon rides. Admission: \$5 per person.

**Shop Small,** Saturday, Nov. 29, Small Business Saturday

**Meadowlark's Winter Walk of Lights.** Now through Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015, 5:30 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Garden, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. A winter wonderland, including a flowing stream of softly glowing lights, a two-story animated fountain and a Gingerbread Village. Admission: \$13 adults, \$8 children ages 3-12; children under 3 are free. <http://winterwalkoflights.com/>

**Herndon Towne Square Singers.** Friday, Dec. 5, 7:30-9 p.m. Herndon Community Center, 814

Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Annual holiday concert with cider, cookies and sing-along carols. \$12. 703-435-6800.

**2014 Annual Reston Holiday Book Sale.** Friday, Dec. 5, 7:30-9 p.m. 10 a.m. - 5p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Center, Reston. Books, gifts, and surprises to delight readers of all ages.

**Reston Jingle on Lake Anne.** Saturday, Dec. 6, 11 a.m. Lake Anne Plaza, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Community organizers and plaza retailers will host a variety of festive activities ranging from a special visit from Santa (arriving on a lake barge), strolling carolers, a petting zoo, music, wine tastings, merchant specials, children's crafts, cookie and ornament decorating, holiday arts and crafts market, holiday entertainment and more.

**Herndon Towne Square Singers.** Saturday, Dec. 6, 7:30-9 p.m. Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Annual holiday concert with cider, cookies and sing-along carols. \$12. 703-435-6800.

**Herndon Holiday Homes Tour.** Saturday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Tour five different homes that are decorated for the holidays. \$15-\$20. <http://www.herndon-va.gov/>

nesses invest in community, helping to transform our towns and communities with a sense of place.

Frequently, it is the small retail person who is active in fundraising for local charities, advocating for improvements, for fire and rescue service, for local schools and in organizing holiday events.

Local retail stores, mom-and-pop stores, face tough challenges right now. Competition from big box stores and online sellers makes the holiday shopping season all the more important to locally owned retailers. But local families will literally spend millions of dollars to shop and exchange gifts during the next month, spending tens of millions of dollars in a variety of places.

Everyone will do some of their shopping at the mall. Everyone will do some shopping online. Many will answer the call of the big box. But local shoppers should be sure to save some shopping time and dollars for local stores. Spend some time shopping in your own community, and also plan an excursion to a nearby town to check out the local businesses and holiday spirit there.

The Connection is participating in Shop Small 2014, email [sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com) to find out more.

— MARY KIMM

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

### COMMENTARY

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

The Virginia General Assembly adjourned its regular session in early March this year and immediately went into special session that while still continuing has become the longest special session ever. The special session was needed to complete work on the biennial budget and to fill judicial vacancies. While technically in special session, we actually only meet as an assembled body a few days every couple of months. We passed a budget but have had to revise it because of declining state revenue. We considered expansion of Medicaid services in what some termed a "sham" session as the majority party had indicated its no-compromise opposition to closing the coverage gap. We filled a number of judicial positions although the drawn-out political process of selecting

## Protracted Legislative Session

judges has made the flaws of the current method painfully apparent. Since the legislature is in session, albeit a special session, the Governor is prevented from making judicial appointments. As at the federal level, there is gridlock as Republicans fight among themselves as to who should be appointed to the bench.

The necessity of revising a budget soon after its passage reflects what a report from *Stateline* terms "volatility" in income tax revenue that is disproportionately affected by economic booms and busts. The problem that Virginia and other states are having is trying to predict revenues with stock market fluctuations and other cyclical events that are having a larger impact on incomes especially for the wealthy causing income taxes and capital gains taxes to vary widely from

year to year. A report from Standard and Poor's Rating Services found that overall revenues in the top most income-tax-dependent states like Virginia have grown only 5.25 percent since 2009 compared to 9.32 percent in 1980-1989 and 5.7 percent in 1990-1999.

Virginia's effort to balance its budget is made more difficult by what the Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis terms "willful ignorance" to recognize the positive impact expanding Medicaid would have on the state's budget. At a recent Statewide Policy Summit I attended that the Institute sponsored, a report "RX for an Ailing Virginia: Budget Savings in Expansion States Can Happen in Virginia" was released. The report contends that 27 states and Washington, D.C. have freed up precious resources for critical needs

like education by closing their health coverage gaps and saving money on medical care and that savings in Virginia could amount to \$161 million. While proponents of Medicaid expansion have contended that the program would save states money, the evidence is now available from its first year of implementation—Kentucky has saved \$80 million, Arkansas \$89 million and Michigan \$100 million. Virginia would save money by using federal money to replace state-funded healthcare programs.

Virginia taxpayers are the losers for the state not recognizing and dealing with its systemic budget challenges and for its bull-headedness in not expanding its Medicaid program. Responsible leadership on the part of legislators, not a protracted year-long legislative session, is needed for the Commonwealth.

## Oak Hill & Herndon CONNECTION

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**NEWS DEPARTMENT:  
[herndon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:herndon@connectionnewspapers.com)**

**Kemal Kurspahic**  
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414  
[kemal@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kemal@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Amna Rehmatulla**  
Editorial Assistant  
703-778-9410 ext.427  
[arehmatulla@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:arehmatulla@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Reena Singh**  
Community Reporter  
757-619-7584  
[rsingh@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:rsingh@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Jon Roetman**  
Sports Editor ♦ 703-752-4013  
[jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com)  
@jonroetman

**Ryan Dunn**  
Contributing Writer

**ADVERTISING:**  
For advertising information  
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**Andrea Smith**  
Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411  
[classified@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:classified@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Debbie Funk**  
National Sales  
703-778-9444  
[debfunc@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:debfunc@connectionnewspapers.com)

**David Griffin**  
Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
[dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Editor & Publisher**  
Mary Kimm  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)  
@MaryKimm

**Executive Vice President**  
Jerry Vernon  
[jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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](mailto:jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com)  
@TheismannMedia

**CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426**  
[circulation@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:circulation@connectionnewspapers.com)





# An Exceptional Education

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**M**aureen Kleinman wandered from booth to booth, speaking with representatives from schools that cater to students who have special needs. She asked questions about each school's resources and environment.

"I have been home schooling my daughter for 5 years," said Kleinman, an Arlington mother. Her daughter is 11 years old and her son is 9. "I want to find a school where my daughter's educational needs will be met, but also where her social and emotional needs will be met."

Kleinman was one of hundreds of local parents who attended the eighth annual Exceptional Schools Fair. The event is considered a clearinghouse for the region, a place where parents of children think and learn differently (regardless of their disability) can come and find the schools that are right for their children.

More than 30 schools from the mid-Atlantic region sent representatives to show what their schools have to offer and answer questions from parents. The event was held at American University in D.C., November 16.

The fair was founded by Bekah Atkinson,



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

**Muriel Jeddlicka (left), admissions director of Oakwood School in Annandale, was on hand at The Exceptional Schools Fair to share information with parents.**

director of admissions at the Sienna School, to provide a resource for parents whose lives literally changed overnight, or the moment they learned their children have a special need. The fair is a forum for parents to ex-

plore educational options for their children. Atkinson is clear, however, that it is not a forum for diagnosis or advice, but simply a helpful resource for parents who are facing an unknown future for their children, edu-

cationally, financially and emotionally.

"We have families coming from all over," said Tara Nappi, director of teacher education and curriculum development at Commonwealth Academy in Alexandria. "They are looking for a place where their children feel safe."

**EVENT ORGANIZERS** described the fair as an empowering day for parents who may feel isolated by their child's diagnosis.

"The Exceptional Schools Fair is a moment for families to see and learn that they have options; that they are not, in fact, isolated; that there are professional educators who are passionate about what they do in their school," said Atkinson.

"Whether [the need] is academic or social, it's so incredibly important that you work with professionals who understand your child and who are willing to collaborate with other professionals like speech therapists, occupational therapists and psychologists," said Lois McCabe, head of school for the Diener School in Potomac, Md.

For more information on schools that were part of The Exceptional Schools Fair, visit [www.exceptionalschoolsfair.com](http://www.exceptionalschoolsfair.com).



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# Ready for Winter Skating Fun in Reston Town Center

By Andrea Worker  
The Connection

Meteorologists around our region have been gleefully talking about the earlier-than-normal return of Polar Vortex-like weather for weeks, but the forecast for the Reston Town Center Ice Skating Pavilion this past weekend was appropriately chilly, with brilliant blue skies overhead, holiday decorations all round, and buckets of fun on the ice.

The 2014-2015 winter skating season in the outdoor rink is underway, to the delight of skaters of all ages and all levels of proficiency, from near and far. From November until March, the Pavilion management offers a variety of skating options and atmospheres. Saturday mornings are a great time to bring the young ones (and the young-at-heart) to the Pavilion, when cartoon characters share the ice from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. If you're looking to combine your gliding with some up-tempo music and a few dance moves, then the Friday night "Rock n Skates" might be your time on the ice. Thursdays are College Nights, when students with I.D. save \$2 from 6 - 9 p.m.

There's also plenty of ways to learn or improve on your skating abilities. The Ice Skating School at the RTC Ice Skating Pavilion offers lessons for skaters from 2 and half years old and up following the U.S.



Round and round and round we go! Skaters enjoying winter fun at the Reston Town Center Ice Skating Pavilion.



Ferdinand Guevarra of Herndon introduces daughter Madeleine, 2, to the joys of ice skating. The youngster never wanted off the ice, but kindly allowed Dad to occasionally give her brother, Gabriel, 4, a turn...and Dad a chance to straighten up!

Figure Skating's Basic Skills Curriculum, with specialty classes for pre-schoolers, Advancing Skaters, and Adults. New for this season,

or use the website to be matched with an instructor.

The Pavilion is also available for birthday, group and private rent-

als and fundraising opportunities. This year's annual celebration of outdoor skating will take place on Saturday, Nov. 22, from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Free and open to the public, "Elements at the Center – Skating with Style," will feature performances by local figure skaters and skating teams, as well as an on-ice fashion show highlighting local retailer Athleta's winter activewear. The rink will re-open for public skating at 12:45 p.m.

With so many options and so much to do, surrounded by the offerings of "urburb" Reston Town Center, there's no excuse not to come down and join in the fun – even if that just means watching the action from the sidelines with a cup of hot chocolate in hand. Check out [www.restontowncenter.com](http://www.restontowncenter.com) for all the pertinent information. The Pavilion Office and skate shop are located at 1818 Discovery Street, Reston.

The Skating School also offers its Center Ice Academy (CIA), "for skaters ready to take their skating to the next level." Membership in the CIA includes up to 12 group lessons, 15 free practice sessions, priority access to Sunday morning freestyle/private lesson sessions, the ability to move up through levels without re-registering, and more.

The Skating School also facilitates registration with instructors for private lessons.

Through their website at [www.rtcleanmtoskate.com](http://www.rtcleanmtoskate.com), skaters seeking individualized instruction can contact a teacher directly, or use the website to be matched with an instructor.

The Pavilion is also available for birthday, group and private rent-

als and fundraising opportunities. This year's annual celebration of outdoor skating will take place on Saturday, Nov. 22, from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Free and open to the public, "Elements at the Center – Skating with Style," will feature performances by local figure skaters and skating teams, as well as an on-ice fashion show highlighting local retailer Athleta's winter activewear. The rink will re-open for public skating at 12:45 p.m.

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From left — Rylee McKeon, James Drasbeck and Caroline Drasbeck from Great Falls, decided that literally sticking together was the best way for everyone to stay upright on the ice. Their theory seemed to work.



"I think I'm ready for the Disney Ice Show," said Max Sabio, 8, of McLean after his first time on the rink. His dad, Fernando, looked less convinced, but nonetheless encouraging. Pictured, from left, with brother Jack, 10, and sister Lila, 5, Max thinks that Scrooge McDuck would be the right choice of characters for him. Lila voted for a dolphin while Jack went with that old standby, Mickey Mouse.

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT AND GIFT GUIDE

### Potter's Fire All Fired Up for the Holidays

Business gears up for the season with special holiday dinnerware.

By Reena Singh  
The Connection

Although Potter's Fire is barely a year old, they are already veterans of the holiday season.

The potters and glazers in the shop are busy creating holiday dinnerware and their popular mugs for gift givers who love to buy local.

"We have two new lines of dinnerware that will be unveiled this weekend," said Chief Potter Michael Faul last week.

The designs for the dinnerware has changed a few times, but they feature a deep swirl in the middle. One line is plain white while the other is glazed in a style he called "heirloom."

"We're also doing a Christmas set that will be all hand engraved with words like 'believe' and 'rejoice,' and a smaller set with all the titles of Jesus Christ like King of Kings,



Potter's Fire Chief Potter Mike Faul holds one of the dinnerware platters that are special to this holiday season.

Lord of Lords," he said.

Clay Boss Olivia Di Besigno was placing some of those Christmas sets in the kiln on Thursday, Nov. 13.

"Right now, we're just trying to get stuff ready for the show this weekend," she said.

Also new to the season are clay luminaries, vase shaped vessels with holes in it that can be stuffed with Christmas lights or filled with a pillar candle. The light shines through, creating patterns on the wall.

"We have them in large, medium and small, and they are designed to work as a sculptural arrangement," he said.

In addition to the holiday items currently being created, the studio will be converted into a holiday workshop on Dec. 19, 20, 22 and 23.

"We're going to have carolers out front and snacks for the kids," he said.

There will be two kiln unloadings on the 20th, and the last day to buy in store until Jan. 5 is the 23rd.

"The whole day is going to become pure retail," he said.

In addition to the new, special holiday items, the potters are busy making plates, large serving bowls, and what Faul calls "baby me and make me feel better" mugs. He said many people seem to buy them

when they are sick and that they are a perfect vessel for those who like large cups of tea.

Hand builder Kacey Boyce was finishing a batch of tankards with Marta Campbell. She has been working with the shop since the summer.

"It took me a really long time to finish my fine arts degree, and I just graduated in May," she said. "I was able to get an art job right out of art school."

Only 10 to 15 percent of all sales come from walk-ins. Most of the shop's sales are generated via social media and the online shop.

"We shipped to guys out in Afghanistan," Faul said. "We shipped out to California, to Portland."

He said they have shipped their goods out to Seattle as recently as this month.

Regular shipping online for the holidays can be done up to Dec. 17 and expedited shipping can be ordered as late as the Dec. 24.

Studio hours are Tuesday to Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

More information can be found on their website <http://www.pottersfire.com> or their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pottersfire>.

### The Soap Engineers Are a Hit at Lake Anne

Business combines science with a love for pampering.

By Reena Singh  
The Connection

All of Janette Lew's and Brooke Goad's best ideas start with wine. The two created The Soap Engineers, a local company that features high quality bath and body products, after the two chatted over happy hour about their mutual love for making handmade bath salts and fizies.

"Brooke and I are engineers by day and soap makers by night," said Lew, Fairfax.

The company has not even turned a year old yet and the products are still being created in their homes - in Reston and Fairfax - but the two have already created an extensive line of moisturizing soaps, body scrubs, bath truffles, shaving soap and aromatherapy essential oils.

"I never thought I would sell any of the stuff I made," said Brooke, Reston. "It's a great way to get to-



Jeanette Lew and Brooke Goad with their lavender and rose scented soaps. The two are co-owners of The Soap Engineers.

Their first market was at Bethel United Methodist in Woodbridge, but their products are found frequently at their Lake Anne Farmers Market booth on Sundays. They also recently signed on to have their products sold at Lake Anne Florist and The Crow's Nest in Oakland, Md.

"I never thought I would sell any of the stuff I made," said Brooke, Reston. "It's a great way to get to-

gether with friends and have a good time."

Brooke's husband, Andrew, has been a part of the business as well since the beginning. He helps to order material, transport their goods and get the word out about the business. Brooke joked that he also loved to test out the products.

"I think what we hope to do is provide an experience," he said. "We hope to connect with our customers." Although the business has not been through a winter holiday season, they are currently gearing up based on their Mother's Day sales in May. Since each loaf of soap - before cut into bars - takes about a month to cure, creating their most popular products take advance planning. In Lew's home in Fairfax last week, Brooke made two loaves of Tropical Retreat, a spa-like calming blue soap packed with moisturizing oils and sprinkled with a little glitter pigment on top to make the soap resemble ocean waves.

Meanwhile, Lew made a batch of Green Tea and White Pear sugar scrub in a similar calming blue hue. Also in the range of scrub scents are Sweet Poppy, Coffee Cake and

Spice and Citrus Heaven. The scrub acts as both an exfoliant and moisturizer. By the time it is washed off, hands are both smooth and soft.

"I use our sugar scrubs all the time in the shower," said Brooke. She said that the manliest of men have tried it with rave reviews - to everyone's surprised.

"Most people who have tried it end up buying it," said Andrew.

Like the handmade bath and body store Lush, they sell their own bath bombs, but theirs comes with a ball of moisturizers inside. For those familiar with Lush, Lew and Brooke describe it as a combination of the bath bomb - which fizzes in the bath - and a bath melt - which moisturizes the skin. "You can even cut it in half if you have a normal sized tub," said Brooke. Custom baskets are also available for request.

More information about their products and the company can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/TheSoapEngineers>.

Those who want to buy the products online can go to <https://www.etsy.com/shop/TheSoapEngineers>.

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# SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday.

## DECEMBER

Wellbeing.....12/3/14

HomeLifeStyle: Home for the Holidays... 12/10/14


Hanukkah begins December 16.

★Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide II..12/16/14

A+ Camps & Schools.....12/16/14

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION.....12/24/14

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- Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
- Potomac Almanac
- Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Oakton Connection

## CALENDAR

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

**THROUGH SUNDAY/NOV. 30**

**Colorful Life.** 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Hunters Woods Exhibit, 2310 Colts Neck Rd, Reston. Acrylic Paintings on Canvas by Suping Ji. 703-476-4500.

**Flight of the Month at the Tasting Room Wine Bar & Shop.** Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Harvest to Hearth – taste four wines that pair perfectly with Thanksgiving dinner. Receive a bottle/case discount. \$12/flight. 703-435-3553  
[www.thetastingroomwinebar.com](http://www.thetastingroomwinebar.com).

**Ladies' Month at Midtown Jewelers.** Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Come in and receive your gift bag with a pearl bracelet, jewelry cleaner, and gift certificates (\$100 value). All we ask that you take your time and choose at least two items from our showcases to add to your wish list. 703-707-9663.  
[www.midtownjewelers.com](http://www.midtownjewelers.com).

**Rumors of Another World.** JoAnne Rose Gallery, Lake Anne Plaza, Reston. An exhibit of poured, not painted, works by Cape Breton Is. artist Celeste Friesen. Free flowing paint and mixed media create unusual abstract patterns and colors in these paintings.  
[artworksbyceleste.com](http://artworksbyceleste.com)

**THROUGH MONDAY/DEC. 1**

**A Cape Breton Discovery.** 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Jo Ann Rose Gallery, 1609 Washington Plaza N, Reston. Celeste Friesen-Nikkel exhibits her award-winning acrylic and mixed media work in this November exhibit. 703-476-4500.

**Chilly Chewbacca, Snow Stormtroopers, and Frozen Fett.** Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Celebrate the coming of winter with the art of Star Wars! These new originals and limited editions are perfect holiday gifts. 703-478-0778.  
[www.artinsights.com](http://www.artinsights.com).

**THROUGH SATURDAY/JAN. 3, 2015**

**LineWorks: Drawing Redefined Exhibit at GRACE.** 6 - 8 p.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Thematic multi-media works by five artists, Lee Gainer, Sarah Irvin, Nikki Painter, Foon Sham, and Sarah Weinstock. 703-471-9242. [www.restonarts.org](http://www.restonarts.org).

**THURSDAY/NOV. 20**

**Toddler Storytime.** 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13



**The Travelers** features Norman Wright and Kevin Church, two legendary bluegrass musicians, who have played with many of the top bluegrass bands over the past couple of decades. They are a true traditional bluegrass band with stellar vocal harmony and stunning work on wood and strings. See them play Nov. 22 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Herndon.

### NOTEWORTHY NOVEMBER EVENTS

Special family-friendly events going on this month that will put you in the holiday spirit.

**THURSDAY/NOV. 20**

**"The Nutcracker."** 1 p.m. Classical Ballet Theatre, 320 Victory Drive, Herndon. A great opportunity to expose young children to the performing arts with this classic show.

**FRIDAY/NOV. 21**

**Thanksgiving Centerpieces.** 7-8:30 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Make a beautiful centerpiece with native plant materials and some simple napkin rings for your Thanksgiving table. Enjoy music, mulled cider and seasonal treats as we work. All supplies provided. When making reservations, include the number of people and how many centerpieces you wish to make. Reservations required by Nov.18. Fee: \$20/centerpiece RA members \$25/centerpiece Non-members. For more information, email [naturecenter@reston.org](mailto:naturecenter@reston.org), or call 703-476-9689 and press 5.

**SATURDAY/NOV. 22**

**Turkey Trot 5K.** 1:30 p.m. Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. The race will begin at 4 p.m. but registration begins at 1:30 p.m. Online registration is recommended. \$20-\$25. [herndon-va.gov](http://herndon-va.gov).

**FRIDAY/NOV. 28**

**Reston Holiday Parade.** 11 a.m.

Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Come for a full day of community, charity and cheer including the Gingerbread Man Mile & Tot Trot, visits and photos with Santa, tree lighting, sing along and horse-drawn carriage rides.

**The Thanksgiving Story.** 11 a.m. Frying Pan Farm Park, 2309 West Ox Road, Herndon. Bring the family and holiday guests to this lively and interactive retelling of the Thanksgiving Story. Gleemania's Sue Cournoyer entertains and informs while engaging everyone. After the show, stroll the park and visit our animals or take a ride on our carousel or wagon rides. Admission: \$5 per person.

**Gingerbread Man Mile (for kids!).** 8 a.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Run Run as fast as you can and CATCH the Gingerbread man! Free registration, but donations benefit Neediest Kids. Registration and information at [www.prraces.com/gingerbread/](http://www.prraces.com/gingerbread/).

**SATURDAY/NOV. 29**

**Turkey Trail.** 11 a.m. - Noon. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Sharpen your skills of logic as you follow the clues left from a "wild" turkey to see where they lead you. Discover more about these fascinating birds. All ages. Reservations required by Nov. 24. Fee: \$5/person RA members " \$7/ person Non-members. For more information, email [naturecenter@reston.org](mailto:naturecenter@reston.org), or call 703-476-9689 and press 5.



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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join us for stories, songs and finger-plays. Age 2 with adult.

**Kids' Graphic Novel Book Club.** 4 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join us for discussions of the best in graphic novels. This month's title is "The Discovery of America" by Geronimo Stilton. Books are available for checkout at the Children's desk. Ages 8-10.

**From Sputnik to the Silver Line: High Technology in the Dulles Corridor.** 7-9 p.m. Jo Ann Rose Gallery, Reston Community Center at Lake Anne. A fascinating look at the development of the high-tech corridor from Tysons to Dulles Airport. Learn how this area became a leader in defense contracting, computer innovation, and telecommunications.

## FRIDAY/NOV. 21

**Great Decisions Series.** 2 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. A roundtable discussion about the U.S. foreign policy process. November's topic is U.S. Trade Policy. Discussion materials will be available two weeks before the event.

## SATURDAY/NOV. 22

**The Travelers.** 7:30 p.m. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. The Travelers features Norman Wright and Kevin Church, two legendary bluegrass musicians, who have played with many of the top bluegrass bands over the past couple of decades. They are a true traditional bluegrass band with stellar vocal harmony and

stunning work on wood and strings. Admission: \$15.

**"Factory Man."** 11 a.m. Belfort Furniture, 22250 Shaw Road, Building 3, Dulles. John Bassett, chairman of Vaughan Bassett Furniture and his son, Wyatt Bassett, CEO will discuss the book, "Factory Man" and their battle to fight offshoring to save manufacturing jobs in their small town of Galax, Virginia.

## MONDAY/NOV. 24

**Terrific Twos.** 11 a.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center Street, Herndon. Reading and singing about sharing and caring with family and friends. Age 2 with adult.

## MONDAY/NOV. 26

**Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service.** 7:30 p.m. United Christian Parish, 11508 North Shore Drive, Reston. Participants will include leaders of ADAMS (All Dulles Area Muslim Society), the Shoreshim Community, St. John Neumann Catholic Church and the United Christian Parish. State Senator Janet Howell, Virginia Delegate Ken Plum, and Fairfax County Supervisor Cathy Hudgins will also take part. The United Christian Parish is an ecumenical church uniting four denominations: United Methodist, Presbyterian Church (USA), United Church of Christ, and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). [www.unitedchristianparish.org](http://www.unitedchristianparish.org).

## SATURDAY/NOV. 29

**Cooking Class at Il Fornaio.** 12 p.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

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Kimberly Suiters  
WNEW - CBS Radio

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11:30am to 1:30pm

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# Q&A: Herndon's Taylor Stone Signs with Louisville

**Senior named  
6A North region  
field hockey Player  
of the Year.**

**T**aylor Stone is a life-long fan of the Louisville Cardinals. Last week, she took the next step in becoming a student-athlete at the university, as well.

Stone, a senior at Herndon High School, signed a letter of intent to play field hockey for the University of Louisville, where she will join a program that produced a 15-6 record during the 2014 season.

Stone helped lead the Herndon field hockey program to its best season in more than three decades. The Hornets finished 19-3 and won the Conference 5 championship, beating defending state champion Westfield 3-2 in the tournament final. It was Herndon's first conference/district title since 1979. The Hornets fell one win shy of states, losing to Fairfax in the region semi-finals for the second consecutive season.

Stone finished with 23 goals and 20 assists in 2014. For her efforts, she was named 6A North region Player of the Year.

Stone recently participated in a Q&A with The Connection.

**❖Connection: What made Louisville the right choice for you?**

Stone: My Dad grew up in Louisville and my Grandparents are still there. We have always been Cards fans. I always knew that I wanted a big sports school. I wanted a school that was competitive, and with Louisville now in the ACC it shows how badly they want to compete. But I was most impressed with the commitment that Louisville has to women's sports. Field hockey has its own stadium and gets treated as well as any other sport. Every sport is important at Louisville and I felt that commitment.

**❖Connection: When did you realize you wanted to be a Cardinal?**

Stone: (see picture) The final decision was difficult as I was looking at a couple of other great schools. I had a brief moment on a plane ride back from my last recruiting trip my junior year, where I put everything into perspective and realized that Louisville was the only place I could see myself. I have always been a Cardinal fan and I really felt a connection with the coaching staff.

**❖Connection: You were named 6A North Region Player of the Year. What does that honor mean to you?**

Stone: It is a great honor, but to me it is a team honor. Our team accomplished things that no other field hockey team has at Herndon High School and, really, only the boys' basketball team has in the last few years. I am sure that this award is due to how well our team did. There were great performances on our team and our defense



**Taylor Stone has long been a fan of the Louisville Cardinals.**

**Herndon senior Taylor Stone on Nov. 12 signed a letter of intent to play field hockey at the University of Louisville. Also pictured, from left, are Stone's sister, Sammy, her mother, Carolyn, and her father, Billy, via Gmail video chat from his office in New York.**

PHOTOS  
CONTRIBUTED

was a key to our success. It means a lot to me that I was selected in this pool of great players.

**❖Connection: At what age did you start playing field hockey?**

Stone: Fourth grade, 9 years old.

**❖Connection: When did you realize playing Division I field hockey was an option for you?**

Stone: The summer before my freshman year I made the National Futures Tournament, which is the first step in the USA Field Hockey pipeline. I was 14 years old and college coaches came to watch a tournament.

**❖Connection: What is your favorite memory from playing field hockey at Herndon?**

Stone: No question, the feeling when the clock ran out and we had finally beaten Westfield for the Concorde Conference championship. Hugging all of my teammates, especially the seniors. Herndon won five games the year before we got to school and had not won a conference game in years and there we were in our senior year as champions. None of us will ever forget beating great Chantilly and Westfield teams on back-to-back nights.

**❖Connection: What are you most looking forward to about going to college?**

Stone: I think I can get better and I know that Louisville will have every resource to help me be the best player I can be. Louisville has a very good program and I am looking forward to joining such a great family.

**❖Connection: Who is your favorite music artist? Why?**

Stone: Rascal Flatts; I've always loved their music, and their songs never get old.

**❖Connection: What is your favorite movie? Why?**

Stone: 'Miracle;' I love inspiring stories and sports movies, so 'Miracle' fit the book perfectly.

**❖Connection: What is your favorite food?**

Stone: Hummus and Falafel.

**❖Connection: Are you a pro sports fan? If so, who are your favorite teams?**

Stone: I will always be a Cub fan, but I really like college sports more and my favorite team ... the Louisville Cardinals.

— JON ROETMAN



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## South Lakes' Wickman to Run for Northeastern University

**South Lakes senior Delaney Wickman signed a National Letter of Intent with Northeastern University on Friday, Nov. 14. Wickman, a sprinter with the SLHS track team, is a nine-time All-State athlete and 12-time Liberty Conference champion in track and field. She finished sixth in both the 200 meters and 400 meters at the 6A state championships last season. Also pictured are Wickman's parents and South Lakes track and field coach Scott Racsko.**



# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

Street, Reston. Includes lunch with wine and recipes. \$45. Tax and gratuity not included. Reservations at [banquets.reston@ilfo.com](mailto:banquets.reston@ilfo.com). 703-437-5544.

## Jimmy Gaudreau & Orrin Star.

7:30 p.m. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. Orrin is an award winning guitar flat picker and Jimmy is a master of the mandolin as well as having been a member of the Country Gentlemen and Chesapeake, just to name drop. Admission: \$15.

## SUNDAY/NOV. 30

**Mini-Train Rides.** 12 - 4 p.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Departures in front of Talbots on Market Street. Donated proceeds benefit local charities. [www.restontowncenter.com/holidays](http://www.restontowncenter.com/holidays).

**Wine Dinner at Il Fornaio.** 5:30 p.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Five-course Italian feast paired with wine. \$65. Tax and gratuity not included. Reservations at [banquets.reston@ilfo.com](mailto:banquets.reston@ilfo.com). 703-437-5544.

## MONDAY/DEC. 1-WEDNESDAY/DEC. 31

**La Lumiere DuBois.** 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Hunters Woods Exhibit, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. An exhibit of the colorful nature photographs of award-winning artist, Michael DuBois. 703-476-4500.

## MONDAY/DEC. 1-MONDAY/JAN. 5

**Annual "Gifts from the HeART" to Benefit Reston Interfaith.** 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Jo Ann Rose Gallery, 1609 Washington Plaza N, Reston. Sales of original works of art in many mediums will benefit Cornerstones. 703-476-4500.

## THURSDAY/DEC. 4

### 2014 Annual Holiday Book Sale.

10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Center, Reston. Books, gifts, and surprises to delight readers of all ages— children and teens included. A special bonus— you're helping support the library too.

## FRIDAY/DEC. 5

### Towne Square Singers.

7:30-9 p.m. Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Annual holiday concert with cider, cookies and sing-along carols. \$12. 703-435-6800.

### 2014 Annual Holiday Book Sale.

10 a.m. - 5p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Center, Reston. Books, gifts, and surprises to delight readers of all ages— children and teens included. A special bonus— you're helping support the library too.


## SATURDAY/DEC. 6

### Jingle on Lake Anne.

11 a.m. Lake Anne Plaza, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Community organizers and plaza retailers will host a variety of festive activities ranging from the ever popular special visit from Santa (arriving on a lake barge), strolling carolers, a petting zoo, music, wine tastings, merchant specials, children's crafts, cookie and ornament decorating, holiday arts and crafts market, holiday entertainment and much more.

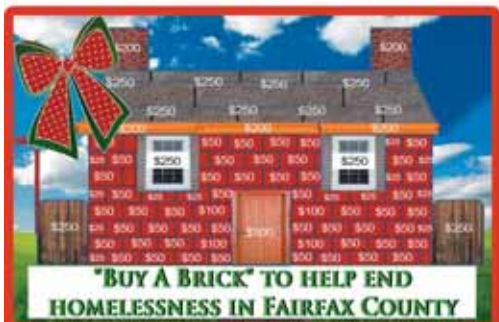
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## And The "Scancer" Is...

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Unknown at this date – Saturday, November 15. In fact, it will be six days from now until we'll know the results. As it is always scheduled, a week or so after my quarterly CT Scan, we will have our usual follow-up, face-to-face appointment with my oncologist. At this meeting, I am examined, and of course, the radiologist's report of the most recent scan is discussed, and plans for the future – stay the course and/or adjust or switch altogether – are considered.

However, this week there's been a blip. My chemotherapy infusion was delayed one week at least, maybe longer, because my creatinine levels were too high. Creatinine levels reflect kidney function, and when my level exceeds normal, given the potential for kidney failure – ultimately, and all the associated, interim complications/effects – treatment is stopped until additional lab work is completed. Now, in and of itself, this presents concerns; in conjunction with a potentially disappointing CT Scan, results of which will be learned on the 21st (even though I remain asymptomatic and feel as normal as a stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer survivor could possibly feel nearing year six, post-diagnosis), this presents worries exponentially more distressing.

Still, I'm not there yet and won't react as if the diagnosis is confirmed until it is. For the moment, I am simply enduring the typical ups and downs of living with an originally-diagnosed-as-terminal/inoperable form of lung cancer (are there any others?). There are good days and bad days to be sure, and many daze before, during and after. To be alive and facing this as yet unconfirmed complication is par for the course. To expect any different would be unrealistic. Most stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer patients don't survive as long as I have. Ergo, I would never complain about a situation that few of my fellow lung cancer patients have lived long enough to even consider. Heck, I'm the lucky one, considering I was originally given a "13-month to two-year" prognosis back in late February, 2009. I'm grateful to be in my shoes (any shoes, actually; sneakers mostly, because the chemotherapy-induced neuropathy in my feet is uncomfortable, a small price to pay relative to my original diagnosis/prognosis).

Initially, when I thought of this title, I was planning on channeling Alex Trebek by incorporating as many Jeopardy (the game show) touches as I could into this column: the questions, the answers, the categories, the "Daily Double," "Double Jeopardy," ("where the scores double and the game can really change"), "Final Jeopardy" (although working in its theme song would have been a challenge) and maybe even Merv Griffin would get a mention, all in an attempt to be funny.

But there's nothing very funny about the situation in which I find myself. I remain positive and upbeat, and after almost six years of experience living this emotional roller coaster, this week of waiting, even with the additional blip, is manageable, believe it or not. It's just not fun, whether you're asking or answering.

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

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The Mount Vernon Gazette

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## 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.

### THURSDAY/NOV. 20

**Redefining Success.** 7:30-8:30 p.m. Brown's Chapel, 11300 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston. A look at Buddhist methods for becoming successful in our daily lives by Gen Kelsan Varahi. \$10/\$5. [meditation-dc.org/reston/](http://meditation-dc.org/reston/).

**ESL for Advanced Students.** 10 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join Richard's Thursday conversational group. Adults.

**ESL Pronunciation and Speaking for Intermediate Students.** 1 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join Sandy's Thursday weekly class.

**ESL: Grammar and Vocabulary for Intermediate Students.** 6:30 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join Paul in this 12-week course that meets on Thursdays. The course teaches the basic rules of English grammar and contains vocabulary-building exercises. Regular attendance is required.

### FRIDAY/NOV. 21

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

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

### SATURDAY/NOV. 22

**Stop the Choking Hazard.** 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Sanibel Drive. Help protect the natural area by removing the English ivy that is battling native plants for a place to grow. For exact location call Ha Brock, 703-435-7986, [habrock@reston.org](mailto:habrock@reston.org).

### MONDAY/NOV. 24

**ESL Conversation and Pronunciation for Intermediate Students.** 1 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join Richard's Monday conversational group.

**ESL: U.S. Citizenship Exam for Intermediate Students.** 3 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join Molly in this 12-week course that teaches speaking and writing skills on the basis of selected topics of U.S. history and government. Regular attendance is required.

### TUESDAY/NOV. 25

**Inova Blood Drive.** 12 - 7 p.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. The bloodmobile will be located beside the Pavilion near Williams-Sonoma. On site registration. Schedule appointment time by calling 1-866-256-6372 or online at [www.inova.org/donateblood](http://www.inova.org/donateblood).

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

**Baby Steps Storytime.** 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Interactive story time for you and your child. Ages 12-23 months with adult.

**ESL Speak and Write for Intermediate Students.** 1 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join Sandy's weekly class.

### WEDNESDAY/NOV. 26

**ESL for Intermediate Students.** 1 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join Susan's Wednesday conversational group.

### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 10

**Herndon Bus Operations Facility Meeting.** 7 p.m. Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Avenue, Herndon. A meeting held to present the proposed renovations to the Herndon Bus Operations Facility.

### 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](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults).

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