

Reston CONNECTION

HomeLifeStyle
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Kacey Hirschfeld, Olivia Wolfe and Hannah Becker formed Amy's Amigos in 2006 as Hunter Woods elementary school students to support the American Cancer Society. Then, with the help of the Reston based CORE Foundation, Amy's Amigos established the Reston Youth Triathlon, now the largest youth triathlon in Virginia.

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PHOTO BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION

APRIL 13-19, 2016

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



From left, Reston Association's Ellen Graves, Hunter Mill Supervisor Cathy Hudgins, Del. Ken Plum (D-36), Cheryl Terio-Simon, U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), Reston Community Center's Beverly Cosham, Reston Historic Trust and Museum's Charles Veatch and Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova attend the opening ceremony of the 13th Founder's Day on Sunday, April 9.



PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO/THE CONNECTION

Joan Kelly's work "Favorite Walk" shows the sights and scenes of Reston. Kelly is Reston Art Gallery and Studios' featured artist for the month and is participating in Founder's Day celebrations.

Reston Celebrates Its Founder

This is the first Founder's Day since the passing of Robert E. Simon, Jr.

BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO
THE CONNECTION

They remembered his joyfulness and playfulness. But most of all, officials, speakers and friends remembered Robert E. Simon, Jr.'s enduring vision during the opening remarks of the 13th Founder's Day on Saturday, April 9.

Cold, rain and snow necessitated delays and cancellations of some of the events but people filled the Reston Community Center's Jo Ann Rose Gallery.

Following a presentation by the South Lakes High School Honor Guard and a performance of "God Bless America" by Beverly Cosham, Ellen Graves of the Reston Association talked about Simon's life legacy and "unbelievable goals for Reston," especially his vision of an inclusive community.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova said that the principles of inclusion espoused by Simon have spread to all of Fairfax County. "Bob's vision was for people to live in harmony together," she said. "And I think of Fairfax County as a place that celebrates its diversity," not that everything is always perfect, she said.

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) said that Simon was always thinking about tomorrow. He said that the story of Reston is the story of the "power of an idea, of principles."

Reston was revolutionary when it was founded in 1964 but Simon's vision of a mixed-use, plaza-centered and walkable community was almost clairvoyant, as many new construction and land development plans in Fairfax County call for such a design today.

Last December, the county broke ground on the Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Area, a mixed-use village with residential, retail and community space in Lorton. In Fairfax City, developers plan to build similar spaces on the Paul VI Catholic High School when it vacates the property in 2020.

"To put the commercial and the retail to-



Barbara Cowan, of Reston, gets on the wooden horse sculpture created by artist Marco Rando, who used to play on the original concrete horse sculpture by Gonzalo Fonseca that was at Lake Anne Plaza many years ago.

gether with the residential — that is state-of-the-art today," said Bulova. "It's just turned out to be the best way to develop and the best way to provide living choices for people."

"OPEN SPACE. TODAY, TOMORROW, FOREVER" was emblazoned on a T-shirt an audience member wore. Graves said that maintaining Reston's open space is a major concern of the community.

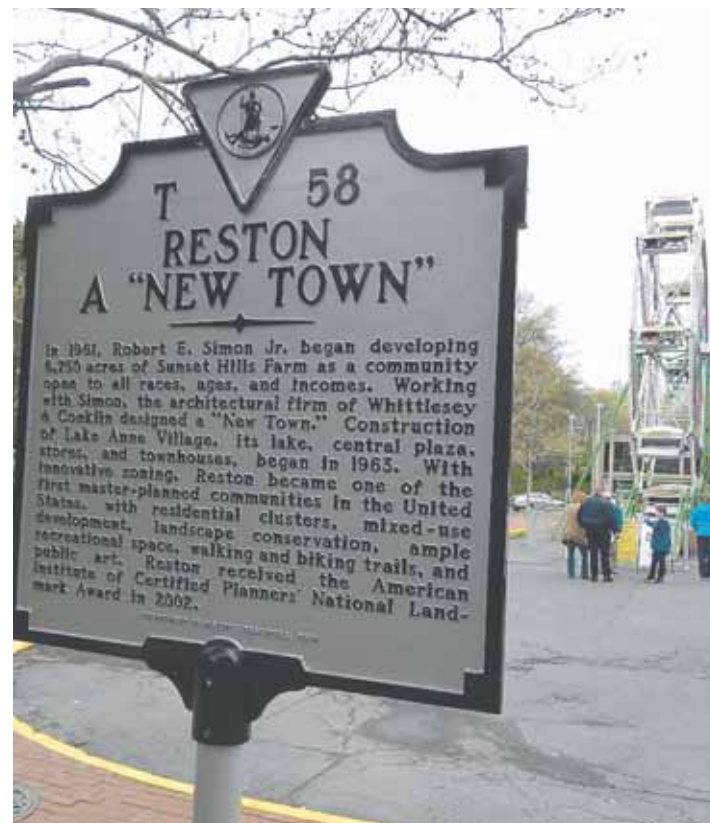
In March, the owners of the Reston National Golf Course notified Rescue Reston, which has been fighting efforts to develop the property into housing units, that it will not pursue its appeal to the Virginia Supreme Court after the Fairfax County Cir-

cuit Court ruled in November 2015 that any development must go through the usual zoning process.

Although Simon was a big promoter of density because he wanted each community to be connected, "Open space was Bob," said Graves.

"I know there's a lot of growth, but Bob wanted us all to be here together," said Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins. She spoke about finding a balance and preserving the open space and building niches in the community.

Hudgins also hopes to come up with other things that can be done since the Lake Anne revitalization project fell through in December.



A 50-foot Ferris wheel gives a view from the top during Founder's Day in Reston on Saturday, April 9.

"The Plaza's doing a great job right now. There are lots of exciting things," she said. But the big job now is to find some way to continue to help spur growth till "we're ready to bring the development side of that back," said Hudgins.

Charles Veatch, of the Reston Historic Trust and Museum, said that he is confident that as long as the fabric of community is maintained Reston will endure, "It takes the community sticking together and working together and taking care of things as we always have done."

"Bob is not physically with us," said Del. Ken Plum (D-36), "but his ideas, his leadership are still with us."



More than 700 people attended the Best of Reston event at the Hyatt Regency Reston on Thursday, April 7. More than \$483,000 was raised for Cornerstones programs.



"We are honored by the generosity of this community," said Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce CEO Mark Ingrao. More than \$483,000 was raised for Cornerstones programs.

Best of Reston, Best of Inspiration

Bob Simon's Reston honored at Silver Anniversary of Cornerstones partnership with the Reston Chamber of Commerce.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Olivia Wolfe, Hannah Becker and Kacey Hirschfeld ensured that their childhood friend Amy Boyle was honored with them Thursday night at the Hyatt Regency Reston ballroom.

Amy had terminal brain cancer when the three Restonians, now college students, formed Amy's Amigos.

As elementary students, Wolfe, Becker and Hirschfeld organized a Relay for Life team to support the American Cancer Society. With help from the Core Foundation, they later formed the Reston Youth Triathlon, now the largest youth triathlon in Virginia.

"You never know how one friendship can change who you will become," Wolfe told the sold-out ballroom with more than 700 in attendance.

When the three went on to respective colleges, they established a race leadership team that encourages South Lakes students to get involved with Amy's Amigos and organizing the triathlon for youth.

The three amigas were given the Vade Bolton-Ann Rodriguez Legacy award, named in memory of the two past Best of Reston honorees who played pivotal roles at Cornerstones and the Greater Reston Chamber.

"There was not one person in grade school who wasn't friends with Amy," said Wolfe. "Amy, we don't know how we can truly express how much you mean to us."

CORNERSTONES AND the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce presented the Silver Anniversary of the Best of Reston Community Services Awards.

The event raised \$483,258 for Cornerstones, which helps form "strategies of start-

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U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly: "When we honor these people tonight, let's remember the spirit of Bob"



Del. Ken Plum (D-36)



F. Kevin Reynolds: "The work of giving back is an important legacy."



W.D. Wiygul: Wiygul Automotive Clinic earned a Small Business Award for providing an average of \$1,000 in parts and labor to fix a



Bill Wiygul: Bill's grandfather started the family business in an empty warehouse in Alexandria.



Maryam Ovissi, Beloved Yoga, Small Business Leader



Leila Gordon, Individual Community Leader



Kerrie Wilson



Jim Elder, Individual Community Leader

ing individuals on a pathway to sustainable living-wage employment, and to identify and address other barriers to move from surviving to living prosperous, healthy lives."

"I am passionate about the work of Cornerstones," said CEO Kerrie Wilson.

"Even tonight, it's hard," she said. "One in four seniors and one in four children are hungry on a regular basis and that boggles the mind."

She referenced one parent who rode a skateboard to work to be able to support her family. That's when Wiygul Automotive Clinic got involved; the family business provides an average of \$1,000 in parts and labor to fix a car for any client that Cornerstones refers.

"This program started with a simple handshake," according to Cornerstones.

Bill Wiygul and his sons were honored Thursday night with the Small Business Leader award. "I see what is going on tonight, and I tell you, it's infectious," said Bill Wiygul.

He announced a partnership with two other local auto parts stores, who will chip in \$40,000 to help other families in need with car repair.

"I hate to see a single mother with kids get fired because she can't get to work," Bill Wiygul said.

MORE THAN 700 guests gathered for the sold-out event "to raise funds for Reston's premier nonprofit social services organization while showcasing community and corporate involvement."

"We need to think differently because there is too much to do," said Wilson, who acknowledged the work of Bob Simon, Priscilla Ames and Embry Rucker.

"The blueprints are in our hands. Bob left it for us. It's up to us what we do with them," she said.

"We stand on the shoulders of Bob Simon and those who lay the pathway before us," said Mark Ingrao, president and CEO of the

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Phil Tobey, a 2001 Best of Reston Honoree, and Langston Hughes Middle School student Joseph Dagbe were the Master of Ceremonies for the 2016 Best of Reston: Awards for Community Service. Joseph is a graduate of the Laurel Learning Center.



PHOTOS BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION

Best of Reston Honored

FROM PAGE 3

Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce. “We are honored by the generosity of this community. We are a chamber built on a social conscience.”

Bob Simon was videotaped talking about the annual event.

“It’s nice to have this ballroom filled with people who have a special feeling of community, and not only have that special feeling, but do something about it,” Simon said in the video.

Simon was honored during the evening as he was all week surrounding Founder’s Day.

“I’ve been to 24 of these including the first one,” said Del. Ken Plum. “It’s so great to feel the energy in this room. What a great community we have in Reston. We need to celebrate that, too.”

“When we honor these people tonight, let’s remember the spirit of Bob Simon that made this such a special place,” said U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly. “I can’t come to Reston and not think about him and miss him. He was always around.”

“Bob was a remarkable man. Prophets in our midst aren’t appreciated, but Reston certainly appreciated Bob,” he said.

“**NAMASTE**,” said Maryam Ovissi, who moved to Reston when she was in middle school. “Receive my gratitude that I send to each of you.”

The YMCA of Reston gave Ovissi her first opportunity to teach yoga. She is now the owner of Beloved Yoga with locations in Reston and Great Falls.

She now provides free classes to the Reston community, including clients at the Embury Rucker Community Shelter and other Cornerstones clients, Southgate Community Center and the Herndon Resource Center.

“I am grateful to Bob Simon for his vision and I am grateful to call Reston my home. I came back because this is a special place,” she said.

A successful evening: Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Mark Ingrao, Joseph Dagbe, Cornerstones CEO Kerrie Wilson, and Phil Tobey.



Ovissi and Beloved Yoga also received a Small Business Leader Award.

She also created an annual free event in Reston Town Center called “Love Your Body: Northern Virginia Yoga and Wellness Day,” that attracts thousands of people.

LEILA GORDON earned the Individual Community Leader Award.

“One of the most well-known, involved and effective people in Reston for the past three decades, her myriad contributions go well beyond the scope of her day job as executive director of the Reston Community Center, which provides the stage for ongoing community building,” according to Cornerstones documents.

“Reston is the most creative compassionate and connecting place,” Gordon said, after receiving a standing ovation by many in the audience. “I hope all of us remember why Reston is our home. Be a part of building community in Reston.”

Jim Elder also received an Individual Community Leader award for teaching children that playing fair is more important than winning. Since moving to Reston in 1980, Elder has been involved in Reston’s youth baseball, tennis and basketball programs.

“I never want to live anywhere else. I feel like the community was made for me,” he said.

Bechtel and Google earned Corporate Business Leaders awards.

Friends of Reston for Community Projects was honored with a Civic/Community Organization Award.

Friends raised more than \$1.5 million for the funding of Nature House, a year-round, environmental education building at the Walker Nature Center.

“When you connect to yourself, you connect to each other,” said Ovissi.

“May all the honorees I stand with tonight be an inspiration to all of us, especially all the young people. May we inspire you to live a life of service first and foremost,” she said.

From left — Project BEST operations officers Sam Desmarais and George Perry, both seniors at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria stand ready to greet the attendees of the organization’s fourth annual Science Innovation and Inspiration Youth Conference, held at Langston Hughes Middle School in Reston.



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Finding Fun in Science

Area youth turn out for Project BEST Science and Technology Fun.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

What could possibly have lured some 100 and more middle-school youngsters back to a school building on a Saturday, especially if that school isn’t theirs and they had to get up extra early just to get there? A sports tournament? Nope. A video gaming competition? Wrong again. Movies and pizza? Well...half right. There was pizza for lunch. Give up? Believe it or not, what packed them in on an unseasonably cold and dreary April 8 Saturday morning at Langston Hughes Middle School in Reston, was the fourth Annual Project BEST Science Innovation and In-

spiration Youth Conference (Sci2YC).

The brainchild of Parth Chopra, Project BEST came into being in 2011 when he united with four of his classmates – all now alumni of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHS) in Alexandria — to provide “unique and hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) opportunities to...students in their most formative years.” The founders may have moved on to highly respected universities to continue their studies, but they are all still board members of the non-profit and do keep an eye on how Project BEST is going and growing.

The outreach organization, comprising a contingent of TJHS students, is directed at the middle school audience and takes particular interest in reaching out to schools and students where STEM subjects may not be the core curriculum or where resources may be thinner than at some other schools. “We do whatever it takes so that kids don’t pay for our pro-

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Sreeya Rakasi and Shirley Benedict, both seventh-graders at Rachel Carson Middle School in Herndon, were thoroughly engaged during the “Lava Lamp” experiment, and impressively knowledgeable about chemistry principles.

COMMENTARY

Name Makes a Difference

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

Almost a year ago the Washington Business Journal carried a headline, "George Mason University sells Patriot Center naming rights." For nearly \$7 million over the next decade GMU agreed to change the name of the Patriot Center to the Eagle Bank Arena with the new name prominently displayed on the sides of the sports and events complex. If the deal is renewed for another decade, the deal would grow to \$13.7 million. Selling rights to sports venues is of course not new. Most arenas, stadiums and fields are named for the highest bidder in the competition to get the recognition that comes with such naming rights. For the college or municipality the deal brings revenue to support the sports program and the facility. Some states are selling naming rights of bridges and highways as a way to raise revenue.

Just last week George Mason University announced pledges totaling \$30 million to the George Mason University Foundation to support the School of Law. "The gifts, combined, are the largest in university history," the GMU press release noted. The press release went on to say, "in recognition of this historic gift, the Board of Visitors has approved the renaming of the school to The Antonin Scalia School of Law at George Mason University." That name was further revised when the unfortunate acronym of the original name was pointed out. Although the new name will not become official until the change is approved in July by the State Council of Higher Edu-



cation, the webpage has already been changed to the Antonin Scalia Law School, George Mason University.

I wrote to the President and Rector of the Board of Visitors of George Mason University expressing my strong opposition to the name change. While many have objected to the person for whom the School of Law is proposed to be named, my objection was that selling the naming rights to a school of the university was not appropriate. I recognize the realities of the sports world and the well-established practice of selling naming rights like that done with the Patriot Center. For a public university to sell naming rights to its academic schools is not good public policy. Name the scholarship programs after the contributors but leave the school name alone.

There is no greater honor for a school of law than to carry the name George Mason. Among the founders, George Mason insisted on and authored a declaration of rights in the Virginia constitution that became a bill of rights in the federal constitution. Imagine how different our history would be without Mason have overcome Jefferson's and Madison's opposition to including a bill of rights in the constitution. If Mason had his way, the slave trade would have stopped with the adoption of the new constitution.

Already there is understandable concern in the GMU community about the influence of private money on the direction of the University. The handling of the name change at the School of Law will only intensify that concern.

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OPINION

Award Winning Connection Newspapers

Still striving to be the Connection to your community.

Connection Newspapers won dozens of awards from the Virginia Press Association for work done in 2015. Award winners were announced on Saturday, April 9, at an awards banquet in Richmond.

While the papers won awards in many categories, the common underpinning was community journalism, accessibility of information, and reporting on critical issues like transparency in government.

Thematically, the papers won multiple awards for stories and sections that were informative and helped make communities, events and resources more accessible to our readers.

Examples included Ken Moore's reporting on Robert Simon's role in Reston, which included coverage of Simon's 101st birthday, Simon's ongoing influence, and his obituary. The series won first place.

Print newspaper obituaries play a vital role in local communities, reflected in Jeanne Theismann's first place award for three obituaries in the Alexandria Gazette Packet. Earl Lloyd was born into "the cradle of segregation" yet persevered to become the first African American to break the color barrier in the NBA. Dr. Robert Wineland, "Dr. Bob," was a WW II

veteran and survivor of the Battle of the Bulge. He was a beloved local doctor for more than 60 years. And Ferdinand Day was the first African American to be elected to chair a public school board in the state of Virginia.

We are lucky to have cartoonist Steve Artley to skewer and edify many issues, including his first place cartoon that suggests Alexandria could solve parking and housing problems by placing both on barges in the Potomac River.

Jean Card, Renee Ruggles and Laurence Foong have collaborated over several years on the Insider's Guide to the Parks, which won awards in Mount Vernon and Vienna/Oakton, capping several awards for informational graphics.

Our Newcomers and Community Guide to Arlington was described as "Informative, well written, with good use of graphics." Winners included Steven Mauren, Eden Brown, Vernon Miles, Shirley Ruhe, Laurence Foong.

Sarai Johnson, Hope Nelson, Shirley Ruhe, and Steve Hibbard won second place for entertainment pages in the Alexandria Gazette Packet, weekly coverage of arts, entertainment, food and things to do in Alexandria.

Reporting on elections, the environment, health and fitness, and organizations that are designed to help others also garnered awards.

Kenny Lourie won for his ongoing column writing about living with cancer. Lourie both lives and writes with humor and perspective. The judge said, "Though filled with heavy subject matter, the author hooks readers by using his first-person perspective, humor and emo-

tion to describe the events of his life. These columns grab your attention from the first paragraph."

Abigail Constantino's photo that shows the great aunt of Natasha McKenna at a protest of McKenna's death in custody, won second place for general news photo. Eudora Paul's sign displays McKenna's last words: "You promised you would not kill me."

Tim Peterson's coverage of McKenna's death won second place in In Depth/Investigative. Peterson garnered the most awards of any Connection staff member, winning seven.

Mary Kimm's editorials on lack of police transparency and local government accountability won second place for editorial writing.

Kemal Kurspahic's opinion pages in the Herndon Connection won third place.

Jeanne Theismann, whose profile includes that she "dreams of one day writing headlines for the New York Post," won second place for headline writing in the Alexandria Gazette Packet. Headlines: Some Like It Haute, - story about the 10-year anniversary of a boutique warehouse sale; Soul Providers, a story about volunteers recognized for service to seniors; Something to Wine About, - on the opening of a new wine cellar; Luck Be a Lady, - on the opening of a new bath apothecary called Ladyburg; To the Rescue, about - a nonprofit started by firefighters to collect toys for underprivileged children.

— MARY KIMM

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Connection Awards - Partial Listing

- ❖ Ken Moore, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection, First Place – Feature writing portfolio included a trip to the farmers market, remembrance of Latin teacher Christine Sleeper and celebration of the one-year birthday of the Silver Line.
- ❖ Marilyn Campbell, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection, Second Place – Health, science and environmental writing
- ❖ Kenneth Lourie, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection, Second Place – Column writing. Judge: "Though filled with heavy subject matter, the author hooks readers by using his first-person perspective, humor and emotion to describe the events of his life. These columns grab your attention from the first paragraph."
- ❖ Ken Moore, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection, Second Place – General news writing for election coverage. "Excellent coverage. ... Balanced and thorough. Effective at conveying why this is relevant for readers."
- ❖ Jon Roetman, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection, Second Place – Sports writing portfolio.
- ❖ Kemal Kurspahic, Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong, Mary Kimm, Oak Hill/ Herndon Connection, Third Place – Editorial pages
- ❖ Ken Moore, Reston Connection, First Place – Feature series or continuing story, on Reston founder Robert Simon. Judge's comment: "This was an in-depth series, very informative and interesting to read." Moore covered several key moments, including celebration of Founder's Day 2015 and Simon's 101st birthday; later, Moore wrote Simon's obituary and covered the celebration of Simon's life.
- ❖ Jean Card, Laurence Foong, Renee Ruggles, Vienna/Oakton Connection, Second Place – Informational graphics, Connection Insiders Guide to the Parks.
- ❖ Mary Kimm, Great Falls Connection, Second Place –



PHOTO BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO

Natasha McKenna's great aunt Eudora Paul carries a sign with McKenna's words the day she was tasered by officers from the Fairfax County Sheriff's Department. Photo by Abigail Constantino won second place for General News Photo.

Editorial writing for multiple editorials on police transparency. Judge: "Brings important pressure to bear on people in power."

- ❖ Ken Moore, Great Falls Connection, Second Place – Health, science and environmental writing; stories covering issues of deer, cleanup of groundwater contamination from gas station and tree preservation. Judge: "Excellent and informative."
- ❖ Laurence Foong, Great Falls Connection, Third Place – Informational graphics, Map of Property

Assessments. Judge: "A very interesting concept."

❖ Ken Moore, McLean Connection, Third Place – Feature writing portfolio. Judge: "Great reads on interesting topics. Who knew there was such a thing as pinball championship, especially out of someone's basement? Pull out information added neat and tidy facts and/or information."

❖ Abigail Constantino, Fairfax Connection, Second Place – General news photo, Natasha McKenna's great aunt holds a sign: "You promised you would not kill me." Judge: "Good capture of emotionally charged event."

❖ Tim Peterson, Springfield Connection, Second Place – Personal service writing, coverage of three worthy causes. Judge: "This submission quickly makes the reader care about the causes championed in the stories. ... There was good detail presented in such a way as to make the reader want to donate to each of these causes by the end of the story — I was ready to get my checkbook out after reading each one."

❖ Tim Peterson, Springfield Connection, Third Place – Government writing, coverage on aftermath of police shooting of John Geer, Virginia General Assembly. Judge: "A very comprehensive look at the Geer case was well-thought out and I was very impressed with the state legislature package."

- ❖ Tim Peterson, Springfield Connection, Third Place – Public safety writing, stories on sex trafficking, police and fire department training and National Night Out. Judge: "Each of the stories in this submission is comprehensive in its handling of the topic, as well as engaging for the reader. The information offered is very good, and the presentation attractive. There was adequate space given to each story, which was then complemented by excellent artwork."

Reston
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LETTERS

Required Reading

To the Editor:

Tom Grubisich's account of the origins of Reston ("How You get from Carnegie Hall to Reston," Connection, March 30-April 5, 2016) was a wonderfully written, lively piece of work that should be required reading for anyone hoping to enter journalism. It was a delight from beginning to end.

Thank you for giving it the amount of space you did in your March 30 edition. Such richness is rarely indulged in local news reporting. We plan to keep this bit of history to enjoy again.

Lynn and Robert Mobley
Great Falls

RESTON CRIME REPORTS

Notable incidents from the Fairfax County Police blotter from April 6-10.

Assault And Battery - Parcher Avenue/Springer Drive, April 8, between 3 and 3:30 p.m. A 13-year-old girl was walking home from school and was approached by a man. She reported he approached her in a red vehicle and tried engaging her in conversation. At one point, he exited the vehicle and grabbed a hold of her arm, but she broke free and fled. The victim did not require medical attention. The suspect was described as Hispanic, in his 30s, with dark-colored hair and was wearing a dark-colored shirt. Detectives are not excluding the possibilities of a prior contact between the victim and suspect.

Burglary - 1500 block of Regatta Lane, between 8:30 p.m. on April 7 and 9:15 a.m. on April 8. A woman reported

someone entered her open garage and stole a purse from her vehicle.

Larcenies

11000 block of Granby Court, property stolen from vehicles

2000 block of Beacon Heights Drive, purse stolen from vehicle

2000 block of Approach Lane, bag stolen from vehicle

1800 block of Presidents Street, backpack stolen from business

11400 block of North Shore Drive, property from residence

12900 block of Highland Crossing Drive, liquor from business

11500 block of Olde Tiverton Circle, backpack and electronic device from vehicle

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4/27/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools Pullout
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4/27/2016.....Spring Outlook 2016

MAY

5/4/2016.....McLean Day Pullout
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Historic Garden Week in Virginia

Elegant homes and gardens in Old Town, Arlington and Falls Church will be open to the public.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Some of the most spectacular gardens will be in bloom and on display during the 83rd annual Historic Garden Week in Virginia. The statewide event will include 30 different tours of more than 200 homes and gardens. Old Town Alexandria and Arlington, Falls Church and Fairfax County are participating in the Northern Virginia tours.

"These houses are historic and they all reflect the homeowners' personalities and interests," said Catherine Thompson of the Hunting Creek Garden Club in Alexandria. "Some are owned by young families. Some have small gardens and some have large gardens."

The Hunting Creek Garden Club teamed up with The Garden Club

of Alexandria to organize the Old Town tour, a walking tour which includes five row houses with courtyard gardens. In addition to the private homes, which were all built during the 1700s and 1800s and still retain many original architectural features, tour goers will have access to the Carlyle House Historic Park, Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden, George Mason's Gunston Hall and George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens.

From large oak trees planted shortly after the Civil War and gardens bursting with colorful blooms from hydrangeas, camellias, rhododendron, crepe myrtles and wisteria to homes with views of the Potomac River and clematis flowing over a pergola, visitors will be treated to vivid spring displays as five Old Town residents open both their homes and gardens.



PHOTO BY DONNA MOULTON

This Greek Revival property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a Virginia Historic Landmark. It is considered the fourth oldest house in Falls Church.

"People don't expect to have these amazing gardens behind these homes that can appear tiny from outside," said Amy Bertles of the Hunting Creek Garden Club.

Historic Garden Week

83RD ANNUAL HOUSE AND GARDEN TOUR

Falls Church-Arlington

Tuesday, April 26, 2016
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Hosted by the Garden Club of Fairfax
<http://gardencluboffairfax.blogspot.com/>

"One home has two gardens with amazing sculptures that were done by the home owner who is an artist. She decorated her garden with a few of her sculptures."

In Arlington and Falls Church, Gothic Revival, Greek Revival, Arts and Crafts and Victorian architecture await visitors who take the tour hosted by the Garden club of Fairfax. The gardens include four 100-year old holly trees, an herb garden and a garden of Victorian-era plants. Two of the homes are on the National Register of Historic Places and are Virginia Historic Landmarks. The tour also includes visits to Mason Neck State Park, Gulf Branch Nature Center and The Falls Church.

Properties are chosen for the tour by local garden clubs. "They're looking for properties that they know the public will enjoy," said Karen Miller Ellsworth of the Garden Club of Virginia and director of Historic Garden Week. "They're looking for beautiful in-

teriors, an interesting history and a really nice garden."

In addition to its aesthetic appeal, Historic Garden Week, which 3,300 Garden Club of Virginia members spend more than a year planning, has a significant economic impact. "[Visitors] travel from 30 states and foreign countries and 25 percent ... spend the night and average \$1,207 on their [Historic Garden Week] trip," said Miller Ellsworth. "As a group, they spend \$2 million in Virginia each spring. The cumulative economic impact over the last 45 years is an impressive \$425 million."

Historic Garden Week began in 1927 when the Garden Club of Virginia organized a flower show and raised \$7,000 to save trees planted by Thomas Jefferson at Monticello. Money raised from the Historic Garden Week tours fund the restoration and preservation of nearly 50 of the Commonwealth's significant historic public gardens as well as a new initiative with Virginia's state parks.

Arlington-Falls Church tickets can be purchased online by credit card until April 24 by visiting <http://gardencluboffairfax.blogspot.com/> or www.vagardenweek.org/main/tickets. www.vagardenweek.org/

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Modular Homes Come of Age Cost-controls and customizable interiors spur interest.

BY JOHN BYRD

What's behind the growing popularity of modular homes? Recent research shows that a house comprised of architecturally-specific, pre-constructed modules can be assembled on a homeowner's lot for 10-15 percent less than of the cost of a comparably-sized "stick-built" house. A house that would normally cost \$500,000, therefore, can be designed and constructed in the \$425,000 range.

Moreover, a modular home — one that's been designed as appreciably finished components produced under factory conditions — is a solid piece of work. To assure units can be shipped and installed safely, framing material is substantially reinforced. Also, since the process generates less waste — it can be an eco-friendly choice.

Modular homeowners Marcelo Dobrauchi and Rita Tersio, husband and wife, are eager to show people what's possible and to share their journey.

What you'll see from the curb is a lovely, seemingly-traditional Colonial-style home that's actually composed of pre-constructed modular units.

The components were assembled in Pennsylvania, loaded on six flatbed trucks and delivered to their new half-acre destination in less than a day. Modules were then assembled on the site in two days.

The follow-up consisted mainly of interior finish work tasks like installing the Brailizan etuve flooring or the glass facing cabinets in the master bathroom, kitchen and butler's pantry.

Tersio and Dobrauchi moved in with their two children this past November and soon began entertaining friends.

For the couple, who operate Terranova Construction K&B, the move has inaugurated a new phase in their professional development. As a rule, they had concentrated on remodeling solutions in conventionally constructed "stick-built" homes. But in 2003 on a business trip in Pennsylvania they witnessed a pre-constructed housing component being whisked through the air on a crane and decided to investigate.

"In an instant we saw how much more solidly constructed a modular home is than a house built by traditional methods," Tersio said. "We decided to familiarize ourselves with the current practices. Basically, we wanted to know how effectively a home coming out of this process could be customized."

One decision led to another and last year the couple purchased the Vienna lot, which soon became the site of the 4,200-square-foot, two-level structure they had shepherded from rough sketches to the finely detailed residence they now occupy.

"We wanted to comparison-shop two building methods," Tersio said. "As remodelers, we often see clients agonizing over price differences in upgrade choices. So we asked ourselves: suppose the home-



The island provides a food prep sink and shelves for cookbooks. In total, the kitchen is 320 square feet. There's a butler's pantry through the door that segues to a formal dining room.



Marcelo Dobrauchi notes that, while a modular home costs 15 percent less than a "stick-built" alternative, its customization and finishwork potentials are comparable.

owner has already saved a substantial upgrade voucher since the house itself costs less to construct? Since our specialty is interior design, we thought this alternative process was worth exploring."

Certainly this concern for presentation is evident in their new home where the couple opted for formal finishwork detailing and personal-use spaces throughout.

There is a 140-square-foot master bathroom with custom-cabinetry and fine mosaic tiling; a 200-square-foot formal dining room that incorporates wainscoting and embossed paneling; a spacious in-law suite; and a family room designed for puzzles and board games. There is a second floor art

studio and above all, a suite of rear rooms that revolves around a gourmet kitchen.

"We thought a lot about break-through kitchen design trends," Tersio said. "There's been a movement toward transitional-style: open, well-integrated spaces with effective work triangles that use formal design elements to define key activity zones."

To put their new kitchen to the test, the couple sponsored a cooking class last January led by Luca Tinti, a Tuscan chef who is also engaged to Tersio's sister.

"We wanted to welcome Luca to the family," Tersio said. "But were also responding to people who wanted to see just how customized a kitchen designed from a modu-

Details

The Tersio-Dobrauchi home at 508 Plum St. SW in Vienna, will be open to the public on June 11. Call 703-761-0604 or visit www.terranoackb.com.

lar construction process can be."

At the end of the day, Luca's satisfaction that his requirements had been met spoke volumes.

"This space was obviously designed for serious cooking," Tinti said. "For instance, there are sources of water in all the right places ... pot-filler behind the gas range, the sink on the food prep island and the bow-shaped farm sink."

"There's a professional caliber gas range. Several ovens. Pull-out spice racks. It's not just an exceptionally well-organized plan; it also provides work stations for a whole range of steps necessary for sophisticated cooking." The 4-foot-by-12-foot food prep island, for instance, is positioned to support work triangles formed by perpendicular counter surfaces on either side of an archway which segues to the butler's pantry and formal dining room beyond. The island also doubles as a three-stool dining counter.

It's a plan that allows one dish to marinate — while another is being sauteed on the gas range, and a third is in the warming oven.

As a chef, Luca particularly appreciated finding all the necessary cooking implements at his fingertips.

"I could swivel in one direction and find cooking utensils, specially-sized pots and pans, and mixing bowls in custom-designed drawers" he said. "In the pantry, there's a special cubby for the pasta-maker. There's even a case for cookbooks built into the island."

None of this praise is a surprise to Dobrauchi, who is a seasoned kitchen designer. Still, the ease with which he could execute the kitchen's finishwork was a pleasant departure from the realities of the stick-built process.

"My experience in designing this house may be somewhat like that of a playwright who is so close to every detail of his work that he's completely forgotten about the audience until opening night. Suddenly people are excited about effects they are seeing for the first time, and all I can say is 'Yes, that's the reaction I intended to inspire.'" That said, Marcelo is equally enthused about the home's master bathroom, formal dining room and the old-world elegance of the spacious family room.

"The modular home design process can remove a lot of drudgery because you have the option to work with pre-existing templates," Dobrauchi said. "On the other hand, there's nothing you can't adapt to your requirements, and this allows the homeowner to concentrate on interior design, which is the arena where they really get to express themselves."

John Byrd (byrdmatx@gmail.com or www.HomeFrontsNews.com) has been writing about home improvement for 30 years.

What a view by which to enjoy your brew! - These countertops, looking out over Lake Anne, are just one of the seating options at Lake Anne Brew House. You can still belly-up to the bar, sit outside on the patio, or hang in the indoor lounge while you enjoy Jason Romano's hand-crafted brew offerings.



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Brewin' Up Big Fun at Lake Anne

Lake Anne Brew House opens on Saturday, April 16, at Lake Anne Plaza.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

"Live. Work. Play." Locals know that's the Reston tag line. "Well, for a long time we've been doing two of those things; the 'Live' and the 'Play' parts," said Melissa Romano, co-owner of the soon-to-open Lake Anne Brew House, "but we're going for the trifecta!"

Melissa and husband Jason have been Lake Anne residents for some twelve years. Now they are ready to realize a dream and become Lake Anne business owners, as well, when they open the doors on their nanobrewery on the Plaza. The couple make a perfect team for their venture. Jason, a long-time home brewer, is also a Certified Beer Judge. "That means he is extra critical of his own work," laughs Melissa. "A plus for our customers." Melissa called upon her expertise as an architect and designer to showcase and serve their small-batch, hand-crafted beers in a comfortable, mid-century modern taproom with just the right touch of whimsy, and in keeping with the architectural ambience of their surroundings.

Even though they had their finances all in order before taking possession of the site at 11424 Washington Plaza, W last April, the Romanos were encouraged to put their efforts up as a Kickstarter campaign and are glad they did. "We raised twice what our stated goal was," said Melissa, "and we had about 200 people sign up, donate and purchase personalized 'Founders Club Mugs,' and even name the twelve tap heads. The response was amazing."

The Lake Anne Brew House will be open Thursdays - Sundays. Although they won't get into the food business - "That's just not in our wheelhouse," said Melissa - patrons can still enjoy some great eats with their brews, thanks to a creative partnership between the Romanos and neighboring business Kalypso's Sports Tavern. Brew House patrons can



Almost ready! Melissa and Jason Romano are about to make their dream come true when they open the doors to their Lake Anne Brew House on Saturday, April 16, at Lake Anne Plaza. At Reston's first nanobrewery, small-batch brews will be crafted by Certified Beer Judge Jason, and served in the sleek, mid-century modern taproom designed by Melissa.

order from menus on site, and their orders will be delivered from Kalypso's just across the Plaza. "It's a really great collaboration, good for both businesses and for our patrons," declared Melissa.

Jason can't wait for folks to sample some of the first flagship beers he will have on tap. One of his personal favorites? "Reston Red. It's an Irish-style, with a bit of 'hopped-up' America Pale Ale flavor." Already brewed and also available will be "Live-Work-Play IPA," "Lake Anne Skinny Dip Kolsch," and "Simon's Stout," a brew honoring Reston's beloved late founder, Robert Simon. "I am anxious to get some feedback from the community at large and make whatever tweaks needed to really tailor the brews to our community," admitted Jason.

The grand opening will take place on Saturday, April 16, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony set for noon. See what awaits you at www.lakeannebrewhouse.com.

On Bread and Matzah

BY RABBI LEIBEL
FAJNLAND
DIRECTOR CHABAD
OF RESTON-HERNDON

The eight day festival of Passover is celebrated in the early spring, from the 15th through the 22nd of the Hebrew month of Nissan. This year, 2016, those dates correspond to the eve of April 22 through April 30.

The holiday commemorates the emancipation of the Jewish people from slavery in Ancient Egypt through many miraculous events such as the Ten Plagues and the Splitting of the Red Sea.

With the last of the ten plagues, Death of the Firstborn, Pharaoh's resistance was broken, and he virtually chased his former slaves out of the land. The Israelites left in such a hurry, in fact, that the bread they baked as provisions for the way did not have time to rise.

Therefore, among other Passover observances, it is the Jewish tradition not to eat or own any leavened breads, cake, pasta, etc. for the duration of the holiday, and to eat matzah flat unleavened bread.

The Passover version of bread, matzah, is made by mixing flour with water and baking it in an oven. However, no time is allowed for the dough to ferment and rise, and the result is a flat, hard, cracker like bread.

Jewish tradition teaches that leavened bread, with its characteristic height, represent ego and self aggrandizement, while matzah represents humility. It is specifically matzah, the flat bread, which Jewish liturgy refers to as "the bread of faith". This is because the egotistical person who is swelled by pride, does not leave room for a higher truth to enter his or her life. The entire motivation behind any behaviors or thoughts is self fulfilling and self serving. On the other hand, the humble person is receptive to truth, and

is willing to learn from those around him.

Well, one might ask, if matzah represents such a virtuous state of being, why is it not eaten all year long in place of leavened bread? This is because both the virtues symbolized by leavened bread, and the virtues symbolized by unleavened bread, are necessary for a life of productivity and meaning.

It is of ultimate importance that a person recognize the significance of their actions and have confidence in their ability to affect change in the people and world around them. At the same time, one should not get so carried away with his self worth that he leaves no room for people and principles outside of his immediate comfort zone.

This is the paradoxical nature of our relationship with bread. On the one hand, leavened bread sustains us practically all year long. Its presence is vital and necessary. On the other hand, for eight days each year it is banned by Jewish law. Both of these practices carry practical applications to our personal lives as growing and developing human beings.

OTHER PASSOVER OBSERVANCES include conducting a Seder. The Seder is a fifteen step, family oriented, tradition and ritual packed feast.

The focal points of the Seder are:

- Eating matzah.
- Eating bitter herbs to commemorate the bitter slavery endured by the Israelites.
- Drinking four cups of wine or grape juice a royal drink, to celebrate the newfound freedom.
- The recitation of the Haggadah, a liturgy that describes in detail the story of the Exodus from Egypt. The Haggadah is the fulfillment of the biblical obligation to recount to our children the story of the Exodus on the night of Passover.

Herndon - Reston Community Seder

This year, join friends and family at the Chabad Community Passover Seder.

Relive the exodus, discover the eternal meaning of the Haggadah, and enjoy a community Seder complete with hand-baked Matzah, wine, and a wonderful dinner spiced with songs & insights.

First Seder Night Friday, April 22, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

In the Herndon Kmart Center, 396 Elden St., Herndon

For more information or to reserve (a must) call 703-476-1829 email rabbichabadrh.org or visit www.chabadrh.org



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



South Lakes senior Antonio Martinez (8) and Madison senior Gunnar Almquist battle for the ball during Monday's match in Vienna.

Conor Gill and the South Lakes boys' soccer team earned their first win of the season on Monday with a 1-0 victory over Madison.

South Lakes Boys' Soccer Earns First Victory

Seahawks beat defending state runner-up Madison.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

South Lakes boys' soccer coach Marty Pfister joked that a recent minor achievement by the varsity team was cause for joy following a rough start to the 2016 season.

On Monday night, the Seahawks gave their coach a more significant reason to be pleased.

Sophomore forward Bardia Kimiavi scored in the 10th minute and South Lakes held on for its first win of the season, beating defending state runner-up Madison 1-0 in Vienna.

The Seahawks entered the match with an 0-4-1 record.

"We've been working hard all year," Pfister said. "It seemed like every mistake we made was scored on."

South Lakes standout goalkeeper TJ Bush, who will play for JMU, suffered an injury in the season opener and his absence has

affected the team, Pfister said. Bush was a first-team all-conference selection last season and helped the Seahawks hold opponents to just five goals during the regular season.

"The defense all of the sudden, which was kind of young, doesn't have a big stud keeper back there," Pfister said. "Mistakes go the wrong way and you lose confidence [and] one or two wins that we should have had turn to losses."

Can Monday's victory boost the team's confidence?

here under the lights and win a game like 1-0, so hopefully we can build off of that."

Junior goalkeeper Dean Huber helped South Lakes defense shut out Madison on Monday.

Junior forward Conor Gill is the Seahawks' leading goal scorer this season.

Madison entered the match having won three straight after an 0-3 start, but couldn't put one in the net.

"[T]hey got one in and they put seven guys behind the ball for the rest of the game," Madison head coach Matt Griep

just lost it and they would clear it and we would [come back] again and it was just that over and over and over again."

The Warhawks have been without a pair of starters due to injury: senior center back John Dyson (sprained MCL) and senior outside left fullback Nick Bomgardner (torn meniscus). Griep said Dyson could return in a week-and-a-half, but Bomgardner might not return.

Dyson, whose long throw is a big part of Madison's offense, should make a significant impact when he returns, Griep said.

"It's been difficult trying to figure out where we're going to generate our goals from, especially with John Dyson out," Griep said. "We don't attack the sideline and end line like we would with him because we can't take advantage of the throw-in. ... John Dyson will be a great help to add some vocal leadership out on the field. I think that's something that we truly do lack at this point and time. Nobody has stepped up to fill that leadership role."

Senior forward Gunnar Almquist and junior midfielder Blake Machonis each have four goals for the Warhawks.

South Lakes (1-4-1) will host Edison at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, April 14. Madison (3-4) will travel to take on Yorktown at 7:15 p.m. on Monday, April 18.

"We just needed a win. I was glad when the varsity beat the JV the other day just because we needed something positive. ... It was good to come out here under the lights and win a game like 1-0, so hopefully we can build off of that."

— South Lakes boys' soccer coach Marty Pfister

"We just needed a win," Pfister said. "I was glad when the varsity beat the JV the other day just because we needed something positive. ... It was good to come out

said. "I thought we did well in winning possession of the ball and maintaining possession. We were able to build attacks up until we got to about the final third and then we

Langley Girls' Lax Starts 7-0

The Langley girls' lacrosse team is off to its best start since 2009, winning its first seven games.

Langley improved to 7-0 with a 20-4 victory at Washington-Lee on April 7.

Langley is led by first-year head coach and former Langley and University of Oregon lacrosse standout Maggie Kovacs. Coach Kovacs is supported by another Langley alum, coach Annie Swanson, and local coach Bucky Morris.

Langley has a strong group of senior co-captains: Halle Duenkel, Morgan Kuligowski, Mackenzie Regen and Samantha Suib.

The Saxons have strong chemistry coming into this year. Goalie Megan O'Hara looks strong in the net with defensive support from Lilly Byrne, Ali Leto, Charlotte Smith and Lauren Bell. Anna Hofgard, Marina Smith, Emma Crooks, Elise Kim, Claire O'Connor and Sareena Dhillon have been



The Langley girls' lacrosse team is off to a 7-0 start.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

big contributors on the offensive side of the ball. Many of the girls have played together since grade school.

A different Saxon led the team in scoring

in each of the first six games.

"We are starting to play like a team," Kovacs said, "and that's the only way we are going to achieve our high goals."

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

ARTrageous Exhibit. Through May 1. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, Thursday-Friday. Unitarian United Church, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston. Works by Canadian artist Celeste Friesen. artworksbyceleste.com. 703-956-9155.

Founder's Day Exhibit. Through April 25. JoAnne Rose Gallery, Reston Community Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. In honor of League of Reston Artists founder Patricia MacIntyre. Free. leagueofrestonartists.org.

Joyful Color in Reston. April 7-May 5. Reston Art Gallery and Studio, 11400 Washington Plaza W, Reston. Joan Kelly's colorful acrylic paintings of Reston scenes will be on exhibit in unison with Founder's Week, a celebration of the life of Reston founder, Robert E. Simon, Jr. RestonArtGallery.com.

"Namaste Nepal." Through April 15. Executive Center 1, 1851, Alexander Bell Drive, Reston. Dawn Murphy's photographic journey demonstrating the experiences of Nepalis during the earthquake of 2015. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

All-comers' Group Fun Run at Potomac River Running. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. For beginners or competitive runners, come out for a fun, low-key run that is safe and social. For more information, call 703-689-0999 or visit <https://potomacriverrunning.com>.

Patrick Dougherty Public Art Installation. Through 2017. Reston Town Square Park, 11900 Market Street, Reston. See and explore "A Bird in the Hand," a monumental public art sculpture made from tree saplings. The event is presented by GRACE in collaboration with IPAR. For more information, call 703-471-9242 or visit <http://restontowncenter.com/index.php>.

FRIDAY/APRIL 15

Voce Chamber Singers. 8 p.m. St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 11900 Lawyers Road, Reston. American choral classics featuring the world premiere of a new Voce commission by DC-area composer, Stephen Caracciolo. \$25. voce.org/tickets. 703-277-7772.

SATURDAY/APRIL 16

Lake Anne Brew House Opening. 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Lake Ann Village Center 11404 Washington Plaza West, Reston. Ribbon-cutting ceremony at noon. lakeannebrewhouse.com.

Bluegrass Concert Series. 7:30 p.m. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. The Country Gentlemen Tribute Band will perform. \$15. Under 12 free. <http://hclbluegrass.wordpress.com>.

WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 20-24

Reston Friends Big Spring Book Sale. Call for times. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Browse thousands upon thousands of great books in great condition. 703-689-2700.

THURSDAY/APRIL 21

Healthy at 100! 10 a.m.-noon. Dranesville Church of the Brethren, 11500 Leesburg Pike, Herndon. Giant's (McLean) in-store nutritionist, Amanda Barnes, RDN,



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Country Gentlemen Tribute Band will perform on Saturday, April 16 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Herndon. The event is part of the Weekend Bluegrass Concert Series.

will share tips and tricks to be healthier. Free. 703-430-7872.

SATURDAY/APRIL 23

B.B. King Tribute Concert. 7:30-10 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Featuring "Slam" Allen. \$20. Free to children under 12. artspaceherndon.com. 703-956-9560.

FISH Fling Gala and Fundraiser. 6-11 p.m. Hyatt Dulles Hotel, 2300 Dulles Corner Blvd., Herndon. Festive music, dancing, games and prizes, auctions, dinner, dessert and wine. For more information, contact fling@HerndonRestonFISH.org.

The Celebration of Women Who Impact Our Community. 10 a.m.-noon. Crowne Plaza Hotel, 2200 Centreville Road, Herndon. Hosted by Women Impact Now. Celebrating and honoring 4 women who are making a difference in the community. \$30. 571-244-6808. womenimpactnow.com.

Pet Photography Classes. 3-6 p.m. 433-B Carlisle Drive, Herndon. Love taking pictures of your pets but wish they would turn out better? Learn tips and tricks from professional pet photographer Terry Wingfield of Wingfield Photography. Bring your dog and your camera to this exciting interactive class. \$45/\$65. Register at novadogmagazine.com/events.

SUNDAY/APRIL 24

Pets and Claws Pet Resource

Expo. Noon-2 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Information on pet care, training, nutrition, emergency situations, day care, and more will be available from local businesses. This Expo will take place inside RCC Hunters Woods. Pets, other than service animals, are not allowed inside the building. Free. restoncommunitycenter.com.

Mutts Gone Nuts. 11 a.m. 3 p.m. CenterStage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Disorderly duo Scott and Joan Houghton and their hilarious pack of pooches have created a comedy dog thrill show like no other. \$5/\$10. restoncommunitycenter.com.

THURSDAY/APRIL 28

Dollars and Sense. 7 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. A monthly book discussion group that focuses on business leaders and markets. April's title is "A Random Walk Down Wall Street" by Burton Malkiel. 703-689-2700.

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

Classic Cinema Series:

"Rashomon." 2 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Akira Kurosawa's masterful period drama. Japanese with English subtitle. Adults. 703-689-2700.

2016 Reston Home and Garden Expo. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Reston Association Headquarters, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. How-to workshops and much more will be offered throughout the day. Free. 703-435-6530.

Bicycle Safety Rodeo. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Reston YMCA, 12196 Sunset Hills Road, Reston. Children will complete 8 safety stations and earn their bicyclist's license. Children must bring their own bicycles and helmets. The Reston Bike Club will also be doing bicycle & helmet inspections. Contact Ashleigh@reston.org or 703-435-6577 for details.

SUNDAY/MAY 1

Spring Backyard Burn Trail Running Series. Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Five or 10-mile trail running race on some of the best trail networks in Northern Virginia. Race 4 in a series of four. <http://www.ex2adventures.com/byb-spring.php>

SUNDAY/MAY 1

March for Babies. 10 a.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Sign up to walk and fundraise at marchforbabies.org or call 1-800-525-9255. Follow on on www.facebook.com/marchofdimesmdnca and www.twitter.com/MODMDNCA.

SATURDAY/MAY 7

At the Hop: Those Fabulous Fifties! 4:30, 7:30 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Bop to the beat of the fabulous 1950s as The Reston Chorale steps back in time to the days of sock hops, soda fountains and rock and roll. Poodle skirts and greased-back hair optional. \$20-\$25. www.restonchorale.org.

Pet Fiesta. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Pavilion of Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Super pet adoption, entertainment, exhibitors, pet rescue and nonprofit groups. Presented by GoodDogz.org. All on-leash pets welcome. Free admission, rain or shine. petfiesta.org.



PHOTO BY TRACI J. BROOKS PHOTOGRAPHY/COURTESY OF RESTON COMMUNITY PLAYERS

Reston Community Players "Our Town" rehearsal photo: From left — Alex Parish (as Wally Webb), Lori Brooks (as Emily Webb), Roberta Chaves (as Mrs. Webb), Dennis McCafferty (as Mr. Webb)

Reston Community Players Salute Iconic Beauty

"Our Town" at CenterStage.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

A masterpiece of American theater, "Our Town" is the enduring tale of small town life. Written by Thornton Wilder, the play won the 1938 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and has been an iconic mainstay of the stage. The Reston Community Players (RCP) production of "Our Town" will soon grace Reston's CenterStage.

"Our Town" is about something way down deep that's eternal about every human being" as one of the characters remarks. The dialogue and action speak to the preciousness of ordinary moments of daily life; innocence, wonder, love, marriage, squabbles, and then eternal life under the company of the stars.

Director Alana Sharp has cast an 18-member ensemble, many new to Reston audiences. For Sharp the play is "about lives of people we all can relate to. The play has a naturalness to it that resonates still, and perhaps even more so in these current stressful moments in world events."

Like so many, Sharp was introduced to "Our Town" as a high school student. She has never forgotten its impact. For the RCP production, Sharp developed a unique aspect for the audience to partake. While the play's narrator, called the Stage Manager, is usually a solo male character, Sharp reworked the

Where and When

Reston Community Players presents "Our Town" at Reston CenterStage, Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Performances: April 22-May 7, 2016. Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday, May 1 at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$18-\$21. Call CenterStage box office at 703-476-4500 or visit www.restonplayers.org.

role into a Mr. and Mrs. Stage Manager. This will provide for "strong storytelling in different voices; a man's voice and a woman's voice. The two will work in tandem observing and sharing the play with the audience."

Janet Kohler Dueweke plays Mrs. Stage Manager. Dueweke considers "Our Town" simply "a timeless touchstone." Working with a Mr. and Mrs. Stage Manager is "no gimmick at all. The two share new perspectives as they help the audience recognize the beauty and miracles of life, even life's difficulties."

The character of Dr. Gibbs is played by veteran actor Bob Chaves. His Dr. Gibbs "is a solid citizen, who will help anyone in need." The play is "sweet with its universal message and appeal about relationships and living our lives fully each day," said Chaves.

Lori Brooks plays the role of Emily Webb, a young woman growing up before the audience's eyes. Brooks described "Our Town" as "remarkable, a play that will speak to each of audience member differently based upon their own lives." Webb has the privilege to deliver one of "Our Town's" famous lines of dialogue; "Does anyone ever realize life while they live it...every, every minute?"

Best in STEM

FROM PAGE 4

grams,” said George Perry, who along with his co-operations officer Sam Desmarais are the current chiefs of the Leadership Team of Project BEST. The two are seniors at TJHSST, so they will soon be passing on the leadership baton. “It’s probably been my largest time commitment outside of my schoolwork,” admitted Desmarais, “but it’s definitely been worth it.”

Revolving around Project BEST’s three founding principles of Knowledge, Discovery and Experience, the Sci2YC is a daylong adventure in experimentation and team building, with some guest speakers, time to make new friendships and a chance to interact with those “cool, slightly older kid-teachers” who share the same interests but aren’t out of age-reach yet. In between conducting experiments in chemistry and physics, quite a few of the attendees asked their team leaders a lot of questions about getting in to TJHSST and what attending a STEM-centered school was like.

After splitting into teams and getting started with a Paper Airplane Build and Fly competition – which was won by Team Big Pumpkin – the teams went off for multiple rounds of engaging experiments. The groups reconvened to listen to guest speakers and lunch, but then it was back to more hands-on activities and educational interaction. In the “Lava Lamp” lab, the younger students wowed their older counterparts with their impressive knowledge of chemistry concepts and principles.



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

From left — Garva Khandelwal, a sixth grader at Keene Mill ES in Springfield and Bryan Shirkey, an eighth grader at South County in Lorton, form a bond over their chemistry experiment.

The annual Sci2YC is the “main event” on Project BEST’s calendar, but they do other outreach and connecting with their growing network of chapters, all teacher-sponsored but high school student-led. The group believes that access to STEM resources and opportunities is for everyone, “regardless of background and socioeconomic status.” Their latest means of spreading the word as far as possible is to offer free “STEM Kits” sent to respective schools as “care packages” filled with hands-on experiments in chemistry, physics, biology and electricity. Those interested in a Kit can make their request at projectbest.usa@gmail.com. More information on Project BEST, including starting a chapter, volunteering, or donating to help them continue their efforts is available at www.theprojectbest.org.

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Wading is the Hardest Part



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

And so it begins, the storm after the calm. Ten weeks or so of relative peace – and some quiet, since my last diagnostic scan. But now, five days ahead of my next scan, scheduled for April 13, I am emotionally behind. Why (aside from the obvious)? Because even though the scan will occur this Wednesday, I/we won't know the results until the following Thursday, April 21, eight days later, when we see the oncologist for a face-to-face appointment. Eight days of waiting, eight days of talking yourself in and out scenarios both good and bad, eight days of dealing with the devil – and hopefully not coming to any agreement; and finally, eight days of rationalizing your prior behavior, justifying your current behavior and wondering whether any future behavior will reflect the past, present or territory as yet uncharted.

And of course, it's the "territory as yet uncharted" (I don't have to explain what I mean, do I?) that worries and scares me the most. Not having been down this road before makes anticipating one's behavior-to-be/reaction challenging. Oh, I suppose if I thought about it long enough I could develop some sort of action plan. But it's thinking about such a negative eventuality that seems and feels counterproductive. It's almost as if my thinking about such realities can somehow contribute to their actual occurrence, so, if I don't think about it, it won't happen. How's that for intelligent thinking? If I don't then it won't. If only it were that simple.

As the old saying goes: "Denial is more than just a river in Egypt." For a person originally characterized as "terminal" – in February, 2009, with stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer, now living into my eighth year post-diagnosis, life is a bit of a double-edged sword – that cuts both ways: it's a miracle that I'm still alive and given the amazing set of totally unexpected circumstances, it's equally perplexing why I've survived this long. Moreover, how is it possible that I've beaten my original life-expectancy odds so soundly? I mean: am I further from the beginning or closer to the end? Presumably, I was given a "13-month to two-year" prognosis for a reason. Do I simply ignore the underlying facts which led my oncologist to make that statement/prediction? I can't, and that's always my problem during the final few weeks leading up to my quarterly scan and the subsequent follow-up appointment with my oncologist. This can't go on forever, can it?

As much as I'd like to blur my reality, my nature prevents me from doing so. And though I may not dwell on it or allow it to dominate my conversation or become depressed or morose about any of it, I do acknowledge its affect; mostly with humor and off-putting redirection. Figuratively speaking, how does one live with both the weight of the world on your shoulders and the sword of Damocles hanging over your head without ignoring certain facts and figures and making light somehow of an extremely heavy burden?

Generally, I can manage, as you regular readers know. And as friends and family will attest, when there are fissures in my emotional underpinnings, it is during this two-week period – which occurs every 13 weeks, leading up to and then waiting for scan results when I am the most uncomfortable. And though it is all very familiar to me – after seven-plus years, it still doesn't totally minimize my reaction. Let's be honest: my life is at stake here, so how can I possibly act normally? Soon I'll know, but not soon enough. Unfortunately, there's nothing I can do about it in the interim. I just have to wait. Hopefully, the results will be worth the wait.

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

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