

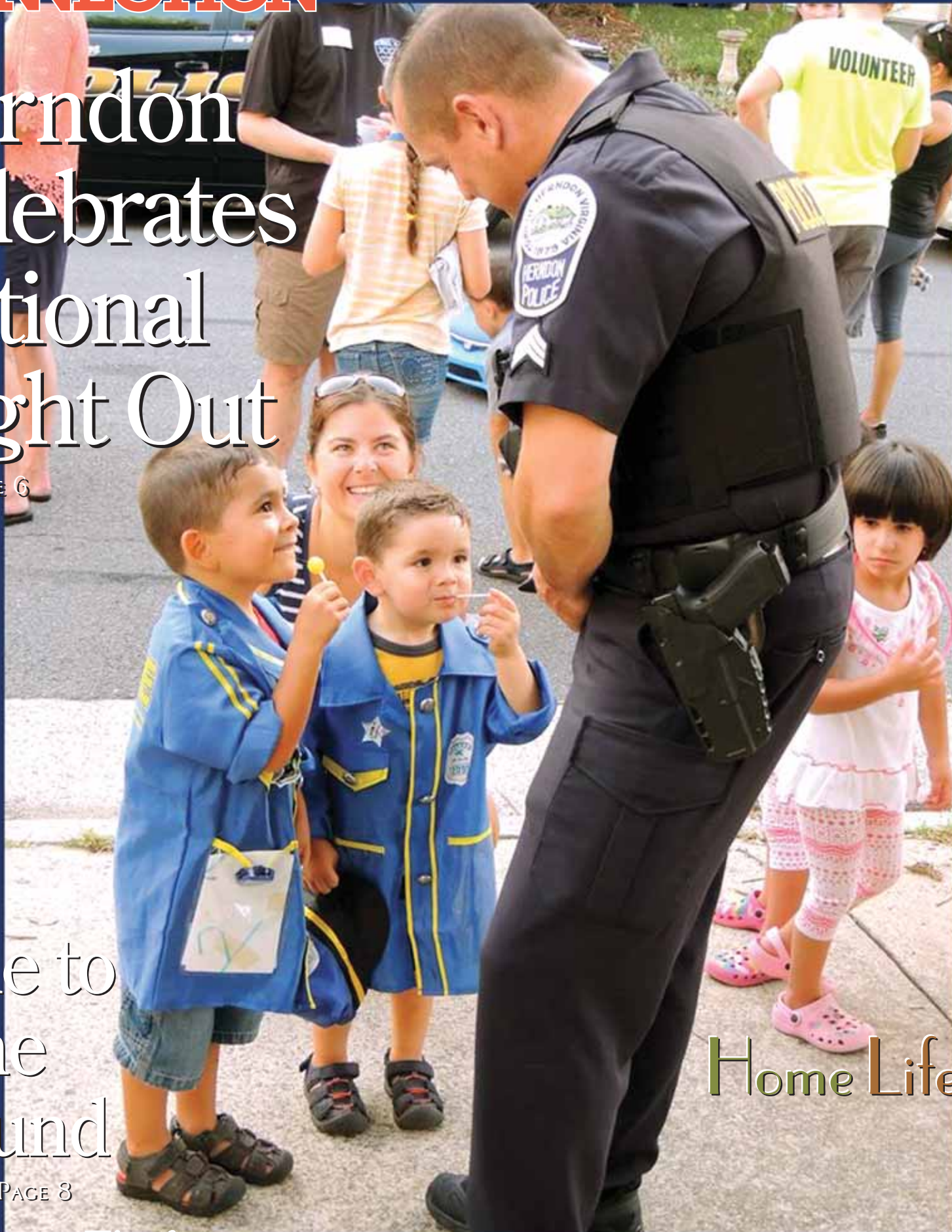


Oak Hill Herndon CONNECTION

Town of Herndon residents of all ages had the opportunity to meet and speak with Town of Herndon Police during the annual National Night Out on Aug. 2. At Haley Smith Park, representatives and sports coaches with the Herndon Optimist Club were on location to provide information about their organization.

Herndon Celebrates National Night Out

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Time to Plane Around

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Funding a Fix for I-66/Route 28

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PHOTO COURTESY OF HERNDON POLICE DEPARTMENT

AUGUST 10-16, 2016

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

PEOPLE

Herndon Resident Receives Companion for Independence

Canine Companions for Independence – a national non-profit organization providing trained assistance dogs for children and adults with disabilities – has announced that Herndon resident Tucker Winfrey has recently received an assistance dog from Canine Companions for Independence.

Tucker was matched with Farrah, a two-year-old yellow lab/golden retriever cross who has been trained to respond to over 40 advanced commands. Farrah can turn light switches on and off, open and close doors and retrieve dropped objects. However, one of her most important jobs will be to provide constant companionship for Tucker.

Tucker and Farrah returned to Herndon after completing Canine Companion's recent Team Training Class, an intense, two-week course held at Canine Companion's Northeast Regional Center in Medford, N.Y. – one of six such centers nationwide. The Northeast Regional Center serves a 13-state area from Maine to Virginia.

Each student who attends Team Training – held at each center four



Tucker Winfrey with a new companion Farrah.

times a year – is paired with a fully trained, working assistance dog like Farrah, and is taught to work with his/her canine companion. The training course consists of daily lectures, exams, practice and public outings.

Tucker and Farrah are settling into a routine back in Herndon. Tucker says, "Farrah is a very special dog and I hope to have many wonderful years with her."

For more information, visit cci.org or call 1-800-572-BARK.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

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

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

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

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

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

Snigdha Srivastava and **Kate Hao**, of Herndon, are on the dean's list at Washington University in St. Louis.

Adam Zaman, of Herndon, is on the dean's list for spring 2016 at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. He is studying mechanical engineering.

Dinesh Chowdary Inampudi, of Herndon, graduated with a master of science, May 2016 from the University of New Haven.

Kalla Fleger, of Reston, is on the dean's list for spring 2016 at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. Non Degree, Coll of Continuing Education.

Elizabeth Ashley Drake, of Herndon, is on the dean's list at Hollins University for spring 2016.

Nii Martey Akita, of Oak Hill, graduated spring 2016 from St. Olaf College.

Matthew Francois Monos, of Herndon, and **William Wade McLaughlin**, of Reston, were named to the honors list for the 2016 spring semester at Averett University.

Reston, Virginia Amanda Lee Akers, of Reston, is on the honor list for Spring 2016 at Missouri University of Science and Technology.

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One Step To 'One Fairfax'

Agreeing on a policy to create opportunity for all.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Jeff McKay didn't mince words when discussing racial, social and economic inequity in Fairfax County.

"There are different opportunities in this county depending on where you live and depending on what school you go to," said the Lee District supervisor.

Hybla Valley Elementary in Mount Vernon is by many measures the most equity-challenged elementary school in Fairfax County. Fully 90 percent of students are poor, that is qualify for "free and reduced meals;" 48.7 percent of students are limited English proficient. While 80 percent of students are Latino, just 2.4 percent are white.

Less than four miles away, at Waynewood Elementary School, also in Mount Vernon, the story is different. There are very few poor students; just 2.1 percent qualify for subsidized meals. White students make up 87 percent of the students body; 1.8 percent are Black; 4.46 percent are Latino. Just 3.4 percent of students have limited proficiency in English.

On the other side of the county, many elementary schools in McLean, Great Falls and Vienna have a tiny percentage of poor children; less than one percent in some cases.

At Churchill Road Elementary School in McLean, there are almost no students poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals; 0.82 percent; just 8.8 percent of students are limited English proficient. 51 percent of students are white, 32 percent Asian, 2.47 percent Black and 7 percent Latino.

At Wolftrap Elementary in Vienna, there are also almost no poor students with just 1.22 percent poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals. White students make up 71.25 percent of students; 8.8 percent of students are Latino; 13.2 percent are Asian. Less than one percent are Black.

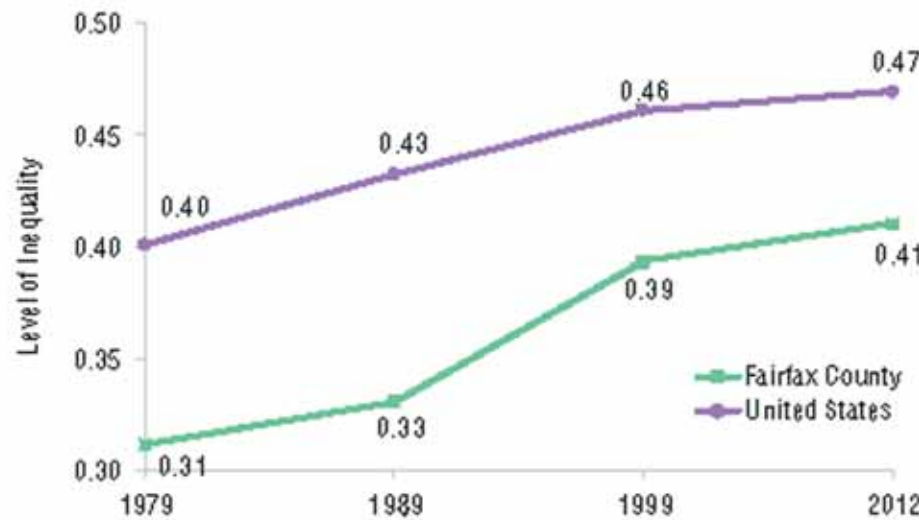
But in Herndon, at Hutchison Elementary, 78 percent of students are poor. The same percentage, 78, of students are poor at Dogwood Elementary in Reston.

THIS MONTH, the Board of Supervisors and the School Board passed a joint resolution called "One Fairfax: a community where everyone can participate and prosper." The idea is to address inequity in opportunities across the county.

"This puts it in writing, makes it deliberate and sends a strong message to our community that our leadership in this county believes strongly in equity, in social justice and in One Fairfax, where no matter where you are born, no matter what neighborhood

Income Inequality, 1979 to 2012

Inequality is measured here by the Gini coefficient, which ranges from 0 (perfect equality) to 1 (perfect inequality: one person has all of the income).



NOTE: DATA FOR 2012 REPRESENT A 2008 THROUGH 2012 AVERAGE.

SOURCE: IPUMS.

Median Hourly Wage by Race/Ethnicity, 2000 and 2012

NOTE: DATA FOR 2012 REPRESENT A 2008 THROUGH 2012 AVERAGE. VALUES ARE IN 2010 DOLLARS.



SOURCE: IPUMS. UNIVERSE INCLUDES CIVILIAN NONINSTITUTIONAL FULL-TIME WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS AGES 25 THROUGH 64.

you happen to grow up in, you have equal opportunity to succeed," said McKay.

The policy passed by the two boards directs the development of a racial and social equity policy and strategic actions to advance opportunities and achieve equity that includes intentional collective leadership, community engagement, equity tools and infrastructure to support and sustain systemic changes, and shared accountability.

"We don't have the opportunities we need for all people in the county. And we talk about that in the context of everything from career and technical education, to preschool," said Braddock Supervisor John Cook.

"We have had community members who have worked for a long time to figure out how to bring this to the forefront of the board," said Hunter Mill Supervisor

Catherine Hudgins.

"It's not only the right thing to do, it's the smart thing to do," said Dranesville Supervisor John W. Foust.

"I can think of no more important statement that we can make at this time, at any time, to our community," said McKay.

"You know if you don't have access to services you're not going to have outcomes for the child or adult," said Deputy County Executive Pat Harrison.

THE BOARD DEBATED the joint resolution at its meeting on July 12.

"If you don't have the right opportunities, you're not going to improve the outcomes. And that's the fundamental question we are asking ourselves here," said McKay.

"This all sounds really good, and the discussion is all really good. The devil really is

"We have had community members who have worked for a long time to figure out how to bring this to the forefront of the board."

— Hunter Mill Supervisor
Catherine M. Hudgins

in the details," said Springfield Supervisor Pat Herry (R).

"I think we need to do a better job at measuring the effectiveness of the programs and services. That's part of what I'm getting at," he said.

"How do you define the lens of equity?" he asked.

The last few years, the county implemented several initiatives to address disparities in a variety of areas including juvenile justice, education, employment, self sufficiency, health and child welfare.

In 2015, the Board of Supervisors adopted the Strategic Plan to Facilitate Economic Success. School leadership and community representatives "identified racial and social equity as an integral component to improving educational and life outcomes for youth," according to county documents.

"Linking people to opportunities including workforce development, education, employment and affordable housing helps ensure lifelong learning, resilience, and economic success," according to county documents.

Lynbrook Elementary and Sangster Elementary are both in Springfield, and are less than 7 miles apart. But the distance in demographics is massive. Lynbrook's students are 85 percent poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals and 72 percent of them are limited in English proficiency; less than 3 percent of students are White; 83 percent are Latino.

At Sangster, only 2.4 percent of students are poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals; only 3.6 percent are limited in English proficiency; two-thirds are White.

"Racial gaps in wages have grown over the past decade. From 2000 to 2012, White workers saw their median hourly wage increase significantly, while Latinos and Blacks experienced slight wage declines," according to county documents. "People of color earn lower wages than Whites at every education level. Wages rise with education, but gaps by race remain."

Hunter Mill Supervisor Hudgins says "it's taken a long time" to get this far.

"Now we have the harder part of putting the policy together and hoping it can work well throughout all of our agencies and all of our communities and in a way that the community can understand what we are trying to do."

OPINION

Laser Focus on Safety

While Metro lapses can't be excused, it's much safer than driving; maintenance-related safety issues also plague area bridges and roads.

Intense scrutiny on the safety and maintenance record of the Washington region's Metro system is resulting in continuing revelation of lapses, and ongoing inconvenience with repair schedules shutting down entire lines and the end of late night service.

Reporting on Metro accidents, derailments and incompetent and/or inadequate maintenance might even lead commuters to choose to climb in their cars instead. Wouldn't it be safer to drive, if Metro can't get its act together to even inspect the tracks?

No, not even close.

Riding commuter rail is 10-30 times safer than driving, according to several studies, and even small increases in transit ridership result in significant decreases in overall commuting deaths

Public transit overall has lower crash rates

EDITORIAL

per unit of travel, reports Todd Litman in an analytical research paper, A New Transit Narrative, published in 2014 and cited by the National Center for Transit Research. Intercity and commuter passengers have about 1/20th the traffic fatalities per 100 million passenger-miles as automobile travel, he writes. Urban rail passengers have about 1/30th the fatalities as car travel, and bus passengers about 1/60th the traffic fatalities per 100 million passenger-miles as automobile travel.

"Transit travel has about one-tenth the traffic casualty [injury or death] rate as automobile travel, and residents of transit-oriented communities have about one-fifth the per capita crash casualty rate as in automobile-oriented communities," reports Litman. "People tend to underestimate automobile travel risks and exaggerate public transit risks."

Meanwhile, Virginia has 1,063 structurally

deficient bridges, according to the American Road and Transportation Builders Association, citing data from the U. S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration National Bridge Inventory, 2015. Maryland's number of structurally deficient bridges is 306, and the District of Columbia has 10 structurally deficient bridges, according to the same report.

In fact, a bridge used by 78,000 vehicles a day, including thousands of Northern Virginians commuting daily into D.C., the Memorial Bridge, is so corroded it has major weight restrictions, buses are not allowed to use it, and it would likely have to be closed within a few years, had Congress not recently allocated \$90 million to the National Park Service for emergency action towards a \$250 million rehabilitation project.

Risk and safety are complex issues. You're safer taking Metro than driving, much safer on a commuter bus. And one thing we do know, if you are riding in car, buckling your seatbelt makes you much safer.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Responding to the Zika Threat

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

Last week, for the first time ever, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was forced to issue a domestic travel warning to pregnant women planning to visit Miami, a popular getaway destination. This marks a sad milestone in our country's history. What was once seen as a threat from foreign travel has now reached our communities, jeopardizing our collective health and safety, especially that of newborns. To date, more than a dozen cases of the Zika virus have been traced to local mosquitos in Florida, which reports nearly 400 cases of Zika associated with foreign travel. There have been 50 reported cases of Zika in Virginia, all linked to foreign travel, as of early August.

Countless times, as a nation, we've come together to find cures when faced with similar health crises. American ingenuity eradicated Polio and slowed the Ebola epidemic. So, like many of you, I assumed Congress would meet this crisis head-on like it has done in the past. Surely we would expeditiously provide funding for this global disease. Instead, sadly, Congress adjourned for summer break.

Recognizing the urgent need to respond to the spreading Zika threat, the Obama Administration redirected close to \$600 million in



There have been 50 reported cases of Zika in Virginia, all linked to foreign travel, as of early August.

existing funds as a stopgap measure for initial activities. However, that will not be enough to fully address the threat. I support the President's emergency request for \$1.9 billion in Zika-related funding. Unfortunately, a counter proposal offered by the House majority is insufficient and saddled

with extraneous and divisive policy riders.

The consequences of Congressional inaction could be devastating. States and communities won't have the funding they need to fight Zika. State and local officials manage mosquito control and response operations. Here in Fairfax, we have consistently supported a program to trap and test local mosquitoes for viruses like West Nile and now Zika. Without additional funding from the federal government, we limit the ability of at-risk communities to sustain activities to reduce the spread of Zika once transmission begins.

Vaccine development may also be delayed. Creating a vaccine requires multi-year commitments from the government and private sector to reprioritize and spend money on research and development. The Secretary of Health and Human Services recently warned that, "Lack

of funding will delay or prevent the performance of clinical trials ... limiting the ability of manufacturers to make vaccines at the scale required to protect populations against Zika."

We also need to ensure that there is enough diagnostic testing capacity available across the country. This is especially critical now with confirmed cases of local mosquito transmissions. Swift, accurate diagnostic testing is foundational to our ability to track and respond to this threat.

I was among those calling on Congress to cancel its August break until we addressed this challenge. We cannot simply swat away this threat. With the recent diagnoses of local Zika transmissions in Florida, Congress should reconvene as quickly as possible to partner with our states and local communities in responding to this growing public health crisis.

Write The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Send to:

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By e-mail: north@connectionnewspapers.com

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NEWS

'A Great Addition to Our Community'

New townhouse development is coming to Chantilly.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors put out the welcome mat last week for a rezoning that will bring two dozen new townhouses to Chantilly. The community will be at Elmwood and Vernon streets and will be called Rockland Village Green.

"This development will be a great addition to our community, and I'm excited to welcome our new neighbors," said Supervisor Kathy Smith, [D-Sully]. "The proffers ensure that the look and feel of this development will fit in very well with the surrounding area and provide lots of green space to benefit the community."

Representing the developer, Carr Homes LLC, land-use attorney Bob Brandt first presented the plan during the April 19 meeting of the West Fairfax County Citizens Association [WFCCA] Land-Use Committee. He said the project involves five land parcels off Route 50, behind the Pohanka Lexus dealership, and entails a rezoning of 2.34 acres from R-1 to R-12 [higher-density residential].

"The proposed rezoning is to accommodate the construction of 24 townhouses in what was formerly the Rockland Village subdivision," said Brandt. "Carr Homes is well-known and well-established in Northern Virginia. It's been in business 90 years, building high-quality homes."

He said the resulting density of 10.3 dwelling units/acre is within the recommendations of the county's Comprehensive Plan for that area. And, he added, "The buildings' facades will be brick or other masonry material, and the architecture will be compatible with homes in the surrounding community." Most of the residents will also be offered 5x22-foot, cantilevered decks on their homes.

MORE THAN 25 PERCENT of the property will be kept as open space. "In the northern corner will be a 90x70-foot village green, with landscaping and benches, where the community residents can relax and enjoy the property," said Brandt. "And 17 of the townhomes' fronts will face Vernon and Elmwood streets to create an aesthetically pleasing, welcoming streetscape. The other seven townhomes are in the interior, with access from Vernon Street."

There'll be curbs, sidewalks and street ramps at intersections to make it pedestrian-friendly. And the community's entrance off Vernon Street will lead to an interior street. Plenty of parking is also planned, with 113 spaces on site, including two-car garages underneath each townhome, plus driveway spaces for every unit, and 17 more spaces for visitors.

WFCCA's Chris Terpak-Malm said she's always con-



An artist's rendition of the new townhouses planned for Chantilly.

cerned "whenever a community only has one access point," but Brandt said county staff didn't want another one. He also noted that improvements will be made along Vernon Street.

"The townhouse fronts would face Vernon or Elmwood streets, so people are going to want to park where the door is," said At-Large Planning Commissioner Jim Hart. "And the same for delivery people, who won't want to snake around the back alley. So I'm suggesting parallel, curbside parking along the street. And there's not any backyard space for kids to play, so it makes the usability of that village green even more important."

In addition, said WFCCA's Carol Hawn, "Residents should know they're close to an international airport so they'd be aware of possible noise issues."

Brandt returned again to the group's June 21 meeting and said the applicant had been working hard to fine-tune the project's plans. He also stressed that "prospective townhome purchasers will be notified of the property's proximity to Dulles airport."

WFCCA's Mark McConn asked if something "will require the owners not to use their garages for storage," and Brandt said there'll be a covenant to

that effect. The panel members then unanimously approved the rezoning proposal, subject to county staff approval.

It then went to the county Planning Commission on July 13 and to the supervisors last Tuesday, July 26, receiving a thumbs-up from both.

THE SUPERVISORS passed Smith's motion for approval unanimously. Pleased with what's planned, Smith said the developer's frontage improvements along Elmwood and Vernon will consist of curbs, gutters and 5-foot-wide sidewalks.

But that's not all. "They're proffering approximately \$62,000 to the Park Authority and over \$105,000 to Fairfax County Public Schools. The development has more parking spaces than would typically be recommended, and there is more than adequate space for emergency vehicles to enter and exit safely."

Overall, said Smith, "I'm proud of the hard work that went into this project and look forward to seeing the finished homes. I want to thank [county] staff and the developer for their hard work on this proposal."



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION
Bob Brandt explains the townhouse plan to the WFCCA Land-Use Committee.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF HERNDON POLICE DEPARTMENT



On Tuesday, Aug. 2 residents of northern Virginia participated in the National Night Out. The Herndon Police and Town of Herndon celebrated National Night Out with neighborhood block parties.

There were 15 participating communities in the Herndon NNO event on Tuesday, Aug. 2,, including Crestview Community, Worldgate Condos, Stuart Woods Apartments, Madison Forest, and Calhoun Court Community.

Herndon Celebrates National Night Out

Police and community connect at Town of Herndon.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

Tuesday, Aug. 2 residents of Northern Virginia participated in the National Night Out. Events were held throughout Fairfax County including police districts in Sully, Mount Vernon, McLean, Mason, Reston, Franconia, West Springfield and Fair Oaks. The Town of Herndon and Herndon Police Department celebrated National Night Out with neighborhood block parties.

In 1984, National Night Out [NNO] started as a way to promote crime prevention through neighborhood camaraderie. Part of the National Association of Town Watch, the NNO is an annual community-building campaign. "I think this is a great event, we need more of them," said Herndon resident Keil Johnson.

The Herndon NNO event began at the Herndon Harbor House, a senior living community, and a long time participant in the NNO. Herndon Community Television [HCTV] volunteers including Charlie Waddell and Blake Rose interviewed participants at the Harbor House. After the Harbor House event, officers, officials, family members and volunteers split up into two motorcades in order to cover more ground. Del. Jennifer Boysko [D-86] and Herndon Town Council members, including David Kirby, Jennifer Baker, Jasbinder Singh and Grace H. Wolf also participated in the event. "It is amazing how communities have been receiving the police department, it has been very positive," said HCTV volunteer Tooran Shadmand.

"We are building trust and communications," said Herndon Senior Police Officer Denise Randles. This year there were 15 participating communities in the Herndon NNO event, including Crestview Community, Worldgate Condos, Stuart Woods Apartments, and Madison Forest. The 2016 NNO event concluded at Four Seasons complex where a Fairfax County Police Helicopter circled above and landed.

ter circled above and landed.

AT SEVERAL STOPS, visitors were treated to barbecues and baked goods prepared by the neighbors, and the chance to meet and greet and get involved with some of the games and activities organized for the younger crowd. At Haley Smith Park, representatives and sports coaches with the Herndon Optimist Club were on location to provide information about their organization. Sports the Herndon Optimist club sponsors include field hockey, cheerleading, baseball, basketball, football, and lacrosse. Several Herndon police officers volunteer with the Herndon Optimist Club. "National Night Out is our opportunity to engage the children of Herndon in youth sports," said Treasurer of the Herndon Optimist Club Jasmine Faubert.

"I was able to stop by a few of the locations since they are in the Dranesville District including McLean and Reston," said Herndon resident Bill McKenna, the new Dranesville District Representative for the Fairfax County Citizen Corps Council. "The turn outs were amazing, and I think with the

recent events in Baton Rouge and Dallas, more people wanted to come out and show their support for the people who sacrifice their lives on a daily basis to keep us safe. I think it was a big hit with the kids because there was pizza and ice cream but you also got to see the human side of the men in blue which helps break down barriers and helps build trust in the community. The longer these events have gone on, the more rapport you see between the police and the people they are sworn to protect," said McKenna.

THE HERNDON POLICE is beginning a citizen's police academy on Sept. 8. The academy includes classroom presentations and the opportunity to ride along with an officer on patrol. To be eligible participants must be 18 years of age or older and have no prior criminal record. Applicants need not be Herndon residents, however Town of Herndon residents receive first consideration to attend. Class meets on Thursdays from 7-9 p.m., starting Sept. 8, with graduation on Nov. 10. For more information on the Herndon Police visit www.herndonva.gov/Content/public_safety/.

Swimmers Meet a Shared Service Goal

On Thursday, Aug. 4, the Ridge Heights Sharks and Autumnwood Piranhas combined social responsibility with swimming at their dual meet. Coaches from both teams wanted to have swimmers strive to meet a shared service goal while also competing against each other. Following a "Fish for FISH" theme, they asked families to donate canned fish for residents in need. They collected many colorful cans of tuna, salmon and sardines and offered them to Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc. for distribution. These protein rich donations will help combat hunger locally. Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc. welcomes other teams and groups to work with FISH on future events. Email FISH@herndonrestonfish.org if



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Ridge Heights and Autumnwood swim coaches.

you have an idea of how you would like to help others. Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc. FISH is a volunteer, nonsectarian, nonprofit

corporation dedicated to providing Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help to local residents in short-term crises.

WEEK IN HERNDON

Volunteers Needed for Reading Express Program

Are you a newly-retired educator or other professional interested in staying connected with children in your community? Assistance League of Northern Virginia invites members of the community to join the organization to participate in its Reading Express program. Member volunteers work one-on-one with identified first grade students at Providence Elementary School in Fairfax on Tuesday mornings during the school year. To learn more contact Kathy Jackson: kwjackson8@gmail.com www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org. 501(c)(3)

HomeLifeStyle

Stylish Solutions for Organized Homes

Practical and chic ideas for making a home back-to-school ready.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Before school begins later this month, taking the time to organize home and school supplies can take the stress out of the transition from a laid-back summer to a structured, schedule-driven school year. Local home design and organizational experts share ideas to help parents add practical organizational tools to their home without sacrificing their sense of style.

"Organizing your home to make this transition smooth can make all the difference in the world," said Chuck Khriel, vice president of FRED Home Improvement in Bethesda. "Giving thoughts to how spaces around your home are used during the school year can help with this organization."

Using space efficiently and creating designated spaces for items like backpacks, jackets, sports equipment and clothing will keep a home organized and prevent the back-to-school necessities from overtaking a home's aesthetic. "For example, if you have a mudroom, specifying spaces for backpacks, shoes and sports apparel takes the guesswork out of where the kids should be storing their stuff when they enter your home," said Khriel. "Consistently storing items in the same place will become a timesaver in the morning as the kids are getting ready for school."

Small home decor items can add a sense of style and serve a practical purpose. "Get a decorative hook to hang their backpack up when you come in," said Sallie J. Kjos of Grey Hunt Interiors in Chantilly. "It doesn't need to look junky or kiddish. Keep in mind, you want it all to be functional for your kids, but flow with your home."

From tests to homework, a new school year often brings an onslaught of paper, stacks of which can create an unsightly scene in a home. "Storage is key," said Kjos. "Get some fabric-covered boxes with lids for your children to stack up next to their desk to put school work in that has been graded in case they need to refer back to it."

A pegboard is another inexpensive accessory that can be used to organize piles of papers. "You can find them at a hardware store," said Arlington-based personal organizer Bonnie Atwater of Organized for You. "Get them cut to fit



Fabric-covered labeled boxes can hold stacks of paper neatly on a bedroom desk.

into your particular space, like behind a door or over a desk. You can also paint them a bright color to add a touch of whimsy and put them in a spot that's easily accessible.

Making items visible but tasteful can boost organization without creating a design emergency. "Dry erase calendars and storage cubes in bright colors can go in your kitchen, mudroom or any room that you want to serve as a command central," said interior designer Cyndi Ibach of Elegant Interiors by Cyndi in Alexandria. "When school things are organized in a location where everyone can see them, everyone has access to important information."

For school supply organization, Kjos suggests: "Instead of using pencil holders, get your mason jars out, fill with crayons, markers and pencil to make for a cleaner, more organized look." Remember to add charging stations to your children's desk or study area.

Keep school notices, permission slips and other forms of paper in plain sight without creating clutter. Take an old [picture] frame...and staple ribbon across it in whatever your decor colors are and use paper clips for your child to put up homework assignments, certificates, or other reminders," said Kjos. "You can hang this above the desk."

Kjos also offers an innovative way to organize lunch supplies for easy access. "One of my favorite organizing for school tricks is inside of my pantry door," she said. "I use over-the-door shoe holders and put all their dried food for

lunch boxes in there to make packing lunches easier and to reduce all the boxes and clutter in my pantry."

A neat, streamlined closet can



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SALLIE KJOS

Storing non-perishable food for school lunches in over-the-door shoe holders makes packing lunches easy and reduces clutter, advises Sallie Kjos.

also take some of the stress out of the morning mad dash to find shirts, socks and shoes. "Get a cute

"Organizing your home to make [the back to school] transition smooth can make all the difference in the world."

— Chuck Khriel

decorative basket and stack their clothes for the week by outfits so you don't have to do it every evening," said Kjos.

If constructing new storage space is an option, consider dual-purpose units, advises Eric Tovar, president of Churchill Classics in Poolesville, Md. "Chalkboards and corkboards in other areas of the home provide a place to leave and read notes for each other so everyone is aware of daily activities."

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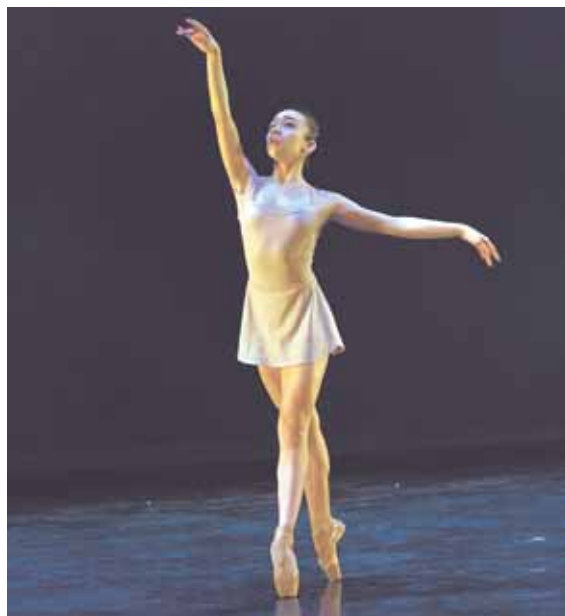
Great Falls Dancer Offered Merit Scholarship

Emilie Gregory, a dancer with Classical Ballet Theatre in Herndon, selected to train with Miami City Ballet School.

Emilie Gregory, 14, of Great Falls — a dancer with Classical Ballet Theatre of Northern Virginia — received one of the highest honors an artist her age can receive: the offer of a full merit scholarship to train at the Miami City Ballet School. The scholarship will cover her full tuition and housing so that she can train year-round with the renowned company's Pre-Professional Division. Emilie earned this offer after demonstrating her potential during the school's summer intensive, held June 19-July 24.

Although worried about being so far from her home in Great Falls, Emilie was excited about the prospect of learning the Balanchine technique and working with multiple, esteemed faculty members. These included principal faculty members Geta Constantinescu, Kathryn Moriarty, and Olivier Pardina; faculty members Rafi Maldonado-Lopez and Maribel Modrono; principal member Jeanette Delgado; and principal soloist Nathalia Arja. Emilie enjoyed training, making new friends, and watching Miami City Ballet company members rehearse, and she excelled in the environment, composed of fast-paced, rigorous days.

"Classical Ballet Theatre prepared me very well....," said Emilie, who noted that her Classical Ballet Theatre [CBT] training also had gained her a partial schol-



Emilie Gregory, 14, of Great Falls — a dancer with Classical Ballet Theatre of Northern Virginia — received full merit scholarship to train year-round with the Miami City Ballet School.

arship to attend the intensive as well as similar offers from other ballet companies. "

Emilie began studying ballet seriously in September 2011, when she joined Classical Ballet Theatre [CBT], founded over 25 years ago by Executive Director and Artistic Director Cynthia Donavin. At CBT, Emilie has enjoyed exceptional training as well as classical and contemporary performance opportunities. Some of her favorite experiences include training for her YAGP solos with Kathy Beyer,

former principal dancer with Boston Ballet, and with Meghan Rudorfer, former member of Martha Graham 2; performing the Dew Drop role in CBT's 2015 "Nutcracker"; learning new choreography from master instructors such as Roni Koresch; and giving community children free outreach performances.

A rising ninth grader at Langley High School, Emilie will continue her local studies and daily Classical Ballet Theatre training, and she credits ballet for the time manage-



Emilie Gregory performs 'De Mi Alma,' choreography by Meghan Rudorfer, during An Evening with Classical Ballet Theatre, held at the Reston Community Center on May 14, 2016.

ment skills and sharpened focus that she will need to accomplish this on a daily basis. She also will volunteer through CBT's Children's Series and other organizations, opportunities she feels keep her grounded. All the time, she will focus on her goal of joining a professional ballet company in the future.

For more information about CBT and its training programs, call 703-471-0750 or visit <http://www.cbtnva.org/summer>.



Dulles Day Family Festival and Plane Pull will be held Sept. 17, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Dulles International Airport.

prize will also be awarded to the person who raises the most money. Want a warm up before the big pull? Go the extra mile at the 4th Annual 5k/10k on the Runway.

For more information, to register your team, sign up to exhibit or for sponsorship details, visit www.planepull.com or call 703-359-4301.

Time to Plane Around

Be ready for just 'plane' fun at 24th Annual Plane Pull® benefiting Special Olympics Virginia.

The 24th annual Dulles Day Family Festival and Plane Pull will be held Sept. 17, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Dulles International Airport. All proceeds benefit Special Olympics Virginia. Pull together 25 friends and compete to see who can pull the 164,000+ pound FedEx or United airplane 12 feet the fastest. Teams must raise a minimum of \$1,500 - \$60 a person - to participate. Will you be able to beat the 2015 fastest time of 4.753 seconds? Have no fear! Prizes will be

given to teams who raise the most money, show the most enthusiasm. Spots are going fast; don't get left on the tarmac. Does your little one want to pull a plane when they grow up? The Kids Truck Pull provides a fun challenge to youngest fans, prepping them for the main event in future years. Teams of eight will compete to see who can pull the big, red 123JUNK truck 12 feet the fastest. Participants, must raise or donate a minimum of \$10/person. Each participant will receive a Plane Pull T-shirt; a

ONGOING

"Golden Moments" by Lassie Corbett. Aug. 4-Sept. 1. Reston Art Gallery and Studios, 11400 Washington Plaza, Reston. Artist exhibit. RestonArtGallery.com.

Mary B. Howard Artist Member Exhibition. Through Aug. 27. Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market Street, Suite 103, Reston. Regional artists who support GRACE's mission of enriching community life through excellence in contemporary visual arts. restonarts.org

Zoosday — Every Tuesday, July through Sept. 27, 4 - 7 p.m., Pavilion. Enjoy an award-winning animal and miniature animal petting zoo with hands-on, educational experiences that children and their grownups will cherish! Kid-friendly giveaways plus activities like Legos and Play-Doh. Free. Rain or shine. restontowncenter.com

Mapping Moments. July 13-Aug. 28. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. An exhibit featuring of vibrant abstracts which will draw the viewer into the worlds of international artist Caroline Morgan and Jay Young Gerard. 703-956-9560.

Beginners Chair Yoga. July 5-Aug. 30. 6-7 p.m. Herndon Senior Center, 873 Grace St., Herndon. Yoga for beginners with a teacher who specializes in yoga with 50+ in mind. \$10/\$20. 703-464-6200.

Hutchison Solos at PenFed Realty Aug. through Sept. 30 The exhibit is free and the office is open to visitors Monday through Friday from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. at the office of PenFed Realty, 1886 Metro Center Dr., Reston, VA 20190. Karen Hutchison displays abstract expressions of her thoughts and emotions using color and texture. Visit the LRA web site at www.leagueofrestonartists.org

Artists Display "Eclectic Visions" at Ernst Center Aug through Oct. 7 The League of Reston Artists displays paintings, drawings, mixed media, photographs and two-dimensional works suitable for wall hanging through October 7 at the Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center on the Northern Virginia Community College Annandale Campus, Building CE, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA 22003. The exhibit is free and the gallery is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. Visit the LRA web site at www.leagueofrestonartists.org

"The Way I See It" Exhibit. Aug. 2-Oct. 1. Vienna Arts Society Gallery, 513 Maple Ave. W, Vienna. Reston resident Bob Kaminski will showcase his work in abstract and representational styles. ViennaArtsSociety.org. 703-319-3971.

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.

Team Trivia at Kalypso's. Tuesdays, 8 p.m. Kalypso's Sports Tavern, 1617 Washington Plaza N., Reston. Bring your friend and join the challenge. 703-707-0660. www.kalypsosportstavern.com.

Open Mic Night at Kalypso's. Mondays, 7-10 p.m. Kalypso's Sports Tavern, 1617 Washington Plaza N., Reston. Musicians and singers! Love to perform but need a venue? Want to get used to playing for an audience? 703-707-0660. www.kalypsosportstavern.com.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

Karaoke at Kalypso's. Wednesdays, 9:30 p.m. Kalypso's Sports Tavern, 1617 Washington Plaza N., Reston. Come to Kalypso's and sing your hearts out! 703-707-0660. www.kalypsosportstavern.com.

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 more information or for the performance schedule, go to herndonrocks.com.

Take a Break Concert Series. Thursdays. 7 p.m. June 16-Sept. 1. Lake Anne Plaza, Reston. Bands and entertainers at the plaza. lakeanneplaza.com.

Summer Entertainment Series. June 1-Aug. 31. Fairfax County Parks. A summer-long calendar of shows, concerts and movies appropriate for you and your family. These concerts held in local parks are the perfect place to bring a picnic dinner, blankets and lawn chairs to enjoy the best local and regional entertainers. Free. To find out what's playing at your nearby park, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/>.

Reston Concerts on the Town. 7:30-10 p.m. Saturdays, June-August. Reston Town Center Pavilion. Bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets and enjoy live music in the Pavilion. Free. Rain or shine. restontowncenter.com. 703-579-6720.

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

Dog Days of Summer — Every Wednesday, July through Sept. 28, 4 - 7 p.m., Pavilion. Dogs and owners can frolic in the Pavilion as it is transformed weekly into an off-leash play area. Treats, toys, areas to cool off, pet friendly giveaways, and more! Free. restontowncenter.com

Straight from San Diego Comic-Con! — Friday, Aug. 5 – Friday, Sept. 2, ArtInsights. Stop in to see exciting new art releases from Comic-Con International, and hear stories from three exclusive event panels. 703-478-0778 artinsights.com

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 10

Herndon Community Center

Preschool Play Dates. From 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. at Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave. Children are invited to experience our preschool program by attending one of our free play dates. Parents and child can meet the staff and explore in the preschool room. The Herndon Community Center Preschool has a few openings for our 3-4 and 4-5 year old preschool programs. The preschool is a state licensed program. The program operates weekdays from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., follows the Fairfax County School Calendar, and runs September 2016-June 2017. Children must be potty-trained. Our goals include learning through play and fostering independence in a school setting. The teacher-child ratio is 1 to 7. The program has a theme-based, hands-on curriculum. The curriculum is designed to enhance motor skills, cognitive learning, language skills, social and emotional development and self-help skills. Free and open to the public. Contact Kimmie Alcorn, 703-435-6800, ext. 2119



Jay Young Gerard's work will be on display through Aug. 28 at ArtSpace in Herndon.

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I Can't Worry About It



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

'It' not being "the cancer", as "Forrest, Forrest Gump" described the cause of his mother's death (it was on a Tuesday, I believe). Rather, 'it' being everything else in life. There's a peculiar sense of indifference that comes over you after receiving a diagnosis of cancer. Moreover, the sense of urgency of all things not cancer-related dissipates as well.

I mean, given your diagnosis, how can anything else really matter? And in terms of your survival, there is nothing more important quite frankly, so 'everything else' pales in comparison. This is not to say that you can't be bothered with anything, but I will admit to this: everything (most things) become a bother. Time-sensitive tasks may force your hand (almost literally), but even then, it's often a half-hearted endeavor.

Don't get me wrong, it's not as if I'm so pre-occupied with my survival that I can't function beyond my cancer perimeters; I can. It's more that whatever the task, it becomes challenging; more mentally than physically (thank God), although I do have my deficits. In most instances however, I do finish what I start, but it's that start that stops me.

It's almost as if I need an actual push to get me moving emotionally; not because I'm in pain or lacking red blood cells/fuel from heavy duty chemotherapy; I'm just stuck. And it's not as if I'm unaware of the consequences of my inaction, I certainly am. It's more that the 'consequences' be damned, one-quarter speed ahead. It's as if I'm a ship leaving harbor, I need a tug boat equivalent to get me out to see what I can accomplish.

Invariably, I get it done, not in the time frame that a "normal"/healthy person might, but more so in the time frame in which an extremely reasonable and accommodating person might expect. I make my appointments; I'm mindful of time, day and date; I'm aware of people, places and things; and I'm cognizant of requirements, demands and expectations. But none of it seems to have a hold on me. It sort of brushes by.

I don't mean to be disrespectful or inconsiderate (although I can understand how it might appear or be interpreted as such), it's simply that, at least from this cancer patient's perspective, I can't, nor do I want to, get out of my own way. It's somewhere between inexplicable, inexcusable and unexplainable. Hardly am I suffering, as many cancer patients are — and as I was during those early heavy-duty chemotherapy infusions (six hours-plus per treatment, no appetite, no energy, no motivation, no hair, minimal hope). Nevertheless, this malaise/lack of enthusiasm/lack of concern for the big picture consumes my days and nights. I'm too caught up — consciously and sub-consciously, with the small picture: my life as a stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer patient whose oncologist originally gave a "13 month to two-year" prognosis. Try putting that in your pipe and living normally.

As much as I have in fact lived my life in relative good spirits, a cancer diagnosis puts a sort of governor on the bounce that used to be in your step. How do you ever forget the circumstance that might be killing, or at least abbreviating, your life expectancy? Symptoms that you really feel and any number of which you imagine, constantly tug on your figurative cape. You can try to be Superman, but the reality is, cancer is a hell of an adversary, and pleading with it to stop its insidious effects is time not well spent. Still, giving into it and not living your life as if you weren't afflicted is much easier said than done, and it's pretty difficult even saying it.

The accumulation of all these things constantly weighing on you is the toll that it takes. The result is for me, oddly enough, even if I don't worry about one thing, I worry about the other — and vice-versa. And that's the recurring problem: you're damned if you do and damned if you don't.

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

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ction*, send to connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/
by noon on Friday.

INOVA Blood Drive, Tuesday, Aug. 23, 12 - 7
p.m., beside Pavilion at Reston Town Center.
Schedule appointments at 1-866-256-6372 or
inova.org/donateblood. On-site registration.

THURSDAY/AUG. 18

**Alzheimer's Association Walk To End
Alzheimer's in Northern Virginia.** Raffle
Fundraiser 6-9:30 p.m. Jimmy's Old Town
Tavern, 697 Spring Street, Herndon. [http://
www.alz.org/walk](http://www.alz.org/walk).

ONGOING

School Supply Drive — Through Friday, Aug.
12, Reston Town Center building lobbies.
Teaming up with Kids R First and Cornerstones,
Reston Town Center is collecting Back to School
items to benefit the local community. Much
needed items include: backpacks, scissors, glue,
paper, crayons, markers, pencil cases, lunch
boxes, notebooks, erasers, pens, tissues, and
underwear (new, in original package). Donation
boxes are located in building lobbies.

The **Herndon Adult Day Health Care Center**
needs volunteers to assist with fitness activities,
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The **Northern Virginia Long Term Care
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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/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/lombudsman/).

FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in
the faith community, including special holiday ser
vices. Send to reston@connectionnewspapers.com.
Deadline is Thursday.

Trinity Presbyterian Church, 651
Dranesville Road, Herndon, has Sunday worship
services at 10 a.m. during the summer. Nursery and
childcare are provided starting at 8 a.m. until the
end of the service. 703-437-5500 or
www.trinityherndon.org.

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center, Unitarian
Universalist Church, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston,
holds weekly classes starting Sept. 12, Thursdays
7:30-8:30 p.m., for the general public which use
Buddhist teachings to practice meditation. \$12 or
\$6 for students, seniors and unemployed. 202-986-

Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older
adults to medical appointments and wellness
programs. For these and other volunteer
opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or
visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and
click on Volunteer Solutions.

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.

Fairfax County's Meals on Wheels urgently
needs drivers in the Annandale, Franconia/
Kingstowne, Reston, Mount Vernon and McLean
areas. 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults.

Habitat Heroes Project. The fourth Saturday of
each month from 10 a.m. - noon. Join the
Habitat Heroes in protecting Reston's forests
from aggressive plants and restoring them to
their natural state. Wear long sleeves, long
pants, and if possible, gardening gloves to
protect from insects and dangerous plants. R.A.
will provide tools, gloves, snacks, and water. To
volunteer and find more information, contact
habrock@reston.org or 703-435-7986.

Cantonese-speaking Social Visitor is needed
in Falls Church to visit with an older adult
female once or twice a month. 703-324-5406,
TTY 703-449-1186,
VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov or
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices.

**Shepherds Center McLean-Arlington-Falls
Church Area Needs Volunteers.** Varying
times, 1205 Dolley Madison Boulevard, McLean.
Volunteers who can provide transport to and
from medical appointments, assistance during
grocery and pharmacy trips, make friendly calls
to home-bound individuals, help complete minor
home repairs, and assist in yard work and chores
are needed. 703-506-2199.

2257 or www.meditation-dc.org.

St. Anne's Episcopal Church, 1700 Wain
wright Drive in Reston, holds Sunday services at 8
a.m., 10 a.m. and contemporary service at 5 p.m.
during the summer. Nursery, Sunday school and
adult education available. 703-437-6530 or
www.stannes-reston.org.

Washington Plaza Baptist Church will
hold Adult Bible Study at 9:30 a.m. Sundays at
Lake Anne Village Center. The group is studying
the Gospel of Mark. Services follow at 11 a.m.

HAVEN of Northern Virginia offers a vari
ety of free bereavement support groups, meeting
on a weekly basis. Contact 703-941-7000 or
www.havenofnova.org for schedules and registra
tion information.

Reston Chapter of The Links Awards Scholarships

The Reston Chapter of The Links, In
corporated, a civic organization of
women, awarded scholarships to 11 de
serving students of Herndon and South
Lakes High Schools, and prospective
teacher education majors from Lake
Braddock Secondary School and Hayfield
High School. The awardees will be attend
ing the University of Virginia, VA Tech,
Virginia State, University of Missouri,
Rensselaer Poly Institute, VCU, NOVA,
Cornell, Pratt Institute of Fashion, Mary
Washington and Hampton University.

The scholarships were presented by
the Chapter president, Carla Williams,
and Chapter alumna member, Dr.
Loretta Webb at a Luncheon on Satur
day, June 18, 2016 at the M&S Grill in

Reston. Webb, a retired Fairfax County
superintendent, delivered an inspiring
keynote speech to the scholarship recip
ients, and their families. "I was especially
proud to award the Loretta C. Webb
scholarships to two deserving students
who plan to major in education," said
Webb. She added, "There is no greater
calling than education and these stu
dents are charged with making sure they
make a difference in a life." The Loretta
Webb Scholarship is available to any
students enrolled in Fairfax County
schools who aspire to become a teacher.
In addition, a select group of Reston
Chapter members who are educators,
were assigned to act as mentors to the
two students majoring in education.

Funding a Fix

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Good news for drivers who take the I-66/Route 28 exits and entrances in Centreville — and in this area, that’s pretty much everyone. A fix for the congestion, especially during rush hours, just took a giant step toward becoming a reality.

The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) has passed its 2017 budget, including \$466 million total for 12 projects in Northern Virginia. And locally, \$300 million of that amount is earmarked for the I-66/Route 28 Interchange improvements.

They’ll be constructed as part of the overall I-66 Corridor improvements being done by VDOT. The \$300 million will be spent on the Route 28 Interchange’s design and engineering work, environmental mitigation, right-of-way acquisition and construction.

“This funding for improvements to the I-66/Route-28 interchange will be a major part of the I-66 transformation that VDOT is working on,” said Supervisor Kathy Smith [D-Sully]. “Combined with the governor’s recent announcement of a \$50 million investment at Dulles airport, our area is seeing a record year for infrastructure improvements.”

The NVTA also allocated \$5 million for a separate project — the widening of Route 28 from Route 29 in Centreville to the Prince William County line. The money will fund the design and engineering phases, as well as right-of-way acquisition, environmental mitigation and construction.

All in all, said Smith, things are looking up for traffic problems in Sully. “In 2013, then Gov. McDonnell created some new funding sources for transportation, and the money would be allocated through the NVTA,” she said. “[And now], \$305 million is coming here to the Sully District.”

In May 2015, VDOT held an informational meeting at Stone Middle School about plans to eliminate congestion at I-66/Route 28 in Centreville. Attendees learned about three, potential design alternatives and saw maps illustrating each one. They also heard a presentation by VDOT Project Manager Susan Shaw and then gave their feedback on each alternative.

A DECISION on which one will go forward has not yet been made, but the proposed alternatives are as follows:

*Alternate 2A provides direct access to and from the I-66 express lanes between Route 28 north and I-66 east/west. There’s also direct access between the express lanes east of Route 28 and Route 28 south. But



Jeff Parnes



Map of the project area showing one of the proposed design alternatives.

drivers can’t go to and from Route 28 south and I-66 west.

Alternate 2B offers direct access between Route 28 north and I-66 east/west.

Alternate 2C has the smallest footprint, minimizing the impact to E.C. Lawrence Park. It has the same travel movements as Alternate 2A, as well as access between the I-66 express lanes west and Braddock and Walney roads in Centreville. It also extends Poplar Tree Road to the park.

Mike Coyle, who works on transportation and public-safety issues as part of Smith’s team, recently explained that “Previously, VDOT stated it likely will mix and match the design proposals presented to the public. For example, one phase for the I-66 travel lanes may be selected which may not correspond with the same number of an interchange design.”

He also noted that the Poplar Tree Bridge extension will occur as part of the interchange project. But meanwhile, he said, “VDOT is getting closer to narrowing the option it believes is best. Clearly, the NVTA action is another positive step for the project by providing an infusion of money.”

Sully District Transportation Commissioner Jeff Parnes also weighed in on this

Agency allocates \$300 million for I-66/Route 28 improvements.

latest development for the I-66/Route 28 Interchange. “The key stumbling block for the Transform 66 multimodal effort has been the funding,” he said. “Whether it ends up being solely state-funded or a public/private partnership, there are billions of dollars at stake.”

He said the removal of the last of the [traffic] lights on Route 28, north of the Route 29 intersection, is now tied into the I-66 widening. And, he added, “The state has incentivized the proposed work by offering bonuses if the Route 28/I-66 interchanges, as well as the Walney Road and Braddock Road improvements, could be done early in the I-66 widening effort.”

“With the NVTA \$300 million grant earmarked for the Route 28/I-66 Interchange project, it now moves to the forefront,” continued Parnes. “[And although] a design preference has not been selected, there will be public informational and design review meetings in the fall of this year, as VDOT hopes to start construction in late 2017.”

He also stressed that he’s long been a strong advocate for a full interchange at Route 28, bringing back the traffic movements between Walney and Braddock roads and Route 28 that, several years ago, became prohibited.

AS A RESULT, explained Parnes, these movements have been “pushed to the Route 29/I-66 Interchange — northbound Route

28 to westbound I-66, and eastbound I-66 to southbound Route 28.” However, he said, “The complexity of once again connecting Walney Road to Braddock Road — and allowing their access to the full movements at the I-66/Route 28 Interchange — makes this a very complicated and expensive project.”

“The public will have a chance to comment on the plans,” said Parnes. “If people think full interchange mobility is important, they need to make their voices heard when the opportunity once again presents itself.”

Public information meetings on this project will be held this fall. They’ll be followed early next year by the design public hearings. Below is a schedules of VDOT’s anticipated milestones:

VDOT Milestones

- August: Receive financial proposals
- September: Select the best-value proposals
- October: CTB (Commonwealth Transportation Board) briefing
- October 2016-April 2017: Early work and public-information meetings
- This fall: Selection of private partner
- November: Execute a comprehensive agreement
- Early 2017: Design public hearing
- April 2017: Financial closure.
- 2017: Construction start
- Late 2020: Interchange opens to traffic.