

# Fine Arts Festival Returns May 16 & 17

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FIRST Promotes  
'Gracious  
Professionalism'

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GRACE to Present  
Patterson Clark:  
Edicole

CALENDAR, PAGE 13

In addition to viewing the craftwork of artists, visitors to the 2014 Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival at Reston Town Center enjoyed music of the South Lakes High School Orchestra. Pictured are students Marisa Liles, Vanessa Smith and Benjamin Bond.

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PHOTO BY RYAN DUNN/ THE CONNECTION

# WE CHANGE LIVES



## Maybe it really is you. Maybe you really don't belong in a "gym."

Many people just don't do well in a typical big box gym. Those gyms are too big, there is nobody to help you, and it's easy to get lost in the sea of people already in shape.

It is hard to get serious about fitness when you feel like you don't belong at the gym, when you feel like nobody really cares about you after you join.

But fitness might be the most important thing to living a healthy life. Being healthy makes you a happier person, a better parent, employee, partner or spouse. Fitness is the key to getting involved in life. You can choose to fully embrace your own fitness life, or you can watch other people living theirs. Only YOU can decide to change your life and body when you are ready.

At Koko, we understand all of this, which is why our company was founded over a decade ago. We are the small, alternative fitness choice that exists for people who feel they don't fit into that impersonal big box fitness center.

If you like lots of help and guidance, then we are for you. If you like a small, comfortable place to work out with people just like you, then Koko is your gym. If other gyms have failed you and you felt lost in the crowd, we are here to make sure that this time -- with personal guidance and the proven Koko training methodology -- you will succeed.

Don't take our word for it, come see us for yourself. We offer a full 30-day membership, including full access to our training and coaching programs, for only \$30. Come experience what makes Koko so special. Meet our clients and our staff, and give us a chance to prove that this time you will succeed.

Fitness has to be part of your life; it shapes the way you live today and how you'll look and feel tomorrow. If you have failed before in fitness, remember that there is a place here in our community that is truly different and willing to prove it to you. This time, it is all about you. This time, you will change your life.

Yours in fitness,  
The Team at Koko FitClub



Try us 30 days risk free for just \$30. Meet our team, talk with our members, and enjoy all that the digital gym has to offer. There is no obligation: If you don't love Koko in 30 days, we haven't earned your business.

\*Some restrictions may apply. See club for details.

Koko is all about family for us... it was my 17 year old who begged me to give it a try. I loved it at first because it was easy to fit into my schedule and was something fun for me



to do with my teenager. Now I love KOKO because I see the results and I feel so much better. KOKO is just a part of my life. KOKO is like no other fitness experience. It's not a regular gym (thank God -- no mirrors!). And it is an easy way to fit exercise into your schedule without it being a drag. I actually like working out now which was certainly not the case before. KOKO is fun because it challenges you individually, is efficient and gets results! I recommended it to my neighbors and now they're KOKO Nuts too!

- Leesa Donner, Great Falls

I previously belonged to three other gyms in Reston, and I had never made it a full year before my attendance dropped off. With Koko, however,

I recently passed my two year anniversary and am still going strong. I love that I can get a full body workout every time in less than an hour.

The cardio and strength workouts continue to push me to work harder than I ever did on my own at previous gyms. As a result, I'm in the best shape of my adult life. And the desire to keep feeling this healthy and strong keeps me coming back. Thanks Koko!

- Watt H., Reston, VA

There is absolutely no way I would achieve what I do at this club ANYWHERE else. I've lost over 15 lbs, my blood pressure is lower, and I am looking and feeling better than I have in 10 years!



- Scott Kreitz

**Koko**  
A Digital Gym

To get started with your trial membership, simply call or stop by a location below. Live healthy, live the Koko lifestyle.

Koko FitClub of Great Falls  
571-612-2330

Koko FitClub of Herndon  
571-612-2331

Koko FitClub of Reston  
571-612-2333

[www.kokofitclub.com](http://www.kokofitclub.com)

## Still Honoring Vets in Schools

Fairfax County Public Schools Board votes down calendar amendment to make Veterans Day a holiday.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax Station resident Steven Hunt, retired U.S. Navy, put it bluntly: “Votes count, words don’t.” That was following a vote in which all but two members of the Fairfax County School Board voted against an amendment to the 2015-2016 calendar that would have made Veterans Day a school holiday.

Hunt and Steve Martinez of Fairfax, recently retired from the Air Force, spoke before the School Board in favor of the amendment at the board’s March 26 meeting.

“Our nation realizes veterans deserve recognition and has set aside a day specifically to do just that, the eleventh of November, always the eleventh,” Hunt said in his remarks. “This should not be just another school day.”

Martinez, who moved to Northern Virginia in 2010, said he was “shocked” that Fairfax County would be “contradicting state and federal law.”

The amendment, proposed by Springfield District representative Elizabeth Schultz, would have given students the day off on Nov. 11, as well as shifted a teacher work day from the end of the school year in June to the beginning in late August.

Shifting the schedule to accommodate these changes, Schultz said, would even out the number of days in each quarter in a year that starts unusually late due to how Labor Day falls.

“A 37-day first quarter, 53-day second quarter; that is as choppy and up and down as it gets,” said Schultz. “We could have 43, 47, 47, 43. That’s pretty stable in terms of grading, having a balanced calendar.”

But the more emotional case from Schultz came in asking why veterans weren’t honored with a day off from school the way Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and presidents are.

“We don’t refuse to teach our children about Martin Luther King on Martin Luther King day because they’re not there on Martin Luther King day,” she said.

Martinez made the same point in his remarks, saying “It sends a very negative message to our students that it is not as important as other holidays, such as Columbus Day or Washington’s Birthday, and therefore should be corrected immediately.”

But other board members argued students had plenty of opportunities to learn about and respect veterans in a structured way. They gave examples of schools around the county organizing large, well-attended celebrations and remembrances that both educated students on the meaning of Veterans Day and involved more military parents and other veterans that had the day off themselves.

“I’ve seen the power of this in the classroom,” said Mount Vernon representative Dan Storck. “I see and hear frequently from parents and students about what they’ve learned that day, the benefit they receive from



**U.S. Navy retiree Steve Hunt of Fairfax Station (left) and U.S. Air Force retiree Steve Martinez (right) spoke at the March 26 Fairfax County School Board meeting in favor of making Nov. 11 a school holiday in honor of Veterans Day.**

having veterans come in there, how it makes it easier for them to do that.”

Others opposed to the amendment called it “impractical” to re-arrange the calendar at this point and that the month of November is already fairly jagged in terms of days off school.

“It doesn’t work for attendance,” said Sully District representative Kathy Smith. “We need to have more continuity of instruction in November.” Braddock District representative Megan McLaughlin, who supported the amendment, wasn’t convinced from her stance. “Why do surrounding jurisdictions honor this federal and state holiday and we don’t?” she said. “Is it that we think we’re doing it better, the Fairfax way, that somehow everyone else just doesn’t get it?”

Schultz reminded the board that the calendar had not been published, and though it was scheduled to be voted on at a meeting at the beginning of March that was canceled due to snow, it was “exactly” the time to make needed changes.

Steve Hunt agreed: “If it’s too far along,” he said, “then why are they here?”

Schultz’s amendment was ultimately voted down; the original calendar motion passed unanimously.

The Board also approved establishing a new Advanced Academic Program Center at Poplar Tree Elementary School. The aim is to relieve overcrowding at close by Greenbriar West Elementary School.

Beginning in September, the new center will include students from third and fourth grade. Rising fourth grade students who attend the Advanced Academic Program Center at Bull Run Elementary School, whose base school is Cub Run Elementary School, will be able to choose to stay at Bull Run or request a pupil transfer to Poplar Tree.

For more information on the new Advanced Academic Program Center at Poplar Tree, call the Fairfax County Public Schools Office of Communication and Community Relations at 571-423-1200.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

**Virginia Department of Transportation estimates about 25,000 potholes have been repaired in Northern Virginia so far in 2015.**

## The Pothole Picture

Two “p”s become prominent and problematic this time of year: pollen and potholes. The Virginia Department of Transportation can at least do something about the latter, if not the former.

“One of the busiest times for filling is right as the winter ends,” Virginia Department of Transportation spokesperson Jennifer McCord said in an email. “The constant freeze and thaw throughout the winter usually results in a burst of potholes.”

According to McCord, state maintenance crews and contractors have already filled over 25,000 potholes in Northern Virginia; Virginia is on pace to match its total of around 146,000 filled last year statewide.

Repairing potholes fall under the \$256 million Northern Virginia maintenance program, which also includes grass mowing, patching, paving and snow removal. That program covers

most roads in Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William Counties, as well as interstates and primary roads in Arlington.

Citizens can report an existing pothole or file a claim if their vehicle was damaged as a result of encountering one. The Virginia Department of Transportation customer service line, open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, is 800-367-7623 (ROAD), while the website for reporting a problem is [www.virginiadot.org/travel/citizen.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/travel/citizen.asp).

Claim-processing time can be lengthy, McCord said, as the claims department must examine factors such as whether or not the pothole in question was already scheduled for repair and if there was reasonable time for the repair to occur.

For more information about pothole repair, visit [www.virginiadot.org/info/faq-potholes.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/info/faq-potholes.asp).

— TIM PETERSON

### 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.

#### SATURDAY/APRIL 11

**Basic Internet and Microsoft Office Tutoring for Adults.** 1 p.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center Street, Herndon. Schedule an appointment to get one-on-one help with computers, applications, and navigation of the internet.

#### MONDAY/APRIL 13

**Adults Writers Group.** 7 p.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center Street, Herndon. All levels are invited. The group reviews work-in-progress from up to 3 members each month.

# Ready to learn more about relapsing MS?

You and your loved one are invited to an **MS LIVING EVENT**. Hear from MS experts and others who are living with MS. Plus, get some answers about dealing with MS and information on an oral treatment.

Tavern 64 Regional Kitchen, 1800 Presidents Street, Reston, VA 20190  
Saturday, April 11, 2015 at 12:00 PM Eastern

## EXPERT SPEAKERS

**Heidi Crayton, MD**  
Medical Director  
MS Center of Greater Washington  
Vienna, VA

FYI

A meal will be provided.  
Free parking or valet available.

PLEASE RSVP AT  
[mslivingevents.com](http://mslivingevents.com) or call 1-866-703-6293.  
Register today. Space is limited.

Event ID: TR285113 (1214958)

US.MS.MSX.14.03.017

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## WEEK IN RESTON

### Founder's Day to be Celebrated

Reston Historic Trust (RHT) and Museum will host Founder's Day, celebrating Reston's 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary and founder Robert E. Simon, Jr.'s 101st birthday on Saturday, April 11, 12 - 1:30 p.m. at Washington Plaza, Lake Anne Village Center.

Elected officials representing Reston on Capitol Hill, in Richmond and in Fairfax County will participate in a fun game of "Random Reston," emceed by Reston's own Chuck Veatch. A variety of local talent will provide musical entertainment. The dedication of commemorative bricks will be followed by birthday cake and more music.

Founder's Day raffle tickets are on sale now, offering an opportunity to support the Reston Historic Trust & Museum Endowment Fund. This is your chance to win stunning "inside out" diamond hoop earrings valued at \$2,500. These earrings, donated by Aspen Jewelry Designs, contain 50 diamonds weighing 1.01 carats. Tickets are \$10 each, 3 for \$25 and 7 for \$50. They can be purchased at the Museum, online at [restonmuseum.org](http://restonmuseum.org) or at the Wine Cabinet at North Point Village Center. The drawing will follow the celebration. You do not have to be present to win.

Admission is free. For more information, contact the Museum at 703-709-7700; email [restonmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:restonmuseum@gmail.com) or visit [www.restonmuseum.org](http://www.restonmuseum.org).

### Serco Named One of America's Best Employers

Forbes magazine announced its list of "America's Best Employers for 2015" and Reston-based Serco Inc. was rated as the top business services employer and one of the top 40 overall best employers. Serco was ranked #39 out of the 500 companies that made the list.

Serco, a provider of business and profes-

sional services primarily to the U.S. government, was also ranked #1 of all companies in the Washington D.C. metro area.

"On behalf of the 10,000 Serco employees, we are honored to be named on the Forbes list of America's Best Employers. We pride ourselves in creating a culture that engages our people and makes Serco a great place to work," said Dan Allen, Serco's Chairman and CEO.

More information about Serco Inc. can be found at [www.serco-na.com](http://www.serco-na.com).

### Reston Hospital Center to Host Healthcare Decisions Day

On Thursday, April 16, Reston Hospital Center will be hosting a National Healthcare Decisions Day event in the Main and Pavilion II lobbies of the Reston Hospital Center, 1850 Town Center Parkway. From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. case management team will provide education and information about advanced planning. The community members are invited to stop by during this event to ask questions and obtain copies of an advanced directive.

April 16 has been designated National Healthcare Decisions Day, a collaborative effort of national, state and community organizations committed to ensuring that all adults with decision-making capacity in the United States have the information and opportunity to communicate and document their healthcare decisions. Our goal on NHDD is to provide much-needed information to the public, reduce the number of tragedies that occur when a person's wishes are unknown, and improve the ability of healthcare facilities and providers to offer informed and thoughtful guidance about advance healthcare planning to their patients.

For more information, visit Reston Hospital Center's Facebook page at [facebook.com/RestonHospital](http://facebook.com/RestonHospital).

### Bechtel to Expand in Reston

Governor Terry McAuliffe announced that Bechtel Corporation, one of the world's largest engineering, construction and project management companies, will relocate 700 jobs to Fairfax County from its Frederick, Md., operation as a result of global restructuring. The company will invest \$10 million in the Fairfax County location as a result of the move.

Bechtel will lease up to 175,000 square feet in the Reston area of Fairfax County for the expansion.

"This is the second time in less than four years that we have had the pleasure of announcing Bechtel job growth, which speaks volumes about the confidence the company has in Fairfax County as a business location," said Gerald L. Gordon, Ph.D., president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA). "Bechtel is a great corporate citizen, and we are delighted that the company can take advantage of the business assets and quality of life that the county offers."

"Since relocating our global operational headquarters to Reston in 2011, we have enjoyed immense support from the business community of Fairfax County and the Commonwealth," said Bechtel Chief Executive Officer Bill Dudley. "Reston has proven to be an ideal location for Bechtel. Conveniently situated between two airports, it facilitates international

and domestic travel, which is key to our business, provides access to a highly skilled workforce, and offers an enjoyable work/life environment for our employees." Dudley added that the company also considered Texas and Arizona.

Bechtel was the lead partner of Dulles Transit Partners, the contractor responsible for building the first phase of the Metro Silver Line with five stops in Fairfax County: four in Tysons Corner and one in Reston. The company has been active in community and civic affairs in the county, with senior leaders serving in key roles on northern Virginia boards and chambers of commerce.

The FCEDA worked with the Virginia Economic Development Partnership to secure the project for Virginia. Governor McAuliffe approved a \$500,000 grant from the Governor's Opportunity Fund to assist Fairfax County with the project.

The governor also approved \$4 million in funds from the Virginia Economic Development Incentive Grant (VEDIG). VEDIG was established as a self-funded program of performance-based incentives that the Commonwealth awards to exceptional economic development projects with large numbers of employees and very high wages relative to average wages for that particular area.

# A ragweed pollen as a treatment for a ragweed allergy?

It's called immunotherapy.

**RAGWITEK.**  
An immunotherapy tablet made from ragweed pollen.



  
**RAGWITEK**<sup>®</sup>  
Short Ragweed Pollen Allergen Extract  
Tablet for Sublingual Use 12 Amb a 1-U

Make an appointment with your allergy specialist and ask if RAGWITEK is right for you.



Not actual size.

Immunotherapy is what RAGWITEK is all about—it uses ragweed pollen, which may help you gradually build tolerance so you become less sensitive to that very same allergen. RAGWITEK is a once-a-day tablet that dissolves quickly when placed under the tongue. After taking it, don't swallow for at least 1 minute. Taken over time, it helps treat that allergic reaction which causes eye and nasal symptoms associated with ragweed allergies.

RAGWITEK is a prescription medicine used for sublingual (under the tongue) immunotherapy to treat ragweed pollen allergies that can cause sneezing, runny or itchy nose, stuffy or congested nose, or itchy and watery eyes. RAGWITEK may be prescribed for persons 18 through 65 years of age who are allergic to ragweed pollen.

RAGWITEK is taken for about 12 weeks before ragweed pollen season and throughout the ragweed pollen season.

RAGWITEK is NOT a medication that gives immediate relief for symptoms of ragweed allergy.

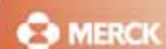
## Important Safety Information about RAGWITEK

- RAGWITEK can cause severe allergic reactions that may be life-threatening. Stop taking RAGWITEK and get immediate medical treatment right away if you have any of the following symptoms after taking RAGWITEK: trouble breathing; throat tightness or swelling; trouble swallowing or speaking; dizziness or fainting; rapid or weak heartbeat; severe stomach cramps or pain, vomiting, or diarrhea; severe flushing or itching of the skin.
- Do not take RAGWITEK if you have severe unstable, or uncontrolled asthma; had a severe allergic reaction in the past that included trouble breathing, dizziness or fainting, or rapid or weak heartbeat; had difficulty with breathing due to swelling of the throat or upper airway after using any sublingual immunotherapy before; have ever been diagnosed with eosinophilic esophagitis or are allergic to any of the inactive ingredients contained in RAGWITEK.
- For home use of RAGWITEK, your doctor will prescribe epinephrine if you have a severe allergic reaction after taking RAGWITEK. Talk to your doctor or read the epinephrine patient information.
- The first dose of RAGWITEK must be taken in the doctor's office. After taking the first dose, you will be watched for at least 30 minutes by a healthcare professional for symptoms of a serious allergic reaction.
- You should tell your doctor about any medicines you take.
- Stop RAGWITEK and contact your doctor if you have any of the following after taking RAGWITEK: Any type of a serious allergic reaction; heartburn, difficulty swallowing or pain with swallowing, or chest pain that does not go away or worsens; any mouth surgery procedures (such as tooth removal), develop any mouth infections, ulcers or cuts in the mouth or throat.
- The most commonly reported side effects were itching of the mouth, lips, or tongue, swelling under the tongue, or throat irritation. These side effects, by themselves, were not dangerous or life-threatening.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch), or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

**Please read the Brief Summary on the following page for more detailed information.**

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## Brief Summary



# RAGWITEK®

Short Ragweed Pollen Allergen Extract  
Tablet for Sublingual Use 12 Amb a 1-U

Carefully read the Medication Guide before you start taking RAGWITEK® and each time you get a refill. This Brief Summary does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or treatment. Talk with your doctor or pharmacist if there is something you do not understand or if you want to learn more about RAGWITEK.

### What is the Most Important Information I Should Know About RAGWITEK?

RAGWITEK can cause severe allergic reactions that may be life-threatening. Stop taking RAGWITEK and get medical treatment right away if you have any of the following symptoms after taking RAGWITEK:

- Trouble breathing
- Throat tightness or swelling
- Trouble swallowing or speaking
- Dizziness or fainting
- Rapid or weak heartbeat
- Severe stomach cramps or pain, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Severe flushing or itching of the skin

For home administration of RAGWITEK, your doctor will prescribe auto-injectable epinephrine, a medicine you can inject if you have a severe allergic reaction after taking RAGWITEK. Your doctor will train and instruct you on the proper use of auto-injectable epinephrine. Talk to your doctor or read the epinephrine patient information if you have any questions about the use of auto-injectable epinephrine.

### What is RAGWITEK?

RAGWITEK is a prescription medicine used for sublingual (under the tongue) immunotherapy to treat ragweed pollen allergies that can cause sneezing, runny or itchy nose, stuffy or congested nose, or itchy and watery eyes. RAGWITEK may be prescribed for persons 18 through 65 years of age who are allergic to ragweed pollen. RAGWITEK is taken for about 12 weeks before ragweed pollen season and throughout ragweed pollen season. RAGWITEK is NOT a medication that gives immediate relief for symptoms of ragweed allergy.

### Who Should Not Take RAGWITEK?

You should not take RAGWITEK if:

- You have severe, unstable or uncontrolled asthma
- You had a severe allergic reaction in the past that included any of these symptoms:
  - Trouble breathing
  - Dizziness or fainting
  - Rapid or weak heartbeat
- You have ever had difficulty with breathing due to swelling of the throat or upper airway after using any sublingual immunotherapy before.
- You have ever been diagnosed with eosinophilic esophagitis.
- You are allergic to any of the inactive ingredients contained in RAGWITEK. The inactive ingredients contained in RAGWITEK are: gelatin, mannitol, and sodium hydroxide.

### What Should I Tell My Doctor Before Taking RAGWITEK?

Your doctor may decide that RAGWITEK is not the best treatment if:

- You have asthma, depending on how severe it is.
- You suffer from lung disease such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).
- You suffer from heart disease such as coronary artery disease, an irregular heart rhythm, or you have hypertension that is not well controlled.

- You are pregnant, plan to become pregnant during the time you will be taking RAGWITEK, or are breast-feeding.
- You are unable or unwilling to administer auto-injectable epinephrine to treat a severe allergic reaction to RAGWITEK.
- You are taking certain medicines that enhance the likelihood of a severe reaction, or interfere with the treatment of a severe reaction. These medicines include:
  - beta blockers and alpha-blockers (prescribed for high blood pressure)
  - cardiac glycosides (prescribed for heart failure or problems with heart rhythm)
  - diuretics (prescribed for heart conditions and high blood pressure)
  - ergot alkaloids (prescribed for migraine headache)
  - monoamine oxidase inhibitors or tricyclic antidepressants (prescribed for depression)
  - thyroid hormone (prescribed for low thyroid activity).

You should tell your doctor if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription and herbal supplements. Keep a list of them and show it to your doctor and pharmacist each time you get a new supply of RAGWITEK. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking RAGWITEK. RAGWITEK is not indicated for use in children under 18 years of age.

### Are There Any Reasons to Stop Taking RAGWITEK?

Stop RAGWITEK and contact your doctor if you have any of the following after taking RAGWITEK:

- Any type of a serious allergic reaction
- Throat tightness that worsens or swelling of the tongue or throat that causes trouble speaking, breathing, or swallowing
- Asthma or any other breathing condition that gets worse
- Dizziness or fainting
- Rapid or weak heartbeat
- Severe stomach cramps or pain, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Severe flushing or itching of the skin
- Heartburn, difficulty swallowing, pain with swallowing, or chest pain that does not go away or worsens

Also, stop taking RAGWITEK following: mouth surgery procedures (such as tooth removal), or if you develop any mouth infections, ulcers or cuts in the mouth or throat.

### How Should I Take RAGWITEK?

Take RAGWITEK exactly as your doctor tells you. RAGWITEK is a prescription medicine that is placed under the tongue.

- Take the tablet from the blister package after carefully removing the foil with dry hands.
- Place the tablet immediately under the tongue. Allow it to remain there until completely dissolved. Do not swallow for at least 1 minute.
- Do not take RAGWITEK with food or beverage. Food and beverage should not be taken for the following 5 minutes.
- Wash hands after taking the tablet.

Take the first tablet of RAGWITEK in your doctor's office. After taking the first tablet, you will be watched for at least 30 minutes for symptoms of a serious allergic reaction. If you tolerate the first dose of RAGWITEK, you will continue RAGWITEK therapy at home by taking one tablet every day. Take RAGWITEK as prescribed by your doctor until the end of the treatment course. If you forget to take RAGWITEK, do not take a double dose. Take the next dose at your normal scheduled time the next day. If you miss more than one dose of RAGWITEK, contact your healthcare provider before restarting.

### What are the Possible Side Effects of RAGWITEK?

The most commonly reported side effects were itching of the mouth, lips, or tongue, swelling under the tongue, or throat irritation. These side

effects, by themselves, were not dangerous or life-threatening. RAGWITEK can cause severe allergic reactions that may be life-threatening. Symptoms of allergic reactions to RAGWITEK include:

- Trouble breathing
- Throat tightness or swelling
- Trouble swallowing or speaking
- Dizziness or fainting
- Rapid or weak heartbeat
- Severe stomach cramps or pain, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Severe flushing or itching of the skin

For additional information on the possible side effects of RAGWITEK talk with your doctor or pharmacist. You may report side effects to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) at 1-800-FDA-1088 or [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch).

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about RAGWITEK. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your doctor or pharmacist for information about RAGWITEK that was written for healthcare professionals. For more information, go to: [www.ragwitek.com](http://www.ragwitek.com) or call 1-800-622-4477 (toll-free).

**The Medication Guide has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.**

Manufactured for: Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp., a subsidiary of **Merck & Co., Inc.**, Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889, USA

Manufactured by: Catalent Pharma Solutions Limited, Blagrove, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN5 8RU UK

**For more detailed information, please read the Prescribing Information.**

usmg-mk3641-sb-1404r000  
Revised: 04/2014

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RESP-1125099-0007 01/15



## NEWS

The streets of Reston Town Center were full of visitors seeing the booths displaying the crafts and works of artists at the last year's Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival.



PHOTO BY RYAN DUNN/  
THE CONNECTION

# Fine Arts Festival Returns May 16 & 17

Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) has announced that more than two-hundred artists across the nation have been notified of acceptance for the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival (NVFAF) on Saturday, May 16 and Sunday, May 17. Festival jurors have selected artists in ten categories of fine art and craft to exhibit and sell their works at GRACE's event, which is one of the largest independent outdoor art festivals on the east coast, attracting crowds of 30,000 – 50,000 over two days.

GRACE will present NVFAF on the streets of Reston Town Center with more than 200 booths featuring original paintings, photography, mixed-media, sculpture, jewelry and fine craft, plus live music performances and much more for all tastes and ages. New at the festival this year, GRACE's free hands-on art activities for children will take place in Reston Town Center Pavilion while at Town Square Park, a monumental public art sculpture by internationally renowned earth artist, Patrick Dougherty, will be displayed. Dance performances choreographed to re-

The festival brings 200+ artists from around the nation to Reston.

spond to the sculpture will be presented during the weekend by Reston Community Center, one of the festival's Signature Community Sponsors.

NVFAF booths are open for two days, rain or shine, Saturday, May 16 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. and Sunday, May 17 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. at Reston Town Center, at 11900 Market Street, Reston. The festival begins with GRACE's Festival Launch Party in the Pavilion, sponsored by The M Group, on Friday, May 15 from 6 until 8:30 p.m. with food, entertainment, a silent auction, plus a chance to mingle with the artists in town for the big weekend event. Tickets for the party are \$75 per person. Weekend festival admission is a voluntary donation of \$5 per adult which provides a program with map and dining certificates from local restaurants. For more information, call GRACE at 703-471-9242 and visit their website, [www.restonarts.org](http://www.restonarts.org).

## SCHOOL NOTES

Send school notes to [north@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:north@connectionnewspapers.com) by Friday.

From examining the genes in the monkey flower, to exploring the Rev. Martin Luther King's political, social and theological beliefs, to epilepsy therapies, to sustainable tourism, 38 **University of Virginia** undergraduates will pursue 36 grant-funded research projects this summer. Thirty-five of the proposals received Harrison Undergraduate Research Awards and another student has had his research underwritten by the Stull family of Dallas. This marks the 16<sup>th</sup> year of the program, which helps further a key component of the U.Va. student experience: hands-on research.

The research awards support students who present detailed plans for projects that have been endorsed by a faculty mentor. In February, a Faculty Senate committee selected the winners, who receive up to \$3,000. Faculty mentors who oversee the projects receive \$1,000.

This year's Harrison Undergraduate Research Award winners and their research topics include

❖ **Emma Kitchen, 21, of Herndon**, a third-year distinguished history major, is researching the 19<sup>th</sup>-century naturalist Louis Agassiz, who

helped popularize science in America, in order to shed light on the relationship between science and society during an important period in both American science and the history of the theory of evolution.

❖ **Debbie Pan, 20, of Herndon**, a third-year biology and Spanish double major, is researching the stability of microDNA, small extrachromosomal circular DNA found in various tissues, in order to characterize this newly discovered type of DNA.

Four Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students have won **national awards in the 2015 Scholastic Writing Awards Competition**. Sixteen FCPS students won regional Gold Key awards, and 29 students won regional Silver Key awards.

❖ Olivia Dabich of Marshall High School for Flash Fiction, "A Defector and Family's Guide to the Aftermath of Defection from North Korea." Dabich won a Gold Key award for this entry in the regional competition.

❖ Peiqi Wang of Carson Middle School for Critical Essay, "A False Dichotomy: Privacy and Security in the Digital Age." Wang won a Gold Key award for this entry in the regional competition.

National Silver Medal award winners were:

❖ Mei Baek of Thomas Jefferson High

School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) for Poetry, "Grandmother." Baek won a Gold Key award for this entry in the regional competition.

❖ Samiksha Kale of Kilmer Middle School for Poetry, "3-2-1 Fun, My Spark of Inspiration, The Jewel of India, Wretched Soul." Kale won a Gold Key award for this entry in the regional competition.

Regional Gold Key award winners are:

❖ Colleen Flanagan of Herndon High School for Poetry.

❖ Olivia Dabich of Marshall High School for Short Story and Poetry.

❖ Tara Abrishami of TJHSST for Poetry.

❖ Suzie Bae of TJHSST for Personal Essay-Memoir.

❖ Pooja Chandrashekar of TJHSST for Writing Portfolio, Critical Essay, and Personal Essay-Memoir.

❖ Richa Gupta of TJHSST for Poetry.

❖ Joyce Hong of TJHSST for Short Story.

❖ Ahnaf Khan of TJHSST for Personal Essay-Memoir.

❖ Anna Weidman of TJHSST for Personal Essay-Memoir.

❖ Jonathan Zheng of TJHSST for Humor.

❖ Cleo Elizabeth-Robertson of Woodson High School for Poetry.



## PHOTO GALLERY!

### "Me and My Mom"

To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Connection will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to:

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# HomeLifeStyle

## D.C. Design House

McLean showcase home opens to the public April 12.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Local interior design enthusiasts will have an opportunity to tour a much-anticipated unveiling this weekend when the 2015 Design House opens in McLean on Sunday, April 12 at noon, with ticket sales benefiting the Children's National Health System.

The 8,869-square-foot home was built by Artisan Builders and designed by Harrison Design to look like an old American farmhouse. Then, 24 local designers were chosen to design a room in the home — the eighth annual design house — using inspiration that ran the gamut from American art to the home's natural surroundings. Organizers hope the varied styles will make the home's design appear to have evolved over many years.

**THE KITCHEN** was designed by Paul Lobkovich and Emily Neifeld, of Lobkovich Kitchen Designs in Tysons Corner. Antique white walls accented by a custom hood in both black and stainless steel create a simple,

but elegant gathering space.

If this kitchen is the hub of a home's activities, then the butler's pantry is where the preparation for those celebrations begins. That notion was the inspiration for Margery Wedderburn's design. "This butler's pantry is the celebration of a good life," said Wedderburn, of Margery Wedderburn Interiors, LLC in Vienna. "One enters the heart of the home, the kitchen and family room, through this butler's pantry, so the room is casually elegant, but doesn't take itself too seriously. It is happy, bright and fun.

"This home was designed to have a country farmhouse feeling, and we were inspired by the architecture plus the Virginia countryside," she said, explaining that nature was also a big inspiration. "We have the casual green leaf wallpaper, plus we designed a custom, faux-wallpaper on the ceiling which looks just like repurposed wood. We bring the outdoors in with the green and blue tones of the space, including the fun peacock color, which ties in with our peacock feathers in the umbrella stand."

Even the chandelier is peacock, and the Sisal rug features blue stenciling, while

green and blue stripes on the back of the closet tie everything together. Meanwhile, accessories give the space a contemporary feel. "Because this area of McLean is so cosmopolitan, we wanted to give a nod with stylish, hip vases, barware and details that move the space forward into the next decade while complimenting the past," said Wedderburn.

Another active hub of the home is the back stair hallway, which connects all three floors. Although it's windowless, designer David Benton's goal was to create a warm, welcoming and stylish space. "Using furniture, lighting and accents, we visually divided the hall into two zones," said Benton of RA Spaces, the interior division of Rill Architects in Potomac, Md. Benton even created a "virtual window" with a commissioned painting, "Old Dominion Sky."

The first-floor space is accented with a custom, tufted bench and unexpected pops of color to create a formal space between the butler's pantry and dining room. "The hall space that connects the garage, mudroom and kitchen is anchored by a console table and wool rug," said Benton.



PHOTO BY ANGIE SECKINGER/D.C. DESIGN HOUSE

The 2015 D.C. Design House opens to the public on Sunday, April 12.

Open shelving and a built-in desk offer additional display areas. Benton finished the space with a chandelier by Circa Lighting and photo art. Those accessories "deliver fresh takes on period furnishing," said Benton. "The classic Eames bright blue fiberglass shell chair introduces an unexpected Americana twist."

One of the design challenges Benton faced on the second floor was creating an aesthetically appealing area rather than a simple connection between two spaces. He decided to transform the walls into a dramatic back-

drop using wallpaper by Cole and Son that features silhouetted stems of cow parsley against an etched background.

"Like the house, which feels like it has been added to over time, we wanted the interior to feel like an acquired collection of pieces," said Benton. "The useful storage bench and custom sweater rug give the space warmth and style. The fun and inexpensive swag light is another way we added flair and utility."

**INSPIRED BY A SAILING TRIP** through the fjords of New Zealand and by the bright oil-on-canvas painting, "Mountains and Sea," designer Lisa Tureson, of

### D.C. Design House

956 Mackall Farm Lane, McLean, Va., will be open to the public starting Sunday, April 12, noon-5 p.m.

♦ **Regular Hours:** Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Thursday evenings 5-8 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, noon-5 p.m. Closed Mondays. (Visitors must arrive one-half hour before closing time to take the tour.)

♦ **Last day:** Sunday, May 10, noon-5 p.m.

♦ **Admission:** \$30. Purchase tickets at [www.dcdesignhouse.com](http://www.dcdesignhouse.com) or at the door.

Studio Artistica in Oak Hill, created a powder room that she said resembles "a little art gallery."

Tureson hung a custom, hand-etched mirror and eight paintings in the space. "My goal was to create a pictorial space since I'm an artist and painter," she said. "The subtle sparkle on the walls ... adds pizzazz."

When designing the room known as the gentleman's retreat, Scott Cooke, of Scott Cooke Design in Alexandria, wanted to "honor the architecture of the house itself, with a room that's rustic in nature, and that feels in sync with the time period the house evokes," he said.

From the wooden poster bed and canopy to the rug and art, Cooke used neutral hues throughout the room. He drew inspiration from the home of the late fashion designer Bill Blass, which was, "done in a monochromatic color story ranging from white and parchment, to caramel, chocolate, espresso and black," said Cooke.

Transforming this grand house into a home was a mammoth undertaking, but one designers say was well worth the effort.

"It is an honor to be a part of this amazing group of designers," said Wedderburn. "The great thing about the group is that everyone is wonderful and helpful to each other. There is a special camaraderie here and we are all drawing inspiration off each other."



PHOTO BY ANGIE SECKINGER/D.C. DESIGN HOUSE

With eight paintings adorning the walls, the powder room looks like an art gallery. Lisa Tureson of Studio Artistica in Oak Hill wanted the space to be both practical and functional.

Restoring the thread

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# OPINION

## A Big Election Year in Virginia

Register, research,  
vote. And vote again.

EDITORIAL

Every year is an election year in Virginia. Here are a few examples that demonstrate that while elections are ubiquitous in Virginia, they are neither simple nor unimportant. Wade in, a lot depends on figuring this out and voting. This is not intended to be a comprehensive list of candidates.

The choices begin April 23. Almost every state and local elected office in Virginia will be in play. Democrats will choose their candidates in the primary on June 9. Republicans will choose candidates for individual offices at caucuses, firehouse primaries and conventions, beginning April 23 and finishing by June 9.

For example, the Republican candidate for Sully District supervisor will be chosen in a firehouse primary on Saturday, April 25 at Westfield High School, with three candidates seeking the nomination to replace retiring Michael Frey. The three candidates are Brian Schoeneman, John Guevara and John Litzenberger, and the winner will likely face Democrat Cathy Smith on Nov. 3. Smith is vacating her Sully District School Board seat to run for Sully District supervisor.

This year's elections begin May 5 with elections in the Town of Vienna with three candidates vying for three positions on the Vienna Town Council. For more, see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm>.

**IN FAIRFAX COUNTY**, all 10 members of the Board of Supervisors are on the ballot includ-

ing district members and the chairman. Also on the ballot: all members of the School Board including district members and three at-large members; Constitutional Officers Sheriff, Clerk of Court and Commonwealth's Attorney; and three members of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District Board Directors.

Every seat in the Virginia General Assembly will be on the ballot, including all State Senate and House of Delegates seats. With several key retirements, including Del. Rob Krupicka (D), Del. Tom Rust (R) and Sen. Toddy Puller (D), it's clear that there will be some change. Del. Scott Surovell (D) will give up his seat to run for Puller's Senate seat, so the musical chairs continue.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM; ON TWITTER @MARYKIMM

## On the Banks of Bull Run 150 Years Ago

BY PAUL GILBERT  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NOVA PARKS

One hundred and fifty years ago, on the same day General Lee surrendered at Appomattox, Fairfax County witnessed the last gun battle of the war.

Just five months earlier, Confederate Colonel John Mosby had been authorized to expand his force that had effectively harassed the Federal forces around Washington. On Saturday, April 8, half of Mosby's force left Upperville on a mission to attack a train on its way to Alexandria. On Sunday, April 9, the same day Generals Lee and Grant were meeting to sign the Confederates' surrender, the Southern

Rangers were nearing Burke where they were going to attack the train station. At this time, the Federal forces at Fairfax Station heard of Mosby's forces and sent the 11<sup>th</sup> Illinois Cavalry under Captain Warner to intercept them.

For four or five miles, the two groups engaged in a galloping fight. Once they formed into battle lines against each other, but the rest of the time Union Cavalry chased Mosby's Rangers towards Bull Run, the stream that served as an informal dividing line between the Fairfax County that was under Federal control, and Prince William and Loudoun Counties that were less secure from a Union perspective.

Mosby's forces crossed the stream at Wolf Run Shoals in the Clifton area, and the Union

forces did not chase them any farther.

The next day, two of Mosby's Rangers who had been involved in this fight were talking and Lieutenant James Wiltshire remarked, "has it never struck you as being a notable fact that the first big fight of the war occurred on Bull Run and the last shots of the war in Virginia were fired on the banks of that same stream?" The bookends to the Civil War in Virginia that Wiltshire was referring to was the First Battle of Manassas, and this last fight in Fairfax County the day that Lee was surrendering 150 miles away.

Today NOVA Parks owns most of the Fairfax County side of the Bull Run and Occoquan rivers, an area rich in history.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Failing Those Most in Need

To the Editor:

My name is Maurine Houser and I am writing in response to your article ["Moving: From Institution to Community"] printed on April 2 regarding the Northern Virginia Training Center.

I am the younger sister and guardian of my 57-year-old brother Kim Houser. Until recently, he resided at the Northern Virginia Training Center. Kim is non-verbal, non-ambulatory without assistance, has the cognitive ability of a nine month old and is medically fragile.

Your article states that the state Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services has provided a multitude of commu-



CONTRIBUTED  
**Kim Houser**

nity placement options for family members. However, it has been my experience and others that the placements offered are inappropriate and do not have the skills or supports necessary for the medically disabled and behaviorally challenged population remaining at the Northern Virginia Training Center to survive. Not only are the placements unrealistic, they are not in Northern Virginia. My brother was offered placements in Williamsburg and Petersburg, Va., that were not in line with the standards of care suitable for him. My other alternative was to allow the State of Virginia to relocate Kim to the Central Virginia Training Center in Lynchburg, Va., which the state intends on closing in 2020 and ulti-

mately start the process of discharge all over again.

I came to realize unless I was proactive on behalf of my brother, his future would be severely compromised. Through my own research and efforts, I connected with Good Neighbor Community Services who are now caring for my brother in Spotsylvania, Va. The discharge process was extensive, cumbersome and extremely emotional. None of the professionals could predict the future of the Medicaid Waiver, which is now my brother's source of funding, nor anticipate how he would react to a new home, staff and routine. The discharge process encompassed a seven-month period; including but not limited to 20 state employees.

I feel fortunate I have found a provider that will take good care of my brother. However, I fear that the remaining residents will not be so lucky. How can moving

someone's severely disabled child hundreds of miles away not be in violation of the American with Disabilities Act? The populations at the training centers are aging and many individuals have elderly parents who will be unable to see their children due to travel constraints. Similarly, Virginia remains glaringly non-compliant with the U.S. Department of Justice's findings as highlighted by the increase of individuals waiting for Medicaid Waiver funds and services. The process of deinstitutionalization in theory may work for most individuals but for those who are the 1 percent a hasty, underfunded, unsupported process will result in catastrophe as did the rapid deinstitutionalization and nonexistent funding for the mentally ill.

**Maurine Houser**  
Reston

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# A Hundred Fifty Years Ago

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



COMMENTARY

The first person I ever knew who wrote a weekly newspaper column was a teacher in the high school I attended who wrote a column during the period 1961-1965 entitled, "A Hundred Years Ago: The Civil War Day By Day." He did not have to think of a new topic every week; he simply reported what was known to be going on a 100 years before during that week.

I do not propose to revive his idea for a weekly feature other than for this week when 150 years ago Richmond was being sacked and burned by federal troops and when President Abraham Lincoln had vis-

ited the capital of the Confederacy on April 4 and on April 9 Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox, Va. Activities have been going on for several years sponsored and encouraged by the Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission the General Assembly established to commemorate this period of history.

Civil War historian and president of the University of Richmond, Edward L. Ayers, is quoted in the press as saying that, "People are beginning to see, in a way they didn't see before, that you can't walk around history. You can't walk away from his-

tory. You have to walk through history to get to any future that's worth having." The institution of slavery and the attempted use of states' rights as an argument to protect it are difficult to understand today. We need to learn from the events of the past lest our ideological differences lead us to events that future generations will similarly find difficult to imagine or rationalize.

Jane and I took a mini-vacation recently where we went to the Blue Ridge Mountains and stayed in a log cabin that had been built from logs from a previous cabin that had been occupied by a man who died in the Civil War at age 28. We had to lower our heads as we walked about the cabin so as to not hit the beams in the ceiling, and the sleeping loft had only the warmth that seeped through the floor. Our "roughing it" in a cabin as we had been wanting to do for

a long time was made infinitely easier by a gas heater as an auxiliary to the fireplace and a bathroom with running hot water that had been added to the back.

One thought that continued to pass through my mind while we were there was why the young man who lived in the original cabin and who clearly was not a slave owner would leave his home and go to fight a war when his neighbors not far to the west had split off to form the new state of West Virginia because they did not support slavery or secession. The answer I am sure is as complex as understanding the Civil War itself, but the War and the thousands of its personal stories remind us to take a close look at our personally held beliefs as well as our public policies to ensure that they do not include the kind of discrimination that marked the events of 150 years ago.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Taking Exception on 'Education Taxes'

To the Editor:

It's the lofty tone of certainty that grates. Bob Simon ("Turning Every Rock for Education Budget," Reston Connection, April 1-7), who, I hazard a guess, is comfortably able to pay ever-rising RE taxes, suggests that the county's rate should be jacked up yet again — an extra penny yielding \$22 million in revenue. Why didn't we all think of this? Why not two pennies for \$44 million?

With 15 applicants per teacher job opening, he pleads the cause of "short-changed" teachers, who received 4 percent and 5 percent raises 10 years running between 2000 and 2009 and again in 2014 (Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance). How well are teachers doing in the classroom? Well, 2014 ACT test results for county public schools show only 53 percent of students as being prepared for college.

Searching for yet more of other people's money to spend, Mr Simon resurrects the idea of a

"meals tax". "No one is hurt," he blithely intones. Well, not if you overlook increased meal prices, staff layoffs, and the poor folks who are hit hardest by regressive taxes.

Upset at why there's not even more money to spend on a unionized group (teachers) enjoying early retirement at 75 percent of salary, perhaps Mr. Simon might find the answer in a proposed 2016 county budget that manages to downsize the 12,000 county government employees by a whopping 45!

Harry Locock  
Reston

## Keeping Reston Pollution Free

To the Editor:

The work on the New Herndon Monroe Metro station has begun and will negatively impact the surrounding Reston community almost immediately. A huge new, ugly parking lot(s) is being proposed on the east side of the current parking lot. The new metro and this parking lot will draw significant traffic through the Reston community leading to visual and noise pollution, increasing traffic

jams and more safety and security concerns for the neighborhood. Our Reston Community has a very short window to mitigate this impact by persuading the County planners with the correct transportation planning option for Reston.

**Option 1 (Not preferred):** The first option is what traditional transportation planners may undertake especially if the Reston Community and the Reston Association does not get involved now. Under this option the County may decide to broaden the nearby roads like Sunrise Valley and make grade-separating interchanges across Fairfax County in Reston — check the Fairfax County exchanges at Fair Lakes and Monument Drive as examples. Costly to build, time consuming to implement, ugly for the community, negatively impacting our neighbors, these grade-separating interchanges must be avoided in Reston to preserve its beauty.

**Option 2 (Preferred):** The best alternative is to ensure that no new metro or the new parking lot related traffic enters the Reston community or the Sunrise Valley drive but is all neatly directed behind the Sprint building adjoining the Dulles toll road and the new metro parking lot. Currently, traffic from around Woodland Park and nearby communities wanting to reach the toll road, and the Herndon Monroe Parking lot traverses the Sunrise Valley drive. This makes the Sunrise Valley in Reston very crowded. Our suggestion is to create a new exit for the Dulles Toll road at the Monroe Street (#666). This recently broadened Monroe Street will now become an additional exit gateway to the toll road, the new metro and

the parking lot, thus decreasing the traffic on Sunrise Valley drive significantly.

The Reston community must organize to present the option 2 to the community transportation planners and the local county representatives on April 22 when there is a public hearing to discuss these issues. The Reston Association can play a pivotal role in this endeavor and so can community newspapers like yours and Reston households by registering on social media sites like <http://Nextdoor.com>.

Please assist the community in bringing these issues to the forefront and helping keep Reston city beautiful and pollution free.

N. Pradhan  
Reston

## Consider Taxpayers

To the Editor:

The following open letter was addressed to Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova and Sully District Supervisor Michael Frey.

We want to protest the increase in the projected total rate of \$1.1135 (includes storm water tax and infestation prevention tax). We believe that this projected rate should be no more than the inflation rate. We have had increases in our real estate taxes that have more than doubled the inflation rate for the last eight years.

In the past eight years, our real estate taxes have increased from \$5,752 to a projected \$7,774 for 2015 for a whopping 32 percent

increase. For the same period of time, inflation increased 15.4 percent as reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Their figures show a projected rate for 2015 as 2 percent, 1.6 percent for 2014, 1.5 percent for 2013, 2.1 percent for 2012, 3.2 percent for 2011, 1.6 percent for 2010, minus 0.4 percent in 2009, and 3.8 percent in 2008. These statistics show that our real estate taxes have increased twice the inflation rate for that eight year period. This is outrageous. Our current assessment is projected to increase by 3.99 percent while the inflation rate is projected to increase by 2 percent for this year.

According to the Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance (FCTA), the residential real estate taxes increased \$3,359 between FY2000 and FY2016. This simply means that, during this period, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, inflation increased almost 40 percent during this 16-year period while the residential real estate increased 140 percent or more than three times the inflation rate. How can you really justify increasing real estate taxes more than three times the rate of inflation? For decades, the County Board has been raising the budget and taxes more than two to three times the inflation rate. Isn't it time to give the county taxpayers a break?

In conclusion, we feel that the real estate tax rate should be rolled back to the current rate of inflation. We look forward to your comments. Thank you for your attention.

Charles McAndrew  
Linda McAndrew  
Oak Hill

**Write**

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

Letters to the Editor  
The Connection  
1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314  
Call: 703-917-6444.  
By e-mail: [info@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:info@connectionnewspapers.com)

# Madison Boys' Lax Returning to Winning Ways

## Warhawks improve to 4-0 with victory over Washington-Lee.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

In 2013, the Madison boys' lacrosse program was one of the best in Virginia. Led by 16 seniors, the Warhawks won the Northern Region championship and reached the state final, where they fell short against perennial power Chantilly.

The following year, an inexperienced Madison team led by a new head coach failed to even qualify for the regional tournament.

Now in 2015, second-year Madison head coach Alex Gorman is hoping last year's sub-par season, which included a first-round conference loss to McLean, was simply an aberration for an otherwise successful program.

"Yes, we want to get back to the regional games," said Gorman, who was an assistant under Rich Hodge when Madison finished state runner-up in 2013. "That's sort of our goal. We missed out on that stuff last year. We had a long meeting at the end of last season and the goal for the kids was to get back to the region [tournament], where this team should be.



**Junior attackman Cheech McLallen scored Madison's first three goals during a 16-9 win over Washington-Lee on Monday.**

"There's no reason for us ever to be out of that regional tournament."

Three current Warhawks were contributors to the 2013 team: junior attackman Cheech McLallen, senior midfielder Robbie McLallen and junior midfielder Palmer Lloyd.



**JP Ugast and the Madison boys' lacrosse team improved to 4-0 with a win over Washington-Lee on Monday.**

Cheech McLallen started hot on Monday against Washington-Lee, scoring the Warhawks' first three goals while some of his teammates took their time returning to full speed following spring break. Madison scored the final four goals of the first half

and improved to 4-0 on the season with a 16-9 victory in Arlington.

"The spot I was in was pretty much an open spot," McLallen said. "We had a good two-on-one game going on right there."

McLallen, who has started since his freshman season, was one of eight Madison players to score at least one goal. Midfielders Stephen Gerdon and Jackson Franks each scored three goals, attackmen JP Ugast and Jacob Stein each had two, while midfielders Sammy Borak, Robbie McLallen and Lloyd each had one.

"[Cheech McLallen is] the face everybody knows on this team," Gorman said. "In the past, teams have scouted us and they see him. This year, it's a little bit different. We've got guys that can score goals. Cheech is definitely, by far, one of our best players, but he's not the only player out there. I think this year, we have a more balanced offense than we've had in the past."

Washington-Lee head coach Chris Corey said the Generals opened the game in a zone defense with the intent of slowing Cheech McLallen. W-L tied the score at 4-4 early in the second quarter, but Madison scored the final four goals of the first half and pulled away during the final 24 minutes.

"[Our defensive approach] worked for approximately a quarter-and-a-half," Corey said, "and then they called timeout and made a really good adjustment to it."

Madison will travel to face Vienna rival Oakton at 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 11.

### SPORTS BRIEFS

## Langley Boys' Lax to Host Two Games

After starting 3-3, including a 9-1 loss to defending state champion Robinson, the Langley boys' lacrosse team returns from spring break with a pair of home games this week.

The Saxons will host Cold Spring Harbor on Wednesday, April 8, and Fairfax the following evening. Both games start at 7:15.

Langley opened the season with its first loss to McLean in program history. The Saxons responded with wins over Yorktown and Dominion. Langley then lost to Robinson and Chantilly before beating Battlefield.

Langley has played in four of the last five state championship games, including last year, when the Saxons lost to Robinson, 9-7.

## McLean Baseball Wins Tournament

The McLean baseball team won the "Let's Play Two" tournament over spring break, defeating Mountain View 12-4 in the championship game on April 1.

After beating Langley and losing to



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Stone Bridge to open the season, McLean competed in the tournament, beating Edison, losing to Hylton, and then defeating Potomac and Mountain View.

McLean returned from spring break with a 4-2 record.

"At the start of the year the biggest question mark was going to be pitching," McLean head coach John Dowling wrote in an email. "We graduated two very, very good high school pitchers ([Joey] Sullivan, who has been getting some solid playing time at VT and Colin Morse, who is throwing extremely well for a top 15 ranked Shenandoah team). Those two threw a ton of important innings for us last year. We

knew we had six or seven guys that could replace them, but given the limited opportunities and injuries last year (Billy Gerhardt had a UCL repair and Jon Clines had an elbow strain that prevented him from pitching) the group was just unproven.

"As a coaching staff we were very confident that as a group they could fill Joey and Colin's shoes, it just might end up being four, five or even six guys throwing important innings as opposed to basically two. Over the start of the season, we have done, in every game but one, exactly what we need to do to be successful: throw strikes (and even when we didn't throw strikes against Mt. View, Minamino was able to

**Gunnar Okeson, left, and the Langley boys' lacrosse team look to rebound from a 3-3 start.**

limit the damage, and gave us five quality innings). When our pitchers eliminate walks we can be successful on the defensive side simply because we know our defense is going to make the routine plays. Big innings are tough to come by without the help of walks and errors, so when we eliminate those things we eliminate the possibility of big innings and ensure we stay in games."

McLean returns some talented players from its run to the 2014 state tournament, including shortstop Conor Grammes and catcher Caleb Beatty.

McLean faces some tough competition in the near future. The Highlanders will travel to face Chantilly at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8 in a rematch of last year's 6A North region championship game. McLean will travel to face perennial power Madison on April 14.

## Herndon Boys' Soccer Undefeated

The Herndon boys' soccer team returns from spring break with a 2-0-1 record. The Hornets beat South County and Woodson and tied Madison.

Herndon will host Thomas Jefferson at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8 and will travel to face Oakton at 7 p.m. the following night.

# CALENDAR

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

## THURSDAY/APRIL 9

**FIT2FINISH: Keeping Young Players in the Game.** 7 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Dr. Wendy LeBolt, author of "Fit2Finish: Keeping Your Soccer Players in the Game" will discuss how you can help your athletes play their best, prevent injury and have fun. Dr. LeBolt is an experienced coach with a PhD in Sports Physiology. Adults and Teens.

## FRIDAY/APRIL 10

**Empty Bowls Fundraiser.** 5:30-8 p.m. Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon. An Empty Bowls fundraiser for the benefit of Food for Others and hunger relief in Northern Virginia. Hosted by the Giving Circle of HOPE. Tickets are \$25 and guests will receive a handcrafted ceramic bowl to keep and a simple soup supper. All proceeds raised will go to hunger relief in Northern Virginia. Pre-event tickets can be purchased by mailing a check made out to Food for Others and sent to Giving Circle of HOPE, P.O. Box 8832, Reston VA 20195 or purchase tickets online at [www.givingcircleofhope.org](http://www.givingcircleofhope.org). Prepaid tickets will be held at the door. For questions please email [emptybowls@givingcircleofhope.org](mailto:emptybowls@givingcircleofhope.org) or call 703-665-9334.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 11

**Casino Night.** 7-10 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Buy tickets Now for Reston Community Orchestra's annual fundraiser. Advance ticket: Single \$65 / Couple \$125. At Door \$75/\$140. Ticket covers food, drink, starter chip stack, raffle prizes. An evening of fun, fortune, and friends. <http://restoncommunityorchestra.org/reston-community-orchestra-annual-benefit/>

## SUNDAY/APRIL 12

**Jumping Jamboree.** 2 - 3 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Ages 3 to 5. Bring your jumping shoes as we learn about frogs, grasshoppers, rabbits and more. Participate in a jumping contest and see if you can leap as far as a frog or a high as a flea. Make a jumping craft and look for hopping creatures along the trails. Reservations required by April 9. Fee: \$7/child RA members, \$9/child Non-members. For more information, email [naturecenter@reston.org](mailto:naturecenter@reston.org), or call 703-476-9689 and press 5.



COURTESY PHOTOS

**Patterson Clark: Edicole will include new, large-scale woodcuts that blend natural themes with historic religious iconography**

## GRACE to Present Patterson Clark: Edicole, April 16 – July 3

The Greater Reston Arts Center is presenting Patterson Clark: Edicole, an exhibition exploring a new series of "weed shrines" that encase a print, or a natural object, in elaborate constructions created entirely of hand-harvested invasive woods. Clark's exhibition will also include new, large-scale woodcuts that blend natural themes with historic religious iconography. Edicole will run from April 16 – July 3, 2015, at the gallery, located at the Reston Town Center. Opening Reception will be held Saturday, April 18, 5-7 p.m.

Patterson Clark: Edicole will share space in the GRACE gallery with a photographic exhibition documenting the work of artist Patrick Dougherty, an artist who shares Clark's affinity for natural materials. Dougherty's site-specific sculptural installation for Reston Town Square Park, just outside the gallery, will be in progress during the month of April.

Greater Reston Arts Center is located at 12001 Market Street, Suite 103, Tel: 703-471-9242; [restonarts.org](http://restonarts.org); [info@restonarts.org](mailto:info@restonarts.org)

## MONDAY-TUESDAY/APRIL 12-13

**Fascinating Fish.** 10 - 11 a.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Ages 18 months to 35 months. Which fish live in Reston's lakes and streams? Get up-close looks at local fish, both wild and not-so-wild. Enjoy a fishy snack, make a fishy craft, and listen to a fishy story while learning about our wild fish. Reservations required by April 8. Fee: \$7/child RA members, \$9/child Non-members. For more information, email [naturecenter@reston.org](mailto:naturecenter@reston.org), or call 703-476-9689 and press 5.

## WEDNESDAY/APRIL 15

**Home Food Preservation.** 5 - 7 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Adults. This introductory class will cover food preservation methods, including

canning, fermentation, drying/dehydration, and freezing. Learn about the science behind food preservation, safety precautions, kitchen set up, and jar and equipment prep as well as food and recipe selection. There will be a "dry" demo of the procedure for filling jars and ample time for questions. Guest Presenter: Katie Strong, Virginia Cooperative Extension. Co-sponsored by Reston Community Center. Reservations required by April 10. 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.

**Wonderful Ones.** 11 a.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center Street, Herndon. Age 12-23 months with adult enjoy building an early literacy foundation through rhymes, songs,

stories and music.

## THURSDAY/APRIL 16

**Senior Container Gardening.** 1 - 2:30 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Adults. Learn what flowers and herbs grow best in containers and how to arrange them creatively. Listen to a presentation then plant a small container to take home. Contact [Ashleigh@reston.org](mailto:Ashleigh@reston.org) or 703-435-6530 for reservations. Reservations required by April 10. Fee: \$10/person RA members, \$14/person Non-members. For more information, email [naturecenter@reston.org](mailto:naturecenter@reston.org), or call 703-476-9689 and press 5.

**Poetry Readers Roundtable.** 7 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. An informal discussion of the life, times,

and work of Edgar Allan Poe. Adults.  
**Spring Gala.** 7-9 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Enjoy a spring evening at ArtSpace Herndon honoring Elma "The Queen of Herndon" Mankin while enjoying the beautiful chamber music of the Beau Soir Ensemble. Sparkling Water, Wine, Champagne, Imported Teas, Elegant Buffet of Hors D'Oeuvres, Petit Desserts and Confections will be served. Raffle and door prizes. Tickets, per-person, \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. Semi-formal. Proceeds from this event will go directly to the continuation and enhancement of fine arts programming at ArtSpace Herndon. <http://www.artspaceherndon.com/spring-gala/>

## FRIDAY/APRIL 17

**Frying Pan Farm at the Library.** 2 p.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center Street, Herndon. Friends of the Library invite age 6-11 to celebrate spring. Visit with a chicken and build a kite to fly outside. Openings.

**Jewelry Making Workshop.** 7 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. You will learn the basics of jewelry making and create your own original piece in this hands-on workshop. We provide the materials, participants bring the imagination! Registration is required for this event. Adults.

## WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 22-26

**Reston Friends Big Book Sale.** Wednesday, April 22— 5 - 8 p.m. Preview Night Thursday, April 23— 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Friday, April 24— 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday, April 25— 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday, April 26— 12 noon - 3:30 p.m. (Library itself opens at 1 p.m.) Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive Reston. Come and browse thousands upon thousands of great books in great condition. From the latest popular titles and classic favorites to the rare and unexpected fiction and non-fiction. The Reston Friends have something for everyone! Yes, we do restock, for as long as supplies last.

## THURSDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 23-25

**"Book of Days."** 7 p.m. Hunter Woods Elementary School, 2401 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Langley High School presents "Book of Days," a murder mystery that raises questions about small town politics and society.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 25-26

**Performance of Act I Cinderella.** Classical Ballet Theatre Herndon Studios, 320 Victory Drive, Herndon. Don't miss Cinderella and her Fairy Godmother as they teach the stepmother and stepsisters that nice girls do finish first.

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**21 Announcements** **21 Announcements**

**TRUSTEE'S SALE OF**  
12913 Alton Square, Unit #116  
Herndon, VA 20170

Pursuant to the terms of this subordinate Deed of Trust in the original amount of \$50,000.00 dated April 1, 2008 and recorded on November 10, 2010 in Deed Book 21362, Page 1833 of the Fairfax County land records, default having been made in the payment of the note thereby secured, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee, pursuant to the request of the holder of the Note thereby secured, will offer for sale at public auction at the front of the Fairfax County Circuit Court (Fairfax County Judicial Center, 4110 Chain Bridge Road) at Fairfax Virginia on April 23, 2015 at 11:30 AM the property more particularly described in the above Deed of Trust, located at the above address and briefly identified as follows:

Condominium Unit Number 12913-116 in WORLDGATE CONDOMINIUM, a Condominium, together with an undivided interest in the Limited Common Element Parking Space G1-33 and any other limited common elements appurtenant thereto, established by Condominium instruments duly recorded in Deed Book 8837 at Page 672, et seq., and any and all subsequent amendments thereto, among the land records of Fairfax County, Virginia  
Tax Number: 016414040116

The property and improvements will be sold in "as is" physical condition without warranty of any kind.

TERMS OF SALE: Cash. A ten percent (10%) bidder's deposit in cash or certified check payable to the Trustee shall be required of the successful bidder at the time of the time of the sale before the bidding will be closed; settlement must be made within twenty (20) days or property to be resold at cost of defaulting bidder. The holder of the Note may credit bid the amount owed under the Note. Additional terms will be announced at the time of sale and the successful bidder will be required to execute and deliver to the Substitute Trustees a memorandum or contract of the sale at the conclusion of bidding. All costs of conveyancing, examination of title, recording charges etc. will be at cost of purchaser. Neither the Trustee or any other party guarantees or covenants to deliver, or in any way, obtain possession of the premises for any third party purchaser.

This property is subject to the following liens: (1) Deed of Trust from Jahangir Parandeh, a married man, to Suellen W. Wohlfarth, Trustee, securing GreenPoint Mortgage Funding, Inc., in the original principal amount of \$108,000.00, dated October 3, 2001, recorded October 4, 2001, in Deed Book 12276 at Page 786, corrected and re-recorded in Deed Book 20964

at Page 55 (corrects the legal description), assigned to GMAC Mortgage, LLC by Notice of Assignment recorded in Deed Book 21991 at Page 645; (2) Deed of Trust from Jahangir Parandeh, a married man, to Suellen W. Wohlfarth, Trustee, securing GreenPoint Mortgage Funding, Inc., in the original principal amount of \$13,500.00, dated October 3, 2001, recorded October 4, 2001, in Deed Book 12276 at Page 810, assigned to 15 HELOCS Financing, LLC,

by Assignment of Deed of Trust recorded in Deed Book 19166 at Page 1891, assigned to ARM Recovery Trust, by Corporate Assignment of Deed of Trust recorded in Deed Book 23785 at Page 1986; (3) Judgment in favor of HL Mall Venture against Multinational Traders Inc. and Jahangir Parandeh, in the amount of \$220,920.61 plus interest at 18% from August 17, 1990, plus interest from the date of judgment at 9% plus late charges of \$11,046.03, dated August 10, 1992, docketed August 25, 1992 as Judgment Number 217327; (4) Judgment in favor of Worldgate Condominium Unit Owners Association against Jahangir Parandeh, in the amount of \$4,672.72, plus interest at 6% from September 1, 2005, and costs of \$38.00 and Attorney's fees of 20%, dated August 30, 2006, docketed September 14, 2006 as Judgment Number 414642; (5) Judgment in favor of Hachette Filipacchi Media U.S., Inc., d/b/a Elle Decor against Jahangir Parandeh,

a/k/a John Parandeh and Versailles Design Center, Inc., d/b/a Versailles Design Center, Versailles Gallery, and Versailles, in the amount of \$57,000.00, plus interest at 9% from August 25, 2006, plus costs and attorney's fees, dated October 15, 2008, docketed October 15, 2008 in Judgment Book 155 at Page 1741; (6) Judgment in favor of Worldgate

Condominium Unit Owners Association filed against Jahangir Parandeh, in the amount of \$9,171.00 plus interest at 6%, and costs of \$53.00 and attorney's fees of 20%, dated April 9, 2009, docketed April 16, 2009 in Judgment Book 161 at Page 1601; (7) Judgment in favor of Luis M. Neto and Julie N. Neto, against Versailles Developing Corp., Inc., a/k/a Versailles Developers Corp., and Jahangir Parandeh, in the amount of \$36,000.00, plus prejudgment interest in the amount of \$3,060.00, dated February 19, 2010, docketed March 15, 2010 in Judgment Book 171 at Page 1778; (8) Judgment in favor of Worldgate Condominium Unit Owners Association filed against Jahangir Parandeh, in the amount of \$8,339.00, plus interest at 6% from January 1, 2009, plus costs of \$53.00 and attorney's fees of \$1,600.00, dated October 1, 2010, docketed October 15, 2010 in Judgment Book 180 at Page 2179; (9) Judgment in favor of Valpak of Virginia, Inc., against Versailles Gallery, Inc. and Jahangir Parandeh, jointly and severally, in the amount of \$1,700.00; plus interest at the rate of 18% from June 11, 2011, plus 33.33% attorney's fees, dated October 30, 2012, filed January 7, 2013 in Judgment Book.207 at Page 1550. In addition, a judgment was docketed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia on August 20, 2014, in favor of Irina Dmitriev in the amount of \$130,600.00 with prejudgment interest to commence on September 1, 2010.

Bond Consultants, LLC Substitute Trustee  
This communication is from a debt collector. This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT  
David Charles Masselli PC (Attorney for the Substitute Trustee) 4113 Lee Highway Arlington, VA 22207  
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## The Fact Is Not Yet The Matter



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I don't know which is worse: the extra-special, extra-expensive, dental cleaning (the kind that requires Novocain and involves the actual dentist, not merely the hygienist) that I have scheduled for April 8th – or my next hopefully-not-do-or-die CT Scan, moved up a month from my usual three-month interval because of a suspicious formation seen on my most recent scan back in mid-February. Either way, the next two Wednesdays following by the fortnight Friday, April 24th appointment with my oncologist – to discuss the scan results from the 15th, should be noteworthy in the life of this cancer patient.

To think that my cancer-affected life is going to just roll along with nary a blip in assessment, treatment, protocol, scheduling, availability, etc., is both totally unrealistic and wishful thinking of the highest naiveté. And if anything can be said about yours truly, it is that I am well aware of, and reasonably well adjusted to, the slings and arrows of outrageous misfortune with which I have been forced to live, live being the applicable word, these last-six-going-on-seven years.

Given that symptoms I've felt previously – or not felt previously – have, on varying occasions, been positive and negative, feeling or not feeling has never been a sure-fire indicator of anything. As an example, one time I felt a pain in my chest/lungs (where I know the biggest tumor is located); it turned out to be scar tissue growing over a shrinking tumor, a good result. Another time, the same pain/same area indicated the tumor was growing, a bad thing. In general, feeling something has sometimes meant nothing and feeling nothing has sometimes meant something – and vice versa. I wouldn't say I was damned if I did and damned if I didn't, but I would say – with apologies to Oliver Hardy: It's a damned fine mess in which I find myself so regularly entangled. And apparently, from what I understand, the only thing likely to change in the future is nothing. And as fortunate as I am, compared to so many others who have succumbed to this terrible disease, being present and discussing even a problematic future – six years post-diagnosis – is as good as it gets for a patient originally diagnosed with a terminal form of cancer: stage IV, non small cell lung cancer. Still, it doesn't (and I mean never) minimize the stress.

Somehow, managing this process/experience has to include a methodology for managing expectations and minimizing that stress. Moreover, anything one can do to lighten the load emotionally, and build in some positive reinforcement and words-to-the-maybe-not-so wise, goes a long way toward accomplishing some level of relative peace and perhaps even a little quiet.

Of course, the process is Imperfect – with a capital "I." There are always bad days; you just want your share of good ones, too. Acknowledging what you can't control and being grateful for what you can helps to compartmentalize and find that balance between living in the present and dying in the future. Some days, doing "normal" things – like visiting the dentist, seem to help. Other days, it feels pointless. Oddly enough, it all sort of mirrors my symptom history: it matters, it matters not. I just hope that on April 24th, the matters don't hit the fan.

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

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George Marshall High School team, winner of the 2015 Rookie All Star, celebrating their award.



Cougar Robotics of Oakton High School winning alliance member all smiles.

# FIRST Promotes ‘Gracious Professionalism’

## Robotics Competition held at the Patriot Center: Oakton and Marshall teams go to Nationals.

BY VALERIE LAPOINTE  
THE CONNECTION

This past weekend the annual Greater DC Regional FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition was held at the Patriot Center: 48 teams primarily from Washington D.C., Virginia, Maryland created robots to compete in this year’s game “Recycle Rush.” Six weeks before competition, teams are given identical starter kits that have all the rudimentary parts required to produce a robot with the necessary functionality to compete. However, the kit alone is not enough for complex maneuvering and teams must get creative, using materials from an approved supply list to build a truly competitive robot.

Obtaining the necessary materials can be an expensive endeavour for a high school robotics club, and so many teams enlist corporate sponsors for help.

“Having corporate sponsorship is the only way this really works,” said Jerry Stueve, a parent volunteer from the Herndon High team. “When people from within the industry come out and help, together with the students, parents, and teachers, it becomes a real team.”

Herndon High School’s team “Epsilon Delta” in partnering with NASA headquarters was able to acquire three 3D printers which allowed them to build scale models of the arena, and some parts they used on their robot.

**EACH TEAM** is given six weeks of build time before the competition to get their robots ready.

They are asked to complete changes an-

**Gryphons - George Marshall High School team — happy with mid-day results. From left: Emily Carson, Vienna; Joshua Shipler, Vienna; Marie Farson, mentor and engineering teacher; Alexander Roman, Vienna; Chester Cabauatan, Falls Church; Christian Cabauatan, Falls Church; Parham Mohammadi, Falls Church; and Bah-Cin Kumaran.**



PHOTOS BY  
TERRANCE MORAN  
THE CONNECTION



Langley High School team making on the fly repairs to their robot. **Jun Choi, Chris Laronis, James Bollinger, Sepmta Khaashnoid, Brandon Kim and Brandon Sodgewich of McLean.**

nally, this year’s theme centering on sustainability. The game is played by two teams of three robots each. Robots score points by stacking totes on scoring platforms, capping each of those stacks with recycling containers and properly disposing of pool noodles thrown into the field arena, representing litter. In keeping with the year’s theme, all game pieces used are reusable or recyclable.

While the competition is the center stage event, FIRST’s mission to encourage “gracious professionalism” extends well beyond the arena.

“The robotics is really just a small portion of what this is all about,” said Computer Science teacher Oliver Small. “It’s all about safety, outreach, visibility, engineering, and teamwork. It’s a kid driven event that allows them to decide what they want to learn, and find a way to learn it.”

Many students participating have STEM interests, like Abbey Kasanagottu, a junior at Centerville HS. “I wanted to be a dentist before joining this team, but now I am seriously considering a mechanical engineering.” But since the project is completely student driven, not just when building the robots but in fundraising, crafting grant proposals, and doing outreach, others use the competition as a way to feel different interests.

Caleb Wilkinson, a student on the Herndon HS team wants to go into media. “For this competition I focused all my efforts on documenting our project visually and promoting outreach as our media representative.” said Wilkinson. “Not everyone here wants to go into a STEM field, some of us want to go into business or even writing and this serves as a platform for us to explore those interests.”

**AT THE END** of two long days of competition it was the coalition of the RoHawks from New York City, Cougar Robotics from Oakton HS, and the CAV-ineers from Severn, Md., who emerged victorious, advancing to Nationals in St. Louis, Mo. Teams from Chantilly HS, Marshall HS and Battlefield HS received judges awards and will also be going to Nationals.