

Jeff and Charlie, Frying Pan Farm Park's new Belgian Draft Horse team, already have a fan in Emily Stevens, who lives nearby and came to the reception to express her feelings for the new Frying Pan Farm Park family members.

# Oak Hill Herndon CONNECTION

2015  
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Newspaper

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## WEEK IN HERNDON

### Clarification

The Connection reported last week that the 2018 Herndon Festival and Carnival that occurs in downtown Herndon each summer was canceled. While funding for the celebration is not allocated in the town's fiscal year 2018 advertised budget, town staff would like to host the event at an alternate location. This is due to construction that is anticipated for the redevelopment of the downtown area. This line item was also unallocated in the advertised budget because negotiations for the work between the town and developer are still underway.

Like the work for the redevelopment of downtown, if a suitable alternative site for the festival is found, the funding for the celebration will need to be introduced as a budget adjustment, which requires the approval of Town Council. The Connection will follow developments for both the downtown redevelopment and 2018 festival to keep its readers informed.

### Town Seeks Proposals for Future Arts Center

The Town of Herndon has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking a non-profit arts related organization to operate, manage and conduct arts programming in an Arts Center that is envisioned as part of

Herndon's redeveloped downtown.

The center is included as part of a redevelopment plan for 4.675 acres in Herndon's downtown (between Station and Center streets, just north of Elden Street). The town has selected Comstock Partners to redevelop the land into a mixed-use development with 281 apartment units, 17,600 square feet of retail space, a 761-space parking garage, and a town-owned, 18,000-square-foot arts center. The vision for the town-owned center includes gallery and classroom space, a theatre, and a television studio.

Following completion of negotiations with the town, Comstock anticipates breaking ground on the redevelopment project in May 2018, to complete in summer 2019.

Non-profit arts groups located within a 25-mile radius of downtown Herndon are encouraged to respond to the RFP. Responses are due Monday, May 15, at 4 p.m. EDT. Information on the project, as well as the complete RFP, may be found on the town's website at <http://herndon-va.gov/departments/finance/purchasing>.

### Free Rides on Cinco de Mayo

Beginning at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 5, the 2017 Cinco de Mayo SoberRide program will be in operation, and continue until 4 a.m. on Saturday, May 6, as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers dur

SEE WEEK, PAGE 11



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## New Fire Station Opens in Herndon

Station built on historic site, 680 Spring Street, Town of Herndon.

**A**fter a long process to construct a new fire station in the Town of Herndon, on April 22 the men and women of Station 4, Herndon officially returned home again. Despite heavy rain, the community gathered together in the apparatus bays at Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department Station 4, Herndon, for its long awaited grand opening celebration. Two years earlier, Herndon had the oldest fire station in the county. Now Herndon has the newest.

Captain II, Robert W. Kitchen of Station 4, shared with the crowd of nearly 100 people that the process began in 2012 when the Board of Supervisors approved a Public Safety Bond to replace the old station. In February 2015, members of Station 4 moved into their temporary quarters one block away.

Over the next two years, the community and the men and women of Station 4 watched the project progress — from demolition and excavation to construction of their new home. “Some of you may wonder why I called it a home,” Kitchen said in his opening remarks. “To the crews assigned here, that’s exactly what it is...we spend 24 hours a day here on the ready, to serve this wonderfully welcoming community. It’s our second home, with our second family.”

Guest speaker Howard Nachman, president of Herndon Volunteer Fire Department in 1982, thanked Herndon Mayor Lisa C. Merkel, members of Herndon’s Town Council and Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Sharon Bulova for making the new fire station a reality.

Nachman asked the men and women of Station 4 to make the station, “warm and inviting, especially to the children.” Kept in his care, he presented the flag, which last flew over Company 4, to Unit One. In his remarks, John W. Foust, Supervisor Dranesville District said, “When we brought the flag down two years ago, I think we may have underestimated how great today is.”

Mayor of Herndon Lisa C. Merkel spoke of the importance of having Station 4 remain in downtown Herndon, “These things matter to people who live in Herndon,” she said. Merkel noted in her remarks that Vice Mayor Connie Hutchinson played an instrumental part in securing the Spring Street location for the new fire station site, rather than other locations that were considered.

David M. Rohrer, Deputy County Executive, recalled the changes the community has seen in the last 15 years — 9/11, anthrax and terrorist attacks. Rohrer said, “The quality of people here, in this station, has never changed; the mission has never changed.” Rohrer emphasized the unique and cooperative partnership and training



**Lisa C. Merkel, Mayor of Herndon and Supervisor John W. Foust (D-Dranesville) successfully attached the hose coupler on one end of a hose to another hose.**

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



**Firefighter T. Schann gets a hug from his daughter at the conclusion of the Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department Grand Opening of Station 4, Herndon on April 22, 2017. The architect was Zivic & Hurdle; the builder was Biscayne Contractors.**

between Fairfax County Fire & Rescue, Station 4, Town of Herndon Police Department and Fairfax County Police Department. “The partnership is very strong. Police and Fire train together to integrate operations and perform cross-training.”

Fire Chief Richard R. Bowers was one of the last to speak. He slowly said to the crowd, “Those here, who put their lives on the line every day, do so very proudly.” Bowers paused. He turned a moment and then presented a box of bricks from the old fire sta-

tion to Kitchen. Bowers said, “Distribute the bricks to those here today, those who have served and who have worked diligently.” With that, the men and women of Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department, Station 4, and Herndon were truly home at last.



**Town of Herndon Police Officer, L.A. Baker, created a painted wooden American flag but artistically replaced one of the blue stripes with a red one to symbolize Fire Station 4 holds the fabric of the community together.**



**Madison Conley, 5, enjoyed the help of Town of Herndon Police Officer L.A. Baker as she colored the picture of her fire truck and waited for Baker to give her the Junior Firefighter sticker at the conclusion of the Grand Opening for Fire & Rescue Station 4, Herndon.**



## Your Summer, Your Child, Your Values

### A time for parents to build humanitarian spirits.

BY SHARON STRAUCHS

It's summer. The rigors of homework, youth clubs and team-scheduled Saturdays are over. No more carpools. Now it's your turn to make empowering choices to impact your child's life and eventually the lives of their children.

While our kids are young, the challenge is how to find summer-perfect opportunities that are fun, yet meaningful, and how to get the kids away from their electronic devices. When choosing summer activities, this is your golden opportunity to focus on your specific family values. While swimming lessons, camp-outs, and sports are important, wouldn't it be wonderful to incorporate activities that help your children focus beyond themselves and to the world beyond Northern Virginia?

We educators emphasize that the earlier your child engages in volunteer activities you find important, the more likely children will grow up respecting your family's values. In the D.C. Metro Area, there is a plethora of humanitarian programs for the under-18 age group that will get them into the habit of helping others.

College advisers all know that beyond APs, GPAs, and SAT/ACT scores, colleges today scrutinize applicants' activities, their "resumes," to help determine acceptances and scholarships.

So start now, at a pivotal point in your child's life and witness the hot, summer days of NOVA becoming wondrous as you watch priorities slowly change. We recommend starting at [www.VolunteerFairfax.org](http://www.VolunteerFairfax.org) (Opportunities Just for Youth). Plus, in Virginia, kids have the opportunity to earn service-oriented awards such as the "Diploma Seal of Excellence in Civics" ([www.doe.virginia.gov](http://www.doe.virginia.gov)), or "The Prudential Spirit of Community Award," Virginia state-issued civics "diploma" for students in grades 5-12 who complete at least a 50-hour service project.

Where could you possibly begin to invest 50 or more hours, and for what cause? Our family discovered the famous "Meals on Wheels" program, started by former U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf, and delivered meals to senior citizens for our 10-year, part-time family project. ([www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org](http://www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org))

For our "foodie" kids who are cooking or gardening enthusiasts, The Food Network

sponsors "No Kid Hungry." Proceeds from bake sales are donated to help end childhood hunger ([www.bake.nokidhungry.org](http://www.bake.nokidhungry.org)) and the Gardening for Good project encourages kids to grow vegetables to donate to senior centers, or help fight senior hunger by sharing a meal. This encourages kids to learn to cook, and helps your family bond with a senior while eating and storytelling. ([www.hunger.generationOn.org](http://www.hunger.generationOn.org))

What about our animal-loving children? They can develop a Dog Park Clean-Up plan at their favorite park or socialize with dogs and cats at local shelters with the Puppy and Kitty Love programs. This is great for families who love pets but can't actually own one. ([www.GenerationOn.org/parents/resources/projects/animal-welfare](http://www.GenerationOn.org/parents/resources/projects/animal-welfare)).

As always, we parents must insure that activities are safe and the charities are legitimate. The benefits of helping humanitarian organizations while taking advantage of your relaxed summer schedule can create so many powerful, long-lasting memories and family summer traditions. Aesop states, "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

*Sharon Strauchs has been Director/Owner of Herndon-based Cortona Academy in Northern Virginia. Visit [www.CortonaLearning.com](http://www.CortonaLearning.com).*

## Infant Screening Saves Lives

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

Several weeks ago at the invitation of their leader I spoke to a group of Boy Scouts about government and the responsibilities of citizenship. Talking with me helped the Scouts meet one of their requirements for a merit badge. One of the Scouts asked me about the most important legislation I had ever gotten passed. I told him about multiple issues on which I had worked, but I focused on one that I thought he might know little about but would show the range of issues with which legislators deal. I told him about my work to expand infant screening in the Commonwealth.

Prior to my election to office I served on the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board. A member of that Board whose adult son was a resident at the Northern Virginia Training Center told me of the great hope there was in detecting health issues in infants at the time of their birth with blood screening. At the time Virginia had only three tests, one of which was pku testing. I remembered our conversation after I was elected, and I got new tests added as scientists developed them.

Metabolic disorders that can be discovered from a pin prick of an

infant's heel can lead to early and sometimes simple treatments that can lead to a healthy child and adult. Without treatment numerous medical conditions can develop including severe developmental delays and chronic illnesses. Metabolic disorders affect the chemical processes in your body that must work together correctly for you to stay healthy.

I was honored to work on legislation that added most of the 30 tests that are done in Virginia on that same spot of blood from an infant to detect these disorders. Last week I was reminded of the experience that I had working with Dr. Barry Wolf of the then Medical College of Virginia who had discovered that the disorder in which the body is unable to recycle the vitamin biotin can lead to developmental delays in children, hearing and vision loss, breathing problems, and problems with balance and movement. When discovered early such as through a screening test, the disorder can be treated with nutritional supplements that can result in a normal life for the person.

With Dr. Wolf's research and my legislative proposal, in 1984 Virginia became the first state in this country to begin infant screening for biotinidase deficiency. Since that time every state and many foreign countries have started the

screening. The March of Dimes recognized us for that accomplishment. The reminder of this story came from a local doctor in Reston who was a medical student at MCV at the time and knew of Dr. Wolf's research and my bill. She wrote to us both telling us of a teenage patient she had just met who at birth had been found to have the deficiency but with treatment was liv-

ing a normal life. She wrote to both of us that "because of researchers like you and advocates like you...our world is made a little better for all, and lives are saved for some precious few. That's something to be proud of."

I hope the Boy Scouts understood why I consider the work on infant screening to be among the most important I have done.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Comstock Should Support Protecting Democracy Act

To the Editor:

This past Tax Day, citizens across our nation demonstrated to demand that President Trump release his tax returns, as all his predecessors have done for the past 40 years. Clearly, Trump is trying to hide something, and the public has a right to know what it is.

The call for Trump to release his taxes even came from Virginia's 10th District U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock, whose voting record in the current Congress shows her to be a staunch Trump supporter. In a statement, Representative Comstock noted that Trump's tax returns might possibly shed light on Trump's ties to Russia.

But Comstock can, and should, do more. She should cosponsor the

Presidential Tax Transparency Act bill that requires the President and candidates for president to disclose the last three years of their federal tax returns.

Even more important than Trump's taxes is the Russian attack on our democracy during the last election. Comstock should cosponsor the Protecting Our Democracy Act that establishes an independent bipartisan commission to investigate Russian interference in our elections. Comstock's statement demanding that Trump release his tax returns is welcome, but compared to everything that is in her power to do it is a timid gesture.

**Richard Markeloff**  
Herndon

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## COMMUNITY OUTLOOK

# Herndon Looks Forward to New Downtown

BY FALLON FORBUSH  
THE CONNECTION

**I**t is budget season for the Town of Herndon. This is when the town manager advertises an annual budget for the Herndon Town Council to consider and present to the public for debate before it makes a final vote.

William "Bill" Ashton, Herndon's acting town manager, assumed the position on Jan. 10 when Art Anselene, the former town manager, retired. He has made recommendations to spend millions of dollars on capital projects for the town next year.

### Nearly \$7 Million For CIP in 2018

The planning process for the Town of Herndon's Capital Improvement Program is underway.

The CIP is a portion of the town's annual budget that outlines the town's anticipated public improvements. It is a six-year plan for the acquisition, development, enhancement or replacement of public facilities. The CIP also details the various funding sources that will pay for each project.

The budget for the proposed CIP for fiscal years 2018-2023 totals nearly \$7 million, with an additional \$4.2 million for capital projects in the town's Enterprise Funds, which are standalone funds separate from the General Fund.

More than 57 percent of the proposed total funding for the General Fund projects from fiscal year 2018-2023 are supported by local, state or federal grant sources.

The Herndon Planning Commission voted to recommend the proposed CIP on Feb. 6. It includes 50 separate capital projects. However, only 18 of the proposed projects will be funded by the town in fiscal year 2018.

Some of the major projects proposed in the new CIP include:

### Herndon Community Center – Phase 5

Provides a second story addition to the Herndon Community Center of about 10,000 square feet of additional floor space to improve the fitness and instruction areas and add multi-purpose space and stor-



age space. The project includes improvements to the existing locker rooms and will reconfigure the entrance area, addressing heating and air conditioning shortcomings in the lobby. The project design effort was funded in the previous CIP.

Construction funding is proposed for fiscal year 2019.

Total CIP FY18-23: \$3,555,000

### Runnymede Park Nature Center

Provides funding for design and construction of a new nature center facility at

Runnymede Park. Funding is also provided for exhibits and furnishings for the center, which will provide a wide range of nature education activities. Construction is funded in fiscal year 2021, with additional funding in fiscal year 2022 for exhibits and furnishings.

Total CIP FY18-23: \$2,850,000

### Vehicular and Pedestrian Access to Herndon Metrorail Station

Provides access near the north side of the Herndon Metrorail Station. A lane is

planned to allow buses and passenger vehicles to drop off and pick up metrorail passengers. Funding sources include regional and federal funding. The Phase 2 Dulles Metrorail extension may be complete by 2019. Nearly \$2.6 million in reserves will fund the main portion of the project.

Total CIP FY18-23: \$3,457,000

### Van Buren Street Improvement

Rebuilds a portion of Van Buren Street. A large majority of the project costs are supported by grant sources, including the Virginia Department of Transportation. Substantial project reserves also support the project.

Total CIP FY18-23: \$4,558,000

### Buildings Major Maintenance

Supports large maintenance and repair projects for town-owned facilities. The project addresses major building systems that require investment to components with a long life such as roofing, heating, ventilation, air conditioning and other types of refurbishment. Projects within this category may sustain the life of buildings and maintain site features, ranging from parking to fire suppression to exterior walkways.

Total CIP FY18-23: \$2,345,000

### Downtown Utility Relocation

Provides funding to relocate overhead electric and telecommunication utilities below ground. The project will help spur downtown development by reducing infrastructure costs for the private sector. General obligation bond funding supports \$2.6 million of the total cost. A portion of the town's meals tax has also been allocated toward this project.

Total CIP FY18-23: \$2,925,000

### Major Road Repaving Projects

Supports major maintenance of the town's arterial street network. The proposed paving program has been structured to complete segments that were previously delayed. Asphalt milling, concrete curb and gutter replacement, repaving, restriping and traffic loop replacement are the major

SEE OUTLOOK, PAGE 11

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# Nursing Camp for High School Students

**Campers will get a real-world view of the nursing profession.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**T**his summer a group of high school students with an interest in health care as a profession will get a chance to experience the real-world work of nurses when they attend a nursing camp at George Mason University.

“Our goal has been to introduce high school students to what nursing is, and what it is not,” said Carol Urban, Ph.D., R.N., associate professor and director, School of Nursing George Mason University. “We find that we have students come to Mason who declare nursing as their major, but have never had any experience with nurses outside of their health care provider’s office or the school nurse. We want to introduce them to nursing as a career, and the many opportunities that exist in nursing beyond working in a hospital.”

The camp will provide small group projects and hands-on simulation to introduce core concepts of nursing. Nursing fac-

ulty hope to expose students to the diverse career paths available to those with a degree in nursing.

Urban says that students will be taught healthcare skills, such as how to take a blood pressure and how to check a pulse. “We will provide ... time in our nursing simulation laboratory where we have our human simulators,” she said. “[Campers] will have observational experiences in a hospital with nurses and will be given an opportunity to talk with nurses we have on our faculty who have been in unique career fields including a forensics nurse, and a researcher who works globally in sub-Saharan Africa.”

The camp will also expose students to new trends in healthcare. “Healthcare delivery is changing and the camp is exposing the students to the changing healthcare climate,” said Christine M. Coussens, Ph.D., associate dean of Community Engagement in the College of Health and Human Services at George Mason University. “In the newer healthcare models, nurses will have a significant role in how and when healthcare is delivered and they will continue to be leaders for ensuring the health of patients and communities.”

**DURING A TYPICAL DAY** at the camp, students will spend several hours in the



PHOTO BY ALEXIS GLENN/CREATIVE SERVICES/  
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

**GMU College of Health and Human Services Nursing student Megan Holmes works in the Simulation Lab at the Fairfax Campus.**

nursing skills laboratory learning basic skills and techniques. “They may also spend some time in one of our Mason and Partners clinics, learning how nurses care for patients in a clinic setting and how valuable educating patients about their health is to improving their health,” said Urban.

Students will also have an opportunity to engage in a dialogue with nurses to gain insights into real world experience. “They’ll have conversations with nurses about their careers and learning what education and experiences they needed for that kind of a job. For example, what does a forensics nurse do?” asked Urban.

Coussens hopes that students will leave

the camp knowing the diversity of options that a degree in nursing can offer. “A degree in nursing opens possibilities for students to work in hospitals, healthcare management positions, policy positions ... globally in clinics and with aid organizations, in forensic roles [and] research institutions,” said Coussens. “There are limitless opportunities. A degree in nursing can open doors because of the clinical license and analytical ability.”

Admission to the nursing camp is competitive because of the limited number of available spots.

“We’ve run this camp before and it has been well-received,” said Urban. “Graduates’ of the camp have said that it really opened their eyes to everything a nurse does, and the great career potential that nurses have. They are amazed at the various opportunities a nurse can have. It also makes them aware that nursing is hard, but rewarding — it isn’t just what you see in the media, it’s real work. But more importantly, they see the passion that nurses have for that work, and the reward of seeing a patient and family member helped by the work that nurses do.”

*The camp will run from July 10-14. The cost is \$275. For more information, visit [chhs.gmu.edu/nursing/camp/index.cfm](http://chhs.gmu.edu/nursing/camp/index.cfm).*

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# Fighting Summer Brain Drain

Academic camps keep minds engaged when school is out.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Summer often evokes images of pool splashing and backyard barbecuing. For some educators though, warm weather months represent a potential loss of skills acquired during an academic year.

Known as “brain drain,” this concept refers to research that shows that, on average, students lose one to three months of learning when they are not engaged in academic activities during summer months. Academic camps can address this loss of academic skills while allowing children to enjoy summer fun.

“... Students have the opportunity to explore a topic in depth, without juggling competing scholastic demands or intramural activities,” said Dr. Janine Dewitt, professor of sociology at Marymount University in Arlington.

For example, campers at Summertime Camp at St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School in Alexandria will have an opportunity to choose from a variety of specialized camps ranging from physics and French to zoology and rocket and space science.

“Specialty camps are great ways to try new things, to expand horizons and to challenge yourself,” said

Jim Supple, associate dean of students and director of summer programs at St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School. “One of the best things about specialty offerings is that there are so many. Children are naturally curious — specialty camps provide a way for children to learn more about their curiosities and interests.”

Campers at 3E (Explore, Enrich, Enjoy) Summer Camp at Marymount University will explore science through nature and electronic gadgets, mathematics through making boats and geodesic domes, language arts through writing stories, and fine arts through creating dramas and cartoons.

Ana Lado, Ph.D., camp director and a professor at Marymount, says that the goal is to give students a chance to brush up on, gain or maintain academic skills in a relaxed environment.

“Campers will be in small groups with a low camper to counselor ratio,” she said. “Throughout each week of camp, campers will be able to choose among a variety of projects that pique their interest. Campers will create new social connections, grow academically, and develop physically.

For parents concerned about balancing the need to maintain academic skills with the need for downtime, Dewitt says that, “Parents can prevent academic burnout by limiting the number of scheduled activities over the course of the summer, and selecting only those that foster their child’s natural curiosity. Summer courses that allow students the freedom to select different types of learning activities can be both energizing and fun.”

## Summer Day and Residential Soccer Camps For ages 5-18 in Virginia



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# ENTERTAINMENT

Send entertainment announcements to [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## ONGOING

**“First Blooms” Art Show.** through April 30 at Reston Art Gallery Studios, Lake Anne Village Center, 11400 Washington Plaza W # B, Reston. Dorothy Donahey presents her latest works in the show “First Blooms.” Visit [www.restonartgallery.com/](http://www.restonartgallery.com/) for more.

**Lake Anne Exhibit.** Deadline is June 2 to enter photographs for the Lake Anne show. The exhibit runs from June 5-July 2 and is free and open to the public 9 a.m.–8 p.m. throughout the week at the JoAnne Rose Gallery, Reston Community Center at Lake Anne, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Visit [www.leagueofrestonartists.org](http://www.leagueofrestonartists.org) for more.

**The Art of Resilience.** 10-noon through May 6 at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. An exhibit showcasing the artwork of Azriel and Irene Awret. Reception April 29, from 7-9 p.m. Visit [www.artspaceherndon.com](http://www.artspaceherndon.com) or call 703-956-9560 for more.

**“Boeing Boeing.”** Various times through May 7 at NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Comedy about flight attendants. \$35-\$50. Visit [www.NextStopTheatre.org](http://www.NextStopTheatre.org) or call 866-811-4111 for more.

**Women’s Training Program.** through June 12, 6:30-8 p.m. at South Lakes High School, Seahawks Drive, Reston. Reston Runners Women’s Training Program. Runners, walkers, run/walk intervals and Fresh Start, for women who need a more gentle start to working out. Designed by women for women. \$45. Email [wtp@restonrunners.org](mailto:wtp@restonrunners.org) for more.

**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. Call 703-689-0999 [potomacriverrunning.com](http://potomacriverrunning.com).

**Over-40 Softball League.** A Fairfax-based league is looking for enough players to form another team. Players must be at least 40 years of age to be eligible. All games are doubleheaders - played on Sundays at Bready Park in Herndon between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. If interested, email [skeduman@aol.com](mailto:skeduman@aol.com) for more information.

**“A Bird in the Hand”** through spring 2017 Reston Town Square Park, 11990 Market Street, Reston Town Center. See and explore Patrick Dougherty’s monumental public art sculpture made from tree saplings. Presented by GRACE in collaboration with IPAR. 703-471-9242 [restonarts.org](http://restonarts.org)

**Teen and Adult Art Classes**  
**ArtSpace Herndon** Every Monday from 5:30-8:30 p.m. 750 Center Street, Herndon. Drawing and Mixed Media with Melanie Stanley - During Fall and Winter of 2016. Cost: \$45/ class. The class will use a variety of techniques for drawing, painting, mark making, and collage using fine arts tools and materials. Students will be taken down a creative path to learn to use drawing tools and brushes more effectively. Register by emailing Melanie, and she will send you the supply list and payment options/information: [ridingfree2@gmail.com](mailto:ridingfree2@gmail.com). 703-956-9560. [www.artspaceherndon.com](http://www.artspaceherndon.com).

## APRIL 26-30

**Gently Used Books and Media Sale.** 5-8 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne

Drive, Reston. All proceeds go to support the Reston Regional Library and the Fairfax County Public Library system. Visit [www.RestonLibraryFriends.com](http://www.RestonLibraryFriends.com) for more.

## THURSDAY/APRIL 27

**Family Challah Bake.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Congregation Beth Emeth, 12523 Lawyers Road, Herndon. Evening of challah making, dinner and dancing. Enjoy kosher pizza, salad & dancing while the challah rises. Email [Office@bethemeth.org](mailto:Office@bethemeth.org) or call 703-860-4515x101.

## FRIDAY/APRIL 28

**Empty Bowls.** 5:30-8 p.m. at Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon. Food served in a handmade pottery bowl to keep as a reminder that there are those in the community with empty bowls. All proceeds will be donated to “Food for Others,” the largest distributor of free food directly to the hungry in Northern Virginia. \$25 for adults in advance/\$30 adults at the door/\$15 for children under 12. Visit [www.givingcircleofhope.org](http://www.givingcircleofhope.org) for more.

**Swing Dance Music.** 8:30-midnight at Hilton Washington Dulles Airport, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon. Rock and romance of the 1950s with Good Rockin’ Daddys. \$15. Call 703-478-2900 for more.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 29

**Spring Fling.** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Goddard School, 2400 Dulles Town Blvd., Herndon. Pony rides, face painting, balloon twisting, crafts, games, and food. Email [HerndonVA@goddardschools.com](mailto:HerndonVA@goddardschools.com) or call 703-653-0337 for more.

## SUNDAY/APRIL 30

**Civil War History.** 1-3 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Re-enactors, exhibits and a special guest speaker who focus on the lives of the common Union and Confederate soldiers who once passed through the area. Call 703-437-9101 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark/) for more.

## FRIDAY/MAY 5

**Bike Event.** 6 p.m. at Trailside Park, 1022 Crestview Drive. Life is a Cycle is a group bike ride that teaches where to bike, commute and the need-to-know essentials of biking for transportation. Registration is \$1.50 before the event, or \$5 the day of the ride. Proceeds are donated to the American Heart Association. Visit [www.lifeisacycle.bike](http://www.lifeisacycle.bike) for more.

**Reston Community Players.** 8 p.m. at CenterStage, Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Last show of the 50th season, is the comedy, “Private Lives” by Noel Coward. Shows at various times through May 20. Visit [restonplayers.org](http://restonplayers.org) for more.

**Swing Dance Music.** 8:30-midnight at Hilton Washington Dulles Airport, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon. Rock and romance of the 1950s with Natty Beaux. \$15. Call 703-478-2900 for more.

## SATURDAY/MAY 6

**Oak Hill Fun Run.** 6-10:30 a.m. Oak Hill Elementary School, 3210 Kinross Circle, Oak Hill. Support the school or earn service hours by running the annual Oak Hill 1K or 5K. Call 703-467-5535 or email [OakHillES.Attendance@fcps.edu](mailto:OakHillES.Attendance@fcps.edu) for more.



## The Art of Resilience: Showcasing Artwork of Holocaust Survivors

ArtSpace Herndon is exhibiting the paintings, prints and sculptures of Azriel and Irene Awret, Holocaust survivors and co-founders of the art colony in Safed, Israel. A reception will be held this Saturday, April 29, from 7-9 p.m. where people can view and purchase the art for the last time in the United States before the collection is sent to the Awret gallery reopening in Israel. The exhibit is on display until May 6.

PHOTO COURTESY OF  
ARTSPACE HERNDON

### “Yeminite Mother” by Irene Awret.

**Pet Fiesta.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Reston Town Center. Pet adoption, pet contests and fashion show, exhibitors of pet resources, pet rescue and non-profit groups. Presented by and benefiting GoodDogz.org. All on-leash pets welcome. Free admission, rain or shine. Visit [petfiesta.org](http://petfiesta.org) for more.

**Digital Photography Essentials.** 1-5 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. This introductory class is for people with a digital camera who are interested in learning how to successfully use their camera beyond automatic / program modes. Visit [www.artspaceherndon.com](http://www.artspaceherndon.com) or call 703-956-9560 for more.

**TEDxHerndon Lecture.** 2-6 p.m. at Herndon Middle School, 901 Locust St. The theme of this year’s event is “Difficult Conversations.” Visit [www.tedxherndon.com](http://www.tedxherndon.com) for more.

**Curator’s Talk.** 4 p.m. at the Greater Reston Arts Center, Reston Town Center, 12001 Market St #103, Reston. Curator Holly McCullough talks on “Radcliffe Bailey: The Great Dismal Swamp.” Artworks on view from April 21 through Aug. 18 at George Mason University. Visit [www.restontowncenter.com](http://www.restontowncenter.com).

**Derby for Mental Illness.** 5-8:30 p.m. at Hidden Creek Country Club, 1711 Clubhouse Drive, Reston. Guests in their Derby attire will watch the 143rd Run for the Roses, eating hors d’oeuvres, sipping mint juleps, bidding on auction items. The event will support PRS’ work that helps individuals and families affected by mental illness in the region recover their lives.\$150. Visit [www.prsinc.org/raising-the-stakes](http://www.prsinc.org/raising-the-stakes).

## MAY 6-7

**Pirate Fest.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sunday at Lake Fairfax Park, 1400

Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. \$10. Swashbucklin,’ seafarin’ songs, tales of pirates, a Raingutter Regatta, a treasure hunt, and sailin’ on the boundin’ main of Lake Fairfax. Call 703-222-4664 for more.

**“Romeo and Juliet.”** various times at Lake Anne Recreation Area, 11301 North Shore Drive, Reston. Produced by AnyStage Theater and performed outdoors. Email [anystagetheater@gmail.com](mailto:anystagetheater@gmail.com) for more.

## SUNDAY/MAY 7

**Artists Reception.** 3-7 p.m. at the Reston Community Center in Hunters Woods Village, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Meet artist Norman Krasnegor, and see his art exhibit which will be on display during the month of May. Visit [www.redmontart.net/the-collection/](http://www.redmontart.net/the-collection/).

## MAY 9-20

**Mind, Heart, Vision Exhibit.** Various times at the ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Exhibit showcasing extraordinary artworks of Herndon High School art students embarking upon their senior thesis. Call 703-956-9560 or visit [www.artspaceherndon.com](http://www.artspaceherndon.com) for more.

## WEDNESDAY/MAY 10

**League of Women Voters.** 7:30-9 p.m. at Hunter Mill District Community Room B, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. Local LWV members update some long-standing local governance issues. Call 202-263-1311 visit [www.lwv-fairfax.org](http://www.lwv-fairfax.org).

## MONDAY/MAY 15

**Meet the Author.** 6 p.m. at Scrawl Books, Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Shirley Melis will discuss her newly published memoir,

“Banged-Up Heart: Dancing with Love and Loss.” Visit [www.shirleymelis.com](http://www.shirleymelis.com) for more.

## TUESDAY/MAY 16

**Religious Freedom Lecture.** 1-3 p.m. at Congregation Beth Emeth, 12523 Lawyers Road, Herndon. Speaker Bennett Gold will discuss the evolution of religious freedom in the U.S., Jewish Justices, and key related decisions. Adults. Email [office@bethemeth.org](mailto:office@bethemeth.org) or call 703-860-4515.

**Getting Dirty with Clay.** 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Join local ceramic artist, Mercia Hobson, for a night of dirty fun as she guides participants in the fine art of weaving strips of pre-dyed extruded clay over a mold. A Design and Wine Event. Visit [www.artspaceherndon.com](http://www.artspaceherndon.com) or call 703-956-9560 for more.

## FRIDAY/MAY 19

**Bike to Work Day 2017.** Registration — now open — is free and open to anyone who commutes in the region, from first timers to daily cyclists. All registrants will be entered in a regional bicycle raffle, and the first 16,000 to register and attend will receive a free t-shirt at one of more than 85 pit-stops throughout Northern Virginia. Participants can register online at [www.biketoworkmetrodc.org](http://www.biketoworkmetrodc.org). Email Megan Goodman at [mgoodman@mwkog.org](mailto:mgoodman@mwkog.org), or call 202-962-3209 for more.

**Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival Party.** 6-9 p.m. at Reston Town Center Pavilion, 1818 Discovery St., Reston. Party kicks off the art festival, which runs Saturday and Sunday, May 20-21, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Call 703-471-9242, email [info@restonarts.org](mailto:info@restonarts.org) or visit [restonarts.org](http://restonarts.org) for more.

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**Reston-Herndon Little League (RHLL) players march in a parade in Reston Town Center on Saturday, April 22. Pictured here, AA TAG Muay Thai AL Nationals with their coach Brian Dougherty.**

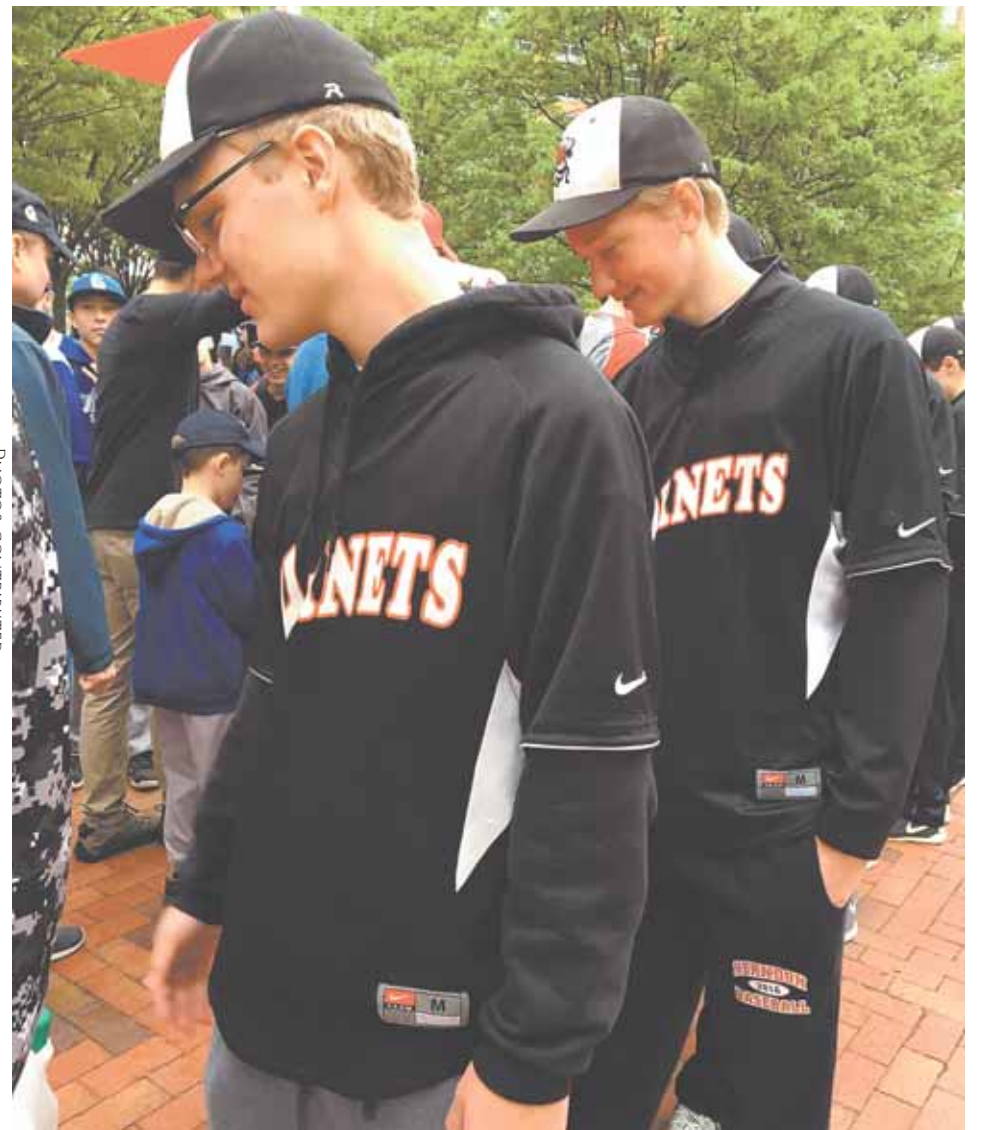
## Reston-Herndon Little League Celebrates New Season

Hundreds of Reston-Herndon Little League (RHLL) players gathered at Reston Town Center on Saturday morning to celebrate the start of the baseball season. Joined by their coaches, the players wore uniforms provided by the Washington Nationals and were entertained on the parade route down Market Street by two of the Nationals racing presidents — Teddy and Abe. At the end of the parade route, high

school players from South Lakes, Herndon, and Madison high schools, many of whom were once RHLL players themselves, greeted the players with high-fives.

Joining the occasion, U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly, said, “Forty-six years of baseball in Reston and Herndon — what a great thing”

Jason Walker, RHLL president, said, “You will make lifelong friends through baseball.”



**Herndon High School baseball team members came to support Reston-Herndon Little League (RHLL) players.**

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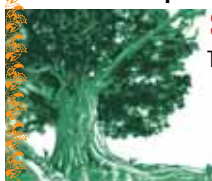
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# And So It Begins ...

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



The onslaught of radio and television advertising for grass seed and riding mowers. I suppose if I was a responsible homeowner, given the time of the year: spring/April, I might have an interest in such timely offerings. However, since I'm not and since I'm still unable to manage the two acres that I own, affectionately referred to as "Belly Acres," going on 25 years dating back to May '92 when we initially took ownership, the best I can do is borrow my neighbor's riding mower and spend a couple of hours every two weeks or so trying to keep the grass below my knees. Cancer issues not totally withstanding.

Actually, aside from having little interest, minimal experience and multiple home/tool maintenance issues/pre-existing conditions, I am the perfect target: a homeowner who can't do anything on his own and needs help all the time for everything. Specifically as it involves my yard; I have grass, trees, bushes, shrubs, daffodils, flower beds, wild flowers, weeds and more weeds. If I were so inclined and wanted to confide to someone in a Lawn & Garden store, I would have to admit that a novice looks experienced compared to me. I need to be taken by the hand — literally — and instructed as if the words being spoken to me were a foreign language. Which of course, they are.

This previous paragraph presumes however that I have a budget and even a passing notion to attempt to improve upon the randomness that characterizes "Belly Acres." I can still remember a conversation I had with a local lawn and garden consultant when we first moved in. A gentlemen came by and together we walked around the property. After ending up back at the house, he asked me what I wanted to do. I said something like, "I don't know, you tell me." He responded with words I could semi understand but mostly it was unintelligible — to me, so I asked for a clarification.

After grasping the obvious, finally, I asked: "Is what you're telling me that I could hire someone to work full time for the rest of his life and still the work wouldn't get done?"

"Yes," he said.

That's when I fully understood the problem. I then thanked him for his time and haven't revisited the issue since. Talk about pointless. And so, all these years later, the property remains nearly as it was. Oh sure, tress have fallen down, branches, limbs, sticks and stones have hit the ground — and house, and together have cluttered up the general appearance. However, any effort beyond paying people to clean up the miscellaneous yard debris has been lost in the passage of time and in my lack of initiative. Throw in a "terminal" cancer diagnosis and at least for me, pulling weeds, etc., became a fairly low priority.

Still, it doesn't mean that I don't pay attention to advertising aimed at homeowners, especially the ones promoting grass seed and riding mowers. Many of which are quite funny and clever. Not quite clever enough to get me off the couch and into a store to spend money on a project, especially on one whose timeline might not match mine. That's not to say that I'm living like I'm dying so why bother? No. it's more about common sense and gratification. I don't need to wait for — anything. Oh sure, I need to plan for tomorrow but not at the expense (pun intended) of today. It's not exactly akin to a fool and his money but when you've been diagnosed with cancer, priorities change, as do budget/time allowances; in fact/feeling, everything changes.

I don't mean to imply that I'm a closed book, unable to get out of my own way or incapable of taking the good with the bad. As you regular readers know, I'm really pretty flexible when it comes to my less-than-ideal circumstances. Nevertheless, it doesn't mean that I don't have my moments. Hearing/seeing these lawn and garden promotions has given me pause though. Not enough to change my mind but enough to motivate me — to write a column.

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

## BULLETIN BOARD

### SOBER-RIDE FOR CINCO DE MAYO

**Free Sober Rides.** Friday, May 5, 7 p.m. through Saturday, May 6, 4 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter the code CINCODC in the app's "Promo" section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe ride home. The SoberRide code is valid for the first 1,500 Lyft users who enter the code. Visit [www.soberride.com](http://www.soberride.com).

### WEDNESDAY/APRIL 26

**Parenting ADHD lecture.** 7-9 p.m. at Herndon High School Lecture Hall  
700 Bennett St., Herndon. "From Chaos to Calm: Keys of Parenting ADHD" lecture by Elaine Taylor-Klaus, CPCC, PCC, part of CHADD of Northern Virginia & DC Chapter's "Understanding ADHD" Lecture series. Free. Call 703-655-8095 for more.

### SATURDAY/APRIL 29

**Operation Medicine Cabinet Cleanout.** 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Reston District Station, 12000 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Drop off unused

## COMMUNITY OUTLOOK

FROM PAGE 5

project elements to be completed. A portion of the town's meals tax has been allocated toward funding of this project.

Total CIP FY18-23: \$1,275,000

### Police Radio Equipment

Replaces radios and associated equipment of the Herndon Police Department due to obsolescence. Fairfax County agreed to purchase \$372,000 of the equipment, reducing the overall project expense. Another investment in police equipment worth mentioning is that the town council approved \$71,000 of funding to equip police officers with body cameras, beginning department wide by May. This investment was allocated from the town's fiscal year 2017 mid-year budget on Feb. 14.

Total CIP FY18-23: \$841,000

### General Water Maintenance and Replacement

Provides for major component replacement of the town's water distribution system. Major maintenance and replacement of system mains and facilities will be phased and prioritized based on pipe age, material and localized General Fund projects. This will reduce adverse impacts caused by frequent outages and the cost premiums experienced from system failure repairs.

Total CIP FY18-23: \$3,312,000

## WEEK IN HERNDON

FROM PAGE 2

ing this traditionally high-risk holiday. This service is offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP).

During this nine-hour period, area residents age 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download Lyft to their phones, then enter the code CINCODC in the app's "Promo" section to receive their no cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. The SoberRide code is valid for the first 1,500 Lyft users who enter the code.

## Man Hits Two Police Cruisers While Evading Arrest

Trevor John Herasingh Jr., 31, of Herndon was charged with multiple counts of assault, including assaulting police officers on Wednesday, April 12, according to the Herndon Police Department.

The pursuit began after an assault he allegedly committed against someone he knew, according to police. The victim received minor

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to [connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](mailto:connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/) by noon on Friday.

or expired medications at a Fairfax County Police district station (pills or liquids only, no pressurized canisters or needles). Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb) or email [wwwcsb@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:wwwcsb@fairfaxcounty.gov) for more.

### ONGOING

**Sunrise at Reston Town Center** offers a monthly Caregiver Support Group on the fourth Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8 p.m. Monthly support group offers a safe place for family caregivers, to meet and develop a mutual support system and to exchange practical information and possible solutions. Learn about resources available in the community and how to manage caregiver related stress. Call 703-956-8930 or email [Reston.ED@sunriseseniorliving.com](mailto:Reston.ED@sunriseseniorliving.com) to RSVP.

**Exercise for Parkinson's.** Every Monday, 1:15-2:15 p.m. Reston Sport&Health, 11445 Isaac Newton Square, Reston. This program brings together people impacted by Parkinson's Disease to participate in various physical exercises aimed at improving posture, balance and circulation and increasing strength, muscle control and mobility. Free. [parkinsonfoundation.org](http://parkinsonfoundation.org). Call

Natalie McCall  
[nmccall@onelifefitness.com](mailto:nmccall@onelifefitness.com) 703-904-7600 for more.

**Master Gardener Training.** The Fairfax County Master Gardener Association offers plant clinics, home turf training or speakers for homeowner's meetings. Fees vary. Visit [fairfaxgardening.org](http://fairfaxgardening.org) or call Dora Lockwood at 401-864-4778 for more.

The **Herndon Adult Day Health Care Center** needs volunteers to assist with fitness activities, arts and crafts, mealtime, entertainment and much more. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Toy Drive in Collaboration with Nonprofit FISH Through Dec. 16

Stop by 11890 Sunrise Valley Drive any weekday from 9-4 and drop a new, unwrapped toy in the donation box in the lobby. All toys will be distributed to needy children within Loudoun County and to Herndon/Reston children via the non-profit Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc. Toys should be for the ages of Newborn to 16. The last day for donations is December 16. Call 703-860-4600 for more information.

### Water Capacity Purchases

Provides for water capacity through Fairfax County. The purchase and financing arrangements are not yet finalized. A preliminary total cost estimate has been calculated, but annual debt service amounts are anticipated at \$421,000 per year.

Estimated CIP FY18-23: \$10,278,000

### Sewer Capacity Purchases

Provides for sewer treatment capacity allocations at the Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Plant. Additional capacity is needed to support development and redevelopment that is outlined in the the town's comprehensive plan. A preliminary total cost estimate has been calculated, but annual debt service amounts are anticipated at \$1.4 million per year.

Estimated CIP FY18-23: \$22,000,000

### Downtown Redevelopment and Arts Center

The highly anticipated downtown redevelopment of nearly five acres of downtown Herndon is not supported by any of the funds in the town's fiscal year 2018 budget.

During a special meeting on Nov. 30, 2016, the Herndon Town Council adopted a resolution that directed town staff to move forward with negotiations on a proposal for the redevelopment with Reston real estate firm Comstock Partners.

The town is expecting the 24-month construction to be underway come next summer. Though the work is not allocated in the town's fiscal year 2018 budget, it is still a priority for the town and is expected to come to fruition in 2018.

The town's fiscal years begin on July 1 and extend to June 30. Budget adjustments take place each year in July, as well as mid-year in February.

Though details are lacking, the town will allocate funding for the work with a budget adjustment to the 2018 budget. And the lack of details is not holding the project behind.

On Friday, April 14, the town issued a request for proposals seeking bids from nonprofit arts organizations within 25 miles of the location to operate, manage and conduct arts programming in its future downtown Arts Center.

The RFP states within the "Project Overview" section that the town has, "selected Comstock Partners to redevelop 4.675 acres of land owned by the town into a mixed-used development."

### Citizen Input on Town Budget

The town council considered CIP funding, along with the annual budget, during public hearings on Tuesday, April 11, and Tuesday, April 25. Herndon citizens may continue to submit comments about the budget by email to [budget@herndon-va.gov](mailto:budget@herndon-va.gov).

abrasions and bruising, but declined medical attention, according to police.

Police officers found Herasingh in a parking lot in the 600 block of Center Street in Herndon. When they ordered him to stop, he walked away and entered his car. He then reversed and sideswiped a police vehicle as he fled, according to police.

A pursuit ensued and quickly ended when he drove head-on into another police vehicle that was stopped in the parking lot, according to police. Herasingh then exited his car and fought with police officers until he was subdued and taken into custody, according to police.

He suffered minor abrasions during the incident, but declined medical attention, according to police. One officer also suffered minor injuries from the collision, according to police.

Herasingh was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center where he was charged with assault, strangulation, two counts of aggravated assault of a law enforcement officer, two counts of destruction of property, and reckless driving. He was held without bond, according to police.



## News



From left, Jeff and Charlie, Frying Pan Farm Park's new Belgian Draft Horse team are listening to the speeches officially welcoming them to the park at a reception in their honor.



The purchase of Jeff and Charlie was made possible by main donor Susan Becker, whose generosity was noted with an award presented by Friends of Frying Pan Farm Park chairman John Pitzer.

# Frying Pan Park Welcomes Charlie and Jeff

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

It's been more than a year and a half since Frying Pan Farm Park in Herndon had a working team of draft horses. On Sunday, April 23, the park, and the public, officially welcomed 12-year-old Charlie and 9-year-old Jeff into the fold, at a reception complete with speeches, refreshments and even wagon rides courtesy of the guests of honor.

The two blond Belgian Draft Horses had been working as a team in Ohio Amish country for the past five years, but according to Park Farm Manager Paul Nicholson, they have settled well in their new home and are "ready to meet and greet their fans."

The pair actually arrived in October of last year, but needed some adjustment time and training to handle their starring roles for the 725k visitors who enjoy the park each year.

The park's previous team had passed after years of much appreciated service and a well-deserved retirement. Their loss represented not only an emotional impact to farm staff and the public who had come to know and love them, but it also left the historic facility without a key ingredient of their mission to "preserve and interpret a 1920s through 1950s

farm, agricultural process, rural community life and landscape" for the citizens and visitors of Fairfax County.

The historical period that Frying Pan brings to life was the transitional time in which tractors really began taking over the plow and field work on American farms, but the draft horse was "still very much an essential part of farming then," explained Yvonne Johnson, the park manager. "Without our own team, we were missing an important part in our work to really illustrate what life on the farm was like during that time. It's great to add Charlie and Jeff to the family and bring that piece back to the picture."

**"It's great to add Charlie and Jeff to the family and bring that piece back to the picture."**

— Yvonne Johnson, park manager



The welcome ceremonies over, Jeff and Charlie got down to business. Guided by driver Dan Sullivan, the equine duo did what they are named for — drafting [or pulling], and bringing a lot of smiles to the faces of their passengers.

picture."

Getting the 1,700 lb. (each!) duo to their new digs and new assignment from Ohio to Virginia via upstate New York is a story in itself, but starts with the fact that their purchase

was made possible by main donor Susan Becker, a long-time County Park employee, who saw on Facebook that Frying Pan was fundraising to buy a new team. Becker's contribution was recognized during the festivities by William G. Bouie, Chairman of the Fairfax County Park Authority Board and the representative for the Hunter Mill District which includes Frying Pan Farm Park.

"I had a horse of my own until about two

years ago, [when he was retired]" said Becker. "Not having a horse is a great way to save money," she laughed. "It leaves you with a bit extra."

Her decision to help bring this living history back to Frying Pan was also a way to honor her mother, Martha. "I have photographs of her riding the draft horses on her family's farm in Tennessee back in the '30s. I've lost her now, but this is a beautiful way to remember her — and let everyone have a bit of a horse fix. I think everyone needs that."

The Friends of Frying Pan Park, who actually own all of the animals on the property, were also instrumental in raising funds for the transportation of the horses, training of the cart and plow driver, the purchase of their tack and accoutrements, and for putting on the reception spread at the day's event.

At last, the patience of the youngest of the attendees was rewarded. The speeches and the applause gave way to what they (and apparently quite a few of the young at heart) had been waiting for — the wagon ride. (Actually, even Jeff, with a hoof stamp or two, looked like he was ready to get his portion of the program underway.) The Friends of Frying Pan Park board members, donor Susan Becker and a few of the other dignitaries took the first go, but then children clambered aboard, and Jeff and Charlie, heads held high, did their jobs, showing visitors what life was like in the not too distant past, and bringing smiles along with the lessons.

Frying Pan Park is located at 2739 West Ox Road in Herndon. Visit their Facebook page for events and family fun activities year-round.