

Broadway Night at Herndon High

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PHOTO BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

Downtown Herndon Takes Shape

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Freshman Allie Lytle onstage with other cast rehearsing for the Jan. 23-24 Broadway Cabaret held at Herndon High School. Music in this year's show included songs from musicals such as "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," "Aida" and "Side Show."

Nysmith's CyberPatriots

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Nysmith School students tackle cybersecurity in nationwide competition, with stellar results.

The security of the internet is a hot topic in the news these days – think hacks into retail credit card data, student identification and information, personal correspondence a la Sony, and even more worrisome, infiltrations like the recent “CyberCaliphate” hacking into the Twitter and YouTube accounts of the U.S. Central Command. With the way technology is becoming irrevocably intertwined with all aspects of daily living, there’s no doubt that it’s a topic that will only continue to demand our attention. More importantly, it will require a large population of educated, creative and computer-savvy problem-solvers to deal with the problems and defend our cyber security. So it makes sense to start the education and recruitment process early to address not only the needs of today, but also the growing needs of tomorrow. That is exactly what the Air Force Association (AFA) aims to do through their CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Defense Competition (CyberPatriot). CyberPatriot is the organization’s flagship STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) program, dedicated to encouraging interest in and the study of STEM subjects and strengthening these skills in our youth: 2014 marked their seventh competition season and drew a record number of entrants. More than 2,150 teams registered from all 50 states, Canada and DoD Dependent Schools in Europe and the Pacific - including two teams of enthusiastic middle-schools students from The Nysmith School for the Gifted in Herndon, who graciously agreed to an interview for The Connection with the supportive consent of school Headmaster Ken Nysmith.

Seventh grader Aryaan Hussain of Herndon and a member of Team 1, came across information on the competition at a booth at a STEM symposium at about the same time as Nysmith parent Bonnie McCrystal did. “I am always on the lookout, scouting for opportunities for our kids to grow and expand and see that what they learn has a place in the real world,” said McCrystal, who was so excited about the challenge that she became the coach of Team 1. School-wide emails and other communications were released, and before long enough students had committed to the lengthy competition process to form the two teams, the one coached by McCrystal and captained by eighth grader William Tan of Great Falls, and Team 2, coached by Praveen Bahethi and captained by another eighth grader, Sameer Bahethi of Lansdowne. And a lengthy and involved process it is.

ONCE THE TEAMS are formed and officially registered, the instructions and practice rounds began, starting in August of 2014. The teams are treated like newly-hired IT professionals, tasked with finding vulnerabilities in a number of operating systems and simulated environments –



PHOTO COURTESY OF BONNIE MCCRYSTAL

In the middle of the semi-final CyberPatriot Defense Competition Semi-Finals, the Nysmith School's Team 1 decided a “shake break.” From left, back row: Bhavjeet Sanghera and Monica Saraf. Front: Team Captain William Tan, Aryaan Hussain and Ryan McCrystal.



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

From left, back row: School Headmaster Ken Nysmith, William Tan, Team 1 Coach Bonnie McCrystal. Front: Bhavjeet Sanghera, Aryaan Hssain, Ryan McCrystal and Monica Saraf.

without causing further damages to those “systems” or problems for their “users.” “You are trying to score 100,” said Team 1 Captain Tan. “It doesn’t help if you do something that gets you a penalty, instead of a point!”

Working online with a variety of operating systems that would seriously daunt most average computers users, the young competitors are given three “images” – “containing all of the files of each system,” explained Bhavjeet Sanghera of Clifton and Team 1, that must be extracted and carefully reviewed during the six hours allotted for each

practice and scored round. Yes, that is six hours per practice round and six hours for each of the scored rounds and the semi-final sessions that were held Jan. 16-18. And those practice rounds weren’t exactly a piece of cake. “We started on high school level problems,” said Devon “Muscles” Host, a seventh grader from Oak Hill. (Apparently all of the members of his Team 2 earned nicknames fairly early on in the adventure.)

The two teams brought different approaches to the challenge, but both started with the same goal; “Do the best we can for ourselves, our team and for our school,”

declared Team 2 member Restonian Khinezin Win who, by her own admission “didn’t know that much about computers before I got onboard.” Nor did either team leave anything to chance. “We had a game plan, right from the start,” Captain Tan stated. Tan’s Team 1 went straight for the “READ ME” files and dissected them fully before taking action. Bahethi’s Team 2 decided to start each contest by updating each system to ensure the most stable versions before beginning their search for the security flaws.

Both also employed a “divide and conquer” strategy, assigning pairs of team members to two of the three “images” and one person to work solo for awhile on the third “image.” In order to keep the creative juices flowing and to provide the proverbial fresh set of eyes to the problems before them, there would be occasional member rotations. “It seems like you always got stuck at around 80 percent,” said Team 2 member Host. “It was good to change it up a bit. Moving people around helped us get going again and gave us some new ideas,” Host added. What else did the young competitors do to keep themselves going during each marathon session? “There was always food!” Hussain, Tan, Host and several others declared in unison. “And our parents were really supportive, making sure we had the space to do the work without too many interruptions and that there was food when we needed to take a break,” acknowledged Hussain. Some distractions, however, were apparently quite acceptable. Team 2 Captain Bahethi said that his younger brother’s presence during their efforts was welcomed by the group. “He kind of became our mascot,” said Bahethi.

Both teams also agreed that a bit of scorekeeping as they went helped to keep their spirits up. When a team scores points for identifying and correcting a security issue, there would be a “Super Mario video game type sound,” said Team 1 Captain Tan. “That would give us a huge boost! We lived for that sound,” he said. “When we finished something that we just knew was right we all just waited for that sound.” Apparently, nerf ball fights and ice cream interludes also helped relieve any tensions and keep everyone focused. More than that, the team members were unwilling to disclose. After all, “What happens in my basement during the competition stays in my basement,” laughed Monica Saraf, a seventh grade member of Team 1, whose home in Herndon was Base Camp for her team.

So, what was the outcome of all of this hard work and hours of dedication? It was pretty spectacular, and something that had Headmaster Nysmith and Coach McCrystal beaming with pride. The results from the semi-finals are in and Team 1 scored First Place among all participating Virginia schools and Second Place Overall in the Middle School Nationwide Division. Team 2 took home third place honors for Virginia

SEE CYBER SECURITY, PAGE 5

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Schools to Expand by \$856 Million

Capital Improvement Plan approved, rising enrollment causes concerns about classroom space.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION



PHOTO BY REENA SINGH/ THE CONNECTION
Fairfax County Schools Superintendent Karen Garza answers questions from the School Board about the Capital Improvement Program.

Five more school buildings and renovations for several existing ones may be approved by 2020. The Fairfax County School Board approved the \$856 million Capital Improvement Program (CIP) at the Jan. 22 meeting to set priority on the projects the school system wants done in the next five years.

“We’re developing a long view, because we have significant capital concerns,” said Superintendent Karen Garza.

During the meeting, she and several board members said the projects will have to have separate public hearings and votes. The CIP was approved unanimously.

THE PLAN calls for the addition of five

elementary schools and one high school. Both South Lakes High School and Westbriar Elementary School will have additions with construction expected in 2021. Additionally, capacity enhancements at Langley, West Springfield, Herndon and Oakton high schools are proposed.

“Construction funds for renovations at nine elementary schools and one middle school, a renovation at one high school, and planning funds for renovations at eight elementary, one middle, and two high schools are also included and were part of the 2013

bond referendum,” according to a press release.

The majority of the projects in the plan are expected to be completed between 2016 and 2020. The only renovation planned in the CIP that will begin after are at North West County Elementary, Fairfax-Oakton area elementary, Silverbrook Elementary, Hughes Middle, Cooper Middle, Frost Middle, Oakton High School and Falls Church High School. Light renovations at 10 unidentified elementary schools will also begin construction after 2021.

The plan, which is reviewed annually, is preparing the school system for nearly 198,000 enrolled students projected in the next five years.

\$220 million of the projects are funded through previous school bonds. Another bond referendum will take place in the fall.

The county Board of Supervisors also recently approved to provide FCPS an additional \$16.1 million to offset infrastructure replacement so bigger projects can begin taking priority. Typically, the funding is limited to \$155 million.

The Department of Defense is funding 80 percent of the build cost of a new elementary school on Fort Belvoir - with the rest of the balance funded by the county.

“This is a plan,” said Springfield School Board member Elizabeth Schultz. “What’s

being executed now, how it will be done - that we don’t know. We do have to have some very real conversations, especially with our peers at the Board of Supervisors, because they don’t manage 2.6 million square feet. It’s something quite less than that.”

She said that during her visit to a local school that morning, she was concerned that parents were still having trouble getting into the parking lot to drop off their children six minutes after the bell had rung - a reason she said these capital improvement plans are important.

“How do you materialize visually or understanding 2.6 million square feet?” she asked. “The NASA Assembly building in Florida is one of the largest buildings that I looked up. That’s eight of them. If you’ve ever been to the Louvre, it’s four Louvre museums.”

MEMBER AT LARGE Ryan McElveen said board members are not the only one’s excited about the CIP.

“This is the first year I have ever had someone come up to me on the streets of Washington, D.C. and ask me about the CIP just randomly,” he said. “We always question as a board whether the community reads these documents, and I think it’s become quite clear this year that they do.”

Herndon, Reston Galleries Attract Art Lovers

Exhibits at ArtSpace Herndon and Reston GRACE on display through February.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

In January, both the ArtSpace Herndon and Reston GRACE community art galleries opened new art exhibits at their locations. ArtSpace Herndon located at 750 Center Street in downtown Herndon opened the soloist exhibit “In Warm Observations: People and Places” by artist Jill Banks. Banks hones in on private and public worlds, exhibiting intriguing interiors, people out and about with friends and loved ones, dancers in rehearsal, artists at work, and urban street paintings created in oils. The paintings feature locations from Kidwell Farm in Herndon and Great Falls to Florence and Alba, Italy.

Banks’ works have gathered

awards on both the regional and national level including three Best in Shows at the Art League, Honorable Mention in Salon International, and two-time awardee with the Strauss Fellowship Grant by the Arts Council of Fairfax County. Says Banks, “More and more, I’ve been setting up my easel in bustling spots, watching the action as it occurs in front of me, drawing people into the scene (and my life) through my paintbrush.”

AT THE RECEPTION the evening of Saturday, Jan. 17, Banks thanked her husband for helping frame her paintings. A resident of Fairfax, Banks has taught a painting workshop the summer of 2014 in the wine region of Italy. Several pieces from that tour are on display at ArtSpace Herndon. “On the last day of the workshop, I knew I



PHOTO PROVIDED BY GRACE

wanted to go to the market,” said Banks. One popular piece on display is “Market Day.”

“It is one of the most dynamic shows we have had in a while,” said Mercia Hobson, a resident of the Town of Herndon. “Her ability to capture the light is amazing. I really like the ‘Market Day’ piece.” In 2011, Banks launched her 100 Faces in 100 Days Project, inviting local friends and strangers to sit to have their portraits painted. For the first 100 consecutive days of 2011, Jill painted 100 different faces from life and posted photos of the paintings and reflec-

tions on the sitter and sitting on her blog. One of the face portraits on display at ArtSpace Herndon is of Reston founder Robert E. Simon.

BANKS WILL OFFER a free public demonstration of a similar scene set within the gallery space on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2 to 5 p.m. Guests are invited to watch or draw, too.

Reston GRACE, located on Market Street at Reston Town Center is currently showing an exhibit called BEAD, which investigates the breadth of ways in which con-

Photo of the Reston GRACE art gallery located on Market Street at Reston Town Center. The exhibit called BEAD, composed of work by contemporary artists will continue until Feb. 28.



PHOTO BY RYAN DUNN/ THE CONNECTION

Jill Banks

temporary artists can incorporate beads into their work. GRACE specifically sought out beaded works that address concerns beyond simple adornment or decoration. The show will continue until Feb. 28. The exhibit consists of art by 15 artists.

On Thursday, Feb. 5, ArtSpace Herndon will host Art as a Business, a part of Creative Connections, programs for arts professional development. The event is free and begins at 6 p.m. Presenter Marc Willson will offer information on how to sell your art, define and engage collectors.

OPINION

Outlook

Many bright spots will be overshadowed in the coming budget season.

Long awaited, the opening of the Silver Line promises to bring transformation to Tysons and around the current station in Reston, with another Reston station and Herndon to come.

The opening of Springfield Town Center has been greeted by enthusiastic shoppers, showing plenty of demand for retail and restaurants.

Housing prices are up, although so is the number of houses on the market, while the number of houses sold is down from last year.

But from local government, current economic conditions overall look more like this:

Job growth has slowed, and the jobs that are being created are lower paying. There is a decline in federal and business services employment, while the job growth that the region is experiencing is dominated by gains in hospitality and retail sectors. Slowing job growth and lower wages mean lower demand for home purchases and retail spending, while declines in federal jobs and government contractors mean lower demand for office space. The region is growing, but it is growing at a slower rate than projected one or two years ago.

Lower demand for office space translates into 19 million square feet of vacant office space in Fairfax County alone. Just for some sense of

scale, that is like having eight malls the size Tysons Corner Center (2.4 million square feet) completely empty. Arlington County has an office vacancy rate of more than 20 percent; in Rosslyn, the rate is approaching 30 percent (27.7). Overall, Northern Virginia has an office vacancy rate of more than 17 percent.

Not only are companies moving their offices from older office space to newer space, more transit-oriented space, but as they do so, they are downsizing the amount of space, leaving more less modern space vacant in the process.

The result will be a very difficult budget year in Northern Virginia. It's also a call to do things differently.

Critical to a successful economy will be to create housing that service and hospitality workers can afford. We have a massive shortage of affordable housing, and the opportunity transform some of the massive quantities of vacant office space into thoughtful, well-designed housing.

Be Part of the Pet Connection

The Pet Connection, a bi-annual themed edition, will publish Feb. 25, 2015.

We invite you to send us stories about your

pets, photos of you and/or your family with your cats, dogs, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your home or yard with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures. Can your dog catch a Frisbee 10 feet in the air, or devour an entire pizza when you turn your back for less than a minute?

Do you volunteer at an animal shelter or therapeutic riding center or take your pet to visit people in a nursing home? Tell us about your experience.

Have you helped to train an assistance dog? Do you or someone in your family depend on an assistance dog?

Or take this opportunity to memorialize a beloved pet you have lost.

Send photos and identify everyone in the photo including the pets (great preference for photos of pets and people), tell us what is happening in the photo, and include your address (we will only print the town name).

Submissions should arrive by Feb. 18.

Email editors@connectionnewspapers.com, or submit photos and stories directly on our website at www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EDITORIAL

A Challenge for Garza: Excessive Homework

To the Editor:

Your article "How Does She Do It" - Karen Garza's vision: the irresistible force moving immovable object of Fairfax County Public Schools

(The Connection, December 24-10, 2014) showed FCPS Superintendent Dr. Garza as a force for change. In the Fairfax County school system, students demonstrate excellence by

collaborating and achieving good grades with the assistance of teachers.

Teachers play a massive role in the successful education of stu-

dents because teachers have high expectations for their students, they consistently stress the material that students need, and the teachers provide in class discussion which allows students to relay what information they have obtained. However, the total combination of homework assigned by high school teachers for any one student is often excessive. As a result, students become overwhelmed with excess homework, even though the students might already understand the specific material. Students with excessive homework in school have less time

to spend in after school activities, less time to study on their own, and less time to accomplish personal achievements.

Most experts agree, as do Fairfax County Public Schools' own guidelines that high school students should only have two hours of homework per night, in total. Currently, many teachers expect at least one or more hours of homework for each of their classes, especially at the honors levels. Another problem is that the teachers are not coordinating large tests and assignments as efficiently as possible. The end effect is that stu-

dents taking various classes have too much homework dumped on them all at once, as well as at too many tests on certain testing days.

Students will be able to obtain more sleep next year due to the later start times of high schools. Superintendent Garza plans to solve any issues that arise in the school systems; hopefully she will recognize that the failure to coordinate and limit homework among teachers is also a massive issue for high school students in FCPS.

James Adams
Herndon

Better Safe Than Sorry

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to a recent letter to the editor in opposition to Fairfax County's Fall Cankerworm (FCW) spraying program.

I am the Chairman of the Fairfax County Tree Commission, which is appointed by the Board of Supervisors to advise them on all matters relating to tree preservation in the county, including the benefits and threats to our urban forests and the potential environmental impact. The commission has positions for a representative from each county district, as well as one

from the Fairfax County Park Authority, the NV Soil and Water Conservation District, the Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC), the VA Dept. of Forestry, and the Virginia Cooperative Extension program.

Last year the Commission held a special meeting to hear and discuss the concerns of county citizens about the potential environmental impact of the spraying program, as well as its necessity, cost and alternative means of control. We also participated in a similar meeting held by EQAC. The spraying program is maintained by the

County's Urban Forest Management Division, and it was present at both meetings to describe the program and answer questions.

After much discussion and further research, we concluded that FCW threat to our already stressed tree canopy is limited but real, and that without a carefully monitored and precisely targeted spraying program, we risk a potential outbreak of FCW that can defoliate, weaken, and ultimately kill mature trees. These includes oaks and beeches, which are favored by the FCW caterpillars. Last year, almost 57,000 acres of trees in eastern Virginia suffered light to heavy

FCW defoliation, including in nearby Fauquier, Prince William and Stafford Counties. Yes, we are aware that the spraying can also kill other native butterfly and moth caterpillars that mature at the same time in the early spring, and that migratory birds, especially chickadees, feed on such all such caterpillars. But the Fairfax County spraying program is triggered only when careful monitoring of trees in areas of previous outbreaks indicate that the risk of a new outbreak is high.

The chemical used, called Btk, is derived from a naturally occur

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Oak Hill & Herndon CONNECTION

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Competing in Cyber Security

FROM PAGE 2

Schools. As a result of their semi-final scores, Team 1 will now move on to the CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Defense Competition Finals to be held March 11 – 15 at the Gaylord National Conference Center. National recognition and scholarship monies await the winners, thanks to the generosity of sponsors like Northrop Grumman Foundation, USA Today Education, Cisco, Leidos and many others.

AND AFTER ALL is said and done, what do the young members of Nysmith School's CyberPatriots Team 1 and Team 2 want the world to know about the competition and what it has meant to them?

"It's literally about our future. Kids as young as 6 have cell phones in their hands. It's all about computers," said Oak Hill resident Rhea Shah, a seventh grade member of Team 2. Team 1's Monica Saraf says she learned "Just try. You will learn and you will learn what your future can be." Practical sixth grader Team 1 member (and possibly the youngest participant in the contest at age 11) Ryan McCrystal added, "Doing something like this early on in life leads to better and higher paying jobs, a real career." "Muscles" Host agreed. "This experience has really set me up for so many vast opportunities." "And don't forget about the teamwork," reminded Aryaan Hussain, causing a flurry of head nods and a few high fives. "Yeah, and the fun," noted Team 1 Captain Tan. "It was fun. I mean, it's technology!"

Coach McCrystal had the last words before the interview session ended with her stated intention of



PHOTO COURTESY OF BONNIE MCCRYSTAL

Nysmith CyberPatriot Youth Cyber Defense Competition Team 1 Members Monica Saraf and Aryaan Hussain, both seventh graders and both from Herndon, work a problem from the contest together. The team took first place among all participating Virginia schools and second place against all schools nationwide in the recent semi-final round.

seeing the Nysmith School take first, second and third places in the next CyberPatriot Competition.

For more information about The Nysmith School, visit their website at www.nysmith.com. Complete details and resource materials about the Air Force Association's CyberPatriot Program, STEM Outreach and competitions are available at www.uscyberpatriot.org.



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Outlook: Downtown Herndon Takes Shape

Washington and Old Dominion trail to become “centerpiece,” says mayor.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

This year will be all about creating a livelier, more energetic downtown.

The town council will take their plans to make the historic area more business-friendly from resolutions to reality this year.

“My number one priority for 2015 is downtown,” said Mayor Lisa Merkel. “I’m sure there’s a great match for a developer to make our downtown master plan into a reality. We want our small town downtown to come to life and be revitalized.”

Last year, various zoning changes and new parking regulations were passed by the Herndon Town Council with the new downtown - with all the small town charm that residents love - in mind. The Downtown Master Plan that is known today as the rough blueprint of the historic area near the town hall began its community vetting process in 2008. What the town council decided at the time was that the space needed more residents and more retail space.

“Residents want energy and vibrancy, but nothing taller than four stories,” said Lisa Gilleran, Herndon’s Director of Community Development.

The town has a rough idea of what it wants, but the majority of the development will depend on the developers’ demands.

Three blocks downtown are owned by the Town of Herndon. The Vinehaven development bought a block several years ago and began building a residential development on the property early last year.

THE THREE-LEVEL, 17 properties currently being built at the corner of Vine and Center streets will be finished as soon as early next year. Town planner Bryce Perry said the town recently rezoned an area of downtown to make it easier for developers to come in and build homes and apartments. “We’re getting a lot of interest for downtown,” he said.

Merkel said that parking is absolutely necessary in the other blocks that have not been sold yet - but residents are just as necessary. A maximum capacity of residential space means new residents will be able to leave

their homes and go into the new shops and restaurants.

Additionally, the town is currently talking to ArtSpace to see what kind of renovations they would like to see for their downtown facility.

Private space will also continue to be developed. Merkel noted that a developer had just sent in an application for single family housing lots behind one of the shopping centers.

“We think that’s a perfect transition between the older homes and the new downtown,” she said.

Gilleran said the town will allow office space to be built on the property owned by private individuals. However, she said the market for that type of space is not high in downtown Herndon - most of the demand is near the Dulles Toll Road.

Rather than being known as a future business center of Herndon, Merkel is looking forward to the area being known as an activities center. She said the Washington and Old Dominion trail, which is “more active than ever,” could become the centerpiece of downtown. Businesses stemming off the trail are already flourishing on the weekends as cyclists stop at Green Lizard Cycling or one of the many restaurants or shops in the downtown area on their way back from Reston Town Center.



Mayor Lisa Merkel

Councilmember Grace Wolf

“We’re working to establish ourselves as a healthy place where you can get out to,” said Merkel.

Councilmember Grace Wolf agreed that work needed to be done downtown - much in preparation for the Silver Line Metro stations that will arrive with Phase II of the highly anticipated project that will extend the line beyond Dulles International Airport.

“We are aggressively seeking opportunities to get dirt moving in our downtown, in addition to the new homes going up,” said Wolf.

THE FIRST PHASE, which opened last July, extended out to Reston. Just in the first week of service, about 220,000 trips were taken to and from the five new stations, according to silverlinemetro.com. The second phase will make both Northern Virginia air-



Historic downtown Herndon will be the town council’s number one priority this year.

ports more accessible to D.C. residents in addition to giving more options to commuters as far as Loudoun County another option for transportation. Other communities - like Tysons - are already seeing the benefit of the Silver Line bringing in visitors from D.C., a boost for the local economy. Herndon already sees foot traffic - and bicycle pedals - through the town thanks to the Washington and Old Dominion trail, which becomes more popular on weekends and warmer

months. Construction for Phase II is expected to begin in early 2016, so the town has a one year head start.

“We’ve rezoned much of the land but we need to start making the investments in infrastructure to make sure we’re ready - laying utilities, creating bus bays, walkway, connecting the bike paths; walking paths,” said Councilmember Grace Wolf.

The town’s rewritten mission statement



The Washington and Old Dominion Trail, which has become busier than ever, will be key in bringing visitors to downtown Herndon.

also focuses on bringing the community together. Last year, Merkel and several other council members stated their plans to create committees that will involve residents.

“It really focuses on bringing people together and getting others involved,” Merkel said.

Wolf elaborated, “We are evaluating creating new citizen committees or commission to enhance our sustainable living, green initiatives and to better engage and reach out

to our minority populations through new diversity initiatives,” she said.

One significant sustainability initiative that may see a groundbreaking is a community garden.

Herndon Environmental Network (HEN) Vice President Barbara Welsh hopes to see the garden plots, which she proposed to be located at Bruin Park, be opened by March.

“That would strongly depend on funding, however,” she said.

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Herndon swim and dive had senior night on Jan. 23 against Centreville.

Herndon Swim, Dive has Senior Night

Herndon swim and dive had senior night against Centreville on Jan. 23, with the Hornets' boys' and girls' teams winning. All Herndon seniors will advance to the Conference meet Jan. 30-31.

Herndon seniors are: Jessie Blystone (captain), Jack Van Camp (captain), Charlie Shen (captain), Karly Ginieczki (captain), Sam Racine, Sam Caballero, Matthew Williams, Austin Rider, Justin Bradley, Jason Maccannon, Marin Deutrich (1-year manager) and Christina Sneed (4-year manager).

Friday's winners were: Emily Meilus (100 free, 200 IM), Karly Ginieczki (200 free, 100 back), Carey Rice (50 free), Bella Back (500 free), Christian Ginieczki (200 IM, 100 back), Jack Van Camp (50 free, 100 fly) and Dylan Cudahy (200 free, 500 free).

South Lakes Track Shines at First Day of Conference 6 Meet

South Lakes High School sophomore Devyn Jones won two events and juniors Eric Kirlew and Anas Fain placed in the top three of two events in Day 1 of the Conference 6 indoor track and field championship Thursday, Jan. 22 at the Prince George's County Sports and Learning Complex in Landover, Md.

Jones led a SLHS sweep of the girls' 55-meter hurdles, winning the event in 8.85. Seniors Maya Rodriguez (9.44) and Claire Nieusma (9.88) finished second and third, respectively. Jones also won the long jump (16-08.50). Senior Comfort Reed with third (16-03.50).

Kirlew led the SLHS boys' long jumpers with a winning distance of 19-10.00. Junior Skander Ballard was second (19-06.00) and Fain finished third (19.-05.00). Kirlew finished third in the 55 meters (6.84) behind sophomore teammate Timiebi Ogobri, who was second (6.68).

Fain won the 55-meter hurdles in 7.94 followed by senior teammate Nathan Stone (8.01).

Senior Jordan Lozama won the 55 meters (7.45) and finished fourth in the shot (27-01.50). SLHS took the top two spots in the girls shot with senior Ozioma Chinaka winning it with a throw of 28-04.50 and fellow senior Natalie Schauer finishing second (28-01.50).

In the boys' 3,200 meters, senior Andrew McCool ran a 10:04.65 for second and teammate Sean Miller, also a senior, took third (10:11.99). Sophomores John Swecker, Ashton Reinhold, juniors Connor Smith and John LeBerre finished second in the 4x800 meter relay (8:33.16) while freshman Olivia Beckner, juniors Golden Kumi-Darfour, Monica Lannen and senior Augusta Durham were third in that event with a 10:00.09.

South Lakes is leading in the team standings after the first day with the girls scoring 81 points and the boys scoring 92. The conference championship concludes Thursday, Jan. 29, with the top six finishers in each event and the top three relays advancing to the 6A North region championship meet Feb. 19.

Both will take place at the Prince George's County Sports and Learning Complex in Landover.

The South Lakes girls' team posted a score of 81 on Day 1, followed by Madison (41), McLean (33), Langley (27), Washington-Lee (17), Hayfield (14) and Yorktown (4).

The South Lakes boys had a score of 92, followed by McLean (35), Washington-Lee (26), Madison (23), Langley (23), Fairfax (13), Yorktown (4) and Hayfield (1).

Oakton Girls' Basketball Improves to 16-1

The Oakton girls' basketball team defeated Herndon 69-50 on Jan. 23, extending its winning streak to 15 games while improving its record to 16-1.

The Cougars haven't lost since Dec. 4. The Cougars will host Robinson at 7:45 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 30.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Herndon Girls Win Conference Championship

The Herndon High School indoor track women's team is the Conference 5 champion in the 4x800 relay. The Hornets' time of 9:46.34 is the 11th-fastest in school history. This was third time HHS has won the event and the first since 2008. The girls need to finish in the top six at regionals or run under 9:40.00 to advance to the state meet at Newport News the following week. The team is: Hannah Wolfe, Gabby Bustamante, Lauren Butler, and Olivia Duston.

Madison Girls' Basketball Beats Hayfield

The Madison girls' basketball team defeated Hayfield 60-34 on Jan. 23, improving the Warhawks' record to 11-5.

Madison is scheduled to travel to face Yorktown at 5:45 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 30.

Basketball Skills Camp

Jump Ball Basketball is running a basketball skills camp for boys and girls in grades 3-8 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 16 at Patrick Henry College in Purcellville. Visit www.catocinbasketball.com to register or email JumpBallBasketballVA@gmail.com for more information.

Register Now for Spring Baseball

Registration is now open for Vienna Little League, home of the 9/10 Virginia State Champs.

Spring baseball is right around the corner. For boys and girls ages 5-12, Vienna Little League offers an excellent program to help develop your child's love for the Great American Pastime.

Tryouts begin Feb. 6. New members meetings will be held Jan. 21 and Feb. 18. Visit www.vll.org for more information and to register online. Come join the fun.

Youth Field Hockey Registration Open

Registration is now open for Potomac Field Hockey's spring youth league for ages 5-18 (U8, U10, U12, and U14). No experi-

ence necessary. Once-weekly team practices with games on Saturdays. Season runs March 23-June 13. For more information or to register, visit www.potomacfieldhockey.org or email info@potomacfieldhockey.org.

Field Hockey Open House

Potomac Field Hockey is running an open house, which is free and open to the public. This drop-in style clinic will run at Dulles Sportsplex on Tuesday, March 10 from 5-7 p.m. Equipment is provided. Try your hand at field hockey before registering for the spring season. For more information or to RSVP for this event, visit www.potomacfieldhockey.org or email info@potomacfieldhockey.org.

High School Field Hockey

Registration is now open for Potomac Field Hockey's spring High School 5s game-only league for 9-12th graders. Players will be grouped by school. No experience necessary. Season runs Thursdays from 6-9pm at the Dulles Sportsplex, April 9-May 14. For more information or to register, visit www.potomacfieldhockey.org or email info@potomacfieldhockey.org.

Adult Field Hockey

Registration is now open for Potomac Field Hockey's spring game-only league for adults aged 18 and up. All games on Sundays at Loudoun Soccer Park on sport turf. Season runs April 12-June 7. For more information or to register, visit www.potomacfieldhockey.org or email info@potomacfieldhockey.org.

CALENDAR

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

THROUGH SATURDAY/JAN. 31

Exhibit of Colorful Nutcrackers. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed on Tuesdays. Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. See an amazing array of nutcrackers, both old and new, in a colorful case exhibit. Did you ever wonder where the craze for collecting nutcracker dolls came from? Nutcrackers have a fascinating history. The first nutcrackers were produced to crack nuts more effectively and the oldest known metal example, on exhibit in Tarent, Italy, is from the third or fourth century B.C. The Leavenworth Nutcracker Museum in Leavenworth, Washington, shows a bronze Roman nutcracker dated between 200 B.C and 200 A.D. German nutcrackers, made as decorative pieces, were developed around 1500. Early nutcrackers were in the shapes of animals, birds and people. Later, they were made in the likeness of kings, soldiers, church leaders and ruling class figures. Fine wood carved nutcrackers were created across Europe, especially in France and England by the 15th and 16th centuries. Admission: \$7/adult, \$6/student, \$5/senior or child.



Christine Carter as Karen Daniels, Kathy Ohlhaber as Monica Welles, and Wilson Paine as Leo Gibbs in Reston Community Players' whodunit "Rehearsal for Murder," running Jan. 16-31 at Reston Community Center, 2310 Colt Neck Road, Reston. Audiences are invited to test their wits as they enter a world of backstage drama where nothing is as it appears - or is it?

American artists. Jury-selected artists will display one-of-a-kind items in sculpture, glass, jewelry, fashion, wood, metal, furniture, home accessories, leather, photography and fine art. The Festival also features live music, children's entertainment and specialty food vendors. For more information, including admission discounts, a list of artists participating in the show and discount hotel rates, visit www.sugarloaforcrafts.com. Adults: \$8 online; \$10 at the door. Children under 12.

besides dig. Make a groundhog puppet to take home, and enjoy a snack and story. Reservations required by January 28. Fee: \$7/child RA members, \$9/child Non-members. For more information, email naturecenter@reston.org, or call 703-476-9689 and press 5.

THROUGH MONDAY/MARCH 16

Ice Skating at Reston Town Center. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. From early November through the early March, the Pavilion floor is transformed into a gleaming ice skating rink. Ice skates and other supplies are available inside the Skate Shop directly beside the Pavilion (behind Clyde's). Admission: \$10 per adult; \$9 for children under 12; \$5 per skate rental.

THURSDAY/JAN. 29

Meditation in Our Daily Lives. 7:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston. Participants will learn the basic principles of meditation and how to carry the experience of meditation into their daily life. \$10 (\$5 unemployed, fulltime students, 65 and older). www.meditation-dc.org.
Crys Matthews. 6 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Three of the mid-Atlantic's most notable up-and-coming singer-songwriters are coming together for one night of music. On Thursday, January 29, Crys Matthews, Andrea Nardello and Kipyn Martin will perform at Jammin' Java. Tickets: \$10-\$15.

FRIDAY/JAN. 30

Paper Making. 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Ages 5 to 12. Since ancient Egyptian times, people have been making paper for both artistic and practical purposes. Discover how to make your own recycled paper and learn how to use it in future craft projects. This is a perfect way to enjoy your day off from school. Reservations required by January 27. Fee: \$7/child RA members · \$9/child Non-members. For more information, email naturecenter@reston.org, or call 703-476-9689 and press 5.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JAN. 30 - FEB. 1

Sugarloaf Crafts Festival. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Browse and buy items and fine art created by more than 250 celebrated

SATURDAY/JAN. 31

Cooking Class at Il Fornaio. 12 p.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Three-course lunch with wine and recipes included. \$55 (plus tax & gratuity). Reservations at 703-437-5544. ilfornaio.com.

SUNDAY/FEB. 1

Super Bowl Golf Tournament. Herndon Centennial Golf Course, 909 Ferndale Avenue, Herndon. Super Bowl Golf tournament - Kick off the day of the big game by playing in this annual event. Visit Herndon-va.gov for more information.

Name That Animal. 2-3 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. All ages. Can you tell an animal by looking at just its ears, eyes, mouth or tail? Participate in a variety of animal guessing games and visit a special touch table. Learn to read clues left by animals like tracks and scat. If weather permits, walk the trails and identify sounds and other signs of wildlife. Reservations required by January 29. Fee: \$5/person RA members, \$7/person Non-members. For more information, email naturecenter@reston.org, or call 703-476-9689 and press 5.

MONDAY/FEB. 2 - TUESDAY/FEB. 3

Groovy Groundhogs. 10 - 11 a.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Ages 18 months to 35 months. Celebrate Groundhog Day by learning about our largest rodent. Groundhogs have many names, and can do more than just dig holes. Learn their other names, how deep they can dig, and what else they do

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SATURDAY/FEB. 7

Outstanding Owls. 11 a.m. - Noon. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Ages 3 to 5. Owls are masters of the night, fierce and fascinating predators that live right here in Reston. Get up-close looks at their feathers, beaks and talons. Explore what is inside an owl pellet. Discover the animals that are their prey, and how owls catch them. Make an owl craft to take home. Reservations required by February 4. Fee: \$7/child RA members, \$9/child Non-members. For more information, email naturecenter@reston.org, or call 703-476-9689 and press 5.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 11

Firearm Safety. 7:30 - 9 p.m. Reston Art Gallery at Heron House, Lake Anne Plaza. League of Women Voters meeting on improving firearm safety in Virginia. More Virginians have been dying because of firearms than traffic accidents. How can we make Virginia safer for its residents? Join the discussion. Free, open to the public (men and women), call 703-757-5893. Background papers at www.lwv-fairfax.org.

FRIDAY/FEB. 13

Aguado Guitar Concerts. 6:30 p.m. Café Montmartre, 1625 Washington Plaza, Lake Anne Village Center, Reston. The evening will begin with a gourmet dinner in a romantic setting with live background music provided by AGC members, it will continue with a silent auction, and conclude with a concert of romantic music featuring some of the area's finest classical guitarists, João Figueirôa, and the Klasinc&Lonar Guitar Duo. Tickets are \$80/person and can be purchased by contacting Aguado Guitar Concerts by email: concerts1@aguadoguitar.org or by calling Café Montmartre at 703-904-8080. Space is limited, so reserve your tickets today.

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Traffic Caught



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

If I were writing this column in Massachusetts – where I was born and mostly educated (K-12), and had a thick Boston accent, that's how court would likely be pronounced; changing a noun into a verb. But I'm not in Massachusetts. I'm in Maryland, and the traffic court to which I semi-refer is in Virginia, so I'm not "accenting" any "misannouncing," I'm merely invoking a bit of literary licensing and a double entendre of sorts, in advance of my twice-delayed court appearance, scheduled yet again for this Friday, January 30; and hoping for the feather while ever mindful of the hammer.

Transgression-to-date, the administrative office staff serving the Alexandria Traffic Court has been extremely reasonable in responding to my scheduling challenges. Due to my ongoing treatment for lung cancer, which mostly consists of every-three-week chemotherapy infusions, (same day, same center), every-three-month face-to-face appointments with my oncologist (same doctor, same center) and an every-three-month diagnostic CT Scan (same center; for luck, of course), I am not always in control of my schedule/availability. Moreover, given the nature and timing of these appointments (generally scheduled weeks/sometimes months in advance), especially infusions, which should occur on the same day (my day is Fridays) every three weeks to keep the cycle/protocol where it is supposed to be – meaning not subject to change if at all possible – I am beholden. And as it relates to my "case," the officer who ticketed me back in November is only in court on Fridays; ergo, the potential for trouble and the need for understanding.

Now, my infusion schedule may change, even though I said it doesn't. And it changes – without my control (but with my knowledge) – when certain levels measured in my pre-chemotherapy lab work (completed the Wednesday before the Friday infusion) are either too high or too low. When this occurs, my infusion is delayed a week to allow my body to recuperate, while a retest is planned for the following week/Wednesday when the same too-high or too-low potential exists and another week's delay is possible (this fifth week infusion has occurred once – mostly the delay has been to a fourth week – nevertheless, the potential exists). This is my routine and it is prudent that delays in my treatment occur to allow certain major organs in my body to not be any more collaterally-damaged than they already have been. Such is my life and I'm glad to live it.

However, this unpredictability can cause problems, since it takes precedence over any other appointments, as it has twice already with the Alexandria Traffic Court. Typically, I won't know my availability until the day before the actual infusion is scheduled (and coincidentally, the day before my scheduled traffic court appearance as well), so I really have no notice to provide; I am a victim of my own circumstances. But this Friday, Court will finally see me in person. No more excused absences – as reasonable and necessary as they have been. It will be time to pay the piper (hopefully not). Planning forward then, should I bore the Court with an abbreviated version of this column, appealing to their generosity of spirit, or shall I just admit my mistake, take my punishment like a man and get on with life? After all, I may not exactly be on borrowed time, but I'm not naive enough to think my clock isn't ticking.

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

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PHOTO BY TOM OUELLETTE/U.S. POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE-WASHINGTON DIVISION

Team Leader Jeanne Graupmann and Postal Inspector Heidi Lescault talk about law enforcement responsibilities with Girl Scouts of Troop 6080 on Monday, Jan. 12 at the Crossfield Elementary School in Herndon.

Girl Scouts Learn about Law Enforcement Jobs, Internet Safety

More than a dozen Herndon-based Girl Scouts of Troop 6080 got a rare look at law enforcement careers during a visit from Postal Inspectors on Monday, Jan. 12, at Crossfield Elementary School.

“Our goal was to show the Girl Scouts how the Postal Inspection Service protects U.S. Mail and give them a behind-the-scenes look of our jobs as federal agents,” said Jeanne Graupmann, team leader, U.S. Postal Inspection Service—Washington Division.

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service is the law enforcement arm of the U.S. Postal Service. Postal Inspectors are federal agents and are responsible for enforcing the more than 200 federal laws protecting the U.S. Mail from illegal or dangerous use.

The Girl Scouts received the opportunity to handle law enforcement equipment, including putting on protective vests, using handcuffs, communicating with radios and holding a protective shield.

Postal Inspectors also gave a presentation about Internet safety.

“As the use of popular social media websites grows, the likelihood of cyberbullying and other Internet hazards grow,” said Graupmann. “It’s important for young people to learn how to stay safe online.” The Girl Scouts earned a new patch at the event. The organization of Women in Law Enforcement, or WIFLE, created a patch bearing their logo to award Girl Scouts who fulfilled certain requirements. WIFLE, collaborating with Girl Scouts of USA, created the patch in 2013 to help educate Girl Scouts of opportunities at law enforcement agencies.

“As a former Girl Scout, I was grateful for mentors who helped me explore different career options,” said Postal Inspector Dominique Giroux. “Meeting the Girl Scouts gave me an opportunity to return the favor and help them realize their potential to pursue any career they desire.”

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 4

ring soil bacterium and is approved by the ISDA for use in organic gardens. The spraying is done by helicopters at low altitudes over small blocks to limit drift, open areas are not sprayed, and a 200 ft buffer is maintained inside the tree line. The BTK is in low concentration, and it persists for only two weeks or less. Individual property owners can opt out of the spraying or have it done from the ground, and the Board of Supervisors must give final approval before spraying begins. Furthermore, the county has sprayed only four times in the last 15 years. In 2014, only 2,000 acres were sprayed, which is less than 1% of the county’s tree canopy.

The Tree Commission has just sent a

resolution to the Board of Supervisors that essentially says we wish that the already limited and carefully targeted FCW spraying program were unnecessary, but until this is so, the benefits to trees outweigh the costs and potential risks. Once mature canopy is lost, in can take decades to replace, and the environment suffers. We also ask the County to reach out to volunteers and neighborhood groups to further study the longer term environmental impact of Btw spraying and to ensure that all other reasonable alternatives are used to prevent and mitigate future FCW outbreaks.

Robert Vickers, Chairman
Fairfax County Tree Commission
Great Falls

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21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE TO NONCUSTODIAL PARENT OF NAME CHANGE HEARING: In the Matter of the Petition of Sophia Rose Shafi (nka Sophia Rose Arjana) for Minor Child, Saira Rose Shafi, to change the child's name to Saira Rose Arjana. District Court, Boulder County, Colorado Case No. 2014CV31267.

Notice is given that a hearing is scheduled for March 3, 2015 commencing at 1:30 p.m. in Division M of the Boulder County District Court, 1777 Sixth Street, Boulder, Colorado 80302. The purpose of the hearing is to request a change of name for Saira Rose Shafi. At this hearing the Court may enter an order changing the name of the minor child. To support or voice objection to the proposed name change, you must appear at the hearing. ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER Christopher Tomchuck, Stevens, Littman, Biddison, Tharp & Weinberg, LLC, 250 Arapahoe Ave., Suite 301, Boulder, CO 80302.

21 Announcements



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WINTER FUN

Broadway Night at Herndon, South Lakes High

Students sing Broadway music.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

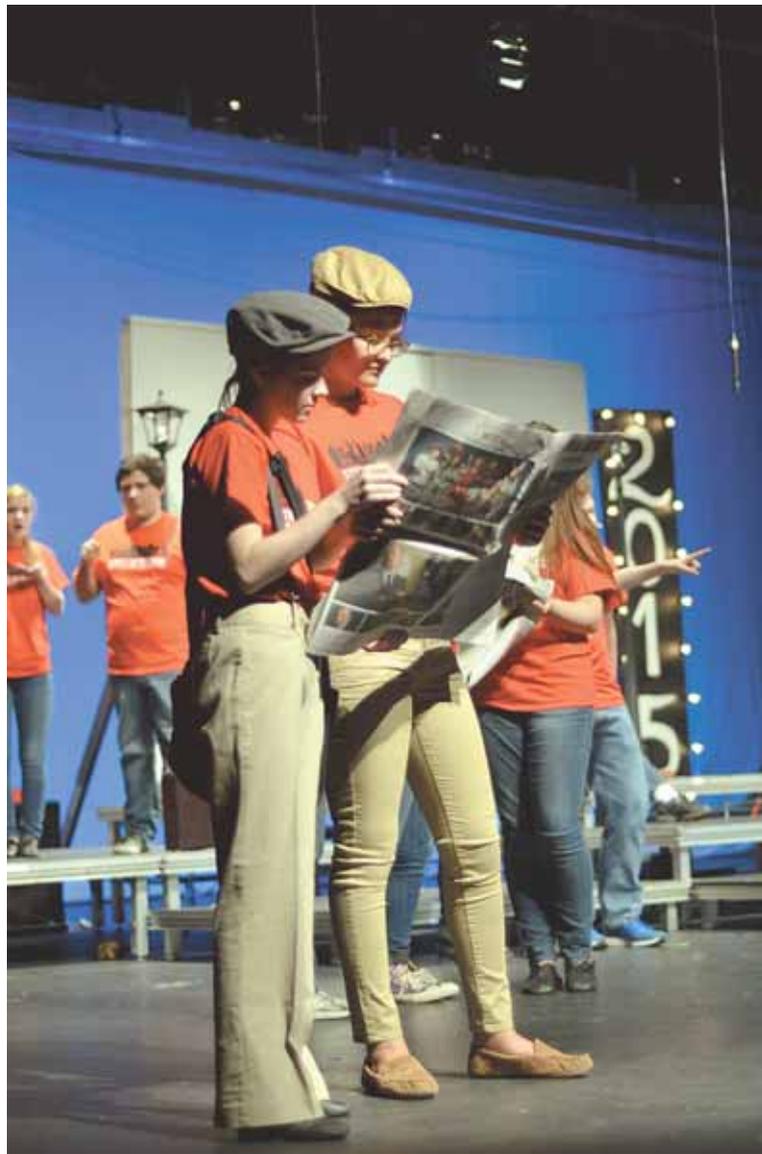
Herndon High School presented a choir concert “Streets of New York” for the 2015 Broadway Cabaret. Directed by Dana and her husband Jim Van Slyke, shows were held on the evenings of Friday, Jan. 23 and Saturday, Jan. 24. The show featured works from Broadway Musicals. “It is a wide variety of music,” said parent Andie Lytle, an assistant with costume and props. “Some people will know music such as ‘Annie’ and some song people may not have heard including ‘You’re A Goodman, Charlie Brown’ and ‘Goodbye Girl.’”

The program opened with the song “NYC” from the musical “Annie” with junior Tony Hitti, senior Robert Wear, and the rest of the cast. This year’s production featured a few more soloists than usual with a smaller but powerful cast. Helping with the sound and light crews were juniors Lucas Lauber and Faiyaz Hashemi. “We used hanging mics, which should give better sound quality,” said Hashemi. Hashemi noted there were many more microphones in this production than other theatre projects he had assisted with. Also helping with the sound setup were Chris Overton and Adrian Morgan.

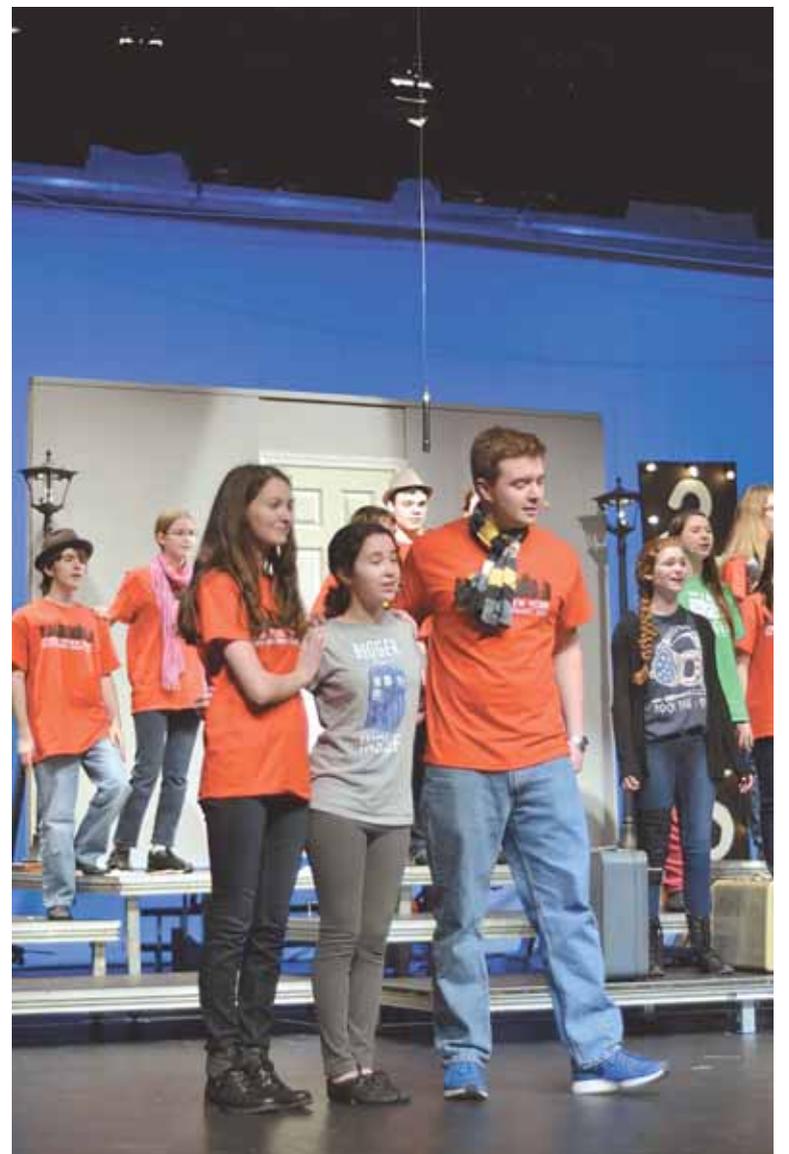
In addition to singing, there was choreography for some of the songs, including a tap number for the song “42nd Street,” which featured the entire cast. Many students found this an exciting challenge. Students agreed the cabaret was not only for people who enjoy musicals because viewers

South Lakes to Host SingStrong

A musical event which will soon be hosted at Reston South Lakes High School is the SingStrong weekend-long a cappella music festival. This popular event features groups from around the country. The event features almost every performing style from barbershop to doo-wop, pop to jazz, beatbox to overtone singing. Profits support the Alzheimer’s Association and local music programs. This year the event will be held from March 6 to March 8 and will include headline performers Resound, overtone singer Anna-Maria Hefele, the Alexandria Harmonizers, and the perennial hosts Blue Jupiter. For more information, visit <http://dc.singstrong.org/overview.html>



Students rehearsing in the Herndon January Broadway Cabaret pose for a photo. Directed by Dana and her husband Jim Van Slyke, shows were held on the evenings of Friday, Jan. 23 and Saturday, Jan. 24. The show featured works from Broadway musicals.



Herndon High students in the January Broadway Cabaret rehearse the song “NYC” at the school auditorium. This year’s production featured a few more soloists than usual with a smaller but powerful cast.



Herndon High junior Tony Hitti and senior Robert Wear at the Herndon High auditorium rehearse for the production of the Jan. 23-24 Broadway Cabaret.

and the audience could watch and enjoy each individual song.

“We have been really cranking this project out,” said junior Will Curtis. Curtis praised other members of the choir for their dedication in seeing the project through. One popular song in the show among the students was “Come Look at the Freaks” from the musical “Side Show.” Portraying the ringleader was junior Nathan Burns. In 2014, Burns played the role of Peter Pan in the Herndon High drama production of “Peter Pan.” “I think some of my favorite songs in this production are ‘Falling Slowly’ and ‘Take Me Back To Manhattan,’” said Burns.

The same weekend South Lakes High School in Reston also presented its 10th annual Broadway Night. South Lakes High School Choral students also assume leadership roles, running every aspect of the show: performing, directing, production, technical theatre, publicity, costuming, and choreography.