

Reston
CONNECTION

HomeLifeStyle

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More than 200 artists and 30,000 to 50,000 people will be interacting across six Reston blocks during the 2015 Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival.

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

MAY 13-19, 2015

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



reston celebrates

FOUNDING OF RESTON — 1964 — **50 YEARS** **100 YEARS** BIRTH OF ITS FOUNDER — 1914 —

Reston's civic and community organizations will be celebrating anniversaries all year. Check out all the fun in store for the community at www.restoncelebrates.org. For information about how to add your organization's anniversary-themed event, please email restoncelebrates@myerspr.com.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS:

Reston Association, Reston Hospital Center, Reston Turnpike Center, Reston Public Relations, Cornerstones, Fairfax County, Fairfax County Public Schools, NOVA, Reston Connection Newspapers.

WWW.RESTONCELEBRATES.ORG



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.

MOTHER'S DAY PHOTOS



Reading time is fun: Nahedah Fayyad of Reston and her twins Yousef and Julia.



Nahedah and Julia Fayyad

Neyla Restaurant To Open in Reston

Mediterranean restaurant to open at Reston Town Center.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

Neyla, the new Mediterranean restaurant in the former Paolo's space at Reston Town Center, plans to open this week, said restaurant management. The general manager will be Souheil Moussadik. The restaurant takes the location of Paolo's, one of the Reston Town Center's longest restaurant tenants which operated there for 24 years. Paolo's closed in early April. "Chef Erich von Gehren is developing an authentic Eastern Mediterranean menu. Chef von Gehren, has over 25 years of experience working both in the Eastern Mediterranean region and America," said Moussadik.

Von Gehren has worked with Capital Restaurant Concepts since 1987. He learned Mediterranean cuisine while living in Lebanon, where he helped CRC founder and chairman Bechara Nammour open more than 10 restaurants. Thomas Gregg, CEO of Capitol Restaurant Concepts said Reston Town Center did not have a restaurant that offers eastern Mediterranean dishes.

Capital Restaurant Concepts owns Paolo's and other Washington-area restaurants including Old Glory Barbecue and Georgia Brown's. It also owned the former Neyla, located in Georgetown before closing it in August 2014. Paolo's Ristorante at Georgetown remains open.

Capital Restaurant Concepts employs more than 700 people, making it one of the largest restaurant employers in the area. The change is a restructuring move for Capital Restaurant Concepts, which has been in operation for more 30 years.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NEYLA RESTAURANT

Neyla, a Mediterranean restaurant in the former Paolo's space at Reston Town Center, plans to open this week. The restaurant is owned by Capital Restaurant Concepts, which has been in operation for more than 30 years.

Washington, D.C., restaurant architecture and design firm HapstakDemetriou remodeled the Paolo's Ristorante at Reston Town Center into the new Neyla Mediterranean Bistro.

Moussadik says the new Neyla will have a casual, elegant ambiance.

Over the past weeks, social media accounts for the Neyla restaurant have been providing updates on the cuisine and opening date. Menu dishes will include mezze (small plates) and a regular menu. Dishes will include flatbreads, salads, lamb chops, falafel and shwarma. The restaurant will also have a cocktail lounge.

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.”



Melissa Romano, coordinator of the Lake Anne Elementary school's Bike to School Day, with two of her children Kieran and Taric and Reston founder Robert Simon gearing up for the start of the event.

Wheeling Their Way to School

Lake Anne Elementary students join International Bike to School Day.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Melissa Romano, mother of two students at Lake Anne Elementary School in Reston and one at Forest Edge, has been coordinating a monthly "bike to school" for about two years, but even she admitted that she had to up her game to organize Lake Anne's participation in this year's International Bike To School Day.

Romano's monthly activity takes place on the first Friday of the month and began with a simple request by her son Kieran, asking if a few friends who lived a bit far away could rendezvous at their house for a joint ride to school. Apparently the friends so enjoyed their group ride that the next thing Romano knew "we had 50 bikes piled in the driveway, ready to roll!"

What was supposed to be a one-time affair or at most an occasional friendly two-wheel commute, became the monthly meet-up now known as the "Walk and Roll 2 School" gang, with parents joining in to walk or ride, some pushing strollers or walking dogs, after a bit of socializing and a cup of coffee to get things started. With all that momentum, Romano said it was the "natural next step" to become part of the international event that promotes a healthier way of getting to class and encourages neighbors getting to know one another as they accompany their kids to class.

THE LAKE ANNE contingent joined 91 area schools — including eight schools in Reston, 11 in Vienna and 33 in Arlington — that had registered their event with the organization Walk Bike To School, or with the Virginia Department of Transportation's "Safe Routes to School" program. Safe

Routes to School has been active since 2007, assisting schools and communities throughout the Commonwealth make "walking and biking to school a safe, convenient and natural activity." The list of schools that participated from around the country is available on the website www.walkbiketoschool.org.

Born from the success of "Walk to School Day" which has been an international event since 2000, the cycling version came into being in 2012 in coordination with the League of American Bicyclists' National Bike Month. Enthusiasm for the event is growing. In 2014, 2,200 schools registered as participants. This year the number grew to 2,389 and as the website notes, many schools don't register, "they just ride!"

For the 2015 Lake Anne ride on May 6, the gathering in the fields alongside the tennis courts pavilion on Fairway Drive looked a lot more like a summer picnic than children grouping together to head off for school. It could be that the bagels provided by Einstein Brothers Bagels from Reston's Spectrum Center, coffee from the neighboring Starbucks (to entice the adult supervisors) and fruit courtesy of Mom's Organic Market in Herndon, helped paint that summertime fun picture. Whether it was the food or the chance to see friends while whizzing and whirling about that attracted them, there was an impressive crowd of youngsters willing to show up 30-45 minutes earlier than necessary on a school day.

A CADRE OF TEACHERS and staff from Lake Anne Elementary also showed up, including Principal Brendan Menuey and Assistant Principal Jana Griffith, joining special guests Del. Kenneth Plum (D-36) of the Virginia House of Delegates, and Reston founder Robert E. Simon who served as the Grand Marshall. Simon led the parade of cyclists in a cheerfully decorated pedicab, owned and, literally, operated by Paul Walsh of Reston.

If you haven't participated in the past and don't want to wait until next year to get in on the fun, check with your child's school to find out if there are other bike/walk meet-ups like the one being hosted monthly by the Romano and the Walk and Roll 2 School clan. Visit www.virginiadot.org and



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER

From left: Lake Anne Elementary School Principal Brendan Menuey, Del. Ken Plum (D-36) and Assistant Principal Jana Griffith are ready to walk along with the cyclists on International Bike To School Day.



Getting ready to lead the Cyclists' Parade: Reston founder Robert Simon was the honored Grand Marshall for the Lake Anne Elementary School's participants in the International Bike to School Day event. Simon wheeled it from the gathering grounds to the school via the pedal power of pedicab owner Paul Walsh of Reston, who volunteered his services. When asked if he had a connection to the school, Walsh replied "No. I think I am just the only person with a pedicab in Northern Virginia! It's a beautiful day and this is fun."



Children, parents, teachers, and guests gather at the tennis court pavilion on Fairway Drive before participating in the 2015 International Bike to School Day to Lake Anne Elementary School. Many of the riders received free safety jackets, there were plenty of healthy refreshments, and the riders also were given official numbered cycling bibs.

search for Safe Routes to School Program for local information and the Walk Bike To

School Website to get ideas and connect to others around the country.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

NEWS



PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

The Stratton Woods Park in Reston has several sport related sites including soccer and softball fields. A ceremony for a new outdoor racquetball and courts will be held on May 16.

Changes To Parks And Pools In Reston

New outdoor racquetball and courts open at Reston Stratton Woods Park.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Park Authority will dedicate new outdoor racquetball and courts at Reston's Stratton Woods Park on Saturday, May 16. The public is invited to hear remarks, enjoy light refreshments and observe a demonstration by nationally-ranked players from the Ladies Professional Racquetball Tour and the United States Racquetball Association.

Adjacent to Reston, the Park Authority acquired the 30.7 acres park in 1989 with the purpose of it being a location for sports and outdoor activities. Park Authority Board Chairman Bill Bouie, a resident of Reston and a nationally-ranked racquetball player said, "These new courts give us a competitive facility for those of us who love racquetball and handball. I am thrilled we could make that happen with such a first class facility."

The \$644,000 project includes the installation of a racquetball and handball court complex, relocation of the volleyball court, demolition of one basketball court, as well as site improvements and landscaping. Revenues from an onsite cell phone monopole helped finance the new courts. Cell phone companies pay leasing fees to schools and parks in return for being able to add a tower on the property.

"For Supervisor Cathy Hudgins and myself, the real pleasure is in seeing Stratton Woods Park built out to its full master plan specs and knowing that the great majority of the funding to do so came from proffers and telecom fees and not taxes," said Bouie.

In FCPA parks that have monopolies, revenue received is reinvested in the parks, with 30 percent going to the park authority Natural Resource program. Last year more than \$250,000 was generated for the Natu-

ral Resource programs at the Park Authority. The ribbon cutting ceremony at Stratton Woods Park will take place on May 16 at 10 a.m. at Stratton Woods Park, 2431 Fox Mill Road.

The weekend of May 9 and 10, two of Reston Association's 15 outdoor swimming pools opened. This included Ridge Heights heated pool and Lake Thoreau pool and spa. The hours for both pools are 1-8 p.m. weekdays and 11 a.m.-7 p.m. weekends.

To improve and enhance the member experience, the North Shore heated pool is undergoing a front entrance improvement project and is scheduled to open Saturday, May 23. If the project is completed earlier than anticipated, Reston Association will announce the new date. Lake Thoreau Pool was chosen to accommodate both spa and lap swim users.

IN APRIL of this year Fairfax County Park Authority unanimously voted in favor of a land deal for an indoor recreation center and community space at the area known as Town Center North. The recreation center will be one feature in the the 47-acre Reston Town Center North area bounded by Baron Cameron Avenue, Fountain Drive, Town Center Parkway and Bowman Towne Drive.

Park Authority Board Chair Bill Bouie says a first proposal for the space should be assessed by the park authority by the end of the year.

Lake Fairfax Park, located at 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive in Reston, will open the park carousel and marina in May, and will service patrons from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. Carousel fees are \$2 per person and at the marina, pedal boat rentals are available for rental. Private boats can be launched at with a \$2 launch fee, but boats powered by motor or sailboats are not permitted on the 18-acre lake.

Also opening on Memorial Day weekend is the popular outdoor water park the Water Mine Family Swimmin' Hole. The Water Mine's attractions are designed for elementary-aged children, and new expansions to the park are scheduled to open in August this year.

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Dermatology & Allergy

SPECIALISTS OF VIRGINIA

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.

Dr. Sowerwine has specialized training and experience to find out what causes your allergies, prevent and treat symptoms, and help keep them under control.

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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

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

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



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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COMMENTARY

Learning from My Own Education

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

My high school alma mater, Shenandoah High School, is no longer a high school. The building with an addition is now Shenandoah Elementary School. Children who would have attended the high school now attend the consolidated Page County High School. The memories and legacies of the school continue through the Shenandoah High School Alumni Association that was organized in 1939 making it the longest continuous high school alumni association in the state. The 76th Annual Shenandoah High School Alumni Banquet held last week recognized two living members from the class of 1935 among its guests.

My graduating class had 41 members with about half attending our Class of 1960 reunion party before the banquet. Three of our teachers also attended including Mrs. Foltz who taught me to type, an invaluable skill for which I thanked and assured her that I still keep my fingers on the home keys. Mrs. Kite was my guidance counselor who gave me the unheard of idea that I like others could attend college. No one else in my family ever had.

Last week was teacher appreciation week, and after having attended the alumni banquet I could not stop thinking about the teachers I had and the impact they had on me. All my teachers deserve a shout out, but with limited space I will mention just a few.

Mrs. Yates was my first grade teacher and the very



first teacher I ever met. She continues to be an angel in my mind.

Second grade teacher Ms. Rau and third grade teacher Ms. Parker were young and very beautiful. I could not do enough to please them. Ms. Parker especially opened my mind to the world as she talked about places she had visited. I remembered her talk about the "painted desert" when I visited there years ago.

Mr. Kite fostered my love of history. I still have the dozen-page report I wrote for his class in the 11th grade. In those dozen pages I wrote a "Short History of Page County" while it took historian Harry Strickler several hundred pages to do the same thing.

Mrs. Boozer who was my senior year government teacher promoted my interest in government. I still quote statistics I gathered in writing a paper for her on the misuse of the absentee ballot in Virginia.

And as boring as it became at the time I still appreciate the diagramming of sentences that Mr. Turner made us do. It continues to help me with sentence construction.

Mr. McHenry's wood working and metal working shop taught me problem solving skills that I continue to use. Public schools did so much for me. That's why I work hard to ensure that our schools are the best they can be and that teachers who are the keys in the process get support. We must make sure that students have positive learning experiences they can look back on and that create in them an ongoing desire to learn.

WEEK IN RESTON

Memorial Service in Honor Of William (Bill) H. Lauer

The Lauer & Tetra Family have announced a Memorial service in honor and remembrance of William (Bill) H. Lauer to be held at St. Mark's Catholic Church, 9970 Vale Road in Vienna on May 15, 11:30 a.m. They would like to thank the community for condolences, thoughts and prayers over the past week.

Instead of sending flowers, they ask for donations to Devotion To Children on Bill's behalf. The Memorial Service is open to anyone who wishes to pay respects. Reception will be held at 1:30 p.m. at Passion Fish at Reston Town Center, 11960 Democracy Drive in Reston.

Call for Candidates For RCA Board

The annual Reston Citizens Association election for its Board of Directors is again gearing up. To take an active role in the future of Reston, consider running for a seat on the board.

There are five seats up for election for the 2015-16 year, one seat for Town Center/Lake Anne/Tall Oaks District Director and four At-Large Director positions. To run for Town Center/Lake Anne/Tall Oaks District Director seat, candidates must live in small tax district 5, be a Reston resident, and vote in designated precincts/polling places within Reston districts. Those precincts for the Town Center/Lake Anne/Tall Oaks District are Reston I, Reston II, Reston III or Cameron Glen Precinct and the corresponding polling places are Forest Edge Elementary or Lake Anne Elementary schools. The elected director for this position will serve for one year. For the At-Large Director position, candidates may live anywhere in small tax district 5. All of the At-Large Directors will serve three-year terms. The election will be held between June 7 and June 22. The RCA application is available at <http://bit.ly/RCAelection>. Completed applications must be received by May 23 at granicsv@hotmail.com or by mail to 2033 Approach Lane, Reston, VA 20191.

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Add two feet to your home.

Filling Reston with Art of the Nation

Nationally ranked, this weekend's juried show attracts serious collectors as well as local art lovers.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

More than 200 artists from around the nation will display their original art across six Reston blocks during the 24th annual Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival on Saturday, May 16 and Sunday, May 17.

"It's hard to envision how big this really is until you stand in the middle of the festival," said Erica Harrison, Festival Director and associate curator with the Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE).

But despite its size, the juried fine arts festival, measurably one of the top in the country, offers the opportunity to see original art while meeting and talking with the artists directly. "If you want to buy a nice piece of art, and you want something original, it's so much fun when you get home and put it on the wall to know the artist that made it and to have a connection with that person," said Bonnie Haukness, a volunteer with the festival who checks artists in for the weekend.

"It opens the whole door to have a conversation about what original art is, how affordable and meaningful it is, and how people can develop meaningful connections to artists," whose work they purchase, said Harrison. And the caliber is high. Festival jurors selected artists in 10 categories of fine arts and crafts to exhibit and sell their work at GRACE's event, which is one of the largest independent outdoor art festivals on the east coast. Organizers (and history) suggest that the festival will attract approximately 40,000 people over its two days.

"It is a very difficult show to get into, it's very well regarded across the country," said Haukness. "It's very special to get to know them. I've always been amazed by these artists," she said, having the faith to pack up their art on planes or by truck, to display their works in Reston.

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MINNEAPOLIS ARTIST Ginny Herzog will return to Reston for her 15th year at the festival. "My rewards have been so good over the years, so I would not think otherwise," she said. "I have some really strong collectors and they come every year."

According to her website, a fascination with architecture inspired Herzog to create mixed media paintings and she is frequently



On May 16 and 17, the streets of Reston Town Center will be full of booths filled with fine art and craft by artists selected from across the nation.

Festival attendees can see the "A Bird in the Hand" by world renowned sculptor, Patrick Dougherty, installed in Town Square Park at Reston Town Center.

PHOTOS
CONTRIBUTED



Why This Matters

Greater Reston Arts Center was founded in 1974 by artists and art lovers in Reston and promotes involvement in contemporary visual arts.

The Festival provides one third of the GRACE's annual budget, said Erica Harrison, Festival Director. GRACE provides year round programs including eight exhibitions, education programs for youth and adults including summer camp sessions, and special events, such as the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival this coming weekend.

Grace Art, formerly known as Art in the Schools, reaches 20,000 students in more than 40 schools each year, said Harrison, and supports and supplements local children's art experience in school.

GRACE also presents contemporary art that illuminates new ideas and promotes dialogue between artists and audience.

Patrick Dougherty recently installed his art sculpture made of tree saplings in Town Square Park. The sculpture can be explored by viewers inside and out.

Patterson Clark's exhibition of papers, prints, inks and frames are made from exotic invasive vegetation such as English ivy, white mulberry, garlic mustard and bush honeysuckle that he removed, with permission, from local parks and private lands.

"This harvest of alien weeds yields an abundance of material, which is processed into fuel, chemicals, pigments, lumber, paper fibers and cordage, all of which are reassembled in the studio in a form that refers to its material source," according to Clark.

His exhibition will be on display at the Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market Street, Suite #103, in Reston, through July 3.

See www.restonarts.org.

Volunteers Needed

More than 30,000 people will interact with more than 200 artists at Reston's Fine Arts Festival this Saturday and Sunday, May 16-17.

In fact, event organizers plan for the possibility that 50,000 people will attend.

"We are a very small staff of five," said Erica Harrison, Festival Director and associate curator and adult program director at Greater Reston Arts Center.

"We absolutely rely on the community," she said, from handing out programs, to being liaisons between event organizers and artists, and more.

"It is only successful if we can get enough to help," she said.

See northernvirginiafineartsfestival.org or GreaterRestonArtsCenter.org (GRACE) at www.restonarts.org.

Art Facts

Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival

More than 200 artists

Saturday, May 16, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Sunday, May 17, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Rain or Shine

\$5 Requested Donation

Reston Town Center at 11900 Market Street, Reston, Virginia.

GRACE's Festival Launch Party in the Pavilion

Friday, May 15, 6-8:30 p.m. Tickets for the party are \$75 per person. Food, entertainment, a silent auction, plus a chance to mingle with the artists in town for the big weekend event.

asked to do site specific commissions for clients of their homes, commercial buildings or a body of work by an architect or developer.

One of Herzog's site specific works, a 50-inch-by-104-inch triptych was installed in a two-story atrium of a Reston home last week. She has pieces showcased in Potomac, Alexandria and Reston homes and businesses.

"The Reston show probably delivers more sales of large pieces for commission than any other shows I do," Herzog said. "I find the collectors in this area very knowledgeable." Marion Myers has always been involved with the show, and remembers the festival's awe-inspiring yet more humble beginning. "Good grief no," she answered if she envisioned the festival's success and growth to its current size.

"I don't remember how many artists there were at the beginning, but I think it was 30. We started off with only the first block," said Myers.

The festival was a fledgling event that first started during a national recession and has grown exponentially with the growth of the Town Center. "It's nationally ranked, we're consistently in the top 10," said Myers.

A broad array of works will be displayed, ranging from functional furniture and ceramics to kinetic sculpture, from original photographs to paintings both abstract and naturalistic, and from wearable art to a diverse selection of handcrafted jewelry, appealing to wide range of taste and budget.

There will be more than 200 booths plus live music performances.

DANCE PERFORMANCES choreographed to respond to Patrick Dougherty's sculpture installed at Town Square Park in April will be presented during the weekend by Reston Community Center. And hands-on art activities will be available for children at the Reston Town Center Pavilion.

"Even though there are many returning artists that I know and recognize, there are always a group of new artists, that I think personally make the show so very good," said Haukness.

Patrons are asked to donate \$5 for access, and proceeds from the event support the Greater Reston Arts Center; it accounts for one-third of GRACE's annual budget.

"It's go time, we're excited, the artists are ready to come," said Harrison.

"It's been a dynamite show for me," said Herzog, the artist from Minneapolis.

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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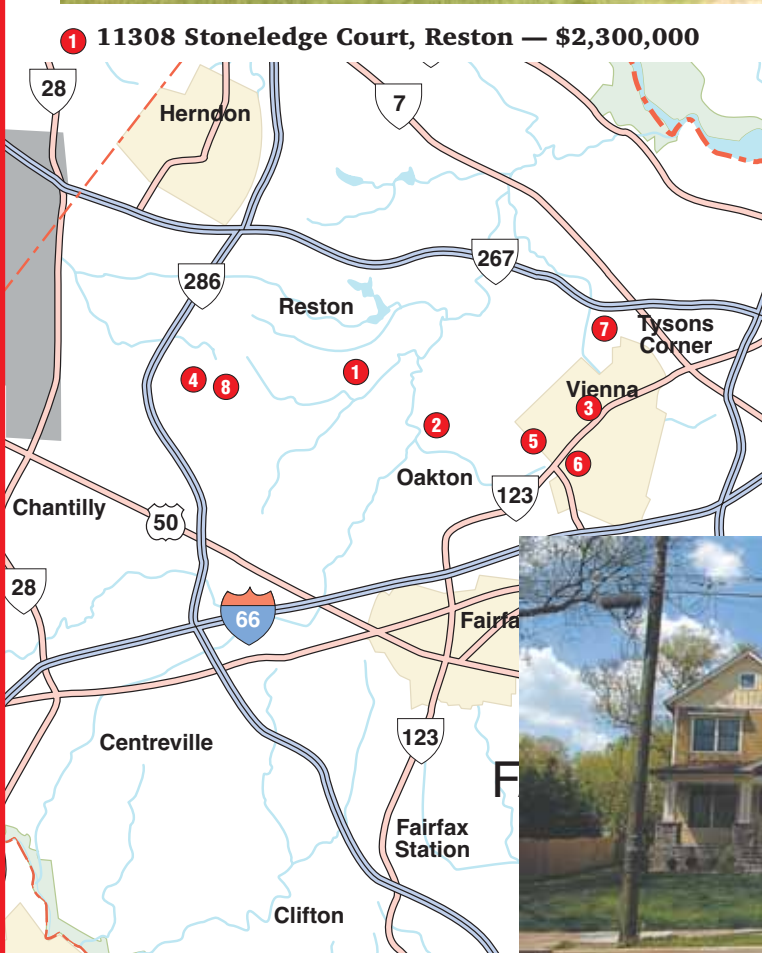
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HomeLifeStyle



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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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.

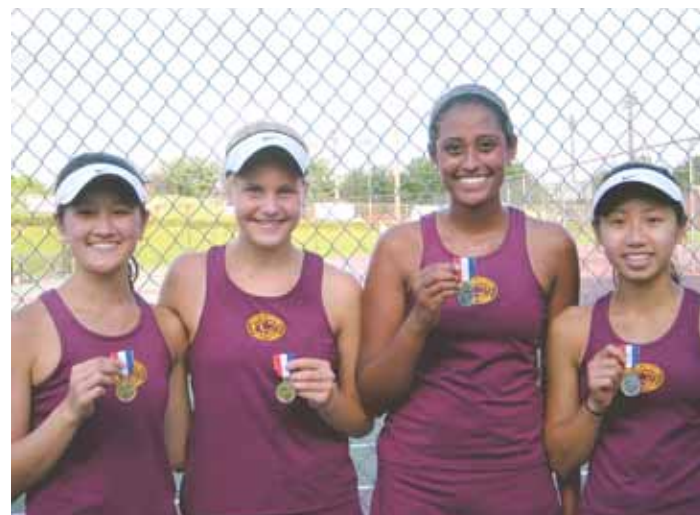
Seniors Claire Nieusma, Samantha Webb, Ozioma Chinaka and junior Golden Kumi-Darfour ran a 6A state qualifying time of 4:01.94 in winning the girls 4x400 meter relay. Kumi-Darfour also finished second in the 800 meters with a 2:16.47, which qualifies her for the state meet in that event.

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



Any Stage Theater Company co-founder Zack Walsh plays the title role in their production of "Hamlet" and Liesl Stach plays Gertrude.



Aria Velz as Claudius and Liesl Stach do a bit of conspiring in this scene.

'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 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.

Cast and crew have been meeting and



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."

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.

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

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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 Analyses 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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~ Karen Spahn, Member,
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