

Oak Hill Herndon CONNECTION

‘Carpooling Solution’

A+, PAGE 8

Jaeya Taxali, Crossfield Elementary, was honored last week by Clean Air Partners.

Meals Tax? Ballot Possibility

NEWS, PAGE 3

Herndon's Team Kosmos: Innovation Champions

A+, PAGE 8



Save Our Starving Schools, Support the Meal Tax




Feed Our Communities

Let's face it, Fairfax County is struggling.

Roads are in disrepair, our public safety programs are at risk and our schools haven't received the funding they need.

A Meal Tax would mean more money for Fairfax County services and Fairfax County schools. And 27% of this new revenue would come from tourists and commuters into the county, **not Fairfax County residents.**

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Fairfax County Federation of Teachers
Teachers Care! 

Meals Tax? Ballot Possibility

Board of Supervisors potentially set to approve meals tax ballot question on June 7.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

A majority of The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voiced support last week for including a Meals Tax Referendum as part of the 2016 General Election. They hope that a meals tax could provide additional revenue to support schools, without putting additional burden on homeowners with the property tax.

The debate and final vote is scheduled for the Board's June 7 session. Then it could be up to voters.

"If this is approved, it will be new revenue. It's diversified revenue," said Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay. "I want to put it on the ballot. Ask the voters."

"We have an opportunity here," said Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck.

"This is a tool used by cities and towns within and adjacent to Fairfax County," said Hunter Mill Supervisor Catherine Hudgins. "It is time for Fairfax County to join these counties and begin diversifying our revenue sources."

"We have a coalition of groups to advocate for the meals tax," said Chairman Sharon Bulova. Bulova and Dranesville Supervisor John W. Foust advocated designating 80 percent of the money collected in a meals tax to Fairfax County Public Schools, and 20 percent to capital improvement projects.

In fact, the Board's budget committee approved by majority vote a ballot question based on a 70-30 split.

"I think this is likely to be the ballot question," said Budget Committee chairman Jeff McKay.

School advocates are front and center in supporting a meals tax, believing it will help bridge funding shortfalls.

"The community is ready to support this," said Pat Hynes, chairman of the Fairfax County school board, and the representative from Hunter Mill.

"Referendums focused on schools and capital improvements prove the ones most likely to pass," Hynes said, citing recent referenda on meals tax elsewhere in Virginia.

NOT SO FAST. Springfield Supervisor Pat Herryty ensured another point of view.

"There is an advocacy group forming on the other side, chambers and restaurants," said Herryty, pointing out that it is actually

\$96 Million Revenue

A one percent meals tax in Fairfax County would generate an estimated \$24 million in new revenue in Fairfax County; at the maximum 4 percent rate, a county meals tax would generate approximately \$96 million annually.

The following jurisdictions imposed a four percent meals tax on top of the 6 percent sales tax. Note: Montgomery County, Md. does not impose a meals tax but imposes a sales tax of 6 percent.

Locality	Sales Tax	Meals Tax Rate	Estimated Meals Tax Revenue
Alexandria	6%	4%	\$17.8 million
Arlington	6%	4%	\$37.1 million
Falls Church	6%	4%	\$2.9 million
Fairfax City	6%	4%	\$6 million
Herndon	6%	4%	\$2.1 million
Vienna	6%	4%	\$2.5 million
D.C.	0%	10%	\$378.9 million

"Other [possible] opportunities for revenue improvement: higher hotel occupancy taxes paid by hotel patrons, a higher cigarette tax consistent with the practice of surrounding localities, an admissions tax to places of amusement or entertainment, the possibility of a meals tax, and a re-evaluation of permit and user fees, set consistently to fully recover costs."

— McLean Citizens Association Resolution

in addition to a six percent sales tax already collected on meals.

"Certainly from the chamber's point of view, we don't want to see any tax that singles out any industry," said Jim Corcoran, president of the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

A potential four percent meals tax could create \$96 million annually in additional revenue for the county, more than \$20 million from non-county residents.

"Let's look at the equation on both sides," said Corcoran.

"It does not send the right message to businesses," many who make Fairfax County their headquarters, he said. "We have developed a business-friendly environment, internationally."

A "domino effect" could quickly erase revenue generated by the meals in loss of business and tourism, said Corcoran.

"The average taxpayer is not going to get tax relief. We're hearing our real estate taxes are getting higher and higher. This isn't going to alleviate that," said Providence District Supervisor Linda Smyth.

"If people think the meals tax is coming on top of an increasing property tax, it will fail. Maybe it should fail," said Braddock Supervisor John Cook.

The Greater Reston Chamber, according to its CEO and President Mark S. Ingrao, "has a long held position by our members of opposing single-industry taxes particularly if they do not benefit the industry being taxed."

Ingrao said the Reston Chamber advo-

cated for additional funding for education at this year's General Assembly by supporting the restoration of Cost-of-Compete-Adjustment (COCA). "COCA recognizes that the costs of hiring and retaining teachers in northern Virginia is more expensive than in other parts of the state and the Chamber was part of a partnership that secured \$34.4 million this year," he said.

MCLEAN CITIZENS ASSOCIATION supports looking at alternative revenue sources including a possible meals tax. MCA passed a resolution in March urging the Board of Supervisors to look at "other opportunities for revenue improvement."

"So we get to share the fun with others," said Dale Stein, MCA's chairman of the budget committee. "Why does everything need to 'be on the back of the real estate tax,'" he said.

David Edelman, of the The Fairfax County Council of PTA's, said, "Our main concern is getting sustainable funding for schools and unfortunately there aren't many options available to us."

"We'll definitely get the message out there if the Board of Supervisors puts it on the ballot," he said.

THE BOARD of Supervisors would adopt a Resolution directing the County Attorney to file a petition with the Circuit Court by July 26.

The Board of Supervisors will meet on June 7 and instruct County staff to prepare documentation on the impact of the meals

Meals Tax

A possible meals tax could go to voters via referendum in the Nov. 8, 2016 general election. Under state law, the county would keep 100 percent of revenue generated by a meals tax. Counties can impose a meals tax if voters approve via referendum. If voters approve a meals tax, implementation could occur by July 1, 2017.

Meals Tax History By the Numbers

1992

A county meals tax was defeated by referendum in April 1992.

102,000

Voters cast votes in the 1992 referendum, which was approximately 25 percent of registered voters.

58

Percent of the voters voted against the potential meals tax in 1992.

2004

Legislation to exempt Fairfax County from the voter referendum requirement on a meals tax passed the Virginia Senate but failed to pass the house.

2008

Loudoun County held a referendum for a meals tax in November 2008 to fund new school construction, but it failed by a 70-30 percent vote.

2013

Henrico and Middlesex counties approved meals tax referendums. A similar effort in Chesterfield failed to pass.

tax on the county; the Board could vote officially to prove or not approve the ballot question.

In 2008, Loudoun County held a referendum for a meals tax in November 2008 to fund new school construction, but it failed by a 70-30 percent vote.

In 2013, Henrico and Middlesex counties approved meals tax referendums. A similar effort in Chesterfield failed to pass.

"The meals tax ballot questions that have been approved are the ones that tell you where the money is going, and where it will go to schools and capital improvements," said McKay.

The Town of Herndon passed its meals tax in 2003.

"We estimated \$900,000, and it generated \$900,279. Not bad for estimating something right out of the chute," said Mary Tuohy, the Town's director of finance.

Herndon Town Council increased the rate from 1.5 to 2.5 percent in 2011, and directed funding to major Herndon downtown infrastructure projects. Herndon also uses the meals tax to promote its restaurants and dineONHerndon campaign, according to Town's spokesman Anne Curtis.

The Town's tax preempts a county tax, said Curtis and Tuohy, "and in fact was one of the reasons it was enacted in Herndon in the first place," said Curtis.

If county voters approve a meals tax, implementation could occur by July 1, 2017.

OPINION

In Search of Diversified Revenue

Fairfax County residents can expect to see meals tax question on November ballots.

Local governments pay for almost all of local services, including schools, by taxing a single industry, property owners.

In Fairfax County, property taxes pay for 65 percent of the budget. In Arlington, which has more revenue options as an urban county, property taxes pay for 57 percent of everything. In the City of Alexandria, property taxes pay for 58 percent.

It costs more every year to provide a consistent level of services, and the sources of revenue available to local governments in Virginia are very limited, forcing an outsized reliance on property taxes. The reason is that localities in Virginia have only the power explicitly given to them by the General Assembly, and the General Assembly allows very few options for localities to collect revenue.

Alexandria and Arlington already have a 4 percent meals tax on top of the 6 percent sales tax, and it's evident that the robust restaurant scene in both areas has not suffered as a result. Would-be diners do not drive to Fairfax County to avoid the tax. But whether Fairfax County can collect a meals tax will be up to voters in November, pending the Board of Supervisors putting the question on the ballot.

A meals tax is not a silver bullet, but it does add one more source of revenue. A 4-cent meals tax is roughly equivalent to the 4-cent increase in property taxes that Fairfax County residents will face this year. But the property tax is levied on people with no relationship to their ability to pay. The meals tax is related to spending, a more progressive approach, and will also collect taxes from non-residents.

This is one of the wealthiest regions in the country, and the highly educated population has high expectations. Schools, public safety,

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

For the Benefit of All, Fairfax County Needs a Meals Tax

To the Editor:

For the strongest education for our children and for economic prosperity, Fairfax Co. must pass a Meals Tax. We all know the critical nature of the best education for all children but we need reminding that the highest quality schools also yield the highest housing prices.

Currently, Fairfax County is losing too many top teachers to neighboring school districts, especially Arlington County, who pay significantly higher salaries. I cite the following report to the FC School Board last December: A

recreational facilities, transportation, human services and other services and facilities cannot be allowed to atrophy because real estate values are flat. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors was correct to provide what Chairman Sharon Bulova called a "booster shot," mostly to schools but also to other needs in the county.

What is needed for the future is access to other, more diversified forms of taxes. While it is a pipe dream given the disposition of the General Assembly, what is really needed is to give localities a portion of the income tax. In the meantime, locals will have to press the state to pay for its fair share locally, and to allow increases in cigarette taxes and other possible sources of revenue.

— MARY KIMM

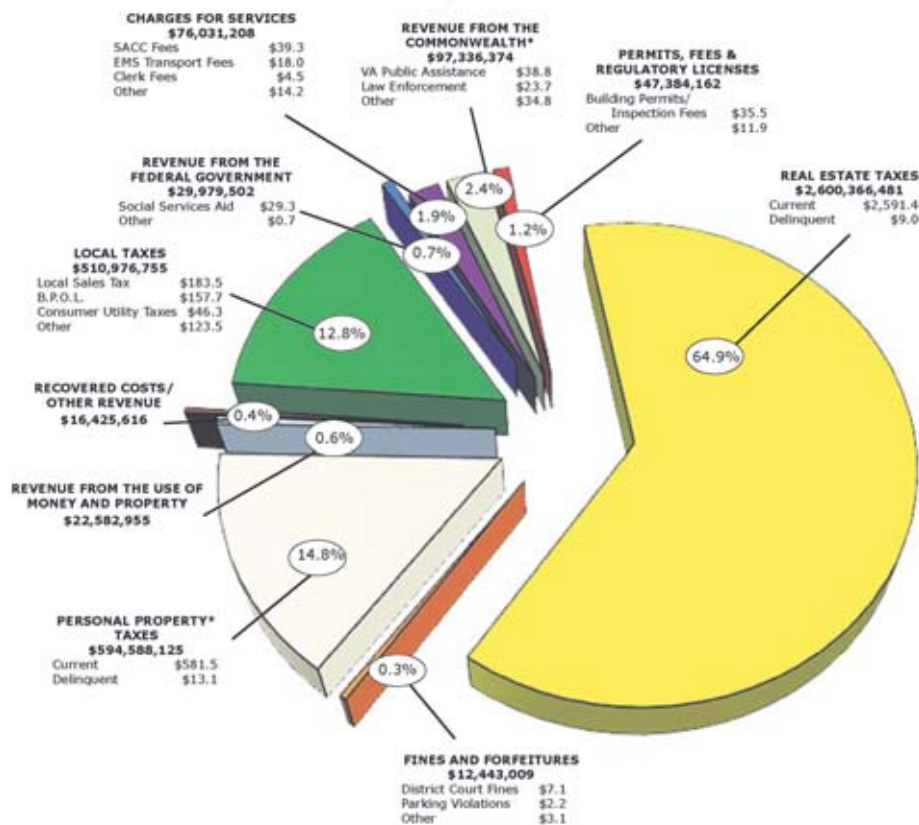
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FY 2017 ADVERTISED BUDGET PLAN

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS

("WHERE IT COMES FROM")

(Subcategories in millions)



FY 2017 GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS** = \$4,008,114,187 **

Tax Relief for Some

Fairfax County provides real estate tax relief and car tax relief to citizens who are either 65 or older, or permanently and totally disabled, and meet the income and asset eligibility requirements. For an application, call 703-222-8234, or visit http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/taxrelief_home.htm.

An exemption and/or deferral of real estate taxes is available for qualified Arlington homeowners age 65 and older and certain totally and permanently disabled homeowners, call 703-228-3920 or visit <https://topics.arlingtonva.us/realestate/taxes-payments/real-estate-tax-relief/>

Residents of the City of Alexandria who are either 65 years of age or older or permanently and totally disabled by Nov. 15, 2016, may be eligible for the City's Real Estate Tax Relief Program for Elderly and Disabled Persons, call 703-746-3901, Option 6, or visit <https://www.alexandriava.gov/finance/info/default.aspx?id=2886>.

A Meals Tax will raise crucial revenues for schools, infrastructure and social services. Few, if any people do not eat out in D.C., Arlington or Alexandria because they have a revenue-producing meals tax. Few, if any will decline to eat out in Fairfax either.

Let's all get behind the Meals Tax for the benefit of our children and to maintain quality schools that raise the value of our homes.

Dennis and Shirley Bloomquist
Great Falls

Oak Hill & Herndon
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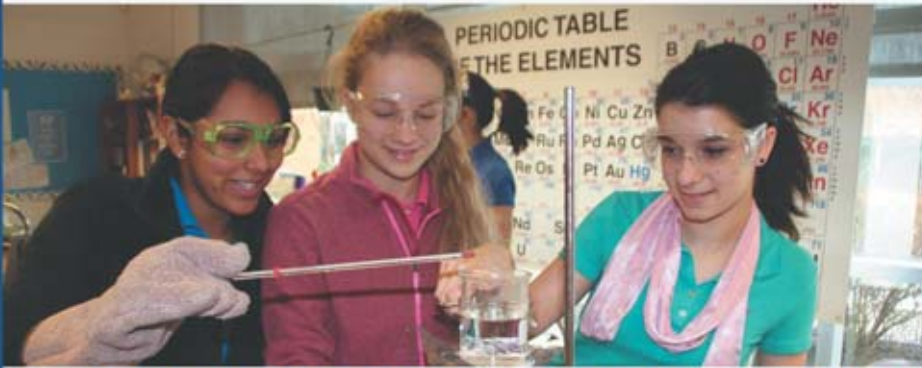
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Top 10 School In The World



Read About Nysmith School In The February 2016 Washington Post Education Issue

Find Out Why Families Have Moved From Around The Country Specifically For The Children To Attend Nysmith



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Fine Arts Festival Returns May 21-22

Festival at Reston Town Center features more than 200 national artists, dance performances, family art-making activities and more.

Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) presents their 25th annual Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival, offering authentic art and experiences for all tastes and ages on May 21 and 22 at Reston Town Center. This eleven-block art walk will be filled with more than 200 artists from across the nation who will exhibit and sell original paintings, photography, mixed-media, sculpture, jewelry, and fine craft. Plus, see inspired dance performances in the parks, enjoy free art-making activities for families in the Pavilion, periodic live music, and more throughout the weekend. As a highlight of the year in the DC region, this event attracts more than 30,000 attendees over two days.

Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival is open from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Saturday, May 21 and 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 22 at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston.

A gate donation of \$5 provides a festival program that includes dining certificates for local restaurants.

On the evening of Friday, May 20 at Reston Town Center Pavilion, there will be a Festival Launch Party that includes an "amazing silent auction" and catering by The Counter.

Ticket quantities are limited for this special celebration and are now on sale at GRACE, \$100 each.

This year's list of more than 200 participating artists includes 38 who will be exhibiting at the festival for the first time, 28 from the D.C. metro region, and 4 from Reston. Artists are coming from as far away as California, Florida, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Canada, and points in between. The selection of artists also includes 10 who



Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival artist Bob Copeland.



Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival booth - Glass by Jeremy & Chelsea Griffith.

received an Award of Excellence at the 2015 Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival. Festival artists are selected on the basis of qual-

ity, originality, and craftsmanship by a panel of expert, independent jurors appointed by GRACE. This year's jurors – artist, Tim

Dance Performances and Family Art Park Activities

Presented by Reston Community Center;
Signature Community Sponsor of the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival

SATURDAY, MAY 21

11 a.m. — Reston Town Square Park, GroundShare Arts Alliance
1 p.m. — Hyatt Park, Gin Dance Company
2 p.m. — Reston Town Square Park, Ravel Dance Company
4 p.m. — Hyatt Park, Classical Ballet Theatre

SUNDAY, MAY 22

11 a.m. — Hyatt Park, Gin Dance Company
12:30 p.m. — Reston Town Square Park, Ravel Dance Company
2 p.m. — Reston Town Square Park, GroundShare Arts Alliance
3:30 p.m. — Hyatt Park, Classical Ballet Theatre

More entertainment: **Throughout the weekend, additional live music will be offered periodically in the Pavilion and at Reston Town Square Park.**

Family Art Park in the Pavilion – FREE art-making activities all weekend. Rain or shine. All ages are invited to take part in hands-on art projects inspired by the signature "GRACE Art" program.

Doud; curator, Ashley Kistler; and interior designer, Judith Weisman – will also serve as judges for the 2016 festival.

The Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival is made possible with the support of generous sponsors, including Title Sponsor Lindsay Volkswagen of Dulles, Signature Community Sponsors Reston Community Center and Reston Town Center Association, Pavilion Sponsor The M Group, Launch Party Sponsor The Counter, Water Sponsor Wegmans, and Venue Host Reston Town Center, among other valued supporters.

Free parking is available in seven multi-level garages.

For more information the festival — and about volunteering, sponsoring or supporting the Adopt-an-Artist campaign — call GRACE at 703-471-9242 and visit www.restonarts.org.

Arts Herndon Bestows Digital Art Scholarships Countywide

On May 25 at ArtSpace Herndon, Fairfax County High School students will compete to win Arts Herndon scholarships in the categories of digital photography, digital art, animation, and new digital art. New digital art is a new category that includes diverse creative digital art forms.

Speaker Chris Doud is the director of Creative Services at Leidos (formerly SAIC) and works with graphic artists,

video artists and photographers to tell the company's story and drive its business goals.

All award-winning and finalist artwork will be on display in the Technology Changing Arts Exhibit at ArtSpace Herndon from May 24 through June 1. Entries in the competition were evaluated and judged by a panel of experts.

Tim Ingle is a digital media expert with over a decade of experience in film, television and commercial animation production. Michelle Schoening is a multi-disciplinary

design professional who creates identities, brand systems, websites, marketing campaigns and environmental graphics. Charlotte Geary is a professional photographer and co-founder of Modern Reston Online Lifestyle Magazine. Geary reports on local culture and events.

Each year Arts Herndon holds a Technology and the Arts Competition with a mission to promote students' artistic expression through technologically based media, to encourage students to develop their artis-

tic skills, to showcase student talent developed through school curriculum, and to encourage students to become skilled, creative thinkers entering the job market.

The Awards Reception will be held on Wednesday, May 25, 6-8 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. The exhibit and reception are free and open to the public. For more information on the exhibit and artists please visit ArtSpaceHerndon.org.

CALENDAR

Send announcements to www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on the Friday prior to the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 18

"The Supreme Court After Justice Scalia." 8 p.m. 1441 Wiehle Ave., Reston. Dr. David Cole, George J. Mitchell Professor in Law and Public Policy at Georgetown University. Free. <http://www.nvhcreston.org/>. 703-863-7639.

FRIDAY/MAY 20

GRACE's Festival Launch. 6:30 p.m. Reston Town Center, 12001 Market St. #103, Reston. Enjoy artsy beverages, savory creations, an amazing silent auction, and mingle with the artists in town for the weekend festival. \$100. restonarts.org. 703-471-9242.

SATURDAY/MAY 21

Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival – 25th Annual. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Pavilion, streets, and Reston Town Square Park. View and purchase art from 200+ artists from across the nation and enjoy two days of live performances, acclaimed children's activities, and more. \$5 donation encouraged. Presented by Greater Reston Arts Center. 703-471-9242. restonarts.org.

Fish Fry and Yard Sale. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 11500 Leesburg Pike, Herndon. Sponsored by Dranesville Church of the Brethren and Salem Baptist Church to benefit crisis in Nigeria. 703-430-7872. dranesvillebrethren.org.

Skye Ballet Center Swan Lake. 2-6:30 p.m. South Lakes High School, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston. Full-length "Swan Lake" performance. \$20/\$25. 703-231-8351. skyeballet@gmail.com. 703-863-7639.

Community Yard Sale for Habitat for Humanity. 8 a.m.-noon. Rain date is May 22. 1760 Reston Parkway, Reston. Hosted by Weichert Realtors. Donation of \$25 per space for Habitat for Humanity. Cash from sale is yours. 703-362-5171.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 21-22

Art Outsiders. Saturday, noon-6 p.m. Sunday, noon-4 p.m. 11921 Freedom Drive, Reston. Meet the famed contemporary artist, Tennessee Loveless, unveiling his Borderland Series, on exhibit through June 5. <http://www.artinsights.com/>. 703-478-0778.

SUNDAY/MAY 22

Stand Up Paddleboard Demonstrations with Surf Reston. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 11404 Washington Plaza W, Reston. Reservations required. lakeanneplaza.com.

SUNDAY/MAY 22

The Big Read Herndon. 10 a.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Produced by NextStop Theatre. All ages. 703-956-9560.

MONDAY/MAY 23

Narfe Dulles Chapter Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. Amphora Diner, 1151 Elden St., Herndon. Fairfax County Virginia Search & Rescue Team Helping Others around the World will be the topic. \$18. RSPV by Thursday, May 19. 703-435-3523 or nana492@aol.com.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 25

Color Me Happy. 7 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Relax, unwind, turn loose your inner artist and discover that coloring is for grown-ups, too. Choose from our collection of intricate designs and bring them to life with color. Coloring pages, pens and pencils provided, or bring your

Jimmy Gaudreau and Moondi Klein will showcase their bluegrass chops at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Herndon on Saturday, June 4.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

own. Adults. 703-397-0420.

THURSDAY/MAY 26

Dollars and Sense. 7 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. A monthly book discussion group that focuses on business leaders and markets. May's title is "The Safe Investor" by Tim McCarthy. 703-397-0420.

FRIDAY/MAY 27

"Coppelia" and "Jukebox." 7:30 p.m. CenterStage, Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Young dancers will perform original works of dance in a variety of genres. \$20. 703-437-9664. raveldance.com.

SATURDAY/MAY 28

Star-Spangled Sing Along with the Reston Chorale. 2-3 p.m. Reston Town Center Pavilion. All are welcome to take part in a free sing-along of patriotic music in a salute to the troops, plus children's activities and refreshments. Free. restonchorale.org. 703-834-0079.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 2-5

Herndon Festival. Thursday: 6-10 p.m. Friday 5-11 p.m. Saturday: 10 a.m. - 11 p.m. Sunday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Herndon Town Green, 777 Lynn Street, Herndon. Four-day outdoor festival with three entertainment stages, a carnival, two fireworks displays, Kid's Alley with children's art area, arts and craft show and more! All ages. Visit www.herndonfestival.net for more information.

FRIDAY/JUNE 3

Community Cookout. 5-7 p.m. North Hills Pool, 1325 North Village Road, Reston. Everyone is invited to take the night off from cooking and come to the pool for some food, entertainment, and good times. Sponsored with the Reston Association. 703-476-4500.

SATURDAY/JUNE 4

Jimmy Gaudreau and Moondi Klein. 7:30 p.m. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. Free/\$15. These two legendary bluegrass musicians, as a duo, are something to behold. 703-435-8377.

MONDAY/JUNE 6

Annual Charity Golf Tournament. Starts at 6:45 a.m. Hidden Creek Country Club, 1711 Club House Road, Reston. The tournament

includes a 4 person scramble, lunch or dinner and awards. Receptions follow both the morning and afternoon shotguns. Lots of prizes and lots of fun. Proceeds benefit our three local elementary schools. www.celebrategreatfalls.org.

TUESDAY/JUNE 7

"Peonies and Poppies" Class. 7-8:30 p.m. Mayflowers Floral Studio, 11959 Market St., Reston. May will show you how to combine colors, size, and surprises to make an arrangement that will wow your friends. \$250. Register at mayflowersreston.com.

A Walk in the Garden. 1-5 p.m. Atrium Building, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. A standard flower show. Free. lmc323@aol.com.

THURSDAY/JUNE 9

Paint the Story. 7-9 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Melanie Stanley will usher participants into the indigenous Mexican culture as depicted in the book "Bless Me, Ultima" by Rudolfo Anaya. Register at artspaceherndon.com. 703-956-9560.

FRIDAY/JUNE 10

Senior Tea. 1-2 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Seniors are invited to visit the gallery to view the current exhibit and enjoy a cup of tea. Free. artspaceherndon.com.

SATURDAY/JUNE 11

Dead Men's Hollow. 7:30 p.m. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. Free/\$15. Magnificent three part female vocal harmony is the centerpiece of this fine group and male voices round things out appropriately. 703-435-8377.

SUNDAY/JUNE 12

Love Your Body Yoga. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Reston Town Center Pavilion and Market Street. 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. belovedyoga.com.

Dance Off and Stories from Mexico. 2-4 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. With guest Acoatzin Torres. Free. Seating limited. Register at artspaceherndon.com.

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7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
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‘Carpooling Solution’

Herndon elementary school student honored for clean air initiative.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Jaeya Taxali, a sixth-grade student at Crossfield Elementary, gained her inspiration from the school bus ride home.

“I was thinking of ways to make the world a better place,” she said, “I just got off the school bus.”

Her class was learning about the atmosphere, and she thought of the school bus and its capacity to carry multiple people at the same time, she said. “There are so many people who go to my school in separate cars. Less cars on the road will create less pollution.”

She quickly developed her slogan — “Find a partner to go to school. Stop Pollution. Carpooling is the solution.”

Jaeya was honored last Wednesday, May 11 by Clean Air Partners at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore.

“Jaeya is a very hard-working student. She is enthusiastic and passionate about science especially issues that relate to the environment,” said her teacher Andrea MacRae.

Jaeya and her class have also studied renewable and nonrenewable energy sources. “The students learned more about how the choices we make now will affect their future,” said MacRae.

JAEYA HOPES the slogan and her award will encourage classmates and other people in the community to make better choices that will help the environment and planet.

“We’re trying to help children learn about air quality,” said Brian O’Malley, board chair for Clean Air Partners.

“Engaging young people, they make great ambassadors to a cause if they believe in it,” he said.

Clean Air Partners is a public-private partnership that educates the greater metropolitan Washington-Baltimore region about the health risks associated with poor air quality and the impacts every-



Jaeya Taxali, Crossfield Elementary.

day actions have on the environment.

The slogan awards help the mission of raising awareness. “We have a ways to go, but air quality has gotten better; this is work that is getting results.”

Clean Air Partners helps individuals and organizations take simple actions to reduce their impact on the environment and exposure to air pollution during unhealthy air quality days.

See www.cleanairpartners.net.

TAXALI was honored at the 8th Annual Awards Ceremony, held this year at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore.

“It was really special. I met a lot of people,” said Jaeya. “The day I found out, I was so excited. I didn’t



Jaeya’s winning slogan,

even know about it until my teacher announced it to the whole class.”

Headed to New Orleans

Andrea MacRae, teacher at Crossfield Elementary, has taught Jaeya Taxali and her classmates about the atmosphere, renewable and nonrenewable energy sources and how the choices we make now will affect their future.

Jaeya was honored last week by Clean Air Partners.

Next week, MacRae is taking five of her sixth-grade students to compete at the Nationals for the Kid Wind competition in New Orleans.

“They built a wind turbine and won a spot at Nationals in the Middle School division. We are one of two teams competing from Fairfax County,” said MacRae. “This was part of our unit on Energy. We are super excited.”



From left — Nancy Conrad, Kavya Kopparapu, Naman Singh, Alex Peng, Justin Zhang, Rahul Rajan and Robert Cabana.

Innovation Champions

Herndon’s Team Kosmos wins Conrad Spirit of Innovation Challenge, goes to New Orleans.

Team Kosmos placed first in the prestigious “2016 Conrad Spirit of Innovation Challenge” at the 2016 summit in Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

The team got first place in the CyberTechnology and Security category and was selected as Pete Conrad Scholars.

Team Kosmos consisted of : Rahul Rajan (Thomas Jefferson School for Science and Technology), Kavya Kopparapu (Thomas Jefferson School for Science and Technology), Alex Peng (Thomas Jefferson School for Science and Technology), Justin Zhang (Thomas Jefferson School for Science and Technology), Naman Singh (Westfield High School). The winners live in Herndon.

At the Conrad Spirit of Inno-

vation Challenge teams compete for a chance to be named Pete Conrad Scholars, as well as for seed grants, prizes, scholarships, patent support and opportunities to grow their solution into a real business. The Conrad Challenge offers two academic levels of competition: secondary and post-secondary (university students and university-age military). Founded in 2008 by Nancy Conrad, the Conrad Spirit of Innovation Challenge honors her late husband, naval aviator and astronaut, Charles “Pete” Conrad Jr.’s passion for education, entrepreneurship, and innovation.

Team Kosmos will present their Innovation at the ASEE Conference in New Orleans June 27-28.

SCHOOL NOTES

Send school notes to north@connectionnewspapers.com by noon on Friday.

Eight students from Fairfax County Public Schools — all attending Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) — have been named semifinalists in the 2016 Intel Science Talent Search. The students, with their project names, are:

❖ Jake Cui, A Machine Learning Approach to Identifying Ordered Binding Regions on Order-disorder Protein Interfaces.

❖ Tarun Kamath, Marked Decreases in Pediatric and Young Adult Solid Organ Cancer Mortality in the United States Since 1940: Analysis and Hypotheses.

❖ Ava Lakmazaheri, Brain-actuated Robotics: A Logic-based Approach for Multimodal Programming and Operation of Assistive Humanoid Robots.

❖ Austin Mills, Demonstrating the Development of Heavy Metal Resistance in Non-tolerant Multigenerational Bras-

sica rapa.

❖ Kunal Shroff, The Relationship Between Lethality and Genomic Instability in Euploid and Aneuploid Yeast Cells Expressing Pathological Huntingtin.

❖ Matthew Sun, Hyperacute Temporal Resolution with a Neural Population for Biologically Plausible Firing Rate Change Detection.

❖ Jason Wei, Improving Lateral Flow Immunoassay Sensitivity by a Palladium-catalyzed Dye Reaction.

❖ Michael You, Two-degree-of-freedom Bubble Oscillations in Elastic Vessels and its Application in Sonar-induced Marine Mammal Injuries.

The 300 semifinalists were chosen from more than 1,750 entrants and will receive matching awards of \$1,000 along with their school.

This is the 75th year of the Science Talent Search, which Intel has sponsored since 1998, providing \$1.6 million in awards and scholarships to contestants.



PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN/THE CONNECTION

The South Lakes boys' lacrosse team won the first conference championship in program history on May 13.



South Lakes senior attackman Tommy Jung scored three goals against Yorktown in the Conference 6 championship game on May 13.

South Lakes Boys' Lax Wins First Conference Championship

Seahawks beat Yorktown in Conference 6 tournament final.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

After members of the South Lakes boys' lacrosse team received recognition and the Seahawks posed for photos with the "Liberty Conference 6 Champions" banner, alumni were invited onto the field to join for additional celebratory pictures.

Later, head coach Craig Lunde called over players by grade and snapped pictures of each group.

Before players, coaches and fans cleared the field at Langley High School, Lunde and a pair of all-conference performers spoke with a reporter about their accomplishment.

South Lakes had just won its first conference title in program history and the Seahawks were going to cherish the experience.

South Lakes defeated Yorktown 8-5 on May 13 in the Conference 6 tournament final. The Seahawks overcame an early 2-0 deficit, built a 5-2 halftime advantage and led for the entire second half.

South Lakes entered the contest with a 12-1 record, including a 9-4 win over Yorktown on April 5 during the regular season, and took the next step in a memorable season.

How did South Lakes, a program with a 40-38 record during Lunde's first six seasons as head coach, become a first-time conference champion riding a 12-game win streak into the 6A North region tournament?

"They did it the good-old-fashion way: a lot of hard work in the offseason, they trained on their own, they played fall lacrosse as a team when a lot of guys are playing club and doing their own thing, so I



South Lakes senior Eric Ottman, right, defends a Yorktown player during the Conference 6 championship game on May 13.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Madison Girls' Lax Wins Sixth Straight Conference/District Championship

The Madison girls' lacrosse team won the Conference 6 championship with an 11-9 victory over Langley on May 13.

think that was ... big," said Lunde, the conference Coach of the Year. "They had gone undefeated in the fall league, so I think that got them off to a winning start."

Lunde also credited assistant coaches Alex Clough, a 2011 South Lakes graduate and the program's all-time leading scorer, and Thomas Patterson with helping the Seahawks.

After coming from behind to beat Langley in the conference semifinals, South Lakes trailed Yorktown 2-0 in the first quarter on Friday after Patriots senior and first-team all-conference attackman C.J. Stowell put a pair in the net. The Seahawks weren't fazed, however and tied the score at 2 by the end of the quarter with goals from junior long stick midfielder Matt Hughes and senior attackman Tommy Jung.

Jung scored his second goal with 7:45 remaining in the second quarter, giving South Lakes a 3-2 advantage and putting the Seahawks ahead to stay.

Jung, a first-team all-conference selection who will play at Babson College, led South Lakes with three goals.

"I think it's the offseason," Jung gave as a reason for South Lakes' success. "This year, everyone is just so focused on trying to win states. It's our mentality."

Hughes, a Mercer University commit and the conference Defensive Player of the Year, scored two goals for the Seahawks. Eric Ottman and Spencer Alston, each a first-team all-conference selection, and Chris Sherbert each scored one goal.

Senior goalie John Hughes, a second-team all-conference selection, had 14 saves for the Seahawks.

"Knowing that this is going to be our legacy," Jung said in reference to South Lakes winning its first conference title, "it's amazing."

The Seahawks entered the region tournament as the No. 1 seed from Conference 6 and faced Stonewall Jackson on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline.

"I think we can go all the way to states," Matt Hughes said. "I don't think any team can really compete with the heart that this team has ..."

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Clutter



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Either it's the cancer/seven-plus years of chemotherapy, or it's my age. Regardless, information retention and recall is not quite what it used to be. What goes in doesn't exactly come out, or if it does, it's somewhat after the fact. I wouldn't say it's embarrassing yet, and it hasn't led to any speech impediment-type of hemming and hawing. But it has led to something, other than this column, that is.

I haven't quite resorted to index/flash cards, nor am I avoiding human interaction as a way to minimize the awkwardness. I am still going about my normal business – or lack thereof, and wondering if time is on my side or has it been usurped by powers greater than me. And since there's no real definitive answer, I'll try to stop questioning whether what I think I'm experiencing is inevitable or am I, as any Three Stooges aficionado would appreciate: simply "a victim of circumstance."

Granted, I may not be the sharpest knife in the drawer, but if we're invoking utensils here, neither am I a spoon. I can accept the fact that in the knife category, I'm closer to a butter knife than I am to a steak knife; meaning I get the job done, probably with less haste, but likely with more waste.

Nevertheless, the job gets done and more often than not, it's without further ado. And while I'm using *ado/adieu*, I don't feel as if this lack of recall/retention is indicative of me bidding *adieu*. However, it does give me pause about my status as a long-time (in the stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer world, when one's prognosis was originally "13 months to two years," seven-plus years is a long time) survivor. Maybe I'm simply experiencing what any person nearing the age of 62 does. It's not the cancer, it's dare I say/hope: middle age. Although I'll admit I may be on the downside of it, and approaching what I'll call "older" age (not "old" age).

But let's be honest here, when an oncologist advises you at age 54 and a half that your prognosis is at best two years and that he can "treat you but can't cure you," and that perhaps, "you should take that vacation you've always dreamt of," not only does your middle age (or what's left of it) rapidly disappear, so too does your "older"/"old" age.

Quite unexpectedly then, given your prior good health and no history of cancer in your immediate family, your mind/brain quickly gets overloaded with facts, figures, feelings and fears it had never considered before. Ergo the clutter. Not that there's a limited amount of space in your head for all this new/never-expected information, but it does seem to crowd out more familiar, less impactful stuff. At least that's my story/rationalization and I'm most definitely sticking to it.

But my reality is: I am stuck with it, unfortunately. No cure doesn't exactly conjure optimism. Nevertheless, as a long-suffering Boston Red Sox fan (until 2004, that is, when "the curse" was finally broken as the Bosox won their first World Series in 86 years), hope springs eternal, and so I remain ever hopeful. It's just that occasionally, I have difficulty remembering/articulating that hopefulness – among other things. No worries though. I know the information is still in my head, somewhere. I'm sure I'll get it out, eventually.

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

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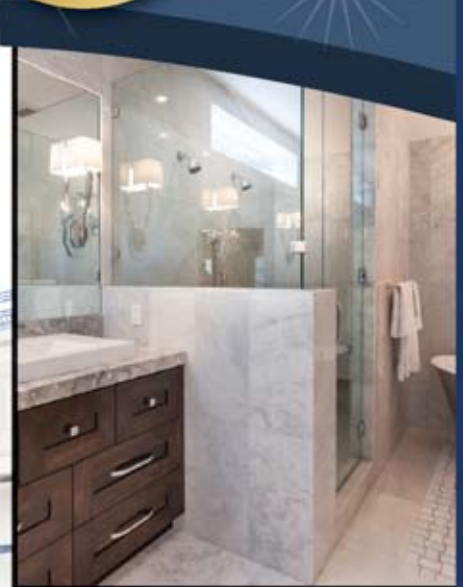
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