

Herndon High School Choir presented a free Pops Concert on Thursday, June 4 at Herndon High auditorium. Directing the show was choral director Dana Van Slyke.

Herndon High Choir Holds Pops Concert

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Comedy By Molière Comes to Herndon High

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Putting Herndon's Pieces Together

Mixed-use,
vibrant downtown
in the works.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Richard Downer has been waiting almost 30 years for a tangible vision of Herndon's downtown to take shape. "I've been around a long time. I've seen plan after plan," said Downer, who worked on a Central Commission in 1988 "to try to determine what we wanted our downtown to look like."

"We've come a long way since then and with this it looks like we may be able to put it all together," he testified along with approximately two dozen residents on May 26 at the Herndon Town Council meeting.

By a 6-1 vote, Herndon's Council voted to purchase 1.67 acres of land in Herndon's historic downtown from Ashwell, LLC for \$3.519 million.

Councilmember Grace H. Wolf called the purchase the "lynchpin" after 30-plus years of planning.

"When you're on a treasure hunt, sometimes you need that last little piece to unlock the golden treasure and I think this is it. I'm glad we are in a position to do that for our residents and for our future," she said.

THE TOWN of Herndon owns the municipal parking lot and the parking lot parcel containing ArtSpace. But the Elden Street front property, currently occupied by the Subaru dealership, affects the value of the Town's land as well as Herndon's plans for all of the downtown.

"Combined with approximately three acres of land already owned by the town, the purchase clears the way for a comprehensive development project in the downtown, in accordance with the Downtown Master Plan adopted by the Town Council in 2011," according to County documents.

Shane Murphy's career is focused on land development.

"If you talk to developers as much as I do, they will tell you that the word assemblage sends chills down their spines. Nothing is worse," said Murphy. "Assembling multiple pieces of property held by separate owners is a tremendously difficult thing to do."

"The town has the opportunity tonight to assemble multiple parcels into a single ownership thereby eliminating one of the most difficult hurdles to the downtown redevelopment."

This type of opportunity usually comes around once in a generation. It's time to take the next step."



Mayor Lisa C. Merkel and Ronald K. Ashwell of Ashwell, LLC, the private holder of the land, sign a contract at the Herndon Municipal Center for Herndon to purchase 1.67 acres in Herndon's historic downtown.

"When you're on a treasure hunt, sometimes you need that last little piece to unlock the golden treasure."

— Grace H. Wolf, Councilmember

Many others agreed, including residents and councilmembers.

"I endorse this unique opportunity that this Town Council has endorsed unanimously and previous councils have worked decades for," said Chuck Whitman. "I would hate for us to pass up this opportunity."

Councilmember Sheila A. Olem said, "This is very exciting and most of the people I've talked with are just as excited." "I think Mr. Ashwell will be jumping up and down in two and a half years from now when he sees it."

David A. Kirby, her colleague on council, also voted in support.

"I've been waiting for this, maybe not 30 years, but something pretty darn close," said Kirby. "This is the last piece of the puzzle, with this piece we can go forward with our Master Plan."

Michael O'Reilly, former mayor, cited a demonstrable increase in value when the parcels are assembled by one owner. "There is added value and that is what our negotiations were about. ... I've personally talked with a lot of developers about this property. Without the Ashwell piece it's a no go, it's not the showpiece of the downtown that we're looking for."

"If you talk to developers as much as I do, they will tell you the word assemblage sends chills down their spines. Nothing is worse."

— Shane Murphy, attorney

THE TOWN'S MASTER PLAN envisions a mix of retail, office and residential development, to include four-story mixed-use/residential structures; three-story mixed-use/commercial structures; a jointly-funded public/private parking structure; an arts center and more.

Following an environmental assessment, the town expects to close on the purchase within 120 days, according to town documents.

"The land will then be rezoned in conformity with the adjacent town owned property, which allows for mixed-use commercial and residential development," according to the documents. "Completion of these processes will result in nearly five acres of town-owned land, available for private development."

The Town expects to issue an open solicitation to developers by the end of the year. Developments already under way include construction of 17 single-family homes at Center and Vine streets, and plans for mixed-use development (townhomes, condominiums, and retail space) at the corner of Elden and Monroe streets.

The Town has invested significantly in undergrounding utilities to the tune of just

under \$5 million, more than half from federal and state grants, paving the way for aesthetic streetscapes.

NOT EVERYBODY SUPPORTED the Town's action.

"I agree with what you'd like to do, and I think it is a good thing, but what I don't like is losing money. My money," said Dennis Caswell. "If it is such a good deal for us, why aren't people coming to buy it without us?"

"I am requesting that somebody explain in plain English, fifth grade level, why is the town proposing to pay a significant amount higher than the assessed value," said Tom Kellner.

Ann Knoll called the town's purchase "outside the bounds of government."

"There are some things outside the town charter at any price and that is really outside of your gifts, talents and abilities," said Knoll. "And one of them is venturing in real estate and doing developers bidding for them."

Connie Hutchinson asked a question.

"Have you done any real research in the market to make sure that at the price or that value is going to be feasible for a developer to be able to do what we want with our Master Plan for the downtown, or are we going to pay this money for more property and then be stuck with something that is still too much money for any developer to come and do what we want?" she asked.

But multiple people in the business have no doubt what an effective move this will be for the Town financially and aesthetically.

"I'm not an appraiser, I don't pretend to be one," said Murphy. "But first of all, if anyone in this room wants to sell their property for the appraised value, please come see me. I'll purchase it on the spot."

Arthur Nachman, who also is involved in representing developers, called the \$3.519 million purchase price "the target number."

"You're going to get all the money you need to get and probably make a profit and you're going to build this Town. That's why I applaud you for this," he said.

Vice Mayor Jennifer Baker said the Council will simply own the land temporarily to have the control on how the property will be developed.

"Location, location, location," Baker said. "There is location and there is timing and timing is critical."

Elizabeth Vosseller said she trusts Baker and the rest of the Council.

"What would be the cost to our town if we fail to take this opportunity?" said Vosseller.

"I trust the vision of the Town Council, the hard work, the obvious decades that have gone into the vision for the Master Plan of our downtown."

"We have something special that we have wanted for a very long time," said Mayor Lisa C. Merkel.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Bishops' Statement on Death Penalty Debate

To build a culture of life we must respect the sanctity of even "unlovable" lives.

BY BISHOP FRANCIS X. DILORENZO
AND BISHOP PAUL S. LOVERDE
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

This year, through the advocacy of the Virginia Catholic Conference, our Church spent considerable time opposing legislation related to the death penalty. The proposed measure would have permitted the Commonwealth to arrange with compounding pharmacies to mix drugs for use in executions, hiding from the public the identities of the pharmacies and materials used. Thankfully, this bill was defeated. So, too, was a measure the Virginia General Assembly considered last year — also opposed by the Conference — that would have forced death row inmates to be electrocuted if lethal injection drugs are not available.

Meanwhile, Pope Francis delivered a message which sharply contrasted these disturbing debates. "There is discussion in some quarters about the method of killing, as if it were possible to find ways of 'getting it right'," the Pope wrote in a recent letter about the death penalty. "But there is no humane way of killing another person."

Pope Francis' keen observation adds an exclamation point to the rejection of these "method of execution" bills. In Virginia, we are indeed having the wrong debate — a reality clearly visible in light of all we celebrate dur-

ing this Easter season.

In these final joyful weeks of Easter, the Church continues to celebrate the gift of eternal life offered through the Resurrection. In our pilgrimage to that life, we follow Jesus, who loved and forgave us from the Cross, by living out the teaching of our faith that all human life is sacred, from the moment of conception until natural death.

This conviction is reflected in our understanding that the poor and vulnerable have the first claim on our consciences, in our opposition to abortion and euthanasia, and in our responsibility to welcome immigrants and refugees. But our faith also challenges us to declare sacred even the least lovable among us, those convicted of committing brutal crimes which have brought them the ultimate penalty, the penalty of death.

The Church's teaching on the death penalty is succinctly stated in a 2005 U.S. Bishops' statement, "A Culture of Life and the Penalty of Death:" "No matter how heinous the crime, if society can protect itself without ending a human life, it should do so." This statement is the teaching of the Catechism, and for decades Popes John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis consistently have urged us to embrace it.

To be sure, this teaching challenges many people, including ourselves when we reflect on violent crimes and lives lost in senseless and unimaginable ways. The deep pain, grief and

suffering of those who have lost loved ones to violence cry out for our care and attention. More killing, though, is not the answer: The death penalty does not provide true healing for those who mourn, nor does it embody the Gospel of Life, which each of us is called to affirm even in the most difficult circumstances.

It is also important to note that people have been executed despite serious doubts about their guilt, and inmates who languished on death row for decades have been freed after their innocence was proven. Since 1973, some 152 death row inmates nationwide — including one in Virginia — have been exonerated. We must also be aware of the racial inequity inherent in the system, and that the death penalty has been administered to individuals with severe intellectual disabilities.

These circumstances further illustrate that, in Virginia and elsewhere, we are having the wrong debate. We should no longer debate which inmates we execute or how we execute them. Instead, we should debate this: If all human lives are sacred and if a civilized society such as ours can seek redress and protect itself by means other than taking a human life, why are we continuing to execute people?

By ending the use of the death penalty we would take one important step — among significant others we must take — to abandon the culture of death and embrace the culture of life.

As Pope Francis reminds us, there is no humane way of taking a life. Let us not choose whether to use lethal drugs, electric chairs, gas chambers or firing squads. Let us take the more courageous step and choose life instead, even when it seems "unlovable."

COMMENTARY

Kurspahics To Receive Civic Courage Award

Honored by the Bosnia Memory Project.

Kemal Kurspahic and his wife Vesna of McLean are being honored as recipients of the inaugural Civic Courage Award from the Bosnia Memory Project at Fontbonne University in St. Louis.

Kemal Kurspahic, the managing editor of The Connection, was editor-in-chief of the Bosnian newspaper *Oslobodjenje* during the three and a half-year siege of Sarajevo, between 1992 and 1995. He led a multi-ethnic staff that continued to publish a daily edition throughout the siege, despite the newspaper building being bombed and facing gunfire while trying to reach the office.

"They have stood for the kinds of civic ideas and ideals that characterize the best of Bosnia, Herzegovina and United States," said Dr. Ben Moore, director of the Bosnia Memory Project. "They really believe in journalism as a vital part of the civic sphere, that



Vesna and Kemal Kurspahic in Sarajevo in 2006 with old Turkish fountain — Sebilj — in the background. Bosnians in St. Louis have built a replica of Sarajevo Sebilj in their new hometown.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

people of all ethnicities and backgrounds can find common understanding."

Kurspahic's book about the experience, "As Long As Sarajevo Exists," is required reading for a course Moore teaches at Fontbonne. The Bosnia Memory Project started in 2006 as a response to the large community of Bosnians and their children — around 40,000 — that settled in St. Louis after the war.

"What he did during the siege of Sarajevo, keeping the paper running and refusing to yield to the chauvinism and bigotry, is an ongoing inspiration for what we're doing," Moore said.

The core of the project is producing an ongoing oral history to preserve stories and artifacts from the war and genocide. Another goal is to lay the groundwork for a center of Bosnian studies at the university.

"We have a second generation that's coming of age now," Moore said. "Twenty years after the war, they don't have an understanding of their parents' and grandparents' experience of Bosnian culture."

Vesna Kurspahic is the curator of "Documenting Hometown and Family History in Stari Majdan, Bosnia," a photography exhibition that Moore said is helping to show the "beauty and complexity of Bosnian culture and history."

The Kurspahics are being recognized at a June 13 dinner held at the Grbic Banquet Center, a Bosnian restaurant in St. Louis. Moore said he recently discovered Vesna's mother was a teacher and school principal to the owners, husband and wife, Sulejman and Ermina Grbic.

"This is a classic case of the recipients honoring the award more than the other way around," said Moore. "The challenge, with the plan to offer this award annually, is finding people who rise to the same level."

— TIM PETERSON



LETTER

Vandalism at Herndon High School

To the Editor:

Last weekend, vile hate speech and derogatory symbols were found defacing property at Herndon High School. We stand together, all saying that this behavior is intolerable in our community. This action represents some of the worst intolerance that we have seen, and does not represent the inclusive community that we strive to make possible in Fairfax County.

This action is intended to demean and diminish members of our community. The symbols depicted at Herndon High School represent hate and inhumanity. We will not stand for this behavior in our school system, or in the greater Fairfax County community.

We will not allow our schools to become a platform for hatred and intolerance of any group or individual. Moreover, we must use this occasion in a positive way, to teach respect and tolerance and to demonstrate how the diversity of our county enriches all our lives. This is a horrific example of community, but we must take it as an opportunity to further build an inclusive community for all.

Supervisor Catherine M. Hudgins, Hunter Mill District
Supervisor John Foust, Dranesville District
School Board Member Pat Hynes, Hunter Mill District
School Board Member Jane Strauss, Dranesville District



PHOTO PROVIDED BY FAIRFAX COUNTY

An image of the future Herndon's Innovation Center parking garage. Innovation Center South is adjacent to the coming Innovation Center Metro Station, which will be built by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.

Breaking Ground for Innovation Center

Mixed-use development adjacent to Herndon's Innovation Center Metro Station.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

On Monday, June 15, members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and representatives from Nugget Joint Venture LC (Rocks Engineering) and guests will hold a ceremony to break ground for Innovation Center South, a new 1.6-million-square-foot, mixed-use development in Herndon. The ceremony will mark the start of construction on infrastructure,

roads, and landscaping, that will serve the transit-oriented development and a new Metro station garage.

The 15-acre Innovation Center South calls for 501,000 square feet of office space in two buildings, more than 1,000 residential units in four buildings, 104,000 square feet of retail, a 190-room, 90,000-square-foot hotel adjacent to the Metro station. Also planned are roughly 2.5 acres of parks, 3,000 development-serving garage parking spaces and 2,108 more parking spaces in the Metro garage. The Wiehle-Reston East station in Reston has 2,300 parking spaces with a bike room and has the only onsite parking garage at the five Silver Line Metro stations in Phase 1.

INNOVATION CENTER SOUTH is adjacent to the com

SEE CENTER, PAGE 7

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Repairs Trigger Remodel

Great Falls renovation evolves from basic, needed repairs to an extensive family-friendly remodel.

BY JOHN BYRD

Sometimes a significant home improvement starts with small repair considerations. In fact, as Roger Lataille, senior design consultant at Sun Design Remodeling, recalls, his first discussion with Jeff and Sharon Roman of Great Falls concerned how to solve a water drainage problem.

“There were no gutters over the three garage ports, and rain water splash-back was causing the garage doors to deteriorate,” Lataille said. “Also, the front entrance was too exposed. And the original wooden deck on the back of the house had decayed so badly it wasn’t being used much at all.”

Then there was the problem with woodpeckers regularly attacking the house, a reflection of moisture build-up and bug-infestation under the home’s sprayed-on stucco exterior.

Yet rectifying these everyday dysfunctions turned out to be a comparatively small part of the Romans’ agenda, as Lataille soon discovered.

As the conversation progressed, the outlines for a sweeping, state-of-the-art makeover began to take shape even as the home’s exterior was gradually re-imagined as an architectural statement fully integrated with its setting.

At 6,500 square feet, the nearly 20-year-old, six bedroom center hall Colonial offered considerable grandeur, yet the facade lacked detail, definition, even warmth.

“There were a lot of distinctive architectural themes in place,” Lataille said. “Our first concern is always helping the owner articulate a program that suits their goals, and then initiating an effective collaboration process.”

With this in mind, the solutions proposed for the home’s front elevations came right to the point. A metal-clad overhang supported by decorative brackets above the garage doors not only re-directs rainwater into a discrete functional drainage system, but also gives the facade a unifying accent that ties in with the redesigned front entrance.

The defective stucco cladding has been replaced with sand-colored Hardiboard and a stonework “water table” motif that scales back the mass of the looming three level facade, making the whole feel more intimate and approachable.

LIKEWISE, on the rear elevation, opportunities for self-expression quickly became inspirations.



The new portico lends needed definition to the entrance way of the Jeff and Sharon Roman’s Great Falls home. The metal-clad roof is visually unified with a garage overhang supported by decorative brackets.

Situated on two rolling acres and surrounded by woodland, the home’s setting provided a sprawling backdrop for an indoor-outdoor solution.

Boasting a southwesterly view from the rear elevation, the existing rear deck was usually bathed in soft sunsets on summer evenings. The visual display was, likewise, available from the house — except the windows were too small and the only exits to the outside converged in a recessed hyphen joining the two main blocks on the rear of the house.

“Ironically, we’ve always loved spending time outdoors,” Sharon said, “so it’s surprising that we hadn’t changed the exterior of the house in the 13 years we’ve lived here.”

During summer vacations at Deep Creek Lake in Maryland, however, the Romans discovered how much they enjoy sitting by a fire pit on pleasant evenings. This revelation prompted thoughts of adding not only a fire pit, but a screen porch on the rear of the house — one that could be used from early spring and well into fall.

“I also pictured more natural light in the back of the house,” Sharon Roman said. “A rear elevation with oversized windows and doors that invites in the beauty all around us.”

As the vision evolved, the Romans decided on a plan with four main components: a 20-foot-by-15-foot screened porch, a 21-foot-by-16-foot grilling deck, a ground level sunken patio that exits from a lower level room, and a stand-alone fire pit with seating for six.



PHOTOS BY GREG HADLEY

The spacious new screened porch demonstrates how highly durable materials can be shaped to meet demanding aesthetics. The Ipe decking chosen for the porch flooring is one of the most enduring natural hardwoods offered for outdoor surfaces; installed in a tongue-and-groove pattern, it keeps out bugs more effectively than screen mesh. The fiberglass charcoal screen, likewise, makes it hard to see the porch interior from the outside.

Details

Sun Design Remodeling frequently sponsors tours of recently remodeled homes as well as workshops on home remodeling topics. Headquartered in Burke, the firm has a second office in McLean. Call 703-425-5588 or visit www.SunDesignInc.com for more.

“We were thinking ahead in many ways,” Sharon Roman said. “Jeff and I have elderly parents, and a lot of family in the area. A direct entrance to the lower level, for instance, might make it easy to convert the space into an in-law suite if needed.”

Overall, the Romans sought the capacity to comfortably entertain up to 40 or 50 people.

Of course, for a fete of that size — well-constructed decking is essential. Phase one to the new plan was, thus, a nod to necessity: re-design the decking system to accommodate traffic circulating from directions never previously in the picture.

“We learned immediately that the concrete supporting the existing 20-year-old deck hadn’t been properly set,” Lataille said. “Also, to assure the durability of the deck’s surface, we specified Trex instead of wood, and narrowed the span between undergirding joists from 16 inches to 12 inches.”

Structurally, the new decking is not only an upgrade, but thoroughly necessary since it’s now directly accessible through oversized double glass doors from the family room, the dining room and the billiards parlor. It’s also linked via a new flagstone walkway to the both fire pit and the new rear entrance to the lower level.

“Access to the outdoors from the house is one of the most fundamental features of an

integrated indoor/outdoor solution,” Lataille said. “Bringing the aesthetics of nature into your daily life is a lifestyle change. The goal is to create spaces that can be easily maintained, yet allow owners to comfortably extend the open-air season.”

THE SPACIOUS NEW screened porch demonstrates how highly durable materials can be shaped to meet demanding aesthetics. The Ipe decking chosen as the porch flooring, for instance, is not only one of the most enduring materials offered for outdoor surfaces, but — installed in a tongue-and-groove pattern — is more effective in keeping out bugs than a screen mesh undergirding. Ipe, which is Brazilian walnut, was also specified for the porch handrails.

Meanwhile, the fiberglass charcoal screen — which makes it hard to see the porch interior from the outside — creates a cozy sense of closure. Overhead, the fir-beaded tongue-and-groove wood ceiling lends a natural burnish to the open-air ambiance.

Taking the lead from other finish work details, the design team installed a stone work “water table” for the porch’s inside wall — a textured backdrop for the wide-screen TV.

Equipped with both overhead fans and portable heaters, the outdoor room is habitable in all but the coldest days of winter.

“It’s really our preferred family room now,” said Sharon Roman. “With overhead fans, shades and other convenient adjustments, we can use the porch from early spring to late fall.”

John Byrd (byrdmatx@comcast.net) has been writing about home improvement topics for 30 years.

Groundbreaking at Innovation Center South

FROM PAGE 5
ing Innovation Center Metro Station, which will be built by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority as part of the second phase of the Silver Line. When complete, Innovation Center South will include a hotel and retail, residential and office space. Phase 1 of the Silver Line has five stops from Tysons Corner to Reston. Phase 2 will run 11.5 miles from Reston to Ashburn, and is projected to cost \$2.7 billion. Phase 2 will expand the line from Wiehle-Reston East to Reston Town Center, Herndon, Route 28, Dulles International Airport and Ashburn.

Projects such as Innovation Center are examples of the county's goal to create transit-oriented development places as outlined in the Strategic Plan to Facilitate the Economic Success of Fairfax County. High-density, mixed-use developments can be built around multimodal transit hubs such as the Silver Line metro stations. Fairfax County aims to improve transportation system leading to better connectivity between Loudoun County and Washington,

D.C.
In coordination with the shared infrastructure work, Fairfax County's Department of Public Works and Environmental Services is designing and building a 2,100-space parking garage that will serve bus and rail commuters, a "pocket park" and a plaza to support the Metro station. The garage will include bus bays, kiss-and-ride spaces, a taxi stand, motorcycle spaces and a secure room to house up to 100 bicycles. As part of an agreement reached four years ago to pay for the Silver Line's second phase, Fairfax County agreed to build garages for the Innovation Center Metro Station and the Herndon Metro Station.

At a July 29, 2014, meeting, the Board of Supervisors approved a land deal giving the county a 5.5-acre footprint for the Innovation Center Station garage, kiss-and-ride spaces and Metro plaza, leaving 9.1 acres for the developer, Nugget Joint Venture to build Innovation Center South. Nugget Joint Venture and Fairfax County are jointly developing the site's common infrastructure at a cost of \$17 million. The county's share of

infrastructure costs is \$7.5 million.
In April of this year, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority announced that the second phase of the Silver Line project is 13 months behind schedule, which means it may not open until 2020. Phase 2 had been projected to open in 2018. Also, more than 150 design changes have already been made, including a total redesign of the 11.4-mile Phase 2 to accommodate storm water management issues. For many, the delay announcement is not a surprise as the rail line's Phase 1, which opened in July 2014, had frequent delays.

SITE INFRASTRUCTURE WORK is scheduled to begin this summer and construction on the parking garage is scheduled to start in spring 2017. For more project details, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/innovationcenterstationgarage/.

The June 15 ceremony will take place at the end of Rock Hill Road in Herndon.

Parking will be available on the ninth floor of the garage at 2300 Dulles Station Blvd.

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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
 7/29/2015..Professional Profiles & Business in the Community

AUGUST
 8/5/2015..... Wellbeing
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Langley Boys' Soccer Wins Region Championship

The Langley boys' soccer team won the first region championship in program history with a 2-1 victory over Madison on June 5 at Langley High School.

After falling behind, Langley's Jacob Labovitz netted the equalizer and Sam Golan scored the game-winner.

"It felt really good to win the region title," Langley senior Daniel Levetown wrote in an email. "It was very surreal for me. We were down most of the game, and being able to come back and win it in that fashion made it that much better. Nevertheless, we set our goal on winning the state championship. We celebrated after the game, jumped around a little and took some pictures, but we quickly got back to work preparing for the next game. But we do know that this is a very tough region and that it's an honor to take the title."

The victory improved Langley's record to 18-1-1, including a win against Fairfax in the Conference 6 tournament final. The Saxons are 15-0-1 since losing to McLean on April 7.

"Langley has had some great teams in the past and it's a travesty if none of them ever won the regional title," Levetown wrote. "I guess it's up to us to set the record straight and to show everyone what the Langley soccer tradition is all about. I am pleased that we were able to win the region title to represent Langley soccer and all of the great Langley teams and players in the past."

Next up for the Saxons is a state semifinal match against 6A South runner-up James River at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 12 at Robinson Secondary School.

Langley's last appearance in a state final was 2004, when the Saxons lost 1-0 to West Springfield.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Daniel Levetown (10) and the Langley boys' soccer team won the 6A North region title on Friday with a 2-1 victory over Madison.

Helping, with Heavy Hearts

200 walk to support victims of Nepal earthquake

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

When the 7.8 magnitude earthquake rocked Nepal in April this year, Madhu and Yashoda Bhandari of Lorton felt the shocks in their United States home. Both are originally from the Nuwakot district, one that was hit violently. Though Madhu's brothers and father live in Nepal's capital Kathmandu and were unharmed, "It was very painful," he said, of seeing the wreckage in the area of his roots. "With monsoon season, they need to have something."

"We have a heavy heart," Madhu's wife Yashoda said. "Every minute you want to do something. We're here to support."

The couple were two of over 200 people who came out early Sunday morning, June 7, as part of the Walk for Nepal fundraiser at Burke Lake Park.

Meekha Mathema, a fifth grade teacher in the Advanced Academic Program at Hunters Woods Elementary School in Reston helped organize the event.

"We had to do something," she said, "a way we could heal. I tried to think of a way I could include children, seniors."

Mathema goes walking at Burke Lake Park every weekend; ultimately she decided it was the perfect place. "It has a



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

(From left) Herndon residents Srinivas, Shalini and Adithi Kanchinatham, and Pranav, Mahri, Ramya and Subba Griddahuri completed the Walk for Nepal Earthquake Victims at Burke Lake Park.

nice trail for all of us," she said.

Beginning close to 8 a.m. walkers chose either a one-mile course or the entire loop of Burke Lake — close to five miles.

OVER 200 PEOPLE registered for the walk and even more non-walking donors joined the cause. All told, Mathema estimated the event raised between \$7-\$8,000.

A partnership between her late father's humanitarian nongovernmental organization the Daya Foundation and the United Nations-affiliated International Association

for Human Values allows money donated from the walk to have an instant impact.

Madhu Kadari, a volunteer with the International Association for Human Values who spoke before the walk, said some of the money raised will help fund building temporary shelters for victims of the earthquake. Three hundred shelters are planned, costing \$150 each.

Other International Association for Human Values efforts, with funding of around \$62 million so far, include relief supplies, community shelters that can act as voca-

tional training centers, solar lamps and trauma relief.

"There's a lot of grief and anxiety," Kadari said, explaining the importance of meditation and breathing techniques being taught at relief camps. "The first thing is to get out of the mental trauma."

Also before the walk, Narayan Mainali, Minister Counselor from the embassy of Nepal, thanked the United States Congress for its support of the country in crisis. "Nepal has so many helping hands," he said.

In addition to walking, Mainali encouraged walkers to visit Nepal and support the tourist economy, for business owners to consider expanding into Nepal and buying the country's crafts and carpets.

JOHN MORRISON, a planning manager with Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 1, was among the group that was deployed to Nepal as part of the international relief effort. He was recognized before the walk along with fellow Task Force 1 members Elizabeth Chaney, rescue dog Ventoux, and Ryland Chapman. "We were in awe of the Nepalese people," Morrison said.

Ramya Griddahuri of Herndon is in Mathema's fifth grade class. "Where Nepal has been hit, it's scary for them," she said. "I want to help. Doing this walk, I know that I'm helping people."

For more information on the Daya Foundation, visit dayafoundation.org/np, for the International Association for Human Values, visit www.iahv.org.

CALENDAR

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

THROUGH SUNDAY/JUNE 21

A Man for All Seasons. NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. This powerful drama about one man's struggle between his conscience and his king. Tickets: \$28.

THROUGH SUNDAY/JUNE 28

HestiaMa'at Exhibit. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. In Hestia Ma'at artists Milagros Pongo from Paraguay/Peru, Alex Garcia from the Dominican Republic, Celso Trufel, from the Dominican Republic, and Vicky Benitez, from Uruguay/Paraguay present a bold exhibit of art and photography resonating with the artists' spirit of inner peace and faith in life.

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. herndonrocks.com/schedule.php.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 10

Precious Preschoolers. 11 a.m. Herndon Library, 768 Center Street, Herndon. Jump and Jam: We will rock to stories, songs, and rhymes while we read to the rhythm. Age 3-5 with adult.

FRIDAY/JUNE 12

Senior Tea. 1-2 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. All teas are free and open to the public.

SATURDAY/JUNE 13

Car Show. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Northwest Federal, 200 Spring Street, Herndon. The latest models from Northwest Federal's network of area auto dealers will be on display, and a car wholesaler will provide no-obligation quotes on buyers' current vehicles. The Credit Union will also offer members onsite financing. Non-members are welcome to attend and can apply for membership that day if they meet membership eligibility requirements.

Creative and Musical Writing Workshop. 3-4 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. A workshop with singer, writer and poet Andrew McKnight. This workshop explores how to express one's interest in a subject through words and/or music through use of writing exercises, examples and interactive discussion. Simple structure of songs, and the basics of



ArtSpace Herndon presents music of the Shenandoah Valley, the final concert in the Dominion Notes series. With his eclectic quartet Beyond Borders, award-winning singer Andrew McKnight, will perform music drawn from Virginia roots music. The group's sound traverses influences from Appalachia, tasteful slide and jazzy blues, feisty anthems, rustic folk, and guitar-driven rock. See them on June 13, 6:30 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Tickets \$15.

Festivals this Weekend

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 13-14

2nd Lake Anne Chalk on the Water Festival. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Lake Anne Plaza, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Chalk on the Water is a two-day street-painting festival where participants will create amazing street art. Festival goers can purchase a "plot" of brick space on the plaza and paint to their hearts delight whatever flows from their imagination. Cost for spaces are \$5 for children, \$10 for adults, and \$15 for professional artist. Individuals can register at www.chalkonthewater.com. Only 100 spaces/plots are available for this event. Participants have a chance to win cash prizes for various categories, awarded by notable community judges. The festival will also include food, a live DJ, a wine garden.

SUNDAY/JUNE 14

Love Your Body Yoga Festival. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Yoga studios and wellness centers of Northern Virginia will be offering classes, services, and information on ways to care for your body, along with live entertainment and activities for children. Donations to participate in classes benefit Cornerstones. Presented by Beloved Yoga. www.belovedyoga.com.

Lake Anne Summer Film Festival: My Big Fat Greek Wedding. 8 p.m. Lake Anne Plaza, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. The free outdoor festival will take place each month on selected Sunday's and will feature some great flicks from classic to comedy. Grab a date, the family or a group of friends, bring the lawn chairs and a picnic and enjoy flicks under the stars.

melody and meter will be explored. Participants do a variety of exercises building towards development of original works collectively or individually during the session. Ages 10+. Tickets: \$15. www.artspaceherndon.org.

Music of the Shenandoah. 6:30 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. The Herndon Foundation for the Cultural Arts' three concert series celebrates the contribution of Virginia's string bands to the foundation of modern American music, connecting Herndon to Virginia's roots music. Tickets \$15. <http://www.artspaceherndon.com/dominion-notes-concert-series/>

Dog Tales. 10:30 a.m. 768 Center Street, Herndon. Read aloud to a trained therapy dog for 15 minutes; bring your own book or choose a book from the library. Ages 5-12.

THURSDAY/JUNE 18

Jr. Farmer Family Fun. 4 p.m. Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. This family program goes behind the scenes to help the farmers at Frying Pan Farm Park. Come help with farm chores such as milking the cows, feeding the animals, and shelling corn. Topics and activities vary. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult.

FARMERS MARKETS 2015

WEDNESDAYS

Oak Marr Farmers Market. 8 a.m. - noon. Wednesdays, May 6 - Nov. 18. Oak Marr Park & RECenter, 3200 Jermantown Road, Oakton. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/viennamkt.htm>

Wakefield Farmers Market. 2-6 p.m. Wednesdays, May 6-Oct. 28. 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale. 703-321-7081. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/wakefieldmkt.htm>

Fair Lakes Farmers Market. 3:30-7 p.m. 4501 Market Commons Drive, Fairfax. www.greentowns.com/initiative/farmers-market/fair-lakes-farmers-market-fairfax.va

THURSDAYS

Annandale Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Thursdays, May 7-Nov. 12.

Featuring a master gardener plant clinic on site to answer questions about plants and landscaping. Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/annandalemkt.htm

Herndon Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Thursdays, May 7-Nov. 12. Twelve Vendors sell a variety of products including kettle corn and fresh made Italian pasta. Old Town Herndon, 700 Block of Lynn Street, Herndon. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/herndonmkt.htm

Fairfax's Government Center Farmers Market. 3-7 p.m. Thursdays, May 7-Oct. 29. Ten vendors including a Middle Eastern delicacy bakery and custom organic ice cream shop. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.

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Philosophically Speaking



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Recently I attended a "Celebration of Life" event, sponsored by Kaiser Permanente, created to bring attention to, and educate the public on, cancer. As a long-time cancer survivor, nearly six and a half years now - and one treated by doctors at Kaiser, I was asked, along with a cervical cancer survivor, to sit on a "survivor panel"; to share our cancer experiences, and offer, along with two oncologists and a pulmonologist, our respective insights as "treater" and "treatee."

As you regular readers know, my story, based on the available statistical indicators at the time, is a miracle. Lung cancer is a killer, almost always. Survivors who live beyond two years are rare enough; beyond five years, rarer still. However, given the evolution of the research and new drugs brought to market, there are more lung cancer survivors than ever before. And the more survivors I meet, the more empowered I become regarding my own life expectancy.

Which, if a cancer patient thinks too much about, the shorter - in my opinion, it will be. As a practical consideration though, how do you not focus on the most important thing in your life; that thing being your lung cancer diagnosis. A diagnosis your oncologist has advised you will likely result in a rather disappointing prognosis. But somehow, from my perspective anyhow, that's exactly what patients/survivors have to do; agree and proceed, sort of.

Moreover, how does one make light of something (your "terminal" disease/"13-month to two-year prognosis") which is incredibly heavy? And how does one not get depressed about something (again, your diagnosis) which is terribly depressing? And finally, how does one stay positive and find humor/balance, when cancer is the definition of negative and imbalance, and is, as the old expression says: "Funny as a heart attack"? It all seems and feels counter-intuitive. It reminds me of the Seinfeld episode when, out of desperation, George decided to act opposite to his instincts: "My name is George. I'm unemployed and I live with my parents;" which resulted in his meeting an attractive woman at the diner and getting his Assistant-to-the-Travelling-Secretary job with the New York Yankees. Yet somehow, following this path of least resistance has worked - for me. Inexplicable. Random? Lucky? Misguided? Inadvisable? Rhyme or reason? If I think too much about it, I'm afraid I'll weaken the nation. All I know is: since it ain't broke, I'm not looking to fix it.

Certainly there have been struggles: I'm not going to pretend otherwise. Still, living is its own reward, and having survived now way beyond my initial prognosis, I'd like to think that I'm further from the beginning than I am closer to the end. But who knows, really? And what good comes from asking myself that question anyway? I can't get an answer, obviously; and of course, any guarantees are long gone. Somehow I have to continue to trick myself into not caring: the opposite of all my instincts. It worked for George and so far, it's worked for me. Now, if I can only leave well enough alone. That would truly be a miracle.

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

Comedy By Molière Comes to Herndon High

June production
by Herndon
theatre students.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

On June 12 at 7:30 p.m. and June 13 at 2 p.m., Herndon High will host a production of Molière's great comedy, "Tartuffe." First performed in 1664, the family of Orgon has fallen victim to a pious fraud. Only by conspiring, hiding in closets and climbing under tables (all in French farce fashion) can the family reveal Tartuffe's fake divinity. "It is basically Dr. Seuss and Shakespeare combined," said Herndon High junior Jessie Jorgensen, who has the role of Mariane.

"The crazy contrast between characters is fantastic. It is definitely a funny play," said junior Nathan Burns who is cast as gullible Orgon. The production has a tighter cast than school musicals, with a focused use on expression and reaction. "This is a semi-box set, so only a few props will be moved," said junior Patrick Hammes, one of the stage technicians for this production. Earlier in spring the school produced "Children of Eden," a twist on the biblical book of Gen-



The Herndon cast for the June production of Molière's great comedy, "Tartuffe." This play will be one of the final productions by Herndon drama teacher Zoë Dillard, who will be leaving for North Carolina. Dillard is in the back, second from the right.

esis."

Playing the role of the scoundrel Tartuffe is junior Annie Taylor. "This is my first ever title role, so this is exciting. We think this production will lead to a great performance," said Taylor. The image for the production used on fliers was created by sopho-

more Raleigh Hampson. "We wanted to represent the character of Tartuffe, who is really a con. This comedy will be hilarious," said Hampson, who is also an understudy for the play.

This play will be one of the final productions by Herndon drama teacher Zoë

Dillard, who will be departing for Greensboro, N.C. to pursue editing and writing. "This play has a very distinct style of theatre and comedy, and it is important for advanced theatre students to know about Molière. It is still a funny and relevant play," said Dillard. Costumes for this production enhance the physical comedy, and were borrowed from Westfield High School.

A 2015 Remembrance Cabaret will be held on Saturday, June 13 at Westfield High School at 7 p.m. The event is a fundraiser for the Reema J. Samaha Memorial Scholarship fund. Herndon will be represented in the cabaret performance by students Sarah Overton and Henry Metcalf. The scholarship supports graduating seniors from Westfield High in Chantilly or Herndon High who will be attending a Virginia state university.

Morganne Davies will take Dillard's position after the summer production of "Anything Goes." A Summer Theatre Production Camp, from July 6 – Aug. 3, the musical will have performances on July 31 and Aug. 1 at 7:30 p.m. and Aug. 2 at 2 p.m. at the HHS Auditorium.

While Dillard will be missed, students look forward to working with Davies. "Dillard has helped us all grow as actors," said Jessie Jorgensen. For more information on Herndon Drama and productions, visit www.herndon drama.org.

Herndon High Choir Holds Pops Concert

School year ends
with choral shows.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

Herndon High School Choir presented the Pops Concert on Thursday, June 4 at Herndon High auditorium. This was one of the final concert shows for the year for students. Admission was free and the show was open to the public, although donations were accepted at the door to benefit the Herndon High School (HHS) Choir Department. The concert was well attended by family, friends and local residents. "There is a lot of talent in this show, and the choreography was impressive," said parent Brad Hummel.

Directing the show was choral director Dana Van Slyke, who has served as choral director at Herndon High School since 1995. During her time there, she has conducted the Concert Choir, Herndon Chorale, the Heatwave show choir, the Madrigal Singers, Bennett Street Boys and the Shebees. In addition, she has taught AP and introductory music theory. Playing the piano for many songs was her husband, Jim Van Slyke. Earlier this school year, Herndon High students Rebecca Wichman, Caitlyn Homet, Jordan Golomb, Sarah Overton and Zach Klein were selected to participate in the All Virginia Choir.

The program opened with a presentation



On June 4, the Herndon High School Choir presented the Pops Concert. The Herndon all-female a cappella performance group Shebees presented "Your Lips Are Movin'."

of "Will It Go Round in Circles" by the Herndon High School Choirs, followed by "Gone, Gone, Gone," sung by the Concert Choir. Playing accompanying instruments

were Joey Rudek, Jakob Reeves, Colby Gardiner, and Noah McKee. The event was also an opportunity for every senior student to perform a song. "The live variety of mu-

sic lets everyone tap their toes and have a great time. The music is fabulous," said Herndon resident Rhonda Long, whose son is in the choir. Students were also pleased with the event. "It has been great, all of our hard work has paid off," said sophomore Jack Norcross.

"On behalf of the Herndon Choral Booster's Board of Directors and Executive Board, I would like to extend our appreciation to all the Choral Booster parents who gave of their time and means to support the Herndon High Choir this year," said president of the Herndon Choral Booster Andie Lytle. Monday, June 8, Herndon High hosted Herndon Band Awards. On Wednesday, June 10, a ceremony and reception at Herndon High cafeteria will celebrate the 2015 Choir Awards.

"It has been a fantastic show, there has been so much talent," said parent Susan Horting. The program included song, dance, costume and set changes, and music from every genre of popular music: rock to hip-hop, mellow to metal, country to coffeehouse. The Herndon all-female a cappella performance group Shebees presented "Your Lips Are Movin'," followed by the all-male a cappella performance group The Bennett Street Boys, who presented "Up-town Funk."

The concert concluded with the sentimental song "I Will Remember You" performed by the HHS Choirs and alums of HHS choirs.

To read more about Herndon High choir visit www.herndonchoir.com.