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Reston CONNECTION

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PEOPLE

Herndon Scout Completes Eagle Project at Lake Fairfax

Herndon Scout Collin Toole (middle) organized a group of volunteers for his Eagle Scout project of building a fire pit in Lake Fairfax.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Herndon Scout Collin Toole from Troop 913 built a fire pit near the amphitheater in Lake Fairfax on Saturday, June 4, to complete his Eagle Scout project.



From left: Captain Ron Manzo, Reston District Station Commander; Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; Catherine Hudgins, Hunter Mill District Supervisor; Colonel Edwin C. Roessler, Jr., Fairfax County Chief of Police.



PHOTOS BY ALYSSA MILLER/THE CONNECTION

Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and Catherine Hudgins, Hunter Mill District Supervisor, during the welcome ceremony.

North County Governmental Center Opens to Public

The new center nearly doubles the available space for offices, public meetings.

ALYSSA MILLER
THE CONNECTION

Reston residents and local government workers came together Saturday for the Grand Opening of the North County Governmental Center. Several speakers introduced the center, which was officially opened to the public following a ribbon cutting ceremony.

The new building almost doubles the size of the original, which has been turned into a parking lot across the street. The center houses the Reston District Police Station as well as the Hunter Mill District Supervisor's office and a large public room available for use by any Reston resident.

"This building will provide the community with more space for community activities," said Sharon Bulova, the chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Bulova said she believes the added space will allow for the District Office and the police to work more efficiently.

The former building, which was nearly 34 years old, was "among the first buildings to provide county services in North County and the Reston area of Fairfax County," according to Catherine Hudgins, the Hunter Mill District Supervisor.

"I'm excited to continue in the same vein of serving our community with our public safety officers as our partners, and looking for change," Hudgins said. "As Reston and North County will be seeing change ... those services will also find themselves in accommodating facilities."

The new building cost \$18 million according to Reston Now, and features public artwork both in front of the building and lining the hallways. The sculpture in front, created by local artist Matthew Duffy, is made from hand-bent, welded stainless



Colonel Edwin C. Roessler Jr., Fairfax County Chief of Police, and Catherine Hudgins, Hunter Mill District Supervisor.

steel. It features two hands reaching toward each other, meant to represent the mutual respect between the government and the community.

"I was hoping to get people coming into the building, seeing the sculpture and then

maybe thinking, 'I'm about to go work with some of my fellow citizens,'" Duffy said in a speech during the Grand Opening. "And I'm going to conduct myself in a respectful and understanding way."

Reston Hospital Center Medical Staff Awards Scholarships

The Medical Staff of Reston Hospital Center awarded scholarships to 19 Fairfax and Loudoun County high school seniors in recognition of their academic excellence and excitement for pursuing a career in healthcare.

At an award ceremony at Reston Hospital Center, John Deardorff, president and CEO of Reston Hospital Center and HCA's Northern Virginia Market, said, "These students are well deserving of the medical staff scholarships as they begin their journeys of exploring careers in the healthcare field. We hope that one day they return to their roots as members of our local medical community."

Each year, the Medical Staff at Reston Hospital Center offers \$15,000 in schol-

arships to local high schools. Over the past 16 years, Reston Hospital Center's Medical Staff has awarded more than \$250,000 in academic scholarships to students in Northern Virginia.

"It's the choice of our medical staff to support these young adults as they venture into the world in search of their dream careers. We are proud to support such passionate and driven students from our local community as they work towards becoming the future of healthcare," said Dr. Mark Madden, president of Reston Hospital Center's Medical Staff.

The recipients of the Reston Hospital Center Medical Staff Scholarships are: Alexa Binckes- Briar Woods High School, Shanze Eshai and Izabella Valdez - Broad Run High

School; Rebecca Yoo - Centreville High School; Elise Mazzone and Sneha Suresh - Chantilly High School; Sabrina Tolbert and Antonia Osei and - Herndon High School; Joyce Cheng - James Madison High School; Julia Knepper and Nadia Malik - Langley High School; Gilian Wright and Gulenay Saydahmat - McLean High School; Sosan Noori - Oakton High School; Nardin Ageeb - Potomac Falls High School; Jenessa Lopez and Tara Vaughns - South Lakes High School; and Iqra Tariq - Westfield High School. The



Reston Hospital scholarship winners.

Reston Hospital Center Medical Staff congratulates these outstanding students, and are proud to support their continuing education and passion for healthcare.

COMMENTARY

Being Among the Happiest

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

Technologists have applied their big data and computer-crunching to determine where in the world and where in the United States are the happiest places to live. "The Happiest Places in America—2016 Edition" was released last month by Smart Asset, a firm that uses technology to help consumers understand finances (<https://smartasset.com/>). Since my constituents reside in what this study rated the second happiest place to live in America and next door to the happiest place, I thought it would be interesting to examine how Loudoun County as number 1 and Fairfax County as number 2 got those distinctions.

While I am certainly a happy person surrounded by many happy people, I believe the methodologies employed, while useful in understanding the communities in which we live, can also create a false sense of community satisfaction.

Loudoun and Fairfax Counties are the two happiest counties in the U.S. when you limit your study to counties over 50,000 in population. The only other counties in the top ten in happiness located near us are Howard County in Maryland at number 7, Chester County in Pennsylvania at number 4, and three counties in New Jersey; the rest are in the Midwest. No county west of Douglas, Colorado (number 8) made the list.

Eight factors determined happiness in the study. On the positive side, marriage rate, the ratio of me-

dian income to cost of living, life expectancy, and physical activity rate (the percentage of the population getting adequate physical activity each week) were considered. Negative factors were poverty rate, unemployment rate, divorce rate and personal bankruptcy rate. The factors considered together created a score for each county. Loudoun County for example has a median income that is more than twice the cost of living. Its unemployment rate and poverty rate are both under 4 percent. Fairfax County bolsters its score with a life expectancy rate over 83 years and a median income that is almost twice the national median income. At the time of the study, both Loudoun and Fairfax Counties had an unemployment rate of 3.2 percent.

Looking at an extended list of the top 25 happiest counties in America adds York, Virginia at number 15, Montgomery County, Maryland at number 19, as well as counties in Texas and California. Nearly a thousand counties were considered in the study.

For persons working in social services in Loudoun and Fairfax Counties, the list may cause some consternation. A four percent poverty rate is low, but when applied to a population of 1.2 million in Fairfax County represents a very large number of people. The same is true of low unemployment rates when applied to a high number of persons living in an area with a very high cost of living. Even in the happiest of places, some among us struggle. We clearly have strengths in Northern Virginia that we can build on to extend health, wealth and prosperity to those who may not share those characteristics now.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RESTON PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Dawn Murphy Wins Best in Show in Reston Photographic Society Exhibition

Dawn Murphy of Oak Hill was awarded the Best in Show for her photograph "Twilight Cherry Blossoms on the Tidal Basin" at the Reston Photographic Society's National Park Service 100th Anniversary photography exhibit. Murphy received the award at a reception at the Jo Ann Rose Gallery, Reston Community Center, Lake Anne on Sunday, June 5. The Reston Photographic Society is a special interest group within the League of Reston Artists (LRA). The Reston Photographic Society exhibition continues through June 27, 2016 at the Reston Community Center, Jo Ann Rose Gallery, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston. Call 703-476-4500 or visit <http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com/attend-shows-events-exhibits/exhibits-and-galleries>

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The members of the Herndon High Class of 2016 Student Council lead the procession in and gather on the stage.

PHOTOS BY ERIN MURPHY/THE CONNECTION



Herndon High graduates receive their diplomas from Principal William Bates with applause and cheers for each student's name from the audience.

Herndon High Says Farewell to 2016 Graduates

Graduation ceremony took place on Thursday, June 16.

BY ERIN MURPHY
THE CONNECTION

Herndon High School said farewell to its 2016 graduates in a graduation ceremony held at the George Mason Patriot Center on Thursday, June 16.

Following introductory remarks by the Class of 2016 Student Council, Principal William Bates awarded the Faculty Award to student Jeremy Levine. The award was voted on by faculty and administration and awarded annually to the student who is considered the most outstanding student. The criteria include academic success, contribution to community, contributions to the school, character and leadership.

"This year's recipient is an exceptional young Hornet, who consistently pushes himself academically and has one of the highest GPAs in this year's graduating class.

As a member of the Junior and Senior council, this leader has supported the class of 2016 from float building to prom. He has even been the emcee of the Herndon Idol show. He is the recipient of the William and Mary award through his participation in SGA. As a captain of the track team, he completed his high school career with his personal best time of 4 minutes 25 seconds in the 1500," said Principal Bates.

Levine introduced the guest speaker, Chief Meteorologist for NBC4 Dough Kammerer, who graduated from Herndon High School in 1993. His speech encouraged students to embrace the clean slate being handed to them along with a graduation diploma, a chance to be the person they want to be and discover their own lives.

"Find your passion. Make sure every day you wake up and love what you're doing. Make sure that everything you do moves you one step closer to achieving your goal. And don't let anybody ever stand in your way. The only person that can stand in your way is you."

Principal Bates recognized students who chose to support the U.S. through military service, either through acceptance into a service academy, or participating in ROTC,



Members of the Class of 2016 Student Council Samy Zemni and Seara Mainor, deliver the introduction to the graduation ceremony.

as well as all the veterans and active duty members in the audience. Also recognized with rounds of applause were members of the National Honor Society, distinguished scholars with GPAs of a 3.7 or higher, as well as Honor Graduates who were recognized by name for earning a 4.0 or higher throughout their four years of high school.

Retiring Herndon High faculty were also recognized including: Dr. Beverly Parker Lewis, Mrs. Janie Odlen, Mrs. Lila Jimenez-Herrera, Mrs. Bernice Robillard, Mr. James Hagerty, Mrs. Sherry Amado, Mrs. Debbie Anderson, Mr. Joe Sheaffer, Mrs. Kathy Thomas and Master Chief John C. Maness.

SEE VIEWPOINT, PAGE 7



Principal William Bates recognized students choosing to serve the United States military, either through acceptance to a service academy or continued participation in a ROTC program at their college of choice.



The Herndon High graduating class students received roughly \$3 million in scholarships, said Principal William Bates during his introductory remarks.

Stem Gun Violence Epidemic

BY GERRY CONNOLLY
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (D-IL)



COMMENTARY

Last week, America woke to what has become an all-too-common nightmare. A man driven by hate and armed with assault weapons carried out our nation's worst mass shooting. In its aftermath 49 were dead, 53 injured, and communities across our country were left violated, vulnerable and wondering, "How this could happen again?"

It's a scene repeated too often in our country. 49 murdered in Orlando. In December, 14 were killed in San Bernardino. A year ago, nine were murdered during Bible study in South Carolina. Twenty innocent children and six teachers were gunned down inside a school at Sandy Hook. Thirty-three were lost at Virginia Tech — including five bright, young, talented students from our community. Twelve were killed in an Aurora movie theater. The list goes on.

We must have an honest conversation about the hate that is brewing. This time a man stole the lives of 49 people, many of whom identified as LGBT, and all of whom were celebrating and supporting inclusion, progress and freedom. The attacker's homophobic intent has been lost in the media coverage. Some have painted this

as an issue of terror, but we must be reminded that so much of the blood shed to gun violence has been at the hands of those who claim no allegiance to Islam or ISIS. America's dark history of mass killings has come from problems of mental illness to proclamations of white supremacy, and it's a fallacy to attribute the continuous violence to "Radical Islam."

In the wake of these almost weekly tragedies, the response from Congress is as predictable as it is disappointing. We offer our thoughts and prayers. We hold a moment of silence; anything to distract from the central cause, and common instrument, of these crimes. How many more must die before Congress acts?

This is a problem for which there are solutions. Expand universal background checks to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people. Reinstate the assault weapons ban. Close the gun show loophole.

But the gun lobby and the Republican Majority it controls stand in the way of each of these reforms. For example, the NRA opposes expanded background checks for gun purchases even though majorities of gun owners and NRA members support them. The NRA

even opposes the CDC funding for research on gun violence and its effect on public health despite the fact that more than 30,000 people die in gun related deaths annually.

In 1994, Congress passed the Assault Weapons Ban, restricting certain types of weapons and capping the size of ammunition magazines. However, in the time since the ban has been allowed to lapse, these weapons of war have become a common tool for the mayhem unleashed in these mass shootings. Do I think an assault weapons ban would prevent all crimes? Of course not; but certainly our Founding Fathers did not envision AR-15 semi-automatic rifles when they drafted the Second Amendment.

In a shocking video, Virginia Tech survivor Colin Goddard demonstrated just how easy it is to skirt background checks. Without even a photo ID or background check, Goddard was able to purchase an AK-47. Closing the gun show loophole, which allows private dealers to forego background checks required of licensed dealers, would stem the flow of illegal weapons.

When we marked the three-year anniversary of Sandy Hook, I said if more politicians viewed the safety of the American people as more important than pleasing the NRA, reason would prevail and the club of gun violence victims and their families would not continue its unrelenting growth. Instead, our ever-more-frequent moments of silence and inaction speak volumes.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Leaving the Judging to God

To the Editor:

"Whoever kills a person ... it is as though he has killed all mankind. And whoever saves a life, it is as though he had saved all mankind." (Qur'an, 5:32)

The tragic event which took place early on June 12 at the hands of a despicable and deranged individual breaks my heart. The blatant disregard for the value of human life is shocking. My thoughts and prayers are with the entire Orlando community, and especially with the families and friends of the victims. This goes against anything and everything that my religion and my allegiance to America, as a citizen of this great country, stands for and represents. Islam gives no one the right to violently cut short the lives of innocent people, or judge them for the way they choose to live. I don't drink alcohol and consider adultery a sin, does this mean I should kill those who drink or have affairs? Just as that makes no sense, neither does killing anyone for their sexual orientation. Islam teaches me to leave the judging to God and to focus my energy on attaining God's pleasure by showing compassion and serving all of His creation in whatever capacity I can.

I condemn all terrorist activity, everywhere. This is true regardless of where it happens and who it happens to because I love all of humanity. My love for humanity is not reserved only for Muslims nor only for Americans just because I, myself, am an American Muslim. My heart bleeds for every atrocity and every injustice inflicted on my fellow mankind, and I stand against any type of bigotry and discrimination towards any group or community. Why then does the media try to make me feel compelled to always publicly apologize for any and all unfortunate events that take place?

Let's please clarify that I am in no way responsible for the actions of any person in this world besides myself. No one. Not even my own children. I will work hard my entire life to teach them right from wrong and instill a love for service to humanity in their hearts, but in the end they alone are answerable for their actions. Everyone is solely responsible for their own deeds. "And no burdened soul can bear the burden of another; and if a heavily laden soul call another to bear its load, naught of it shall be carried by the other, even though he be a kinsman (Quran, 35:19)."

After the Virginia Tech or Sandy Hook shootings did the media turn to the killer's religion or community looking for condemnation or

an apology? No. And I'm glad they didn't because every sane person understood that the monster responsible for each tragedy was just that, a monster who represented evil alone. So please extend the same compassion to us! Why isn't it possible for someone of Asian/Middle Eastern descent who just so happens to be affiliated with Islam simply be a misguided insane madman executing a personal vendetta against mankind, and not tarnish an entire religion by being wrongfully portrayed as a devout believer waging a "holy" war, until and unless there is clear evidence otherwise?

Love for all, hatred for none.

Aisha Khan
Herndon

Harmful House Bill

To the Editor:

Last week, the U.S. House decided that keeping our air safe is not important and passed a bill to restrict implementation of the new standards for nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, particulate matter and lead. The "Smoggy Skies Act" (HR 4775) is an irresponsible attack on the Clean Air Act. This bill would double the time between EPA re-

views of harmful pollutants (from 5 to 10 years) and caters to corporations that want permits to pollute at levels beyond national health standards.

The standards in place protect our health and environment, and should be based on science, not considerations of cost and "technological feasibility" for companies that put profits before people. The connection between climate change and health, particularly asthma, is well established. Pumping more climate change pollutants into the air is impacting ozone pollen levels, increasing asthma attacks and allergic reactions. Richmond, Virginia, leads the list of the worst cities for asthma and allergy sufferers, and the health effects will only worsen.

Smog pollution already sends thousands of children to emergency rooms each year and costs Americans billions in health care costs, lost productivity and even premature deaths. Even more disconcerting is that smog pollution disproportionately hurts low-income communities and communities of color. Preventing attacks like HR 4775, and implementing the Clean Power Plan, is the next essential step in protecting our health.

Kelsey Crane
Reston

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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VIEWPOINTS

Where Are You Going Next, Where Do You See Yourself in 5-10 Years?

—ERIN MURPHY

Helen Mai (on the right), class of 2016

"My plans after high school are to go to VCU majoring in biology in pre-med, and I see myself going to med school and becoming a doctor."



Ben Clark, class of 2016 (receiving his diploma from Principal William Bates)

"I'm going to Virginia Tech next year and I hope to be working abroad in 5-10 years."

Caroline Bergeron, Herndon High Class of 2016

"I'm planning on going up to Canada and study in Montreal at the University of Montreal, I plan on studying biochemistry and attempt to start an art career through painting magic the gathering cards on the side. In 5-10 years I can see myself hopefully working in whichever science I find the most passion in, but if my art picks up on the side and I can live off of that after getting my degree I can also see myself become a full time artist."



Jessica Nielsen (center), class of 2016

"After high school, I'm attending Brigham Young University, majoring in English Language. In 5-10 years, I see myself married with a family, working as an editor and pursuing my master in Library Science."



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Class of 2016 Chorus Members sing Francis Scott Key’s Star Spangled Banner.



Johnathan Brandon Guerrero knows exactly where his family and friends are in the stands. Behind him are Brennan Walter Gulakowski and Min-Ki Ha. Ahead of him is Martin Christopher Gryski.



Class officers Erica Paige Slye, Kalista Gaelan Majoros, Eric Thomas Ottman and Nathan Thomas Campbell

Go Big, Class of 2016

By Ken Moore
The Connection

“Think of this as the morning announcements for the rest of your life,” said senior Meaghan Elizabeth Nally, now a graduate of South Lakes High School Class of 2016.

“Go big, let’s go big,” said Nally. “Hashtag: 2016 Goes Big.”

“Squeeze out all there is to offer,” said Nally, who will play Division I soccer for Georgetown University in the fall. “If you fail, and fall flat on your face, so what?”

“Go big can mean anything,” said the National Honor Society student and International Baccalaureate Career-Related Programme Candidate.

“Grab onto your dreams,” she said, “and friends and family, hold on for the ride.”

Nally saluted her hometown and its founder, Robert E. Simon.

“Thank you Mr. Simon for giving us such a wonderful place to live,” said Nally.

NALLY AND HER classmates graduated with diplomas at the South Lakes High School 2016 Commencement Ceremony held Friday at George Mason University EagleBank Arena.

Assistant Principal Dana Walker delivered a message of his own. “Class of 2016, we are here to celebrate you and your accomplishments.”

Among the class of 2016 were students who graduated despite being homeless, students who are the first in their families to graduate, students who are the first in their families to enroll in college, in addition to honors students, athletes, scholars, artists, musicians and more, said Walker.

Principal Kimberly Retzer asked about a dozen graduates to stand who have made the decision to enter the military. She also asked the graduates to stand who had grade point averages above 4.0.

“Class of 2016, you matter and you will always be a big deal,” said Walker. “Assist one another in tearing down the walls of injustice, intolerance and ignorance,” he said.

AMONG ASSISTANT Principal Dana Walker’s memorable lines:

“Set your own unique course and dare to be different.”

“Smiling is much easier than frowning.”

“Love is greater than hate.”

“Look beyond yourself and make great decisions.”

“One, show up on time.”

“Two, always walk with a raised head,” he said, “yet do so with humility. “Three, Never look down on another person unless you are lifting them up.”

Finally, “Once a Seahawk, always a Seahawk.”

Tiffanee Dykes was the keynote speaker at the ceremony.

“I come to events like this and say to myself, ‘Girl, you are good. Did you just hear that bio she just read? I am fabulous.’”

Dykes, now with the CIA said, “I know you are saying, ‘Who is this woman and who selected her to speak today.’”

She remembers feeling excited and a bit nervous when she graduated high school, “not that long ago.”



Class of 2016 Chorus Members perform and participated in their graduation ceremony Friday.

“Be passionate,” she said, no matter what that may be about.

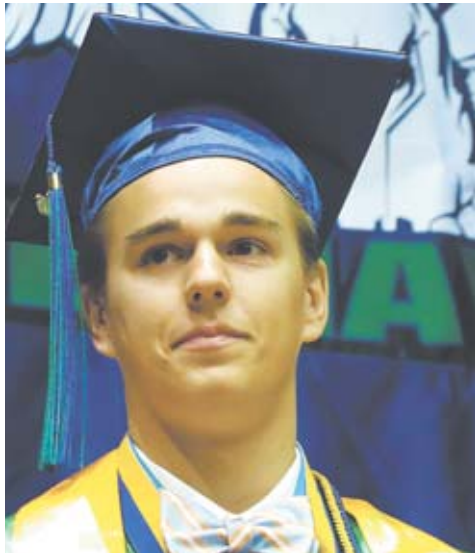
“Graduates, don’t be afraid to do something different. Stretch,” she said.

“The reality was, I never wanted to work for the CIA. My first reaction was, ‘Hell, no. Have you not seen the movies?’”

But she took the risk and has traveled the world and “made a contribution to the country I so dearly love. I decided to take the chance.”



Friday, June 17 was a picture perfect day for Madeleine Grace Cochrane and Rachael McPherson Buchner and the rest of the graduates from the class of 2016.



Teachers selected Tanner Michael Asmussen, one of four students to be nominated, to earn one of the most prestigious awards at the ceremony.



South Lakes Band performs Edward Elgar’s “Pomp and Circumstance,” No. 1, Op. 39, as the South Lakes Class of 2016 marched to their seats for graduation.



Ibania Canas was one of the first students to enter George Mason University EagleBank Arena for the South Lakes High School graduation Friday, June 17 at 2 p.m.



Meaghan Nally is bound for Georgetown University, where she will play soccer next fall. She also gave advice to the senior class she hopes they will remember: “Go Big.”



Author of the message, “Thanks, Mom and Dad,” on top of the graduation mortar board: Spencer Huhu Kinsey-Korzym. “They helped me through school and helped me to get my Eagle Scout award.”

PHOTOS BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION



Oleksiy Melnyk and Sarah Amde Mesele get ready for starting time.



Mersadez Jayde Sewell got her hair perfectly in tune with the South Lakes colors for graduation. She is pictured here with Paul Sesay moments before she received her 2016 high school diploma.



Class of 2016 Chorus Members sing Francis Scott Key’s Star Spangled Banner.



The band called Delta Spur entertains the crowd.



Stilt walker Shelly Guy of Big Biz Entertainment in Baltimore walks through the crowd at The Taste of Reston on Saturday.



Crowds flock to the Taste of Reston on a beautiful Saturday afternoon at Market Street in Reston Town Center.

Taste of Reston Draws Crowds

Large crowds flocked to The Taste of Reston at Reston Town Center on Friday and Saturday, June 16-17, produced by the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce. The event featured food, beer and wine booths with the area's best cuisine, live entertainment, a Wine 'n Dine section with cooking demos from local chefs and a Family Fun Zone. Guests could sample restaurant and wine favorites at dozens of booths that lined Market Street.

— STEVE HIBBARD



The Big Bowl booth with Nikki Akol, Heather Cooper, Leif Markee and Kevin Cha.

PHOTOS BY
STEVE HIBBARD
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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

JULY

7/6/2016..... Wellbeing
7/13/2016..... HomeLifeStyle
7/20/2016..... A+ Camps & Schools
7/27/2016..... Connection Families: Our Pets

AUGUST

8/3/2016..... Wellbeing
8/10/2016..... HomeLifeStyle
8/17/2016...A+ Camps & Schools – Back to School –
Private Schools

8/24/2016...Newcomers & Community Guide Pullout

8/31/2016.....Connection Families: Enrichment,
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SEPTEMBER

Labor Day is September 5

9/7/2016..... Wellbeing

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ENTERTAINMENT



Kelly Snyder's easy brush strokes and fresh colors, in her acrylic painting "Fruit for Sale," capture the summer mood at the Paint and Beyond Exhibit showing at the U.S. Geological Survey in Reston through July 29.

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

ONGOING

"Paint and Beyond." July 1-29. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. U.S. Geological Survey, National Gallery, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Free. www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

Yoga on the Plaza. 9:30-10:30 a.m. Sundays. Through Aug. 28. Stretch out and cool down to start your Sunday morning with yoga. Our talented yoga instructors will lead you through one hour of free exercise on the Plaza to the tune of fun music. Bring your own mat and water. lakeanneplaza.com.

Truths in False Positives. June 11-26. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Sherwood Gainer's Pattern Recognition: Truths in False Positives offers vibrant and often chaotic abstractions, and explores how visual cues from a canvas can inform a dialog unique to each observer. artspaceherndon.com. 703-956-9560.

Mr. Knick Knack. 10:30-11:15 a.m. Mondays through October. Reston Town Center Pavilion. Unique, heart-centered music for kids and their grown-ups. Free. restontowncenter.com. 703-579-6720

Herndon Friday Night Live. 6:30 p.m. Through Aug. 26. 777 Lynn St., Herndon. Features the most popular local and regional acts from up and down the east coast. Free. For the performance schedule, go to herndonrocks.com.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 22

Color Me Happy. 7 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Relax, unwind, turn loose your inner artist and discover that coloring is for grown-ups, too. Choose from a collection of intricate designs and bring them to life with color. Coloring pages, pens and pencils provided or bring your own. Adults. 703-689-2700.

THURSDAY/JUNE 23

Spice Up Your Life! 10 a.m.-noon. Dranesville Church of the Brethren, 11500 Leesburg Pike, Herndon. A class about the health benefits of common spices. There will be taste-testing. To register: joygoodshepherd@verizon.net. 703-430-7872.

DEADLINE JUNE 23

Dulles Chapter 1241 Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. Amphora Diner, 1151 Elden St., Herndon. Speaker Michelle Leith of Virginia Attorney General's Office. on issues affecting Northern Virginia. Luncheon will be on Monday, June 27. \$18. Reserve at 703-435-3523 or nana492@aol.com.

FRIDAY/JUNE 24

Fish Out of Water and The Jerx Concert. 6:30-10:30 p.m. Town Green, 777 Lynn St., Herndon. Come here the cover band Fish Out of Water plays songs from a wide variety of genres, including classic rock, dance, hip hop, country, pop, hard rock, and pop punk. Free. info@herndonrocks.com.

Throwing Plates. 9:30 p.m. Kalypso's Sports Tavern, 1617 Washington Plaza N, Reston. Alternative, rock and pop. 703-707-0660.

SATURDAY/JUNE 25

Open Road 10th Anniversary Concert. 8 p.m. NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Featuring Award-Winning Singer/Songwriter Jim Van Slyke. \$35. nextstoptheatre.org.

Collegium Cantorum Concert. 7 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. 30th Anniversary Musical celebration of the group. Free. \$20 suggested. artspaceherndon.com. 703-956-9560.

School's Out for Summer Pool Party. 4-7 p.m. Golf Course Island Pool, 11301 Links Drive, Reston. Come celebrate the end of school with friends and neighbors! There will be food starting at 5:00 p.m., fun, music, and swimming. In case of inclement weather, please contact RCC at 703-476-4500 for event status update.

Goddard School First Anniversary. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The Goddard School, 2400 Dulles Town Blvd., Herndon. Petting zoo, face painting, balloon twisting, food, dancing, and more. 703-653-0337.

SUNDAY/JUNE 26

"Armor of Light." 7:30 p.m. Trinity Presbyterian Church, 651 Dranesville Road, Herndon. Documentary about an evangelical minister and the mother of a teenage shooting victim who explore the moral and ethical response to gun violence. Discussion follows. 703-437-5500.

THURSDAY/JUNE 30

Swing Sisters Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer. 7-9 p.m. Lake Anne Plaza, Reston. Acoustic swing. Free. www.restoncommunitycenter.com/take-a-break.

FRIDAY/JULY 1

Summer Stage at Reston Station. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wiehle-Reston East Metro. Featuring Elikeh — AfroPop. Free. All ages. restoncommunitycenter.com.

Turtle Recall and Southbay Concert. 6:30-10:30 p.m. Town Green, 777 Lynn St., Herndon. Come hear Turtle Recall, a DC area band specializing in alternative pop folk rock. Free. info@herndonrocks.com.

SATURDAY/JULY 2

America's Composers. 8 p.m. NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Featuring Jen Lambert, Ariana Kruszewski, and Ryan Burke. \$25. nextstoptheatre.org.

SUNDAY/JULY 3

The Robert Larson Trio. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Reston Town Square Park (Corner of Market and Explorer streets). Music of the swing era. Free. restoncommunitycenter.com.

TUESDAY-SATURDAY/JULY 5-9

Coco-Cola Collectors Convention. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Hyatt Regency Reston, 1800 Presidents St., Reston. Bring Coca Cola collectibles and have them appraised. Live auction. Saturday swap meet on July 9 is open to the general public. Free. cocacolaclub.org. 214-929-0555.



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SPORTS

Top Spring, Winter Sports Moments

The following is a look back at some of the top moments in local high school sports from the 2016 winter and spring seasons.

Herndon's Menendez No-Hits South Lakes

Herndon junior Antonio Menendez tossed a no-hitter against South Lakes on April 2 and the Hornets defeated the Seahawks 2-0 in Reston.

Menendez struck out 10, walked two and hit two batters. He threw 86 pitches, including 53 for strikes.

It was the first varsity no-hitter for Menendez, who is committed to Wake Forest.

South Lakes Boys' Lax Wins Conference

For the South Lakes boys' lacrosse team, a double-digit win streak developed into the first conference title in program history.

South Lakes defeated Yorktown 8-5 in the Conference 6 championship game on May 13 at Langley High School, giving the Seahawks their first title. South Lakes finished the season with a 16-3 record, including a 13-7 loss to Colonial Forge in the state quarterfinals.

After losing to Stone Bridge in the second game of the season, the Seahawks kept on winning. A five-game win streak turned into a 10-game win streak and eventually South Lakes entered the conference tournament final with a 12-1 record, having won 11 straight.

South Lakes made it 12 in a row with the win over Yorktown. Tommy Jung scored three goals for the Seahawks and Matt Hughes scored two.

Langley Girls Reaches State Final

The 2015-16 Langley girls' basketball team reached the state championship game for the first time in program history. Along the way, the Saxons won their first conference/district title since 1988 and upset previously unbeaten Oakton in the state semifinals.

Langley gave two-time defending state champion Cosby trouble in the state final and had a chance to tie with less than a minute remaining, but the Titans went on to capture their third straight championship with a 42-37 victory on March 9 at VCU's Siegel Center. Langley ended the season with a 26-6 record and the deepest postseason run in its history.

The previous day, the Saxons defeated then-unbeaten Oakton 47-38 in the semifinals. The 38 points were a season low for the Cougars.

Senior guard Paige Galiani became the

program's all-time leading scorer during the regular season. She scored 17 points and hit a late 3-pointer that led the Saxons to a 34-32 win over Landstown in the state quarterfinals on March 5 at Old Dominion University. She totaled 11 points, four rebounds and two blocks against Cosby in the state final.

Senior guard Lizzy Shamloo had 12 points, nine rebounds and three steals against Cosby.

Madison's Vannicola Throws No-Hitter

Katie Vannicola's first high school no-hitter earned the Madison softball team its first trip to the state championship game since 2004.

Vannicola did not allow a hit against Grassfield in the 6A state semifinals and Madison won 4-0 on June 10 at Robinson Secondary School. The future Georgetown hurler struck out seven, hit one batter and walked three.

Vannicola received some help from her defense, including third baseman Alex Echazarreta catching a line drive in the seventh inning.

The Warhawks would lose to Osbourn Park 4-0 in the state final the following day.

Madison finished the season with a 24-5 record, with three of its losses coming in the Conference 6, 6A North region and state championship games.



PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN/THE CONNECTION

The South Lakes boys' lacrosse team won the first conference title in program history.



Herndon junior Antonio Menendez no-hit South Lakes on April 2.

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Madison pitcher Katie Vannicola threw her first high school no-hitter in the state semifinals.



PHOTO BY WILL PALENSCAR

Paige Galiani and the Langley girls' basketball team reached the state final for the first time in program history.



U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) was the Keynote Speaker at the ceremonies for Leadership Fairfax Institute and Emerging Leaders graduating Classes of 2016. The Congressman encouraged the graduates to take what they had learned and the connections they had made to “bloom where you are planted” for the betterment of all the community’s citizens.



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

And the proud graduates just kept coming across the stage. Leadership Fairfax presented diplomas to more than fifty graduates during the ceremony at the Pavilion at Reston Town Center.

Leadership Fairfax Honors 2016 Graduates

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

The Pavilion at Reston Town Center was a most fitting venue for the graduation ceremony of the 2016 classes of the nonprofit Leadership Fairfax Institute (LFI). With a mission to develop “community trustees who are individually and collectively responsible for the strength of the county...To ultimately engage [them] to become agents of positive change in Fairfax County and the Northern Virginia region,” what could have been more appropriate than celebrating their success in the open-air focal point of a major area community?

As the students, staff, speakers and guests gathered for a reception and then the commencement activities under the Pavilion dome, many shoppers, diners, Town Center strollers and employees stopped to see what was happening in the area usually reserved for winter ice skating or warm weather concerts, car shows or festivals. “This is kind of cool,” said David Macintosh of Reston who noticed the proceedings as he dined alfresco at a neighboring restaurant. “They told me this was all about teaching adults to know more about our county and how to improve things. Sounds like something we need more of across the country these days.”

Leadership Fairfax was founded in 1987 by the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce. LFI sponsors two 10-month long intensive leadership development programs. The LFI program is designed for those already in a leadership role from mid-level to senior, from all walks of life and representing all of the gears that drive the area’s engine; nonprofits, public service agencies, private corporations, educators, executives and volunteers. To ensure the most advantageous learning environment for



Flanked by LFI President and CEO Karen Cleveland, and Board Chair Brian Monday, Suzanne Keating, LFI Class of 1998, received the Torchbearer’s Award for service. “There is nothing that Suzanne can’t do, won’t do, hasn’t done or is not willing to do in service to LFI and our community,” praised Cleveland.

these busy students, only 45-50 applicants are accepted into the program each year.

The Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI) is equally challenging and equally rewarding, bringing together about 40 young professionals for the enhancement of skills in project management, conflict resolution, communication and presentation skills and more.

There is even a two-month program in partnership with Volunteer Fairfax, the Positive Aging Coalition, George Mason University and others for retiring or newly retiring individuals, helping to develop the skills and experiences of this group and assisting these participants in finding the best and most meaningful outlets to continue using their gifts.

SEE LEADERSHIP, PAGE 16



Susan Sims was also a Torchbearer Award recipient for using her talents and time as the Communications Manager for Leadership Fairfax. “It’s supposed to be part-time,” but LFI’s president Karen Cleveland acknowledged that Sims gives much more than that. Sims was an LFI graduate in 2012.



Lindsey Doane, from the Office of Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chair Sharon Bulova, graduated from LFI’s Emerging Leaders program and is ready to bring her improved skills into play to keep helping the community.



Reginald Johnson, Assistant Fire Chief for Fairfax County Fire and Rescue, receives his diploma from LFI Chair Brian Monday. The programs sponsored by LFI are designed to enhance the skills of community leaders from all walks of life.

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Rooting Around



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As rare as this beginning may sound, a funny thing happened to me at my dentist's office this past week: the apparent need for two root canals followed up by two crowns (neither of which will make me king or master of my domain) for a not-so-grand total of between 8 and 10 thousand uninsured/out-of-pocket dollars (the specific pocket yet to be determined and the timetable likewise yet to be decided).

And it's not as if the consequence of my inaction was a shock. Hardly. My dentist and my dental hygienist, Sandy, have been advising/cajoling me and attempting various preventive procedures for years hoping to avoid this eventuality, for my sake, really. Nevertheless, despite their consistently best efforts to get me to floss and/or use whatever flossing alternative exists on the market, I have unfortunately through no fault of theirs, reached my infected point, at least on the X-Rays I was shown, of no return. Not that needing root canals or any other variety of dental repair is at all unusual – or unexpected after reaching a certain middle age, it was more the manner in which the need/recommendation was suggested to me by my dentist and his hygienist – and my reaction to it, that I thought was column-worthy. I thought especially so in the light of having been diagnosed with stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer in early 2009.

Separating out the cost-anxiety for a moment and trying just to deal with the bad, inconvenient, negative, time-consuming news, the message I received, softly and clearly, was one offered up as sympathetically and presumably as empathetically as possible, given my underlying cancer diagnosis, with which the practice is well acquainted. And I appreciated the sensitivity with which the dental assessment – and cost, was discussed. However, if I had to bet a dollar, I would say their initial concern was more about yours truly finding the necessary unreimbursed dollars to solve this long-standing tooth decay than was its impact on me as a cancer patient, as evidenced by their assurances of financial assistance.

And since I was not yet in the excruciating pain that my dentist described was likely forthcoming, nor flush with cash ready to commit to this huge/not totally unexpected expense, I took their advice in stride (in the dental chair, actually) and hesitatingly authorized their first step: e-mailing the referred endodontist for price/plan/schedule, etc.

Now this is where the subject finally gets funny, and I don't mean hysterical (because I'm not crazy or laughing heartily) and I don't mean ironic (because it's not exactly a twist on reality), but it was as Jerry Seinfeld once said: "something." And the something it was I think was context. I have the ultimate weight on my shoulders: cancer – and by association I'm told, on my teeth, too. I'm already living with terrible news, the worst kind of news, a "terminal" prognosis given at age 54 and a half due to an "incurable" form of lung cancer. And what was funny to me was the serious, somber and sorrowful tones and expressions with which this root canal need was given. If I hadn't already received a cancer diagnosis seven-plus years ago, I would have thought I was receiving one right there in the dentist's office.

Root canal? Is that all you got? Hey, I may not be thrilled about the cost and I'm certainly not looking forward to the pain and inconvenience. I'll get it done when I get it done. In the interim however, to be honest, I can't worry about it too much. I have cancer: "The Emperor of all Maladies."

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

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Delight in our *HomeLifeStyle* sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

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21 Announcements

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

MARIAMMA KARINGATIL THOMAS AND
SAJAN K. THOMAS, CO ADMINISTRATORS, C.T.A.D.B.N.
OF THE ESTATE OF KARINGATIL THOMAS VARGHESE,
DECEASED

Petitioners,
v CL16-1005

BENJAMIN K THOMAS, ets als,
Respondents.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of the above-styled suit is to distribute one-fourth (1/4) portion of Benjamin K. Thomas from the Estate of Karingatil Thomas Varghese, Deceased, into the Court. And, it appearing by affidavit filed according to the law that Benjamin K. Thomas, one of the above-named Respondents, cannot be found, that service was attempted on Respondent's last known mailing address and could not be completed, that certified letters sent to the Respondent's last known mailing address have been returned, and that diligence has been used without effect to ascertain his location, it is therefore ORDERED that the said Benjamin K. Thomas appear on or before the 5th day of July, 2016, in the Clerk's Office of this Court and do what is necessary to protect his interests.

And, it is further ORDERED that this order be published once a week, for four (4) successive weeks in the Herndon Connection, of Alexandria, Virginia, a newspapers of general circulation in Herndon; that a copy of this order be posted on the local government website.

I ASK FOR THIS:
CATHY JACKSON LEITNER (VSB# 44288) ; ASHLEIGH
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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Green Lizard Cycling, LLC
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above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine & Beer On & Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Beth Meyer, Member

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 dates from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200

117 Adoption

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28 Yard Sales

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304 E Church Rd, Sterling, VA 20164. Saturday June 25 from 7 am to 2 pm. If you need it we probably have it. Appliances, clothing, housewares, furniture, electronics, exercise equipment, etc. Rain or shine.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

ESTATE SALE - LOG HOMES
PAY THE BALANCE OWED ONLY!!!
AMERICAN LOG HOMES IS ASSISTING FINAL RELEASE OF ESTATE & ACCOUNT SETTLEMENT ON HOUSES.
3 Log Home kits selling for BALANCE OWED, FREE DELIVERY
1) Model # 101 Carolina \$40,840...BALANCE OWED \$17,000
2) Model # 303 Little Rock \$38,525...BALANCE OWED \$15,000
3) Model # 403 Augusta \$42,450...BALANCE OWED \$16,500
BEFORE CALLING: VIEW at www.loghomedream.com Click on House Plans
NEW - HOMES HAVE NOT BEEN MANUFACTURED
• Make any plan design changes you desire!
• Comes with Complete Building Blueprints & Construction Manual
• Windows, Doors, and Roofing not included
• NO TIME LIMIT FOR DELIVERY! BBB A+ Rating
SERIOUS ONLY REPLY. Call (704) 602-3035 ask for Accounting Dept.

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Be a part of our **Wellbeing** pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

Questions? E-mail
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
or call 703-778-9431

THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

SCHOOLS

Send school notes to north@connectionnews.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 Brassica 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.

Margot Cumming, of Reston, is on the dean's list for May 2016 of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at the University of Wisconsin Madison.

William Wade McLaughlin, of Reston, graduated in May 2016 from Averett University with a double major in psychology, counseling and clinical and psychology, integrative health psychology as well as a minor in sociology.

Premeela Nirmal, of Reston, graduated with a bachelor of science in nursing from Eastern Mennonite University in spring 2016.

Micaela Sturm, of Oak Hill, graduated with a bachelor of science in health science/physical therapy from Quinnipiac University in spring 2016.

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/ by noon on the Friday prior to the following week's paper.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 22

Dulles Corridor Advisory Committee

Meeting. 9:30 a.m. Center for Innovative Technology, The Briefing Room, 2214 Rock Hill Road, Herndon. Committee will receive financial and construction updates on the Silver Line project. The Committee will also discuss Dulles Toll Road revenue and transactions. Open to the public. <http://www.dullestollroad.com/toll/dulles-corridor-advisory-committee>.

MONDAY/JUNE 27

Community Meeting Reston Funding Plan.

7-9 p.m. North County Government Center, 12000 Bowman Towne Road, Reston. discussion on the status of the Funding Plan, coordination and work completed with the Reston Network Analysis Group, and potential sources of revenue. 703-877-5600.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 29

Hunter Mill Road Study Community

Meeting. 7 p.m. North County Government Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston.

Laura Mister, of Herndon. Is on the deans list at Emory and Henry College in Emory, Virginia, for spring 2016.

Barry Kinney, Herndon, graduated in May 2016 with a bachelor of general studies in Liberal Arts and Sciences from the University of Kansas.

Gregory Veit, Herndon, graduated in May 2016 with a master of science in business from the University of Kansas.

Max Maurer, from Oak Hill, graduated from Hampden-Sydney College with a B.A. in economics and business in May 2016.

Michaela Gaughan of Oak Hill has been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2015 semester at St. Mary's College in Indiana.

Herndon residents on the Dean's List at Washington University in St. Louis for fall 2015 include **Azeez Abdikarim**, School of Engineering and Applied Science; **Kate Hao**, College of Arts and Sciences; **Snigdha Srivastava**, College of Arts & Sciences,

Abdulaziz Nabil Alshenaiber of Reston graduated from the University of New Haven with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering from Tagliatela College of Engineering.

Micaela Sturm, of Oak Hill, has been named to the dean's list at Quinnipiac University for the fall 2015 semester

Ryan Gulledge, of Herndon, been named to the University at Albany Dean's List of Distinguished Students for fall 2015

Etienne Ying-Hong Dailly, a graduating senior at South Lakes High School in Reston, Virginia, has been named one of more than 4,000 candidates in the 2016 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. The candidates were selected from nearly 3.3 million students expected to graduate from U.S. high schools in the year 2016.

Margot Cumming and **Zachary Klein**, of Reston, are on the Dean's List for Fall 2015 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Cumming is in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. Klein is in the College of Letters and Science.

Brenda Kamga, of Reston, is on the Dean's List for the Fall 2015 semester at Mars Hill University in North Carolina.

Ian McConnell, of Reston, son of Elizabeth and Clayton McConnell is on the Dean's List for the Fall 2015 semester at Furman University in South Carolina.

Discussion of project status and next steps.
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/>.

ONGOING

The Herndon Adult Day Health Care Center

needs a bingo caller and an art therapy assistant. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Herndon Senior Center** needs a volunteer trained in taking blood pressure, Social Visitors and a Baked Goods Table Manager. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program** needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/.

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.



Officer Brian Bowman with the Marine Patrol boat.

PHOTOS BY
ALYSSA MILLER
THE CONNECTION

Reston District Police Station Hosts Community Open House

Residents toured exhibits and the new station.

BY ALYSSA MILLER
THE CONNECTION

Seeing a group of elementary school children standing around a bomb-disposal robot would normally be cause for concern, but that's exactly what happened during Saturday's Reston District Police Station Open House.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Reston residents were invited to visit the new North County Governmental Building, which shares its space with the police station, and interact with officers and exhibits.

"It shows the public a different side of us," said PFC Katy Defoe, the crime prevention officer at the Reston District Station.

According to Defoe, the event helps children and families see what police officers really look like on duty in case of an emergency. She said the event helps to connect residents with the station, which is usually better at showing up during a crisis than displaying its features for fun.

Residents could look at exhibits such as the marine patrol and police motorcycles. They were free to walk through an ambulance or fire truck, and even pet a police dog — a black lab named Tucker.

"I think it was really good to put out so many vehicles for the kids to satisfy their curiosity," said Reston resident Yvonne Downie. While Downie and her husband, Craig, enjoyed seeing a real police helicopter, their daughter Isla's favorite part of the day was petting Tucker.

In addition to curious children, adults were able to get a better look at "what resources the county has to provide assistance when they require it," said Fire Technician Rony Avalos.

Avalos said it was important for people to see the safety level the county provides, "not just to [Reston] residents, but to visitors."

According to Defoe, this was the first open house the station held since 2011, due to construction on the North County Governmental Center. The new building increases the police station from around 16,000 square feet to more than 36,000 square feet.

Visitors could take a tour of the new station, which boasts two floors, something Defoe says is fairly



Reston resident Isla plays with Tucker, an FCPD black lab.

The event also featured a library booth where children could dress up and participate in storytelling. Here, they're learning about how to call for help in case of an emergency.



unique. Although the top floor holds offices for the station commander and assistant commander, most police officers work from their cars when on duty.

The bottom floor houses an exercise room for officers who are encouraged to work out throughout the day. It also has a room for cleaning weapons, and one for filing paperwork at the end of the day, among others.

Officer Brian Bowman, who is part of the Marine Patrol Unit, stressed that members of the police department are "very open and approachable." Bowman hopes events like these will teach community members "not to fear or be worried about talking to us or approaching us."

Anna Buchanan, a Reston resident, said she loved being able to take the kids out for the event and seeing the resources available to them.

Although the open house primarily allowed officers to reach out to the community, some residents, like Buchanan, enjoyed the ability to give back.

"It's a great opportunity to say thank you to some of the firemen, policemen and other response workers for everything they do," said Buchanan.



Smokey Visits Yoga Festival

It was a beautiful Sunday, June 12, at Reston Town Center where a Yoga festival was being held. Smokey and his owner, Isabelle Woloch, decided to spend part of the afternoon at the Festival. Smokey did not have any trouble making new friends as they walked by the booths. He even had a chance to meet a few other dogs who were enjoying the sunshine as well. Watching the yoga classes and the visiting the various booths, including a chiropractor, and a couple of yoga schools, he enjoyed the attention and dog treats.



Leadership Fairfax Honors 2016 Graduates

FROM PAGE 13

There was no shortage of leaders among the presenters and speakers who addressed the graduates. Leadership Fairfax Board Chair Brian Monday from TD Bank (himself a graduate of the program), and class of '05 graduate Leadership Fairfax President and CEO Karen Cleveland were the co-hosts for the evening.

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) delivered the inspiring keynote remarks. Connolly praised the work of the organization, saying, "I want an informed electorate. Our community needs that. Leadership Fairfax opens your eyes to how things work and I think that makes you less cynical ... and more prepared to find solutions to our challenges."

In addition to recognizing their latest class of achievers, LFI took this opportunity to present two special kudos. Susan Sims (LFI '12) and Suzanne Keating (LFI '98 and a member of the LFI faculty) were both honored as recipients

of the Torchbearer Award for outstanding service to the organization and the community.

Representatives from both graduating classes also spoke to the assembly. Before receiving her ELI diploma, Savannah Guernsey reminded the gathering that "great leaders are also great followers and are followed by great leaders. A large part of what we have learned is when to lead and when to follow," Guernsey said.

Warren Wright was the chosen speaker for the LFI graduating class. "Ours is a tale of two counties — one thriving and one struggling. I didn't know how great the disparity was until I took this course." Wright stated that his LFI experience not only made the situations around him clearer, they also better equipped him to work with others to find answers.

For information about Leadership Fairfax and the programs offered, visit their website at www.leadershipfairfax.org. Next year's graduates will begin their latest leadership journeys soon.