

Weekly Bite of the Apple

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Teachers from the First Baptist Church of Herndon Pre-School, take their class to the farmer's market to teach the children about healthy food.

The Importance of Including Everyone

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Herndon to Host 35th Annual Festival

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The **Kingstowne Center for Active Adults** in **Alexandria** needs an instructor to teach a class in **Mosaic Art or Jewelry Making**. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

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

The **Bailey's Senior Center** in **Falls Church** needs an **office assistant** to answer phones, greet and check in participants and complete data entry. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Annandale Adult Day Health Care Center** in **Annandale** needs **Spanish-speaking** social companions and a **lunch assistant**. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Herndon Adult Day Health Care Center** needs a **Piano Player** to play classical or music from the 1960s and prior years. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center** in **Alexandria** needs a **licensed beautician**, a **social companion** and a **Spanish-speaking social companion**. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Wakefield Senior Center** in **Annandale** needs an experienced **Canasta Player** to lead a group and **certified Pilates**, and **Ballroom Dance instructors**. Volunteer instructor positions **could** lead to part-time employment. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Vietnamese Meals on Wheels needs drivers in **Annandale** to deliver meals. (Speaking Vietnamese not required.) For these and other volunteer opportunities, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Meals on Wheels needs **substitute drivers** for routes throughout the county Monday, Wednesday and Friday. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to **drive older adults to medical appointments** and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.



The Perils of the College Drinking Culture

Much has been in the news this past year in Virginia and across the country about the very real dangers and consequences of alcohol and binge drinking on college campuses – alcohol poisoning, sexual assault, injury, and even death.

The **Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County** invites you to join us for an award-winning film and discussion with an emergency room physician, the chief deputy for the Commonwealth's Attorney for Fairfax County, a police officer, the GMU student wellness office director, a parent whose son died after drinking at a college party, and a college student. Information will be provided to help future college students make sound choices that will lead to positive academic experiences and enjoyment of college life without endangering themselves.

The HAZE documentary film contains graphic imagery but is a must-see for all parents, their college-bound teens, and anyone who is concerned about the dangers of underage and high-risk drinking.



**Wednesday, May 20, 2015
7 to 9 p.m.**

Northern Virginia Community College
Ernst Community Cultural Center
8333 Little River Turnpike
Annandale, VA
Free parking in B lots only.

For more information, call
703-938-8723 or visit
www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org



The Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County is a non-profit organization working to prevent substance abuse by youth and young adults with partners at the local, state and national levels. This event is partially funded by a federal STOP grant. Funding for this ad is provided by the federal SAMHSA Virginia Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant.

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The Importance of Including Everyone

Hundreds turn out as School Board votes to add “gender identity” to nondiscrimination policy.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Discrimination is bad, and every one should have a safe environment in which to learn. These sentiments were common to the Fairfax County School Board members and the hundreds of parents who packed the auditorium and front lobby of Luther Jackson Middle School for the board’s May 7 meeting.

But as the board convened to take action on adding the words “gender identity” to its nondiscrimination policy, there was significant, emotional discord in the audience and among several board members as to how the board had arrived at making this decision and what implementation of the policy update would ultimately look like.

Though signs and banners are typically allowed inside the school’s auditorium during School Board business meetings, additional security at the May 7 meeting prohibited those with signs from entering. Dozens of citizens therefore crowded around the open doors to the auditorium and periodically vocalized their opinions.

In November, the School Board voted to add sexual orientation to the list of categories for which a Fairfax County student, employee or applicant for employment should not be discriminated against. That list also includes age, race, color, sex, religion, national origin, marital status or disability.

At-large member Ryan McElveen introduced the gender identity update to the policy at a forum in March of this year. Then it came up as new business at the board’s April 23 regular meeting and was scheduled for a vote on May 7.

McElveen gave several reasons justifying the motion, beginning with a March opinion by Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring that local school boards do have authority under Virginia law to make such decisions.

Regarding the protection of transgender students and employees, he said, “The truth is we already do, but that protection has never been clearly outlined in our policies.”

Several public speakers at the beginning of the meeting voiced concerns that this policy change would make bathrooms and locker rooms unsafe by allowing members of one biological gender to use the opposite facility.

“Fears about this policy change are unfounded and need to be better understood,” McElveen said. “After we pass this policy tonight, nothing will change in how we handle cases of transgender and gender nonconforming students and employees.”

McElveen added that students and employees will continue to go through a thorough vetting process with regards to any gender-nonconformity, and that the board



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Citizens were actively engaged in the discussion leading up to the Fairfax County School Board’s 10-1 vote in favor of adding gender identity to the district’s nondiscrimination policy.

has “never received a concern regarding a bathroom incident of this nature.”

Another justification raised by McElveen was the board is being compelled by the U.S. Department of Education office of civil rights to amend its policy as part of a national gender identity protection rollout. “In this light, amending is non-negotiable,” he said, “unless we want the government to come after our federal funding.”

The School Board’s counsel John E. Foster confirmed McElveen’s statements, saying “the federal government has been very clear they expect local school divisions to amend their policies to include gender identity.”

NOT ALL BOARD members agreed with that interpretation, however.

“That the government could compel individual local school boards around the country or risk losing federal education money like Title IX funds is unconscionable,” said Elizabeth Schultz, representing the Springfield District.

“Is my federal government really threatening me, as a duly elected local official who has sworn an oath to the constitution of Virginia to run this school system, to do their bidding by inserting ‘gender identity’ or face taking our children’s lunch money?”

Schultz also voiced concerns that the board had not taken sufficient time to fully examine how it would implement the policy update and what the effects would be, both for staff workload and cost to the school system.

She motioned to postpone action on the policy until October, “so that the board can be provided the commensurate draft regulation and handbook language, and determine the overall impact of the proposed revision to Policy 1450.”

Patty Reed, representing Providence District, agreed with Schultz.

“This is about whether our board is being responsible or foolhardy,” she said. “Frankly the process we’ve used to get to

this point is troubling and embarrassing — so many fundamental questions that remain unanswered.

The board members, Reed continued, “clearly have caught the public by surprise and not done justice to our established public engagement process.”

Ultimately, Schultz and Reed were outvoted and the action moved forward, amid spontaneous outbursts from an increasingly boisterous audience.

The board finally voted 10-1 in favor of updating the policy to include “gender identity.” Schultz was the only dissenting vote, with Reed abstaining.

IN CHAIRMAN Tammy Derenak Kaufax’s statement regarding the decision, she said, “No decisions have yet been made regarding accommodations that will be provided under the revised policy. Our next step will be to hire a consultant to assist in developing appropriate regulations that protect the rights of all students and comply with state and federal law.”

Following the vote, citizens began filing out of the auditorium and lingered in the lobby and covered area leading into the school.

Josh Israel of Fairfax was one of the public speakers before the School Board, in support of the update. “This policy sends an important signal to all our teachers, staff and students — particularly those who are transgender — that they need not be afraid,” he said in his remarks.

After the vote, Israel said, “They demonstrated they understand the importance of including everyone.”

In response to Schultz’s comments during the meeting that Fairfax County policy should instead simply read “Don’t discriminate,” Israel said, “It still has to mean something; until these are enumerated, there isn’t any enforcement. It’s encouraging that 10 School Board members recognized that tonight.”

Devon Flynn of Centreville is a junior at George Mason University. He came out

The New Policy

“No student, employee, or applicant for employment in the Fairfax County Public Schools shall, on the basis of age, race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, national origin, marital status, or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity, as required by law. It is the express intent of the School Board that every policy, practice, and procedure shall conform to all applicable requirements of federal and state law.”

What Happens Next:

“No decisions have yet been made regarding accommodations that will be provided, under the new policy. FCPS will hire a consultant to assist in developing appropriate regulations that protect the rights of all students and to comply with state and federal law.”

SOURCE: WWW.FCPS.EDU/NEWS/POLICY1450.SHTML

against the proposition. “I was hoping with the majority here opposing it, the board would see and respond to our opinions,” he said.

One big issue for Flynn is the “federal one size fits all” aspect of the policy update. “They have no place to tell a county, a school district,” what to do, he said. Another concern for him is bathrooms and locker rooms: Flynn said he would move his future children to another county if students are allowed to use facilities designated for the opposite sex.

“I think it’s a shame,” he said.

Dalia Palchik, an Annandale resident and teacher at Sheridan School in Washington, D.C. supports the policy update. “As a teacher, I’ve seen kids struggle,” she said afterwards. “It’s time we do everything we can to help everyone, including the most vulnerable.” Palchik is also running to represent Providence District on the School Board.

John Thom of Fairfax came to the meeting to get a sense of what was happening and how the public was feeling. “I didn’t see a need to change the policy, and why this inexplicable rush to pass it without analysis?”

“Proper deliberation is what I hear people asking for — did they collect all the information and have a substantial debate?”

THESE QUESTIONS were answered by School Board vice chairman Ted Velkoff: “The reason we that haven’t had a full-blown community engagement about this policy is because, frankly, nothing is changing,” he said during the meeting.

“The notion that outside agitators promote, that this policy change will cause a sudden massive upheaval, is not true,” Velkoff continued. “The proof is that we have been dealing with transgender persons in FCPS and none of these catastrophic consequences has ever materialized.”

Student representative to the School Board Harris LaTeef refrained from weighing in on the motion, other than to say the majority of students he talked to supported changing the policy. The Langley High School senior did, however, implore the audience for something else:

“Come budget time next year I want to see this passion, this vigor, this community involvement when it comes to funding our schools,” he said. “That is a true threat to our children, our community, the underfunding of our schools.”



PHOTOS BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION

Tom Miller came from Nevada to take his granddaughters, Olivia Miller, 4, and Alexandra Miller, 2, to Herndon's Farmers Market Thursday.



Staci Holley with her daughter Brooklyn Holley, 2, made friends with Laura Ferraro, from Brooklyn. Ferraro's brother, Nicholas Ferraro, needed a new kidney and liver, which he received April 19. Ferraro moved here last summer to get him ready for his transplants and recovery. "God bless," said Ferraro and Staci Holley.

Weekly Bite of the Apple

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Julie Frederickson, of Herndon, will bring home the tomato plant that she bought from Hutt Produce at the Herndon Farmers Market. She'll plant it "for Mother's Day," she said.

Meanwhile Alexandra Miller has no intention of planting an apple tree. She immediately takes a bite from her fresh apple from McCleaf's Orchards.

"Every week," said her mother, Rebecca "Becky" Miller, of Oak Hill. "She starts with a cookie from Sweet Thang, then she'll put it down when she finds the biggest apple to eat."

Grandfather Tom Miller is in town from Nevada, so when the farmers market closes Thursday at 12:30 the family is on its way to the restaurant of the girls' choice.

"Jimmy's," said sister Olivia, 4.

TEACHER Mallika Joseph and her assistant teacher Marima Page, from the First Baptist Church of Herndon Pre-School, took their class to the market "so they can learn about fruits and vegetables and what's healthy for them," said Joseph.

In between playing, they like hopping on the Washington & Old Dominion Railroad caboose.

Strawberries are Alaina Kwitowski's favorite.

"They're juicy," she said.

"They taste good," said her classmate Arjan Dillon, 5.

On a popsicle, too.

Daniela Vasquez treated her sons Liam Vasquez, 2, and Dariel Vasquez, 4, to a fruit pop from Whimpop. "I wasn't going to get it for them, but when they told me it was all natural and healthy, I decided to get it. Organic and fresh produce. I'm up for that."

Maria Romano, creator of Whimpop, is in her fourth year as a vendor, which started out as a side business. "Now I'm doing it full time," she said.

"Some children tell their parents, 'Mom,



Julie Frederickson, of Herndon, buys a tomato plant from Hutt Produce. "I just love fresh produce and love the community feel."

it tastes like strawberry.' When they try something real, they are surprised. They're so used to artificial ingredients," she said.

She sells 17 different flavors, some without sugar, some with, but all with natural ingredients and fresh produce she buys from farmers at the markets.

Laura Wigglesworth is selling her freshly made granola for the first time at a farmers market.

"First time, first day, first month. This is it. I love to cook. I'd cook all day long," she said. "I am a big farmer market shopper. I love to go."

If Brooklyn Holley is an accurate judge, then Wigglesworth will enjoy some success



Maria Romano is in her fourth year as a vendor, which started out as a side business. "Now I'm doing it full time," she said.

this season.

Lori Connolly, from Mt. Olympus Farm, owned by Mary and Kenny West, tell the history of their farm and expanding success as they sell fresh strawberries and an assortment of produce.

"It started out as a blueberry patch and has expanded," said Lori Connolly.

FARMER AND OWNER James Bourne, another vendor, has farmed on land that has been owned and farmed by his family since 1690. Bourne received the 2010 Calvert County Sustainable Farmer of the Year award and awards for his efforts in education and sustainability in forestry conser-

vation. He raises grass-fed beef, pork and lamb and free range poultry products that include eggs, chicken and turkeys in addition to more than three dozen different vegetables without needing pesticides.

Alan Smith says he has never had a bad day working the Farmers Market. In fact, he said, "It's really an American dream for a father and son to work together."

He said his son Matthias did all the work, he's just hired help.

"He said, 'I'm going to need some help, are you willing?'" Most of the time, it would go to a best friend or the girlfriend. That he asked his dad to help, it's made me feel humble, like I've done something right."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Northwest Federal fielded 94 employees, family, and friends as runners.

Northwest Federal Participates in Charity Run

The Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile Run is a special annual event for Northwest Federal Credit Union and the NWFCU Foundation. This year the Northwest team of 94 employees, friends and family members ran alongside international contenders, Members of Congress and thousands of other participants on Sunday, April 12. Beyond making it to the finish line was the larger goal of all the credit unions involved—helping sick and injured children served by the Children's Miracle Network (CMN) hospitals.

The race, held on the grounds of the Washington Monument, is a premier annual event that raises money to support the Credit Union Miracle Day charity (which brings together credit union organizations throughout the United States to support the 170 CMN

hospitals).

Through CMN, the NWFCU Foundation presented a \$6,385 check to Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C. The Foundation raised the money through fundraisers during the past year, with many donations coming from Northwest Federal members.

120 Northwest Federal volunteers worked the race as mile marshals – the Credit Union's largest group ever.

Northwest Federal fielded 94 employees, family, and friends as runners – one of the largest credit union teams.

To learn more about the charitable efforts of Northwest Federal and its Foundation, visit <https://www.nwfcufoundation.org/>.

Dermatology & Allergy

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Kathryn J. Sowerwine, MD



Dr. Kathryn J. Sowerwine is a board certified Allergist and Immunologist with a special interest in dermatological diseases linked to allergy. She completed a residency in Internal Medicine at Georgetown University Hospital and her clinical and research fellowship in allergy and immunology at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD.

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Public Comment at Police Commission

Come out to testify before the commission on Monday, May 18.

John Geer was shot dead by Fairfax County Police Officer Adam Torres on Aug. 29, 2013, and the outrage over the quality and timing of the release of information about the shooting led to the formation of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, which will hold a public forum next Monday, May 18.

Geer was standing unarmed with his hands up inside the doorway to his home in Springfield when he was killed. Police had been called to the scene because of a domestic argument, and while Geer was a legal gun owner, as are one-third of all Virginia residents, no crime had been committed. Aside from the officer who shot Geer, four other officers on the scene told investigators that same day that they were shocked by the shot that killed Geer and thought the shooting was unnecessary. (One officer described his first reaction: "WTF.") Geer made great effort to be predictable in his actions, asking permission to scratch his nose, otherwise keeping his hands up on the doorframe.

Still it took a year and a half and a court order before police officials released the name of the officer who fired the shot and about 11,000 pages of documents related to the in-

vestigation. Reading the details of the investigation, it was easy to feel that the meager police statements in the meantime had been deliberately misleading.

In January 2015, just before the statements of the other officers were released because of the court order, Police Chief Edwin Roessler released this update with the name of the officer: "Geer was reported as having multiple firearms inside the home, displaying a firearm that he threatened to use against the police, and refused the officers' requests that he remain outside and speak to them. Officers, including a trained negotiator, attempted to peaceably resolve the situation. They spoke with Geer for more than 30 minutes as he stood in the doorway of his home. When Geer began lowering his hands at one point during the negotiations, PFC Adam Torres fired a single shot that struck Geer."

It was public concern about the huge delay in any information released, and the inconsistencies between police releases and the investigative record that resulted in the Board of Supervisors forming the police review commission. The commission has undertaken a broad review of police policies and practices but will not report on the Geer shooting itself.

The Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission is holding a public forum on Monday, May 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fairfax County Government Center Board Auditorium. Members of the public may sign up to speak by filling out the online form, or by calling the Clerk

to the Board's office at 703-324-3151. See www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speaker_bos.htm

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Mary Kimm is a member of the Fairfax County Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission.

Call for Father's Day Photos

In the last two weeks, we printed Mother's Day photos submitted by readers, and now we call for photos for Father's Day.

Father's Day is Sunday, June 21, and once again the Connection will publish a gallery of Father's Day photos.

Every year at this time, the Connection puts out the call for photographs of fathers and their children, grandfathers and their children and grandchildren.

Send in photos as soon as possible, with the following information: the town where you live, the names of everyone in the picture, the approximate date the picture was taken, the ages of the children and a sentence or two about what is happening and where the photograph was taken. Be sure to tell us your town name and neighborhood. Photos are due by June 15.

You can submit your photos online at www.connectionnewspapers.com/fathersday. You can also email photos to editors@connectionnewspapers.com.

Rebuttal on School Funding

Schools have been county's top priority, receiving \$2 billion.

BY SHARON BULOVA
CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On April 28 the Board of Supervisors adopted the FY2016 Budget. Our board approved a total transfer to the schools of \$2.01 billion, an increase of \$66.7 million (an increase of 3.43 percent) over FY2015 and nearly two-thirds of all new revenue associated with increased property values. The total school budget, which is comprised of the county transfer, plus state and some federal funding, totals \$2.6 billion.

Education is our board's highest priority; it is not, however our only priority. The school transfer amounts to almost 53 percent of our General Fund Budget. Public safety, human services, parks and libraries all receive a fraction of what FCPS does and these services are also critical to making Fairfax County one of the best places in the country to live, work, raise a family and grow older comfortably. It is also important that real estate taxes are affordable to our

residents, many of whom are still struggling to get back on their feet following the recent recession.

Fairfax County's Direct General Fund Budget, services and programs, excluding the School Transfer is \$1.81 billion. This year the General County disbursements increased by only 2.06 percent, less than the increase in the School Transfer.

Fairfax County worked hard this year to advocate for a larger share of state funding for our schools, getting \$9.9 million more than anticipated through the state budget. With these funds, FCPS is within \$4.1 million of their total \$2.6 billion Advertised Budget proposal; a gap of just 0.16 percent (sixteen hundredths of a percent).

The superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools Karen Garza increased her request for a transfer after the state budget increase was announced and shortly before our budget adoption.

In her April 28 release, the superintendent indicated this figure is now \$7.6 million or 0.297 percent of FCPS Proposed Operating Budget. Enrollment estimates, and

the associated costs, can and do change as the school year approaches and FCPS staff refines their estimates. The gap, therefore, is somewhat of a moving target.

Our Board of Supervisors continues to be supportive of the school system and our partners on the School Board. When the Board of Supervisors adopted the FY2016 Budget, we also gave county staff Budget Guidance for FY2017 which provides a planning target for an additional increase of 3 percent next year.

As we look ahead at the fiscal outlook for next year, we know that we will continue to be affected by a sluggish economy and the effects of federal cutbacks and sequestration. Like the schools, the General County side of the ledger is projecting a budget shortfall for the next (2017) Fiscal Year. This will have to be resolved, as Fairfax



Sharon Bulova

County is required to adopt and maintain a balanced budget.

This spring, the Board of Supervisors will lead the community in a Lines of Business review. This process will be a comprehensive review of all the programs and services the county provides. It will help the board to identify redundancies, establish further efficiencies, consider strategic changes to reach intended outcomes and make sure that the investments we make conform to the community's expectations. In our Budget Guidance, we invited our counterparts on the School Board to participate and we hope they will undertake a similar process for FCPS.

I also hope that the School Board is able to fill the vacant Auditor to the School Board position they created in October of 2014. The Board of Supervisors has had an Auditor to the Board since the 1990s. This independent, critical perspective on the budget and county programs can help elected leaders identify efficiencies and cost avoidance opportunities and has saved taxpayers millions of dollars.

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NEWS

Operation VetsHaven Car Show Held in Herndon

Car show hosted at Volkswagen Group headquarters.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

Despite overcast weather, Operation VetsHaven and Volkswagen Group of America, Inc. hosted a second annual Operation VetsHaven Car Show Benefit on Saturday, May 9.

Proceeds from the event benefit Operation VetsHaven, a Virginia-based nonprofit that provides free therapy for veterans suffering from post traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury. The event featured an array of cars including vintage, exotic and tuner models.

Operation VetsHaven is a non-profit that provides the bridge needed during the period of waiting for therapeutic assistance and connects veterans with a predictable and steadfast partner on their road to health and recovery. Operation VetsHaven's services are offered at no charge to those who have served and need assistance.

When Operation VetsHaven is contacted, the caller speaks with a trained advocate who will help prioritize needs and arrange for the caller to promptly receive the assistance needed. The advocate will stay in contact with the caller through every step of the journey for feedback and assistance.

The executive director of Operation VetsHaven is Chuck Clopton. He served in the Navy's Judge Advocate General Corps from 1978 to 1997 in a variety of billets, both at sea and ashore. After retiring from the Navy in the rank of Commander, he spent nearly nine years as General Counsel to a major independent government relations firm.



PHOTO BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

A second annual Operation VetsHaven Car Show Benefit was held on Saturday, May 9, in Herndon.

Hosting the event was Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.

"When my family and I moved over here from Germany into Chuck's neighborhood, he saw my vintage 911 in my garage," said Thomas Meuser, General Manager, Fleet Sales & Used Car Operations, Volkswagen Group of America.

"He stopped by and welcomed me as a fellow Porsche owner even though his fabulous 356 was a class of its own. We chatted a bit and he told me about this new charity organization and if I had an idea on how to support it. The car show idea was born."

Volunteering for the event were BSA Troop 55 and Venture Crew 364.

"This is our second year supporting this

event," said Scoutmaster Gary Pan.

Also attending was U.S. Marine Staff Sgt. Liam Dwyer, a pro racer and amputee. Dwyer joined the Marines in October 2000. He lost the lower portion of his left leg when he stepped on an IED in Afghanistan in May of 2011. After 50+ surgeries, and being told he would never drive a manual transmission car, Liam never gave up.

Dwyer's path toward a professional driving career began in November 2011, when a friend bought him a ticket to an amateur vintage-car race at Virginia International Raceway.

In February 2012, Dwyer met members of sports car team Freedom Autosports. They suggested Dwyer race with them.

Later Dwyer connected with Mazda racing's executive and public relations staff. From there, Dwyer won a race at the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix and took an opportunity to race in the National Auto Sport Association's Spec Z class. To race, Dwyer uses a prosthetic leg specifically tailored to attach and detach from the clutch pedal.

Visit www.OperationVetsHaven.org.

'Hamlet' Comes to Lake Anne Park

Local theater company presents its debut production on May 16-17.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

"To be or not to be. That is the question." Thanks for that, Shakespeare, but in this case the question has already been answered. The young co-founders of Any Stage Theater Company declared that "Hamlet," the debut production from their new theatrical outfit, will take place at Lake Anne Park, 11301 North Shore Drive, in Reston, rain or shine.

"The audience will be seated under the pavilion, so whatever the weather, they will be protected," said Any Stage co-founder John-Nicholas Walsh. In addition to directing the abridged, modernistic interpretation of the Shakespearean staple, Walsh, who graduated from Westfield High School in Chantilly, also plays the part of Polonius.

ANY STAGE is the ambitious result of three friends' love of theater and their desire to bring the medium directly into the community. The name was purposefully chosen to reflect that the company is ready, willing and able to bring theatrical entertainment anywhere, but particularly to outdoor venues. John-Nicholas Walsh, his brother Zack, and Jessi Swanson, a senior at Westfield, are the company's driving forces, chief talent, prop gatherers, and anything else needed to bring their dream to life. Together they started an online fundraising campaign, seeking just enough backing to secure a



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Bridget Poindexter and David Koenigsberg take their Guildenstern and Rosencrantz characters to the comedic edge in the Any Stage Theater Company's production of "Hamlet."

location and purchase the few props required for their take on the story of the tragic Danish prince.

"We are strictly not-for-profit at this point," said John-Nicholas, "and our prop needs aren't too many. This is a production that uses the imagination of the audience, as well as how close they are to the action to make it special."

The rest of the cast also comes from the ranks of current or former Westfield High School students. Zack Walsh is bringing the

title character to life. Swanson will be his doomed Ophelia. The King and Queen will be played by Aria Velz and Liesl Stach, respectively. Andrew Brockmeyer tackles Horatio, Michael Rosegrant takes up Laertes, Nick Swanson will be Osric, and two more Westfield attendees, David Koenigsberg and Bridget Poindexter give the characters of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern some extra comedic flair. Spencer Thomas will be in charge of stage management.

CAST AND CREW have been meeting and rehearsing wherever and whenever they can, since green-lighting their project last summer.

"A big shout-out to Panera Bread in Reston!" said director Walsh, acknowledging the number of get-togethers that took place at the restaurant. Between jobs, school and other productions that the still-in-schoolers are in, the fact that they still met, still rehearsed and state their readiness for their debut, says a lot about their commitment to the project and to seeing Any Stage Theater Company take hold and grow.

"We would love to see this branch out, bringing outdoor theater all around the area and beyond," said John-Nicholas. "Let's get through this one, but we already have plans for the next one. Maybe an original creation."

"Hamlet," by the Any Stage Theater Company, will be performed on Saturday, May 16, and Sunday, May 17. If there were a curtain, it would rise at 3 p.m. on both days. Admission is free, but donations are cheerfully accepted. There will be chairs for the audience. The crew says that the production is probably suitable for all ages, but because of certain themes, they give themselves a PG (maybe 13) rating.

John-Nicholas Walsh says they are ready. He is nervous "about the things we just can't control" but believes a good time will be had by cast and audience alike. Come what may, the Any Stage Theater Company is prepared to prove the words of the Bard himself — "All the world's a play, and all the men and women merely players."



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The 35th Annual Herndon Festival, the largest free event in Northern Virginia, will be held May 28-31.

Schedule of Events - Herndon Festival 2015

THURSDAY, MAY 28

6-10 p.m.	Carnival Rides
6:30-7:30 p.m.	JDVBS - Café Stage
7:30-9:30 p.m.	Dueling Pianos-Cutting Edge - HMC Stage
7:15-9:30 p.m.	Leather & Lace: Stevie Nicks/Fleetwood Mac Tribute - Depot Stage
9:30 p.m.	Fireworks Display

FRIDAY, MAY 29

5-11 p.m.	Carnival Rides
6-9 p.m.	Arts & Crafts Show
6:30-7:30 p.m.	Scarborough Fair: A Simon & Garfunkel Experience - Café Stage
7:30-9:30 p.m.	Love Canon - HMC Stage
7:30-9:30 p.m.	Ocho de Bastos - Depot Stage

SATURDAY, MAY 30

10 a.m.-4 p.m.	Wind Art by Decorate the Wind
10 a.m.-5 p.m.	Business Expo
10 a.m.-5 p.m.	Children's Hands-On Art Area
10 a.m.-6 p.m.	Arts & Crafts Show (Limited booths are open until 9 p.m.)
10 a.m.-11 p.m.	Carnival Rides
9:30 p.m.	Fireworks Display

SUNDAY, MAY 31

7:30 a.m.	Herndon Festival 10K/5K Runs and Fitness Expo - HCC
10 a.m.-5 p.m.	Business Expo
10 a.m.-6 p.m.	Arts & Crafts Show
10 a.m.-7 p.m.	Carnival Rides
12-5 p.m.	Children's Hands-On Art Area

Herndon to Host 35th Annual Festival

Local festival comes to town May 28-31.

The 35th Annual Herndon Festival, an event known as the largest free event in Northern Virginia, will be held May 28-31. The Herndon Festival features local and nationally-known entertainment on three stages, a carnival, fireworks displays on Thursday and Saturday, children's hands-on art area, arts & crafts show, business expo, 10K/5K races and fitness expo on Sunday, wind art display, NoVA E-Sports Cup, complimentary shuttle bus service, and an assortment of food vendors.

Make time on one or all of the four days of the festival to enjoy a variety of music. Thursday, May 28, performances feature the music of Leather & Lace Stevie Nicks/Fleetwood Mac Tribute Band and Dueling Pianos-Cutting Edge; Friday, May 29, per-

formances feature Love Canon, Ocho de Bastos, and Scarborough Fair; Saturday, May 30 headliners include T AZE, 100% Hair Metal and Green River Ordinance. On Sunday, May 31, join in on the HMC lawn for the nationally recognized Pat McGee and then a nod to the 80's as we welcome back Gaelic Storm, a chart topping Celtic band from the movie Titanic. In addition, there will be entertainers roaming the grounds of the Festival to keep everyone smiling throughout the day.

Festival hours are as follows: Thursday, May 28, 6 - 10 p.m.; Friday, May 29, 5 - 11 p.m.; Saturday, May 30, 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.; and Sunday, May 31, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

A free shuttle bus service will transport attendees to and from the festival area, departing every ten minutes from Worldgate Shopping Centre and Herndon High School. Worldgate Shopping Centre riders will need to walk along Worldgate Drive

and look for the signs at 12975 Worldgate Drive. Riders at Herndon High School need to meet at the large rock at the entrance to the school, off Bennett Street. Parking at both shuttle bus pick-up/drop-off locations is free.

Or ride your bike and enjoy a free bike valet service located at the corner of Lynn and Elden Streets.

For more information, visit herndonfestival.net or call 703-787-7300.



Carnival Rides are traditionally one of the most popular festival attractions.



Thursday, May 28, performances feature the music of Dueling Pianos.



Festival hours are: Thursday, May 28, 6 - 10 p.m.; Friday, May 29, 5 - 11 p.m.; Saturday, May 30, 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.; and Sunday, May 31, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

CALENDAR

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

THROUGH FRIDAY/AUG. 28

Herndon Friday Night Live. 6:30 p.m. 777 Lynn Street, Herndon. Listen to great music on Friday nights during the summer. Visit herndonrocks.com/schedule.php for more.

THURSDAY/MAY 14

Herndon Farmers Market. 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Old Town Herndon, 700 block of Lynn Street, By the Red Caboose. Every Thursday vendors sell products they grow and are located within a 125-mile radius of Fairfax County, ensuring that your purchases will be fresh. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/wp-farm-mkt.htm>.

FRIDAY/MAY 15

Bike to Work Day...Reston Pit Stop. 6:30 - 9 a.m. The Plaza at the Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail Station. Comstock Partners and Reston Association invite you to join more than 450 local commuters for a celebration of bicycling as a clean, fun, and healthy way to get to work. Register and receive a free T-shirt, enjoy light refreshments, and be entered into a raffle for a free bicycle! This great location is above Fairfax County's first secure bike parking facility, just blocks from the W&OD Trail. Contact Ashleigh@reston.org or call 703-435-6577. Register at <http://www.biketoworkmetrodc.org>



PAINTING BY ANN BARBIERI

The Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival will take place Friday-Saturday, May 16-17, at Reston Town Center, provides an interactive experience to view, purchase, and experience art directly from the artists who have created it. Visit <http://northernvirginiafineartsfestival.org> for more.

Senior Tea. 1 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Every month seniors are invited to visit the gallery to view the current exhibit and enjoy a cup of tea and a sweet treat. Special for May 15 we will feature singer Kitt Potter. Seniors from the Herndon Senior Center are regular visitors. All teas are free and open to the public.

Herndon Pyramid Concert. 7 p.m. Herndon High School Auditorium, 700 Bennett Street, Herndon. This is a great opportunity to hear many talented instrumentalists from Herndon High, Herndon Middle School and their feeder elementary schools. Bring the whole family and enjoy performances from each of the

following ensembles: Elementary Area Band, Herndon High School Saxophone Ensemble, Herndon Middle School Symphonic Band, Herndon United Methodist Church Percussion Ensemble, Herndon High School Wind Ensemble, Herndon High School Indoor Guard and Herndon High School Indoor Drumline. Admission is free.

Jazz Dessert Concert. 7:30 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Featuring the South Lakes High School Jazz Hawks and Langston Hughes Middle School Jazz Ensemble. \$15 Adults, \$8 Students, free for age 5 and under with an adult. Tickets at the door or online at

www.SouthLakesBand.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 16

Spring Gala. 7-9 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Enjoy a spring evening honoring Elma "The Queen of Herndon" Mankin while enjoying the beautiful chamber music of the Beau Soir Ensemble. 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/>.

Herndon High School's Annual Paige Saucedo 5k Memorial Fundraiser. 9 a.m. - noon. Herndon High School, 700 Bennett Street, Herndon. Herndon High School will host the 4th Annual Paige R. Saucedo 5K Scholarship Walk/Run. Registration is \$20 per adult and \$10 per child (under 18). T-shirts will be given to 5K registrants as supplies last. Proceeds of event will benefit Herndon High School ESOL students demonstrating academic excellence and financial need to support post- high school opportunities. Two 1st place \$500 scholarships will be awarded to student race winners, male and female (age 14 - 18) regardless of second language criteria.

Teddy Bear Picnic. Herndon Fortnighly Library, 768 Center Street, Herndon. 2 p.m. All ages and their favorite stuffed animal enjoy stories, songs, and activities.

Downfall: The Empire's Last Stand. 2 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 119235 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Local historical tour guide Jim Lewis presents the Allied leadership's 1945 plan for a massive invasion of Japan, "The Largest Invasion That Never Happened." Adults.

Rain Barrel Workshop. 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Walker Nature Center,

11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Adults. Rain barrels are a great way to help capture and control stormwater from rooftops, prevent erosion, improve water quality, and conserve water. This workshop is a quick and inexpensive way to recycle a black pickle barrel into a rain barrel for your home. Participants must register and submit payment online at www.arlingtonenvironment.org/barrel.php. Reservations required by May 12. Fee: \$55 per barrel (Limit 2 per household.) For more information, email naturecenter@reston.org, or call 703-476-9689 and press 5.

1st Annual Car Show. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. The entry fee for all vehicles is \$10, and entries are now being accepted. Spectators will be admitted free of charge. The car show is presented by MNR Dips. Cars and trucks will be judged in three classes. One vehicle will win the "All Show People's Choice" award. Trophies and prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third-place winners. To enter a car or truck, call 571-264-7479 or email Treybrown321@gmail.com. Vendor opportunities are available.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 16-17

Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival. At Reston Town Center, an event attracts more than 50,000 patrons and provides an interactive experience to view, purchase, and experience art directly from the artists who have created it. Visit <http://northernvirginiafineartsfestival.org> for more.

SUNDAY/MAY 17

Free Junior Golf Clinic. 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m. Herndon Centennial Golf Course, 909 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Kids come out to the course for a free clinic. Register at www.herdongolf.com.



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PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

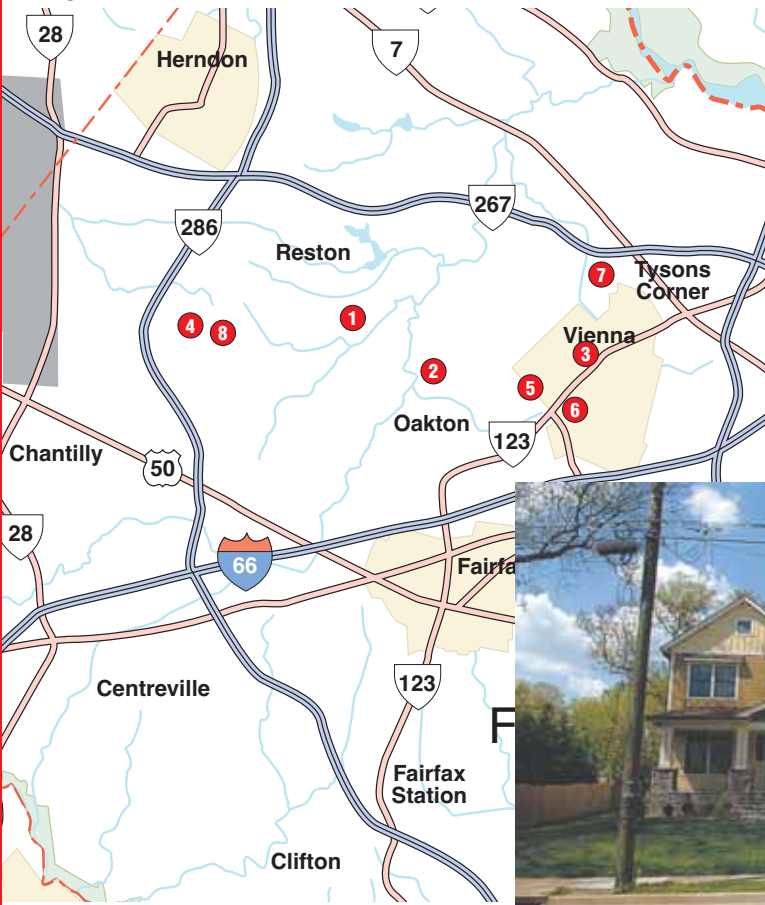
March, 2015 Top Sales in Vienna, Oakton, Reston and Herndon



1 11308 Stoneledge Court, Reston — \$2,300,000

2 10605 Vale Road, Oakton — \$2,150,349

3 348 Church Street NE, Vienna — \$1,800,554



5 541 Orchard Street NW, Vienna — \$1,550,000

6 302 Plum Street SW, Vienna — \$1,460,000



8 12606 Winter Wren Court, Herndon — \$1,200,000

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 11308 STONELEDGE CT	8	11	2		RESTON	\$2,300,000	Detached	1.87	20191	STONELEDGE	03/23/15
2 10605 VALE ROAD	5	5	1		OAKTON	\$2,150,349	Detached	2.90	22124	YOUNG ASSOC	03/05/15
3 348 CHURCH ST NE	6	6	2		VIENNA	\$1,800,554	Detached	0.43	22180	VIENNA	03/25/15
4 3178 MARY ETTA LN	5	5	2		OAK HILL	\$1,590,000	Detached	0.85	20171	SHADETREE ESTATES	03/27/15
5 541 ORCHARD ST NW	5	4	1		VIENNA	\$1,550,000	Detached	0.46	22180	JACKSON ARCHIE R PROPERT	03/19/15
6 302 PLUM ST SW	6	5	1		VIENNA	\$1,460,000	Detached	0.34	22180	WEST VIENNA WOODS	03/19/15
7 1687 DREWLAINE DR	4	4	1		VIENNA	\$1,400,000	Detached	0.45	22182	WOLF TRAP DOWNS	03/27/15
8 12606 WINTER WREN CT	5	4	1		HERNDON	\$1,200,000	Detached	0.20	20171	RESERVE AT STONE HILL	03/09/15

HomeLifeStyle



PHOTO BY DIMITRI GANAS

The new space plan to the Napolitano home called for a family entertainment zone in a newly formed great room that incorporates the kitchen, an informal dining area and a computer work station.

Adding On

“Bump-out” plus first floor reconfiguration meets family’s evolving space requirements.

BY JOHN BYRD

At what point does a house become “old”, which is to say — no longer a good fit for its usually adaptive occupants? Michael and Kim Napolitano of Reston pondered this question recently, deciding to investigate options for adding living space to their 33-year-old, 2,000-square-foot colonial.

“When we moved in 12 years ago,” Michael Napolitano said, “the kids were in grade school, Kim was working in an outside office, and our home’s first floor plan supported all our daily requirements. Also, we’ve always loved the beautiful setting — which is about an acre with many mature trees.”

About five years ago, though, Kim started working from home and quickly set up an office in the basement. An L-shaped work-station under a transom window, the arrangement was intended to be “a step” towards a more suitable accommodation.

Meanwhile, the three children entered high school. As they grew, so did the number and size of their friends — and the duration of their visits.

Gradually, the Napolitanos began to notice that their once ideal home was no longer meeting their changing needs. The front-to-back family room on the west side of the house, for instance, seemed “disconnected” from the rest of the house since one had to pass through the dining room or the foyer to get to the kitchen. The dining room seemed smaller; ditto the upstairs master bedroom with its limited closet space and tiny master bath.

In fact, the entire first level plan — about 1,200 square feet in all — seemed positively crowded when the family was entertaining.

WHAT TO DO? “When we reviewed the Napolitano’s preferred improvements “wish list,” it was clear that the existing first floor footprint was

really only about 400 feet short of a plan that would satisfy all the current requirements — including relocating Kim’s office to the first floor,” designer Suzanne Glatz said. Glatz, of Foster Remodeling Solutions, was hired last year by the Napolitanos to develop and supervise a budget-sensitive makeover. Trained as both a space planner and an interior designer, Glatz has been finding creative ways to add square footage to space-restricted older homes.

“Basically, Suzanne invited us to think about the floor plan differently,” Michael Napolitano said.

The first consideration: repurposing the 12-foot-by-35-foot family room and adding 160-square-feet of newly enclosed space as an open family entertainment zone within a 500-square-foot L-shaped “great room” that would incorporate the kitchen, breakfast room and a new computer work station.

The new enclosure’s remaining square footage would extend the former family room, which would now be converted into a first-level master bedroom suite. The resulting accommodation features a 58-square-foot walk-in closet (more than triple the size of its predecessor), and a luxury bath complete with glass-encased walk-in shower, soaking tub, and a his-and-her vanity.

“The great room is a perfect solution for us now,” Michael Napolitano said, “We can be together in the same place working on different projects — cooking, homework, television — without disrupting each other. It offers a nice balance of family time and independence.”

The first level interior design — a collaboration between Glatz and Kim Napolitano — explores “transitional”-style sensibilities. By contrast, the master bath unfolds in a restful taupe that complements the wood-grain porcelain flooring and silestone counter tops. In short, a perfect setting for a white Jacuzzi holstered in a wood frame — and a few blissful moments all to one’s self.

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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

MAY

Memorial Day is May 25

5/27/2015 Summer Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment

JUNE

6/3/2015 Wellbeing

6/10/2015 Father’s Day Dining & Gifts

6/10/2015 HomeLifeStyle

6/17/2015 A+ Graduations & Summer Learning

6/17/2015 Father’s Day Dining & Gifts

Father’s Day is June 21

6/24/2015 Independence Day Preview

6/24/2015... Professional Profiles & Business in the Community

JULY

7/1/2015 Wellbeing

7/8/2015 HomeLifeStyle

7/15/2015 A+ Camps & Schools

7/22/2015 Pet Connection

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McLean Senior Calpin Launches Memorable Home Run

Highlander frosh
Longo edges
Madison's Vannicola
in pitcher's duel.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Erin Calpin stood with a softball in her hand and described her moment of glory as "absolutely amazing." But before she clutched that ball during a joyful postgame interview Friday night, McLean's senior third baseman crushed it.

Calpin's solo home run in the bottom of the seventh inning gave the McLean softball team a 1-0 victory over Madison on May 8 during senior night at McLean High School.

Facing an 0-2 count, Calpin ripped her walk-off homer over the center-field fence, ending a pitcher's duel between Madison junior Katie Vannicola and McLean freshman Julia Longo while creating an ever-lasting memory.

After the game, Calpin held her home run ball and said she planned to frame it.

"I've been dreaming of this since my fresh-



McLean senior Erin Calpin launches a walk-off home run against Madison on May 8. The Highlanders won 1-0 on senior night.

man year," Calpin said. "One of our seniors when I was a freshman, she hit a grand slam on senior night and I've just admired that so much and to have it actually happen for me is absolutely amazing."

Calpin said she momentarily considered trying to lay down a bunt, which could have helped set the stage for one of her teammates to drive in the winning run if Calpin had reached base. Instead, No. 6 ended the game with one swing of her bat.

"That was such a perfect way to end the game for her," Longo said, "especially being her senior night."

McLean head coach Maurice Tawil said he was surprised by the location of the pitch Calpin saw after falling behind in the count.

"I'm surprised that the pitch was where it was," Tawil said. "It might have been a mistake. I don't think anybody on the Madison side wanted the pitch quite there, not the pitcher, as well. [Vannicola] did a really

good job all night long. She made one mistake and unfortunately it cost them the game." Vannicola allowed the one run on five hits over 6 1/3 innings. She walked one and struck out five.

While Vannicola performed well in the pitcher's circle, McLean's Longo was even better. The freshman tossed a two-hit shut-out and did not allow a runner to reach second base. Longo walked one and struck out 11.

"Julia killed it," Calpin said. "... I'm beyond proud of her."

McLean second baseman Olivia Bravo had two hits. Shortstop Zoe Dobson and catcher Bella Norton each had one.

Madison catcher Cat Arase and right fielder Kristy Williams each had a hit.

The victory improved McLean's record to 18-1. The Highlanders finished the regular season with a road game against Fairfax on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline.

"I feel we're playing as well as we have all year long," Tawil said. "We're ready to charge into the conference championship."

Madison bounced back with a 7-1 victory over Fairfax on Monday, improving its record to 16-3. The Warhawks closed the regular season with a home game against Langley on Tuesday.

The Conference 6 tournament is scheduled to begin Friday, May 15.



Nathan Stone and Anas Fain of South Lakes compete in the 110 high hurdles at the Nike Spring Invitational May 2 in Reston.

South Lakes Track Teams Take Second At Nike Spring Invitational

Paced by the its winning girls' 4x400 meter relay team and Nathan Stone and Anas Fain's one-two finish in the 110-meter hurdles, the South Lakes girls' and boys' track teams each placed second out of 14 schools at the Nike Spring Invitational May 2 in Reston.

Seniors Claire Nieusma, Samantha Webb, Ozioma Chinaka and junior Golden Kumi-Darfour ran a 6A state qualifying time of 4:01.94 in winning the girls 4x400 meter relay. Kumi-Darfour also finished second in the 800 meters with a 2:16.47, which qualifies her for the state meet in that event.

Stone, a senior, regained his 110-meter hurdle throne from teammate Fain, edging the junior with a 15.02 to win the race. Fain finished with a 15.05. Both are state-meet qualifying times. Fain also qualified for state in the 300 hurdles by winning the event in 40.39.



Cougars Win Conference 5

The Oakton girls' tennis team produced the top three singles finishers at the Conference 5 tournament on May 11. Annie Clark won the singles championship, Lindsey Le finished second and Victoria Thai placed third. Clark defeated Le 6-1, 6-4 for the title.



The Oakton doubles teams of Annie Clark and Lindsey Le, and Victoria Thai and Alekhya Nanduri finished first and second, respectively, at the Conference 5 tennis tournament on Monday. Clark and Le won 6-1, 6-0 in the final.

PHOTO
CONTRIBUTED

Nanobrewery To Open at Herndon's Sunset Park

Craft beer location to open in Herndon.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

A pair of brothers-in-law plan to open a nanobrewery in Herndon's Sunset Park complex: Andrew Kelley and Kai Leszkowicz have signed a lease for 257 Sunset Park.

Kelley, a resident of Clarendon, and Leszkowicz, a resident of Herndon, named the business after their wives' family name, Aslin. "Kai and I decided to enter the business a few years after we had been brewing together in 2012. We formed a really strong relationship through brewing beer and hanging out together, drinking craft beer and thought it would be cool to share the same platform with others," said Kelley.

Although the site has not yet opened, the Aslin company has been welcomed into the Herndon community.

"I am thrilled to have the craft beer movement's arrival in Herndon," said Town of Herndon Mayor Lisa Merkel. "The owners of Aslin Beer Company are just the right fit for the town... I wholeheartedly welcome Herndon's first nanobrewery and I look forward to cutting the ribbon and lifting a glass at Aslin later this summer."

A third owner, Richard Thompson, will run the operation full time while Andrew Kelley and Kai Leszkowicz keep their day jobs.

"We had met Richard at multiple family gatherings. Kai and I formed the same relationship with Richard after brewing for a few years," said Kelley.

The new business is in the process of building out the space and will soon install brewing equipment. "We bought American made equipment and will have a 2-bbl brew house with multiple fermenters," said Kelley. Aslin will not offer food in the immediate future, but will allow patrons to order food from local restaurants.

The owners plan to make five flagship beers: an American IPA; a Double Rye Pale Ale; a West Coast IPA; an Imperial Stout; and a Czech Pilsner. While a larger portfolio of beers is being planned, these beers will start off the opening month.



PHOTO BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

The Aslin Beer Company nanobrewery, a small microbrewery operation, will open at 257 Sunset Park in Herndon. Area residents are excited a craft brewery will be setting up shop in Herndon.

The owners say the 2,250-square-foot location is an ideal location for private parties. They hope to partner with the neighboring Sunset Park NextStop Theatre for special events. "It would be great to have a local brewery nearby," said lighting designer AnnMarie Castrigno. (Castrigno has designed lighting for many productions at the Herndon Industrial Strength Theatre.)

"We are shooting to open in August. We will be planning opening events as we get closer to the date," said Kelly.

Start-up costs are expected to top \$150,000. The owners have a group of investors but are also crowdfunding on a Go Fund Me page.

"We have formed a good relationship with the Town of Herndon and Mayor Lisa Merkel. She and her team have helped us identify a great location in Herndon and are really making an effort to make us feel at home and part of the community." Associates of Aslin brewery will be at the Herndon Festival promoting the brewery.

"It is exciting news that there will be more local breweries," said Deborah Khuanghlawn, a resident of Fairfax and craft beer enthusiast. Khuanghlawn says the most appealing thing a brewery can offer is good flagship beers.

WEEK IN HERNDON

Ride for Spirit Fundraiser

Ride for Spirit Fundraiser will be held Saturday, May 23, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Frying Pan Park Equestrian Center's outdoor riding area in Herndon. Admission is free.

Students in the SPIRIT Therapeutic Riding/Equine Assisted Learning Programs demonstrate their riding skills. Come watch them and show your support for riding programs for children and adults with special abilities. Take a chance on the Wheel of Fortune. Purchase delicious home-baked treats. Join Home for Spirit campaign. SPIRIT Open Equestrian is a nonprofit organization that provides equine-assisted programs and therapeutic riding for people with special needs, youth, and seniors. For more information, email Spiritoep@gmail.com or visit www.spiritequestrian.org.

Volunteers Needed for Food for Kids Program

Assistance League of Northern Virginia needs volunteers to help pack food for the Weekend Food for Kids program, which benefits school children who receive free or reduced priced meals during the week. This month's event will be held on Thursday, May 21 at 10 a.m. at Dominion Virginia Headquarters, 3072 Centreville Road, Herndon. Arrive at 9:30 a.m. if you would like to help with set-up. Email karenamster@aol.com. For more information, visit www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org.

MOMS Club to Meet at Bready Park

The MOMS Club of Herndon will their host monthly meeting Thursday, May 21, 10 a.m.-12 noon at Bready Park, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. All Herndon, VA (zip codes 20170 and 20171) stay at home mothers and their children are encouraged to join. For more information or to RSVP contact: Kelly McArter, Membership VP atHerndon_moms_info@yahoo.com.

Herndon FedEx Drivers Win Second, Third Place

Herndon-based FedEx Express drivers Greg Long and Jaime Matos won second- and third-place respectively at the 2015 Virginia State Truck Driving Championship in Lexington on April 17-18. Six drivers representing FedEx Corporation operating companies placed among the top finishers at the competition.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/MAY 14

ESL for Advanced Adult Students.

Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. 10 a.m. Join Richard's Thursday conversational group.

Baby Steps Storytime.

Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. 10:30 a.m. Ages 12-24 months with adult enjoy an interactive storytime.

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OBITUARY



Kohlberg, Ira, of Reston VA. Entered into rest May 6 at age of 80. Devoted husband of Margaret Gillespie Kohlberg. Loving father of Curt Kohlberg and wife Allegra Manacher of Weston MA, Penny Kohlberg of Allston MA and Kenneth Kohlberg and wife Justine Bloch of Arlington MA. Loving brother of Dori Kohlberg and fiancé Pam Surasky of New York. Cherished grandfather of Alexander, Sara, Allison, Emily, Anna and Ben Kohlberg and best friend to Ed Toton of Reston. Ira earned the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Physics from Boston University while working full-time and parenting 3 children, a Masters degree in Physics from the University of Pittsburgh and a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the City College of New York. Ira was an outstanding contributor to the field of physics, authoring more than 350 technical papers and receiving numerous citations. He founded Kohlberg Associates in 1985 and spent many years working at the Institute for Defense Analysis and, earlier in his career, GTE Labs. Listed in Who's Who in the World, he traveled extensively, giving talks in areas such as electromagnetic theory, ground penetrating radar, fluid mechanics and shock waves. As great as his professional accomplishments were, most of which were for the benefit of the U.S. civilian and defense sectors, his greatest love was for his family, especially for his wife Margie. Ira will be remembered as a giver, also placing the needs of others above his own.

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Why Fi?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

"That's the dream; to have Wi-Fi in the car." So says one of the focus group participants ("real people, not actors") in a recent television commercial from Chevrolet. The answer is to a question asked of five adults to identify which car brand: Mercedes, BMW, Chevrolet, Ford, or Toyota, includes "Built-in Wi-Fi" in their product line. Of course, to every one's surprise (presumably the viewers at home, too), Chevrolet is the only brand to include this answer to a prayer (dream, actually).

For whatever reason (guess: old school; try ancient school), I've never asked this question of a car dealer or of a higher power (not the same). I don't see the need. I don't understand the benefit. I don't want the distraction. If I have passengers in the car, I'm likely talking with them. And I'm probably also listening to and fussing with the radio at the same time. Maybe I'm even fidgeting with the on-board/in-dash GPS as well. And of course, my cell phone is always at the ready (sitting on the seat between my legs), set to vibrate so I won't miss any incoming calls which would likely take precedence over any and all other activities (God forbid I should miss an incoming call). How does yet another element, one that offers infinitely more access and possibilities than all the other devices combined, improve my driving experience? As one who more often than not drives alone, how does free Internet access (that's really what Wi-Fi is, right?) in the car enhance my life rather than complicate it?

Now that I have asked the question, do I care about the answer? My car gets me from a point "A" to point "B." Learning about points "C" through "Z" doesn't necessarily interest me – in the car. I'm not looking for adventure when I'm driving; safety, security, convenience, reliability, above-average gas mileage, I am. Nor am I looking for self-actualization or self-improvement, or given the potential uninterrupted flow of Internet information, self-sustainability; I should be looking in my side- and rear-view mirrors, windows, angles; for cars stopping and starting, turning and reversing (including my own), and at all other vehicles on the road: front and back, side to side, doing all the things I should be doing – other than focusing on Wi-Fi. Despite being told otherwise, my car is not my mobile office, nor is it a library; and it most certainly is not an entertainment center or a condensed version of my home's "great room" (which I don't have anyway, although many do). Despite what Cat Stevens sang way back when, I am not on the road to find. I'm simply on the road to get out – and go. I'm not looking to improve my mind ("what there is of it") when I'm driving, only to occupy it with the task/direction-I-need-to-go at hand; and not with questions and answers I'll be tested on later on my home/laptop computer as I cross-purpose myself on my multi-device "connectability." Sometimes when I'm driving in the car, I'm looking for peace and quiet, not answers to anything, prayers or otherwise.

Generally speaking, I want to drive to survive to arrive alive. I don't want to drive to thrive. I may want to drive too gently for some; but that's for another column. Does my being in the car have to be a learning experience – other than knowing the route to my destination? Can't we just leave well enough alone when I am alone. Sure I want to "live long and prosper," "think and grow rich" and continue to obliterate my original "13-month to two-year" stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer prognosis, so can't what happens on the Internet stay on the Internet and leave me in my car out if it?

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

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It happens every year, and when we don't take action, it just gets worse over time. The fitness options out there can feel daunting. Some are too intimidating or intense. Some seem like they could never get the results you want quickly. Some are too expensive. And so, another year goes by without reaching your summertime fitness goals.

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Yours in good health,
Nick Konarski, General Manager,
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~ Michael James, Member,
Koko FitClub, Herndon

"I have always been active: skied and golfed for years... As I aged, I noticed that muscle tone and balance were not what



they used to be. Koko meets all my needs: the option to work out on my schedule, the ability to work at my own pace and intensity because of the individualized program, and enough competitive spirit to keep me motivated. If I can do it at my age, then I encourage anyone of any age to do it. My balance, blood pressure and weight have all improved with Koko. I LOVE it!"

~ Karen Spahn, Member,
Koko FitClub, Reston

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