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Reston CONNECTION

Home Life Style

PAGE 2

Bill Steinhart teaches the blacksmith open studio at NoVa Labs in Reston. He reminded his student blacksmiths that Theo Nazz – the Champion of Champions of “Forged in Fire Season 4” – would be at the upcoming Maker Faire NoVa.

Maker Faire Gets Bigger & Better

NEWS, PAGE 8

Reston Teen Shines At Winter Olympics

SPORTS, PAGE 6

Candidates' Forums Coming Up

NEWS, PAGE 3

Styling a Coffee Table

Using décor to make a table pop.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

There's an art to designing a living room coffee table, says local interior designer Susan Tucker. In fact, when she's helping a client create a living room space, she pays particular attention to creating a stylish and functional table.

"It seems like such a small thing, but when designed the right way, a coffee table can become the focal point of a room and really make it pop," she said. "I believe that there's a right way and a wrong way to put together a coffee table, but it's not hard if you keep certain things in mind."

Vary the height and scale so that each item can shine on its own. "If everything is the same height, none of them will be noticed," said Tucker. "Think a pretty vase of flowers behind a small porcelain bowl."

Work to create balance between small and large items, says Alexandria, Virginia-based designer Steven Gambit. "For example, a smattering of small knick-knacks can look cluttered on a coffee table," he said. "Along the same lines, too many large items on a coffee table can be overpowering. Instead select a few items and group them together by size."

Change items as the seasons or holidays



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE NEST EGG

Books add visual interest and can provide topics of conversation when displayed on a coffee table.

change. "As spring approaches, consider adding a small bouquet of fresh or silk spring flowers," said Tucker. "If you celebrate Easter, consider Easter décor, like a bunny or a basket with eggs. I picked up some elegant Easter items at a local home accessories store last spring. One or two simple items can breathe fresh life in a table design."

Choose items with colors that are found in other places in a room's design. "If you



Consider placing coffee table items on a tray, like this one from the Nest Egg, says Interior Designer Susan Tucker.

have a painting with bright colors, for example, choose one of the colors and find an item in the same color to add to your coffee table. If you have throw pillows in interesting colors, considering using one of those colors on your coffee table."

Consider only decorating one section of the coffee table, especially if the table is large. "It's a good idea to leave some space free, especially if you entertain a lot," said

Gambit. "Your guests will need a place to put a drink. Don't feel compelled to fill every inch of space."

A serving tray can serve two purposes on a coffee table, says Gambit. "An elegant serving tray can make a dramatic statement on a coffee table, and can give a table some structure, especially if it's holding smaller items," he said. "If you need to clear the coffee table quickly, like if you're entertaining, a tray makes it easy."

Think about what the items on the coffee table will look from different places in the room, suggests Tucker. "Stand over your coffee table and get a sense of what the objects look like gazing down at it," she said. "Sit across the room from it. Can the items be seen fully or are the most appealing parts of an item obstructed? I generally discourage clients from putting picture frames on a coffee table because you can't see the main attraction — the photo — from behind."

Be practical and sentimental. "Because people tend to gather around coffee tables, don't put a breakable family heirloom or an expensive piece on them," said Gambit. "Coffee table books are a good idea because they can be topics of conversation. You can use a coffee table to display things that represent a part of your personality, lifestyle or a hobby."



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Candidates' Forums Coming Up the Last Week in February

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Thirteen candidates were certified by the Reston Association Elections Committee on Monday, Jan. 29 to run for four open seats in the 2018 Board of Directors election.

During the last week in February, there will be two Candidates' Forums. Reston Association (RA) urges its members to come meet the candidates for the 2018 Board of Directors Election in this debate-style candidates' forum held at the Reston Association Head-

quarters, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston.

RA wants members to know they can pose questions to candidates at the event or submit their questions in advance to electionscommittee@reston.org.

Candidates for the At-Large Race (3-year term, two seats) will participate in a forum on Monday, Feb. 26, 2018, 7-9 p.m. At-Large candidates (3-year term, two seats) are Derrick Watkins, Sridhar Ganesan, Aaron Webb, Travis G. Johnson, John Pinkman, Colin Meade, and Ven Iyer.

Candidates for the At-Large race (1-year term) and South Lakes



Tammi Petrine



Ray Wedell



Julie Bitzer



Sridhar Ganesan



David Ballard

race will participate in a forum on Tuesday, Feb. 27. At-Large candidates (1-year term) are David Ballard, Andy Sigle, Ray Wedell, and John Bowman. South Lakes District Candidates (3-year term) are Tammi Petrine and Julie Bitzer.

According to the Reston Association website: The voting period for the 2018 election is March 5-April 2. Paper ballots will be mailed on March 5.

Electronic ballots are also available to members. A link to the elec-

tronic ballot will be provided on the home page of www.reston.org during the month-long election period.

The candidates' unedited statements of candidacy can be viewed at reston.org.

Sunset Hills Realignment Alternative Recommended

Board of Supervisors Public Hearing scheduled for March 6.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Supervisor Catherine M. Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill District) and Fairfax County's Department of Transportation (DOT) hosted an information meeting on the Proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment-PA 2017-III-T1 Sunset Hills Realignment held at Sunrise Valley Elementary School Reston, on Jan. 30.

The general location of the subject property was the intersection of Hunter Mill Road with Crowell Road and Sunset Hills Road in the Hunter Mill District. The County of Fairfax Proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment dated Dec. 20, 2017, stated that Hunter Mill Road had experienced recurring congestion during the morning and evening peak hours.

THE REPORT describes a long planning history of proposed transportation improvements and changes to the area surrounding the proposed realignment of

Sunset Hills Road. "Improvements near the proposed Plan amendment have been in the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan since 1975 when Sunset Hills Road was recommended to be realigned north of the current intersection of Crowell Road and Hunter Mill Road."

According to the County of Fairfax report, analyses had shown that no one alternative would provide better results than another in the future and operational results showed that in several cases, the volume in the peak direction exceeded the capacity of the proposed improvements. Therefore, there would still be congestion in the peak hour. The report stated, "Based on the analyses and the community input throughout the evaluation process, a new alternative was developed."

Under the Proposed Comprehensive Plan, a New Preferred Proposed Alternative has been recommended. According to the County of Fairfax's Proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment: "The realignment of Sunset Hills Road to the intersection of Crowell Road and Hunter Mill Road would

provide for the future transportation needs in the area. It would address the forecasted traffic congestion associated with the closely spaced intersections of Hunter Mill Road with Sunset Hills Road and the Dulles Toll Road Westbound Ramps. The inclusion of a roundabout at the intersection of Crowell Road and Hunter Mill Road addresses the community desire to see traffic calmed to the north of Crowell Road, as well as the need to adequately handle future travel demand in the corridor."

Staff recommended changes to the current wording in the Comprehensive Plan to reflect the New Proposed Alternative. Staff proposed text referencing the previous plans, Options A, B, and C, be deleted from the Proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment and alternative proposed text added. In addition, staff recommended proposed modifications be made to figures and maps in the Plan as required.

Given such, the Plan would read, "...Sunset Hills Road as it terminates at Hunter Mill Road provides for the primary access to the Dulles Toll Road for the residential areas

and commercial office areas within the eastern periphery of Reston. To facilitate this access and provide better spacing between intersections, Sunset Hills Road should be realigned to Crowell Road to create a four-leg intersection. When Sunset Hills Road is realigned, a roundabout should be considered as the intersection control.

The realigned Sunset Hills Road should retain the minor paved trail designation for Sunset Hills Road recommended in the Countywide Trails Plan." According to the County of Fairfax, Planning Staff does recommend this item for Plan Amendment.

THE BOARD of Supervisors will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 6, at 4 p.m. on the Proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment.

For more information, visit fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-zoning/sites/planning-zoning/files/assets/documents/complanamend/sunsethillsrealignment/2017-iii-t1.pdf.

VOLUNTEER EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Fairfax County is offering a Free **Caring for You, Caring for Me** for caregivers of older adults. **Mondays, Feb. 26-March 26, 1-3 p.m.** at In-sight Memory Care Center, 3955 Pender Dr., Ste. 100, Fairfax. Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults (under Hot Topics). Call 703-324-7577,

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TTY 711.

The **Fairfax Commission on Aging** meets on **Wednesday, Feb. 21, 1-3 p.m.** at the Mount Vernon Government Center, Rooms 2 & 3, 2511 Parkers Lane, Mount Vernon. The public is welcome to attend and join in the comment period that begins each ses-

sion. Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/older-adults/fairfax-area-commission-on-aging. Call 703-324-5403, TTY 711 for meeting access needs.

Fairfax County's **Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group** meets by phone on **Tuesday, Feb. 13, 7-8**

p.m. This month's topic is Maintaining Relationships While Caregiving. Call 703-324-5484, TTY 711 to register.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
The Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in

nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Meals on Wheels needs **Drivers, Co-ordinators**, and **Co-coordinators** for routes throughout the county. Apply online at volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov.

OPINION

Send in Pet Photos Now

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish the last week of February, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Friday, Feb. 23.

We invite you to send stories about your pets, photos of you and your family with your cats, dogs, llamas, alpacas, ponies, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your life with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures.

Do you volunteer at an animal shelter or therapeutic riding center or take your pet to visit people in a nursing home? Does your business have a managing pet? Is your business about pets? Have you helped to train an assis-

tance dog? Do you or someone in your family depend on an assistance dog?

Or take this opportunity to memorialize a beloved pet you have lost.

Just a cute photo is fine too. Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans.

Please tell us a little bit about your creature, identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description what is happening in the photo, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just your town name).

Email to editors@connectionnewspapers.com or submit online at www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets.

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— MARY KIMM

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Maddie, the treasured pet of Sharon Lewis, Vienna, celebrated her 11th birthday in great style on July, 2016.

Working It Out

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

In a sight too seldom seen in the State Capitol, Governor Ralph Northam and Speaker of the House Kirk Cox stood together at the same podium to announce a bipartisan agreement on criminal justice reform.

COMMENTARY Governor Northam has agreed to sign a bill on restitution in criminal cases that when it passed last year was vetoed by Governor McAuliffe, and the Republicans agreed to pass a bill to raise the threshold for felony larceny from the current \$200 to \$500 for which many interfaith and social justice groups have been forcefully advocating.

While there are details about the agreements that continue to be open for criticism, they represent important steps in criminal justice

reform. The Governor intervened in a controversial bill on electric energy regulation that is likely to make the ultimate outcome more satisfactory to multiple stakeholders. The original bill was referred to as the

"Dominion" bill because it impacted Dominion Energy, American Electric Power Company and the electric cooperatives.

After the Governor called together 30 stakeholders and a professional mediator, a revised bill emerged that will keep the electric power companies financially stable while granting refunds to consumers with advances in smart metering, energy conservation and a giant step in moving towards renewable energy. For critics of any bill that deals with electric energy, take a look at the new bill that has been negotiated; I think there are



very good reasons conservationists are happy with the new bill. The critical need for Metro funding presents a challenge for working out a solution. There is no debate about the importance of Metro; all business organizations testify to its critical role in the success of the Northern Virginia region.

Holding up the process of working out the new funding are legislators who continue to want to talk about reforms of Metro without specific proposals and who are not willing to make a commitment on funding. Hopefully the partisan political speeches can be set aside, and serious discussions can be carried on by sane heads that will result in a satisfactory compromise.

A bill passed recently that supports a work requirement for recipients of Medicaid that was sup-

ported by the Speaker was the first indication that there may be a path to an agreement on Medicaid expansion. Such requirements are becoming common among the states.

While such a requirement may be adverse to some people, we need to do what is needed to move the program forward for the maximum number of persons who are otherwise qualified. Certainly, the program will be revised and improved most every year. I share the Governor's priority that we make progress on expanding health care this year.

On every issue that comes before the legislature there are multiple points of view and different interests. Each has a legitimacy in the mind of the proponent. The continued challenge that keeps me interested and excited about legislating is the working out of complex issues to the best interest of the citizenry.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Equity Is Impartial Justice

To the Editor:

The open letter by the TJ graduates ("An Opportunity to Improve TJ," Connection, February 7-8, 2018) was well-meaning but based on tragically false premises. They justify their call for racial quotas (by whatever euphemism) on grounds of being "more equitable." But equity is impartial justice, not artificial egalitarianism or racial favoritism. And what about simple honesty?

Pretending that all applicants are equally accomplished doesn't

make it so. What could be more blatantly racist than lowering the bar for certain applicants because of their race? The only way to end racism is to stop classifying individuals on the basis of race and treating them differently according to such racial classification.

Michael Crawford
Great Falls

Disappointing Letter

To the Editor:

The letter that 69 graduates of TJ sent to state Sen. Steve Newman was disappointing ("An

Opportunity to Improve TJ," Connection, Feb. 7-8, 2018). All they did was repeat what has been said before. A person could expect that 69 who had gone through the system might have put their heads together and come up with valid suggestions.

Betty Stacey
McLean

Football Scholarships

To the Editor:

The National Capital Region Chapter of the National Football Foundation is accepting nomina-

tions for its 2018 Scholar-Athlete banquet. The Chapter awards five \$1,000 scholarships annually to deserving high school senior scholar athletes who played high school football. Nominees are evaluated on academic and athletic excellence, as well as contributions to their school and community. Nomination packets have been mailed to each high school head coach in the National Capital Region. Deadline for submission of nomination packets is April 6. The 12th Annual Awards Banquet will be held on April 22 at the Army-Navy Club in Arlington. The National Football Founda-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 5

Reston CONNECTION

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

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OPINION

Stream Restoration — The Big Money

BY JOHN LOVAAS
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST

In case you haven't noticed, Reston stream restoration work is underway again. It is under way along several streams and gullies, this time in the Lake Anne area and north Reston after a several-year period of dormancy when its principal funding sources dried up — so to speak.

This major project, initiated in 2008, was intended to restore badly eroding streams which threaten our paths, roads, structures, and utilities as well as carrying untold tons of sedimentation into Reston lakes.

The project is a partnership of the Reston Association and a private firm, Wetland Studies and Solutions Inc (WSSI). The genius of this partnership is that through a special bank mechanism, WSSI is tapping funds deposited in the bank by land developers to compensate for wetlands they destroyed with new construction elsewhere. I understand that major chunks of funds came from deposits made to compensate for the construction of a runway at Dulles Airport, for example.

In the last three years, funds became available again and new work was approved by the various regulatory agencies, including our own DRB, and subcontracted by WSSI. Work began on several new reaches and has already been completed in four or five, among them Hickory Cluster (see photos).

Go to the Reston Association website (www.reston.org) for descriptions work sites and maps. You might want to check out the ones in your neighborhood. By name, they are Wiehle North, Wiehle South, Hickory, Baron Cameron, Lake Anne East, Lake Anne West, Buttermilk, Tall Oaks, and Vantage. Taken together, the reaches total about 17,000 linear feet, just over three miles.

I have found it interesting to watch the progress of stream restoration — from the painful digging, tearing and tree removal to the hauling in and laying of huge stones to form new streambanks and pools to slow the flow of run-



New bridge over stream at Hickory: Bridge designed by Mr. Youngren, a resident of Hickory Cluster.



View of lower part of the completed restoration at Hickory Cluster.

off. New, improved bridges are also built, like the one in Hickory Cluster actually designed by a cluster resident. Native trees are planted in abundance along the banks.

Then, one has to wait for the trees and grasses to grow, and lastly for the critters who inhabit the streams to return after the disruption.

To see lovely products of nature's healing, check out the streams in Snakeden and the Glade in south Reston. These re-engineered streams will be a special Reston legacy for a very long time.

So, how much does this all this cost? The answer is a lot! But it costs you and I nothing in terms of our Reston Association assessments because of the special partnership described above.

RA tells me that WSSI uses an

average cost figure of \$1,000 per linear foot of its restoration model. Thus, the first 9.5 miles cost about \$50.16 million (9.5 miles = 50,160 linear feet X \$1,000 = \$50,160,000).

The completed or approved sites in north Reston to date will cost another \$17,058,000. So, the total cost of Stream Restoration so far is about a cool \$67,218,000! As far as I know, since the funds are external (from a bank where developers deposit funds to offset their destruction of wetlands elsewhere), RA neither monitors expenditures nor judges the reasonableness of WSSI costs.

While the project indeed represents a very large investment, I for one believe it to have tremendous long-term value to our community in controlling erosion and its damage, and to the beauty of our watersheds.

National Capital Region.

For additional information, contact your head football coach.

Bob Jarrell

Scholarship Selection
Committee Chairman
NCR Chapter, NFF

Chapter has awarded over 65 scholarships and honored over 230 deserving student-athletes in the past 10 years.

The National Capital Region Chapter requests and urges participation from all high schools in the

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The Pet Connection will publish on February 28, 2018, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by February 16.

This edition provides a great advertising opportunity to reach pet owners where they live in a section sure to attract and hold their attention - be sure to take advantage of our different advertising options.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 4

tion was founded in 1947 to promote and develop amateur American football on all levels. The National Football Foundation has more than 115 chapters nationwide. The National Capital Region

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Obituary

John Quincy Howe, Jr.

Died on August 22, 2017 in Park Ridge, IL at the age of 85.

Born in Newton, MA on October 5, 1931, Jack grew up in Phelps, NY in the "Howe House", the home of the Phelps Community Historical Society. He was a member of Phelps Central School Class of 1949 and went on graduate in 1953 from Hamilton College where he was a member of Theta Delta Chi fraternity.

After college, Jack served in the Army, stationed at Walter Reed Army Medical Hospital in Washington, DC. Following his time in the military, Jack embarked upon his career in the property and casualty insurance business. He began at the Continental Insurance Company in its Washington, DC and Baltimore, MD offices. He left Continental to establish and co-own Insurance and Investments, Inc. in Vienna, VA where he worked for many years and finished his career at Willis Corroon in Hunt Valley, MD. Jack retired in 1994.

Jack met his wife, the former Betty Jean Poole, while working in Baltimore. They enjoyed a happy marriage lasting 57 years. In addition to his wife, Jack is survived by his daughter, Melissa Howe Graves (Chicago, IL), son-in-law, Charles Paulson Graves, III (Chicago, IL), three grandchildren, Sarah Elizabeth Graves (New York City, NY), Katherine Howe Graves (Chicago, IL) and Christopher Paulson Graves (Chicago, IL) as well as a sister, Dorothy Howe Frost (Lake George, NY). He was predeceased by his parents, John Quincy Howe and Alice Bates Howe (Phelps, NY), and a sister, Virginia Howe Caldwell (Cumming, GA).

After residing in the Baltimore, MD suburbs early in their life together, Jack, Betty and Melissa settled in Reston, VA in 1972 where Jack and Betty lived for 39 years. For his entire life, Jack enjoyed summers at family cottages on Murray Isle in the Thousand Islands region of New York on the St. Lawrence River. Jack passed his love of "The River" to Betty, Melissa and her family and loved spending every spring and summer at Murray after retirement. After Jack and Betty moved from Reston, they spent their winter months in Pawleys Island, SC, enjoying the beauty of the low country and daily walks on the beach.

Jack loved fresh water fishing, playing golf, sports, reading, telling stories (to which he usually added his own humor), helping others and most of all, spending time with his family.

A private memorial service will be held at Resthaven Cemetery in Phelps, NY at a later date. Contributions may be made in Jack's name to the Alzheimer's Association, Save the River (Clayton, NY) or Hamilton College (Clinton, NY).

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SPORTS

Maame Biney, 18 of Reston, a member of the U.S. Olympic short-track speedskating team posted this photo of herself on her Instagram account, biney.biney on January 26, 2018. "For once I'm not smiling. Want to thank U.A. (Under Armour, Inc.) for this pretty awesome suit #pyeongchang2018 #14daystogo."



PHOTO POSTED TO INSTAGRAM BY MAAME BINEY

Reston Teen Shines at Winter Olympics

Maame Biney, 18, of South Lakes High School, makes quarterfinals.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

After sweeping the 500m races during December's U.S. Olympic Team Trials in Kearns, Utah, Reston speedskater Maame Biney, 18, made her Olympic debut as a member of Team USA at the PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Winter Games. The high school senior, who hails from Ghana and lives in Reston with her father Kweku Biney, is the youngest member of the U.S. Olympic short-track speed skating team, a medal contender, and the team's first African-American female speed skater to qualify.

Biney attended South Lakes High School in Reston until she relocated to Salt Lake City to train with the U.S. short-track team in July 2017. Since then, Biney has lived in Utah with a host family who was with Biney's father at the Olympic trials to cheer her on.

Short-track skaters mass start each heat with four skaters and must finish in either first or second to place in their heat to advance. Skaters can reach speeds of up to 30 miles per hour as they race counterclockwise on a 111.2-meter oval course, bumping into each other and fighting centrifugal force on the tight corners. It is that low left bodyline and their rubber-tipped gloves skimming the ice that makes short-track speed skating unique.

Hopes and dreams are hinged on a competition that – from start to finish – is under a minute. Although speed, strategy, and planning are critical, sometimes unexpected events, come into play.

At the Gangneung Ice Arena on Saturday, Feb. 10, 19:52 EST, in Heat 5 of the 500-meter short-track speed skating race, Biney captured second place behind FAN Kexin (CHN) qualifying her for Tuesday's quarterfinals. The Reston teen, with a time of 43.665



Vice President Mike Pence @VP

Congrats to @BineyMaame on advancing in Women's 500M! @SecondLady & I are rooting for you! Let's go #TeamUSA #pyeongchang2018 🇺🇸

7:08 AM - Feb 10, 2018

4,228 943 people are talking about this

Vice President Mike Pence was at the Olympic Games Saturday and watched Biney compete in her race. Later he tweeted this message.



Maame Biney, 18, of Reston who crossed the finish line with a time of 43.665 seconds advancing to the Quarterfinals for the 500m short-track speed skating during the Pyeongchang 2018 Olympic Winter Games pictured with Team USA skater Adam Rippon who posted on his Instagram account, "Can we all take a moment to appreciate this ray of sunshine?"

seconds, edged out KIM Alang (KOR) with a time 43.724, a .059 second difference.

Biney and U.S. Short Track Coach Anthony Barthell had devised a plan before the 4 1/2-lap race – pull away with a strong start and then block South Korean KIM Alang, 22, the crowd favorite. The plan worked. Biney held off KIM Alang in the last lap with a great defensive move and with her sprint to finish, Biney advanced.

In the stands, Biney's father cheered as did Vice President Mike Pence who later tweeted, "Congrats to @BineyMaame on advancing in Women's 500M! @SecondLady & I are rooting for you! Let's go #TeamUSA #pyeongchang2018."

In Tuesday's Quarterfinal Heat 3, Biney sprinted off the line and was bumped by Sofia Prosvirnova from Russia throwing off her rhythm. Biney finished fourth out of four with a time of 44.772 seconds. Prosvirnova ranked first with a time of 43.466. Biney is planning to compete in the 1500m on Saturday, Feb. 17 and depending upon the outcome, may be bringing home more than determination and her infectious smile when she returns home to friends and former classmates in Reston.

TWEET BY VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE

BULLETIN

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Child turning 5 years old by Sept.30? If so, contact your child's school to make arrangements for kindergarten enrollment. Most schools begin getting information together now for parents of incoming kindergartners, and many host an orientation or open house. All kindergarten programs are full-day and located in FCPS elementary schools. Check your school's webpage or contact the school directly for specific enrollment information and dates of orientation or visit www.fcps.edu/registration/kinder-garten-registration.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 14

The Bottom Line. 8 a.m. at Hyatt Regency Dulles, 2300 Dulles Corner Boulevard, Herndon. What influences whether new businesses will open or successful companies will relocate to a neighborhood? Transportation strategies play an important role. But there's a lot more to bringing new enterprise to the region. Come explore the nexus between mobility management and economic development from the "financial" side of the road. Members free, non-members, \$35. RSVP to Kelly Woodward at kwoodward@dataatrans.org.

Grant Application Deadline. The Community Investment Funds are the signature grant cycle managed by the Community Foundation in which funds are invested in organizations serving the Northern Virginia community. This year funding will be provided in four areas of focus: Child and Youth Development, Education, Poverty Relief, and Aging. Visit www.cfnova.org/for-grant-seekers/community-investment-funds.

Commemorative Bricks Sale Ends. Each year dozens of individuals leave their mark on Reston through a commemorative brick. The bricks are dedicated at Founder's Day - April 14, 2018 - and installed on Lake Anne Plaza. Bricks can be purchased from the Reston Historic Trust & Museum for a tax-deductible contribution of \$100 for a standard-sized brick and \$250 for a large brick. To order, visit the museum, go to www.restonmuseum.org/support, or contact Alexandra Campbell at rhtdirector@gmail.com or 703-709-7700.

THURSDAY/FEB. 15

The MOMS Club of Herndon. 10 a.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 651 Dravnesville Road, Herndon. All Herndon at-home mothers and children (residents of zip codes 20170 and 20171) are invited for a presentation from Kingdom Destinations about Disney vacations (parks, resorts, cruises, etc.). For more information, or to RSVP, contact Colleen Steare, Membership VP at herndon_moms_info@yahoo.com.

Building Healthy Relationships. 10 a.m.-noon at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 100, Dunn Loring. Navigating the social world is hard. It can be extremely difficult for children and teenagers with disabilities. This workshop, for parents of middle and high school students with disabilities, will provide important information to help your child build healthy relationships in the social world. Register at <http://bit.ly/2nISuCF>.

Community Food Packing. 10-11:30 a.m. at Dominion Energy, 3072 Centreville Road, Herndon. Assistance League of Northern Virginia will hold its next monthly food packing. Email LynnB517@verizon.net or visit www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org.

Social Security: Understanding Your Benefits. 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. This hour-long session explains the facets of Social Security (retirement, survivors, and disability benefits), discusses the options for when to claim your retirement benefits, and covers implications of working while collecting benefits. For more information or to register call 703-390-6157 or email karen.brutsche@fairfaxcounty.gov.

FRIDAY/FEB. 16

Application Deadline. Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) invites artists to submit a proposal for new artwork in response to the prompt, "If you could do anything, what would that be?" Five artists will be selected by Guest Curator Don Russell and GRACE Associate Curator Erica Harrison to participate in the 2018 Mary B. Howard Invitational: STRETCH. Selected artists will receive a \$250 honorarium and \$1,000 for materials. Visit restonarts.org.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them. -Werner Heisenberg			

"AutoMadic"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I realize that given the growth and evolution of the world most of us live in, and how business is transacted, there are two words, a phrase actually, whose very existence is threatened: "Bill me." "C.O.D.," "Cash on delivery" is likely itself on the precipice of extinction, a dodo bird if there ever was one. However, since "Money makes the world go 'round," – or at least it made the hit musical "Cabaret" go 'round in 1966, credit and one's good name can only stretch the dollar so far. Bills have to be paid or else the world doesn't "go 'round" so far. Moreover, if the money is missing, there's less to sing about.

Ergo an idea/system was devised whereby people/entities to whom you owed money would have semi unfettered access to your money – without having to talk to you/ask permission. Once the consumer/"ower" had signed an authorization granting such access, the game was on and the money withdrawn (debited) regularly, as agreed to.

Occasionally, financial inducements were offered to entice the consumer to subject his money/accounts to such plundering. But eventually, the process became all the rage. Meaning, consumers couldn't transact business any other way, and despite any hesitations or objections (anger) to the contrary, it was either debit or die. And though this system didn't cause a revolution or become a motto on a license plate, it did change how we bank, buy and balance.

Within the last few weeks I've added two more automatic monthly debits. Payments which I was given no other realistic choice/method to pay other than all at once (not happening,) or once a month, automatically from my bank. And not that I felt held up by the process, but I did feel as if the highway awaited if I didn't pay their way.

So now I have six monthly debits drafting on five different but recurring days, save for holidays and weekends of course. In addition, I have granted additional bank access to retailers, service providers, Internet-only companies, Amazon, pharmaceutical warehouses and on and on and on; all of whom have keys – so to speak – to my kingdom, such as it is.

Still, I think I know what's being debited at any given time, but in the context of and conjunction with, all the other transactions that I or my wife make, sometimes I don't know if I do know, actually, whether my money is coming in or going out or finding a new home somewhere – and one not in this country and likely irretrievable, or disappearing altogether with any other money I may have accumulated.

All of those worst case, possibly everyday scenarios, notwithstanding, what can I do? If I don't play and in turn, don't pay, then I am likely having to fend for myself. I may still have plenty places to go to, but what am I going to do when I get there? My wallet (unlike George Costanza's) isn't big enough to hold all the cash I'd need to conclude just a few of my transactions. I don't like ceding control this way, but the joke may already be on me: I don't have any control. It was taken away a long time ago when the first authorization was signed allowing a second/third party to withdraw money – automatically, and regularly, from the "signee's" bank account. From that point on, it was, as we say in New England: "Katie bar the door," meaning: bad news, among a variety of other "unpleasantries."

Regardless of how I fear all of these companies/"withdrawers" having a way into my bank account in order to get my money out, the reality is, there isn't a damn thing I can do about it. I just have to pay attention, literally – and figuratively. Otherwise, I'll be a victim of their circumstance.

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

CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday.

ONGOING

Art Exhibit. Through Feb. 17, various times at the Greater Reston Arts Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Featuring the work of Paulina Peavy, namesake of “Paulina Peavy: A Message to Paulina,” the first exhibition to bring together a selection of Peavy’s works across disciplines including works on paper, paintings, films, texts, and numerous mixed media masks. Visit www.restonarts.org for more.

Small Business Support Sundays. Visit independent stores and restaurants, and those that support small businesses at Reston Town Center, offering specials, discounts, tastings, and localized treats every Sunday. Visit SmallBusinessSupportSundays.com.

All-comers’ Group Fun Run at Potomac River Running. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., 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.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 14

Color Me Happy. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Relax, unwind, and color your cares away in our adult coloring session. Invite a friend, date or mate to come along! Coloring pages and pencils provided, or bring your own. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

THURSDAY/FEB. 15

Reston Historic Trust to Host Program. 7 p.m. at the Reston Historic Trust & Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza N., Reston. On Diversity — An Exploration of Bob Simon’s Goal in Reston 2018. Join the Reston Historic Trust & Museum for an interesting panel discussion. The program will be held in the Jo Ann Rose Gallery at Reston Community Center Lake Anne and is free to the public. Seating is limited, so reservations are welcome. Contact 703-709-7700 or restonmuseum@gmail.com.

THURSDAY/FEB. 16

Great Decisions Series. 2 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Watch the film produced by the Foreign Policy Association and participate in the roundtable discussion on current events and U.S. foreign policy options. The topic for this month is “Russia’s Foreign Policy”. Discussion materials will be available at the Info Desk two weeks before the event. Light refreshments will be served. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

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SATURDAY/FEB. 17

Bluegrass String Quintet. 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Bluegrass String Quintet: Two Ton Twig, honoring a time and



Artwork by Craig Moran, a DC-based painter known for his boldly patterned canvases.

Art Exhibit

Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) is pleased to announce a new partnership with Signature, Reston Town Center’s newest luxury apartment building. GRACE will present a year-round schedule of exhibitions of local artists at Signature’s ground floor gallery starting in February 2018, sponsored by Balducci’s Food Lover’s Market, which will open its newest market in the ground floor of the Signature building this spring. The first exhibit will open with a reception Thursday, March 1, 6-8 p.m. at Signature at Reston Town Center, 11850 Freedom Drive, Reston. Free and open to the public. Call 703-471-9242, ext. 114 or visit www.restonarts.org.

spirit when music was more raw and honest, the string quintet combines emotion and depth with their raucous and carefree attitude. The result is both captivating and foot-stompin’ fun. Visit www.artspaceherndon.org/new-events/2018/2/17/two-ton-twig.

DAHurdSr@cs.com. Call 703-435-2402 or visit www.restonherndonfolkclub.com.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 21

Book Club. 12:15-1:15 p.m. at Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston Town Center. Scrawl Books is hosting a lunch-time book club on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. The first book is Girl Waits with Gun by Amy Stewart. Visit scrawlbooks.com or call 703-966-2111.

Author Discussion. 7 p.m. at Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston Town Center. Scrawl Books is hosting a live video discussion with Amy Stewart, the author of Girl Waits with Gun.

THROUGH FEB. 23

Diva Central Dress Drive with Reston Community Center collection in building lobbies at Reston Town Center. The annual Diva Central Dress Drive’ mission is to promote confidence and self-esteem by providing high school students a free prom dress and other accessories. Donate new or lightly used formal dresses, shoes, jewelry, handbags and accessories, collected in boxes located in building lobbies. Visit restontowncenter.com.

SUNDAY/FEB. 25

Author Event. 4 p.m. at Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston Town Center. Author Dennis Woods will be discussing his memoir Black Flag Journals. Visit www.scrawlbooks.com/event/black-flag-journals-dennis-woods

THURSDAY/MARCH 1

Opening Reception. 6-8 p.m. at Signature at Reston Town Center, 11850 Freedom Drive, Reston. The first exhibit features artwork by Craig Moran, a DC-based painter known for his boldly patterned canvases. Free and open to the public. Visit www.restonarts.org.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Amber Saunders heats a brick of metal at NoVa Labs in Reston until it glows a bright yellow-orange color, perfect forging heat. Saunders enjoys blacksmithing there with her son, Tyler, 16, and together they will attend Maker Faire NoVa in March.

Maker Faire NoVa is Coming Back Bigger & Better So what’s your interest?

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Maker Faire NoVa is coming back bigger and better than ever. On March 18, 2018, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Makers will present what they call, “The Greatest Show (& Tell) on Earth.” The family-friendly event now in its fifth year has outgrown the original space; so instead, the Faire will be at George Mason University in Fairfax. Organizers of the event said this year Makers from NASA, National Air and Space Museum, American Society for Naval Engineers (FLEET), National Capital Astronomers, and Lake Anne (Reston) Cardboard Boat Regatta will be on hand as will George Mason University’s Mason Racing, Mathematics in Motion, textile artist Amanda Jarvis, Human Powered Vehicle Competition, and Ask a Scientist.

Returning makers, with new activities for this year, include Theo Nazz – the Champion of Champions of “Forged in Fire Season 4,” Children’s Science Center, NOVA Labs Learn to Solder, Cardboard Challenge by South Lakes High School STEAM Team, Take Apart, and robotics from area teams organized by Nova Labs Robotics and NOVA SySTEMic Solutions.

According to the Maker Faire NoVa website, the day-long event spread over three buildings on the campus brings together tech enthusiasts, woodworkers, metal workers, auto hackers, artists, teachers and more from all over the Northern Virginia, the Metro D.C. area and beyond.

HANDS-ON DEMONSTRATIONS are part of the day. Maker Faire NoVa asks, “Want to learn how to build a robot? Program an Arduino? Turn wood to make a bowl? Weld? Blacksmith? Build underwater remotely operated vehicles (ROV)? Automate your garage door? Learn to solder? Fly or make a drone? Spin yarn from wool and knit? Recycle glass into beautiful tables and glass pieces? Or maybe just take-apart something and learn how it works? You can do it at the Maker Faire NoVa.”

The event is produced by NOVA Labs, a 10,000-square-foot non-profit 501(c)(3) community makerspace in Reston, located at 1916 Isaac Newton Square W., Reston. With different membership levels, NOVA Labs supplies the tools and the space to make ideas a reality.

Organizers want the public to know volunteers are always needed at the Maker Faire since it is organized and produced by an all-volunteer team from NOVA Labs.

Volunteers will receive free admission, a free Maker Faire NoVa T-Shirt, and access to the Faire before and after public hours. NOVA Labs states students 12-13 years of age must have a parent or guardian volunteering with the student or be with an organized group. Volunteers 14 and up may sign up on their own. If interested sign up at signupgenius.com/go/30e094fa4a62da0fa7-maker

Tickets are 50 percent off through Feb. 17 and can be purchased online through Eventbrite.com (search Maker Faire).