

Dock Dogs Make a Big Splash at Lake Anne

NEWS, PAGE 9

Suzie Q, at only 15 months old, shows everyone of all species, just how it's done at the Chesapeake Dock Dogs exhibition event at Lake Anne. Owner Gary Neubaum of Germantown, Md., says she made her interest in the sport quite clear with an unexpected leap into the Finger Lakes of New York during a visit.

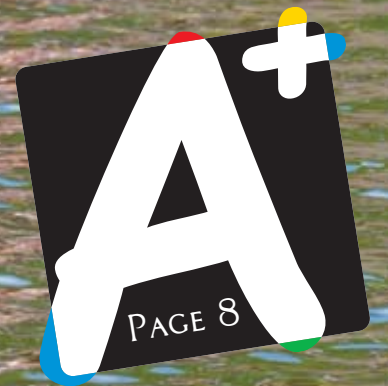


Meals Tax? Ballot Possibility

NEWS, PAGE 3

Fine Arts Festival Returns Saturday

NEWS, PAGE 10



Save Our Starving Schools, Support the Meal Tax




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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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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 PTAs, 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.



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RESTON CRIME REPORTS

Notable incidents from the Fairfax County Police blotter from May 6-13.

Commercial Burglary - 700 block of Clubhouse Road, May 7, 1 a.m. Police responded to a business for a burglary alarm. Responding officers located a door open and while waiting for K-9 to respond, a man was seen walking away from the business with a backpack. Further investigation revealed that the man had allegedly been inside the business and taken property. A juvenile was arrested and charged with burglary.

Hispanic, late teens to early twenties, approximately 5-feet-8-inches to 5-feet-11 inches, wearing dark clothing.

Robbery - 12000 block of Sunset Hills Road, May 8, 9:30 p.m. The victim was walking on a trail when two men pushed him to the ground and took his property and fled. The suspects were described as

Robbery - 11100 block of South Lakes Drive, May 11, around 3 a.m. Two men robbed a gas station employee, a 35-year-old man. The suspects entered the business, one allegedly displayed a gun and demanded money. They took an undisclosed amount of cash and fled. The suspects were described as black, in their 20s or 30s, between 5 feet 6 inches and 5-feet-8 inches tall and 150 to 160 pounds. Both wore dark-colored clothing and their faces were covered. The victim did not require medical attention.

WEEK IN RESTON

Reston Zoo is now Roer's Zoofari

Reston Zoo is now Roer's Zoofari. Its new owners are Vanellsa Stoffel and Jacob Roer.

"Caring for animals has been an important part of our lives," said Roer, a third generation Arizona rancher, "Being able to share that experience with this community is a dream come true."

The zoo will continue to offer hands-on, educational encounters for those of all ages. "We are very excited to join the greater Reston community as a venue for

learning about animals through discovery," said Stoffel, who previously helped open and operate Bearizona Wildlife Park in Williams, Arizona.

Zoo opens at 9 a.m. daily and offers its last safari wagon ride at 5 p.m. It is located at the corner of Hunter's Mill Road and Baron Cameron Drive in Vienna.

For more information call 607-757-6222 or go online to www.roerszoofari.com.



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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

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

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Here it Comes the 'Tall Oaks Cluster'

To the Editor:

The Tall Oaks developer held another community meeting with residents. The venue was the old grocery store space at Tall Oaks Village Center. With lighting so inadequate you could barely see people a couple rows in front of you, and the lack of a portable speaker system so everyone could hear what was being said, it was perfect. Hear no evil, see no evil and speak no evil despite community objections

to the most current proposal.

The results of the meeting: I would like to summarize the salient points made and topics avoided by the people doing the presentation.

The representative from RCLCO, a large nationwide study group for shopping centers and office buildings, spent an inordinate amount of time covering statistics based on national statistics. But note, no one from RCLCO or JAG said how those

national statistics actually relate to Reston since Reston is a unique place in the United States, being the largest HOA in the country. In other words national statistics are just that — national. RCLCO performed their study based on parameters provided by JAG (Jefferson Apartment Group). Their claim to fame of managing 500,000 square feet (a good size warehouse) of commercial space is a drop in the bucket compared to companies like JBG another local developer.

The RCLCO results indicated that grocery stores cannot be supported in the Tall Oaks Village Center due to lack of access and visibility from Wiehle Ave.

When questioned to whether JAG or RCLCO had approached the Commonwealth of Virginia to see if access to Wiehle Avenue could be gained the answer was no; despite indications from the Commonwealth of Virginia that they would entertain access to Wiehle depend

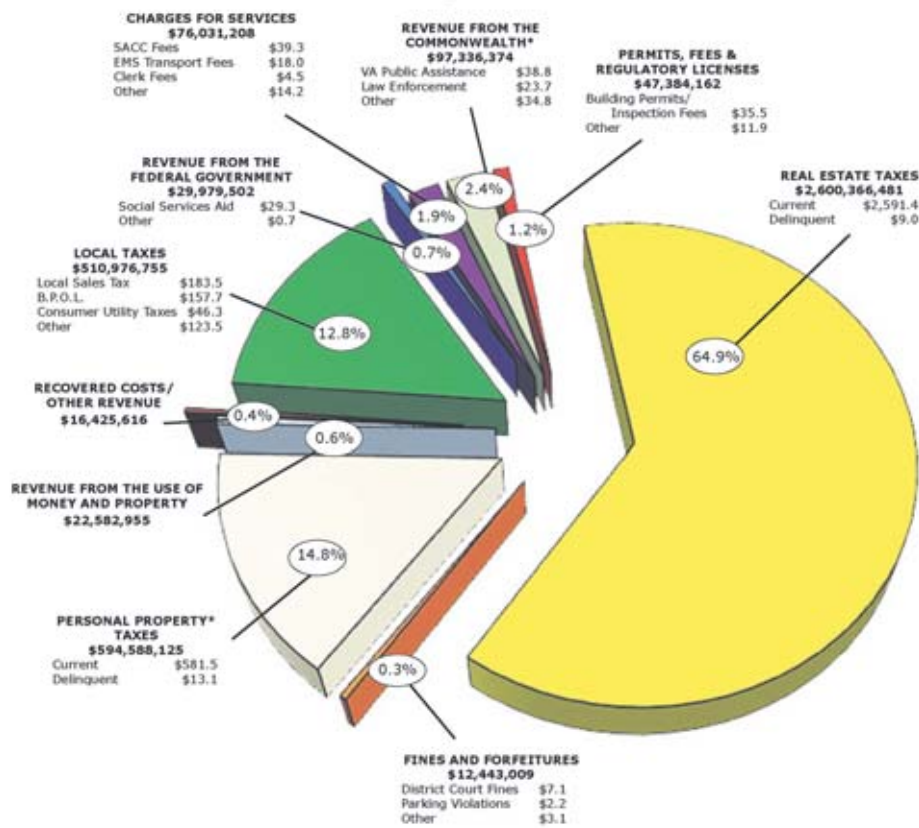
SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

FY 2017 ADVERTISED BUDGET PLAN

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS

("WHERE IT COMES FROM")

(Subcategories in millions)



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

* For presentation purposes, Personal Property Taxes of \$211,313,944 that are reimbursed by the Commonwealth as a result of the Personal Property Tax Relief Act of 1998 are included in the Personal Property Taxes category.

** Total County resources used to support the budget include the revenues shown here, as well as a beginning balance and transfers in from other funds.

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/realstate/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>.

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
reston@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Abigail Constantino
Editorial Assistant
703-778-9410 ext.427
aconstantino@connectionnewspapers.com

Ken Moore
Community Reporter
240-393-2448
kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor ♦ 703-752-4013
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com
@jonroetman

Ryan Dunn
Contributing Writer
@rdunnmedia

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Trisha Hamilton
Display Advertising
703-778-9419
trisha@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith
Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411
classified@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren

Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic

Photography:
Deb Cobb, Louise Krafft,
Craig Sterbutzel

Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly

Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher
Jeanne Theismann
703-778-9436
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



PEOPLE



Maya Callahan

Young Reston Poet Makes Anthology

Maya Callahan, 11, of Reston, had a poem selected for the "2016 Anthology of Poetry by Young Americans," a national collection of children's poetry published in North Carolina. Maya writes a lot of poetry and recently read her poems at the Spring Showcase of the Reston Herndon home school group at the Herndon Library.

Maya's published poem, an acrostic, is reprinted here.

Leaves

Leaves are flying
 Everywhere
 As cars go by.
 Very crunchy at night as Trick-and treat-ers walk.
 Everyone jumps in them by day and by evening they are
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lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

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JUNE

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 6/8/2016..... Father's Day Dining & Gifts
 6/8/2016..... HomeLifeStyle
 6/15/2016..... A+ Graduations & Summer Learning
 6/15/2016..... Father's Day Dining & Gifts
Father's Day is June 19
 6/29/2016..... Connection Families

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From left: McLean residents and freshmen at McLean High School Austin Jensen and Bryce Liquerman, McLean resident and sophomore at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology Kai Amelung, School Board Member At Large Ryan McElveen, Dranesville District School Board Representative Janie Strauss, and School Board Member At Large Iryong Moon showed their support by attending the Relay For Life.



After the survivor lap, the caretakers walked a lap around the track. Hundreds of students from schools such as McLean and Langley high schools walked the track.

McLean, Langley High Students Unite to Fight Cancer

PHOTOS BY DANIELLE GRAE/THE CONNECTION
BY DANIELLE GRAE
THE CONNECTION

Hundreds of students from rivals Langley and McLean high schools walked through the night of May 14 at Cooper Middle School during the Relay for Life to raise money for the American Cancer Society (ACS).

“We love our rivalry, but I love how you can see people from Langley and McLean meeting each other, becoming friends and working together for something that’s bigger than all of us,” senior and executive director from McLean High School Emma

Chamberlayne said.

Chamberlayne worked for 12 months with her Langley High School counterpart, senior Will Pfadenhauer, and Relay For Life Community Manager Katie Sue Van Valkenburg of Oak Hill to oversee a committee of about 40 students from both schools to organize the event. The students recruited local cancer survivors to attend the event.

The night kicked off with the over 800 participants surrounding the track to cheer on cancer survivors doing a lap around the track. Smiles beamed on survivors’ faces as they ran under bridges of raised arms, holding hands across the track. But one lap doesn’t adequately symbolize the long-term

journey of cancer survivors. A whole night of having at least one person from a team at all times on the track represents the ongoing battle.

“This is a never ending thing,” cancer survivor, Woodbridge resident, and Lorton Senior Center Assistant Director Kimberly Frengel said, comparing cancer to the relay. “People need to keep fighting cancer and funding more research so it can get to a point that cancer can be cured.”

During the relay, Langley High School junior Andrew Shapiro broke the 6, 12 and 24 hour world records for pull ups. Shapiro decided to seek the records in honor of his father, Allen Shapiro, who is fighting cancer.

Although the relay has a goal of over \$150,000, even a small donation can help local cancer patients.

“If you donate to ACS, you might think you’re donating to a weird abyss of cancer research. You’re not,” Van Valkenburg said. “\$10 can provide a ride for a patient to get to and from lifesaving treatment. Many people think they could just call an Uber. Some people can’t afford that and skip chemo rather than pay for the ride, so it’s important that someone donates that \$10.”

The relay will continue to accept donations until Aug. 31. You can donate online at the Relay For Life of Langley McLean’s webpage: http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLCY16SA?pg=entry&fr_id=71191.



During the relay, Langley High School junior Andrew Shapiro broke the 6, 12 and 24 hour world records for pull ups. Shapiro decided to seek the records in honor of his father, Allen Shapiro, who is fighting cancer.



Cancer survivor Kimberly Frengel gets ready to walk the emotional survivor’s lap and relay all night long.



Cancer survivors run under the arms of their caretakers and Relay volunteers, with beaming smiles on their faces.



This was 3-year-old chocolate Labrador Parker's first try at the sport of dock diving. Despite encouragement from "mom" Michelle Wheeler of Reston, he wasn't quite sure just how to get into the water in pursuit of that tempting stick.



Smart pooch Parker of Reston, figured out this whole "dock dog diving thing" on his second try at "catch the stick in the water." The crowd gave Parker and "mom" Michelle a mighty cheer on his successful second attempt.

Dock Dogs Make a Big Splash at Lake Anne

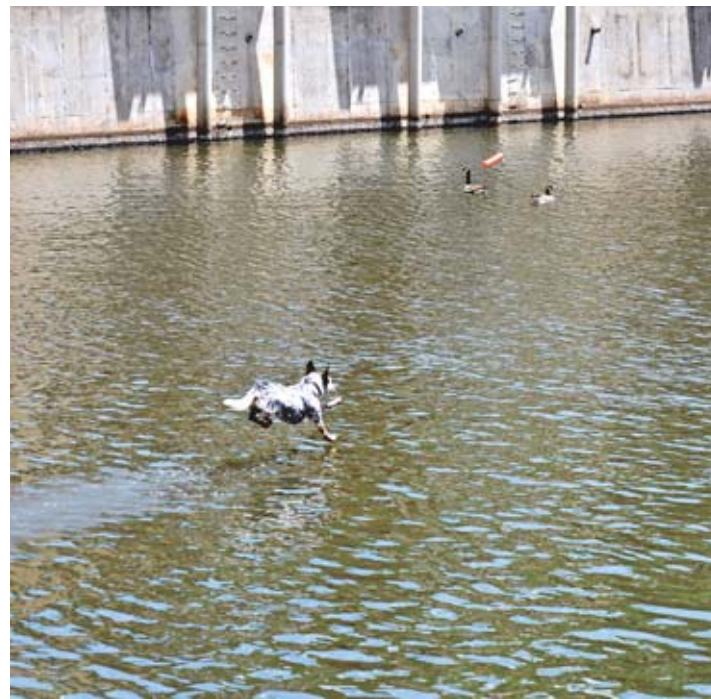
BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

It was a real dog day afternoon at Lake Anne in Reston, and yes, there literally was a lot of splashing going on! The Chesapeake Dock Dogs (CDD) were back by popular demand, ready to thrill the crowd of adults, kids and lots of canines with their dogs who love to fly off the docks in pursuit of a favorite toy and a swim. The CDD have entertained and amazed at this location before, but Saturday's audience might just have been their biggest at this venue yet.

Club President Frank Moraff was manning the microphone and doing a great job of not only calling the action, but explaining the differences in the various aquatic manoeuvres that these athletic pups perform, and outlining the rules and regulations enforced by the club to protect the safety of the canine-human team members. "No pushing, no pulling, no forcing a dog into the water," said Moraff. The parent Dock Dogs Club, which holds numerous competitions around the country during their sporting season, has a strict set of policies that govern membership and all aspects of the canine aquatic sport.

As always when the Dock Dogs come to town, the Plaza was also filled with vendors and activities related to all things canine – and feline. PetMac Marketplace and Adoption Center, located in the Plaza, sponsored the event. Just Cats Clinic, another Lake Anne tenant, also had tent space and were on hand to talk about the care of the more water-averse creatures to which they cater. A number of specialty pet food providers like Weruva and Fromm Gold had booths with samples and knowledgeable staff.

And lest we forget one of the main reasons why PetMac keeps wanting the CDD to bring their talented swimmers to the Plaza and to draw the crowds that they do,



Walking on water. At least that's what it looks like Darwin, a 2-year-old Australian cattle dog, is doing when he goes for the retrieval off the dock and into Lake Anne. Darwin travelled from Harpers Ferry, W. Va. with his "dad" Michael to participate in the non-competitive event.



Darwin's done the job! - and he's ready for Round 2 at flying off the Lake Anne dock and into the water to catch his favorite toy.

PHOTOS BY
ANDREA WORKER/
THE CONNECTION

Someone's all smiles. That would be "Woofie" who will soon go by the name of "Wally." This lucky mixed breed was one of several homeless dogs brought to the Chesapeake Dock Dogs exhibition at Lake Anne by the rescue group K-9 Lifesavers (www.k-9lifesavers.org). The Lifesavers rescue many dogs, especially from high-kill shelters, and give them another chance at a new home in our area.



the day included a Doggie Adoption opportunity, with "guests" of nonprofit K-9 Lifesavers strolling the crowds with their volunteer caretakers, on the hunt for their "forever homes." We are happy to report that at least one such "hunter" was fortunate enough to connect with a new "mom" and "dad" and was heading home to his new digs in Tacoma Park, Md.

The Chesapeake Dock Dogs invites anyone with a water-loving dog to check out what the club has to offer. For information, go to www.chesapeakedockdogs.com.

Members from this regional affiliate come from all around Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, the District and Pennsylvania. Keep up with PetMac happenings and their other sponsored events by stopping by to see them at Lake Anne, or checking out www.petmac.org.

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.

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.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Wells & Barnes, Study for a Monument, 2012, wood, steel, cloth and paint, variable dimensions, will be on display at the Greater Reston Arts Center from April 21-June 18.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

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

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 own. Adults. 703-397-0420.

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.

THURSDAY/MAY 26

Dollars and Sense. 7 p.m. Reston

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 6

ing on the design. When questioned whether JAG or RCLCO had approached Reston Association to determine if trees could be thinned out to increase visibility from Wiehle Avenue the answer from JAG and RCLCO was no; despite indications that RA said they would be amicable to discussing increasing visibility depending on the design.

There you have it. The Tall Oaks Cluster is moving forward. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that are RCLCO based their study on parameters given to them by check so if you eliminate these parameters the results are self-evident.

What was especially disappointing is the Fairfax County planning representative in attendance who stated that the planning department performed a third-party analysis and came up with the same results as JAG and RCLCO. The county representative did not indicate that the county planning department had spoken to the Commonwealth traffic engineering department or the Reston Association.

When RCLCO was questioned by the audience with regard to contacting grocers such as Aldi or a mini Walmart, the RCLCO representative couldn't remember.

When I met with Bob Simon last year a month before his passing, he conveyed to me with a drawing his vision for the Tall Oaks Village Center's future and future village centers.

He envisioned three or four five-story buildings along Wiehle Avenue and two three-story buildings along North Shore. The buildings could accommodate ground level commercial and rooftop activities and underground parking. High density residential units would fill the balance of each building. Guess

what happens to the rest of the property? Open Space! Wow what a concept.

Certainly there's a big gap between Bob Simon's vision and the economic reality. Until the county planning department and JAG actively engage the Reston Association in the Tall Oaks Village Center in the planning process we could end up with another Reston National Golf Course situation. Remember what happens at Tall Oaks will determine the future of the balance of the Reston village centers.

The county's desire to create a vast urban megalopolis throughout the county in places like Tysons corner certainly do not apply to Reston and few people understand that the relationship between the RA and the county is sometimes at a crossroads when it comes to Tall Oaks.

Remember, Tall Oaks is designated as a village center in the deed Reston the RA has indicated that they will continue to look out for the residents' interests and all we can do is hope and pray that RA will win in the end.

Based on my 30 years of working with developers and local municipalities, I can tell you what we as citizens can do to affect the outcome is really very little except for the fact that we vote for our county supervisor Catherine Hudgins. Who (this is my personal opinion) has recently begun to support JAG and the county's viewpoint instead of the citizens of Reston. Please contact her and let her know how you feel.

Also contact the RA and let them know that you support Bob Simon's vision regarding this matter.

Bill Woloch
Ph.D., Architect
Reston

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10:25 a.m. Sunday School Grades 3 to 6
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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.



PHOTOS 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 ..."

OPINION

Keeping Tabs on the Commonwealth

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

Last week I attended my first meeting as a member of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC). I have admired the professional work of JLARC since it was established in 1973 to evaluate the operation and performance of state agencies. JLARC performs its duties in three major work functions: studies, oversight and fiscal analysis, and support. The Commission is made up of nine delegates and five senators, but the actual work of the oversight arm of the General Assembly is done by a professional staff. Major topics of research are developed and approved by the General Assembly and sometimes by the Commission. There are more topics proposed for study than there are staff or time to pursue.

Our first meeting last week followed the Commission's usual procedure of adopting a work plan for the year. Some of the items on the work plan are continuation of studies started last year as the magnitude of many studies take more than a single year to complete. Among the studies that will be completed in June of this year is one related to the state's procurement and contract management system. Last year Virginia agencies procured goods and services through contracts worth over \$6 billion. The study is looking at whether the state oversight, policies and procedures are ensuring maximum value for the dollars being spent and whether risks to the state and the public are adequately covered.

A continuing study that will be reviewed this year relates to managing costs of the Medicaid program. As people live longer and as health care costs in general continue to increase, spending on Medicaid has increased at a pace greater than all other items in the budget. In FY15 Medicaid spending exceeded \$8.2 billion, of which half is reimbursed by the federal government. The challenge is to appropriately control costs without compromising the quality of health care. This does not directly relate to the coverage gap of working poor people for whom the federal government would pay full cost. I do hope that the results of this study might cause the legislature to more objectively consider expanding Medicaid.

A new study for which I am particularly excited is that of early childhood development programs. It will look at the relative cost effectiveness of current programs and the potential for future cost-effective programs. Demonstrating the breadth of programs studied by the Commission is a study of applied biosolids in agricultural use and the use of industrial residuals. The Commission also receives directly reports of the Auditor of Public Accounts.

Copies of past reports on studies conducted by JLARC are available on their website: (<http://jlarc.virginia.gov/>) as are agendas for its monthly meetings. I have always used their reports in my decision making as a legislator, but I look forward to learning even more details as an actual member of the Commission. The work of JLARC should give assurance to citizens that someone is keeping tabs on Virginia government.

Reston's Disappearing Performing Arts Center

BY JOHN LOVAAS
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST

If you want to read a good book that will inform and entertain at the same time, get a copy of Kristina Alcorn's "In His Own Words." This book gives the reader unique insights into the character who founded a community and named it for himself. Kristina, a longtime Reston resident, lets Bob (Robert E. Simon, Jr.) tell his story through anecdotal highlights of his life as he saw them. She gives us an especially engaging look into this complex man. You can get your copy at the Reston Museum or Amazon.com.

Part of Simon's life not in the book has to do with a piece of Bob's vision for Reston which has come tantalizingly close to realization not once, but twice. Bob spent a big chunk of his life managing Carnegie Hall before he sold it and bought the land which became Reston. Not surprisingly, he has hoped his creation would have a fine performing arts venue of its own one day. To date, the dream has yet to be realized.

In planning Reston Town Center many years after Bob was fired by Gulf Reston, a performing arts center was in the mix to be part of the urban core. However, as Reston Land moved forward with project execution and property values rose in Town Center, the idea of donating land for, and funding construction of, a performing arts center lost out to visions of profit sugar plums instead. The concept was scrapped in the early 1990s, around the time Simon returned to Reston after 25 years of in New York. Fast forward to 2012. Like the phoenix of legend, the performing arts center arose from the ashes in the Reston Master Plan Task Force of which Bob Simon was a member. According to Terry Maynard, Reston's top analytical mind, there was a "head-snapping moment in one Task Force meeting...when Pete Otteni committed Boston Properties to building a performing arts center

INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

across the street from the [planned] Town Center Metrorail Station." Imagine being able to take Metro right to major live theater and see "top-tier performance[s]" right in Reston. After the Master Plan was approved BP made presentations of its theater concept plans to several business forums. It seemed the dream would come true this time.

Then, last month at Supervisor Hudgins' "Reston-Blueprint for the Future" community meeting, the proposal disappeared. Boston Properties showed a new concept plan with no sign of a performing arts theater! The change was revealed just a few months after Bob Simon died at the age of 101.

When asked about the disappeared arts center which meant so much to Mr. Simon, I understand Mr. Otteni pointed out that the land so close to the planned Metro station was the most valuable property in Town Center, and that Fairfax County had agreed to build the arts center in the future Town Center North (near the new police station/Supervisor's office suite), a mile north of the Metro station.

Certainly Boston Properties' revenue outlook will improve by dropping the performing arts center and going to its new pay parking scheme in Town Center. But, the question for the rest of us is will Reston ever have a major performing arts venue and, if it does, who will pay to build it and operate it?

To my knowledge, Supervisor Hudgins has yet to confirm any agreement by Fairfax County to build, much less operate, such a theater. If indeed the County does agree, how do you suppose they would pay for it? Our guess is that it would be paid for by Restonians via an increase in the rate we pay for Special Tax District #5, the funding source for the Reston Community Centers. More to come.



PHOTO BY MARIA HARRIS

From left: Tanner Asmussen, Arthur Payne, Jalen Robinson and Jared Sabet in South Lakes High production of 'A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum.'

Hilarious at Every Turn

South Lakes High School's production of 'A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum.'

BY MALLORY WILLIAMSON
DOMINION HIGH SCHOOL

Trogas, forums, soldiers, eunuchs, slaves, funerals, warehouses and two children kidnapped in infancy by pirates. South Lakes High School's production of "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" was every ounce the comedy its first tune promised. Hilarious at every turn, it left audiences with at once sore bellies and a greater grasp of Ancient Roman life.

Steven Sondheim penned "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" in 1962 as an homage both to the farcical works of Roman playwright Plautus and the book by Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbart of the same name. It tells the story of Pseudolus, a Roman slave who desires nothing more than to live as a free man. When his owner's son, Hero, expresses his desire for Philia, a courtesan in the house next door, Pseudolus and Hero strike a deal; if Pseudolus can win the girl for Hero, he's free to live as his own man. If not, a life of slavery.

From start to finish, South Lakes' production was nearly flawless. Every actor executed his or her role's comic moments perfectly, and the impressive multi-layered set brought authenticity to the production. Notable as well were the cast's interactive moments with the audience, and the cracks in the "fourth wall" provided viewers a unique experience worthy of

the Coliseum.

Arthur Payne lent a commendable slyness and cunning to principal character Pseudolus. His character also maintained hilarious chemistry with head slave Hysterium (Jalen Robinson), who himself kept perfect composure even during his character's most humorous moments.

South Lakes' supporting cast is also highly deserving of recognition. Jacob Kemp was gut-splittingly hilarious as Erronius, Pseudolus' neighbor and an elder man searching for his long lost children. Mely Megahed, in the role of Domina, stole the show during "That Dirty Old Man" with her powerful voice and was impressive throughout the show as Senex's thoroughly undesirable wife.

"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum's" set was an undeniable contributor to the show's endless charm. Three functional homes painted in pastel pink, grey, and yellow laid the backdrop to the cast's adventures and provided ample support for challenging elements of the script. Though at times certain characters were difficult to hear, the technical and stage crew were largely effective in moving the production along smoothly.

South Lakes High School's production of "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" was a smashing success, with humorous bits probably not appropriate for the whole family but a charm that truly spans centuries.

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-Arthur Wing Pinero

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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 *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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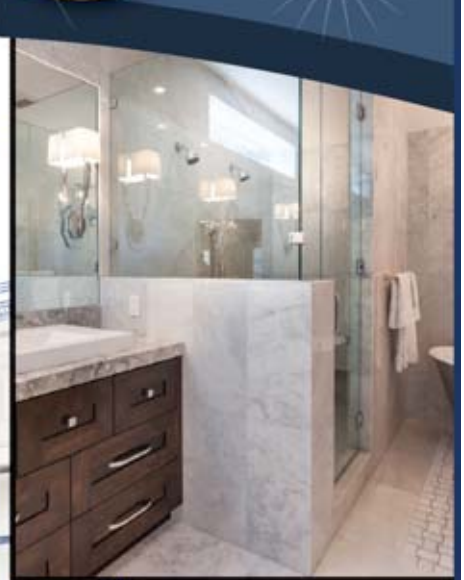


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