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Oak Hill Herndon CONNECTION

Children gather eggs during the Easter Egg Hunt held in Herndon Saturday, March 31, 2018. The event drew an estimated crowd of 2,000 attendees.

Perfect Day for Herndon Easter Egg Hunt

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Senior Living

Never Too Early to Prepare for Senior Olympics

**New this year:
canasta, croquet and
beach ball wallyball.**

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION

It may seem like a long time until September when the 36th year of the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics (NVSO) kicks off.

But not for 83-year-old Chuck Toftoy from Arlington, who often enters 20 events, and says he practices all year long.

Opening ceremonies for this year's events are scheduled for Sept. 15 at 9 a.m. at Thomas Jefferson Community Center in Arlington, and the competition is scheduled to end on Sept. 26.

The NVSO began in 1982 with about 80 people competing; last year there were 752 competitors signed up for one or more of the 70 events offered. The events ranged from tennis, baseball throw, bocce, orienteering, swimming and diving, golf, corn hole toss, volleyball, and pickleball.

Three new sports have been added to the competition this year including canasta, croquet and beach ball wallyball. Herb



FILE PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

Northern Virginia Senior Olympics includes bocce competition.

Levitan, a member of the NVSO Board, explains beach ball wallyball is like volleyball but played on a racquetball court with a beachball which is bigger and softer than a volleyball. Levitan is currently preparing for

the Virginia senior games coming up soon where he swims four freestyle events.

Alease Brooks, 85, has been competing for 14 years and participated in 13 different sports in 2017. But her favorite is

pickleball. Her children have bought her T-shirts in different colors for her games and often come to watch her and cheer her on.

Toftoy says this year he plans to reduce the number of sports he enters so that he can concentrate on pickleball since he plans to enter singles, doubles and mixed competition this year.

Last year, 93-year old Henry Colette from Oakton was one of 19 bocce competitors. But for the last several years he has been guaranteed a win because there was no one else in his age group competing.

Last year's oldest competitor was 101 years old with her sport of choice was duplicate bridge.

Seniors participate for many reasons — some because they like to stay busy and fit, others because they are returning to a high school or college sport, some because they like the community of friends they see every year and others because they still “like to dream big.”

This year's games are expected to be held in 29 venues including community centers, parks, high schools and other locations across Northern Virginia. Registration for this year's NVSO will open June 1. This year NVSO is hoping to bring back the 5k run and looking for an event director for that event. Those interested in volunteering can call 703-403-5360.

Seniors Calendar

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

FRIDAY/APRIL 6

Coffee Social at Tallwood. at 10 a.m. at Tallwood Campus, 4210 Roberts Road, Fairfax. Welcome new members, make new friends and kick-off spring term in Fairfax with coffee, refreshments and friendly conversation. The event will include a quick presentation. For more information or to register, visit bit.ly/2H8AZy1 (Special Event 1304).

FRIDAY & MONDAY/APRIL 6 & 9

AARP Smart Drivers Classes. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Oakton United Methodist Church, 2951 Chain Bridge Road, Oakton. A refresher course for drivers age 50 and older. \$15 AARP members, \$20 for non-members payable on the first day of class. Visit www.scov.org/files/2018_04_aarp_smart_driver_flyer.pdf. Call instructor David Young to register at 703-591-1847.

SATURDAY/APRIL 7

Caregiver Bootcamp. 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. Join IMCC for a special day-long training event covering essential caregiving topics. Contact Lindsey Vajpeyi, lindsey.vajpeyi@insightmcc.org, 703-204-4664 or visit InsightMCC.org.

Living with Alzheimer's: For Middle-Stage Caregivers. 10 a.m.-noon at Ravensworth Baptist Church, 5100 Ravensworth Road, Annandale. Part one of three-part series. Join the Alzheimer's Association for this free three-part series and hear caregivers and professionals discuss strategies to provide safe, effective and comfortable care in the middle stage of Alzheimer's. For more information and to register, call 800-272-3900. Other dates as well.

MONDAYS/APRIL 9-MAY 14

Adventures 'N Learning. 9:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. Join the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax every Monday for 6 weeks. Start with gentle exercise, followed by speakers on topics such as health, history, community, personal

development, finance, and more. Afternoon breakouts are book club, bridge or canasta. Bring a brown bag lunch. \$30. Register at 703-426-2824, or visit www.scfbva.org.

TUESDAY/APRIL 10

Dementia Caregiver Support Groups. Noon-1:30 p.m. Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke sponsors a monthly meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for caregivers to learn and to share with others experiencing similar challenges. Before attending, contact the facilitator, Eileen Thompson at 703-451-8626 or Eileen.thompson1@gmail.com.

THURSDAY/APRIL 12

Adventures in Learning Open House. 10 a.m.-noon at UUCF, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Bounce into Spring with a new revved up brain. Cost is \$45. Classes begin April 19-June 14 (no class May 3). Visit www.scov.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 14

Community Shredding Event. 8 a.m.-noon at I-95 Landfill, 9850 Furnace Road, Lorton. Shred event is open to Fairfax County residents. Documents from businesses will not be accepted. All cars must be in line by noon. Residents will be asked to remain in their vehicles. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/secure-document-shredding-event.

TUESDAY/APRIL 17

Joy Of Living for Seniors. 11 a.m.-noon at St Timothy's Episcopal Church, 432 Van Buren St., Herndon. As part of an ongoing series, St Timothy's Episcopal Church in Herndon, will hold a presentation about Israel/Palestine and the Two State Solution, followed by a light lunch. Donation offerings for lunch accepted. RSVP to jgdops@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 18

Community Meeting. 7:30 p.m. in the Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike A, Great Falls. The Great Falls Civic Association Land Use & Zoning Committee discuss a new senior care facility on Walker Road in Great Falls proposed by Verity Commercial and IntegraCare. Visit gfa.org.

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Perfect Day for an Easter Egg Hunt

Morning long event by Herndon Parks & Recreation attracts 2,000 attendees.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The morning dawned clear and crisp, a perfect day for families to celebrate Easter and new beginnings. Well before dawn the staff at Herndon Parks & Recreation set about to fulfill their billing for “one of the most exciting annual events for children” — the Town of Herndon’s Easter Egg Hunt.

The extravaganza, held at the Herndon Town Green located behind the Herndon Municipal Center, 777 Lynn Street in Herndon on Saturday, March 31, 2018, drew an estimated 2,000 attendees.

The morning-long event featured age-specific hunts, spring-themed fun and games, live music, and even a petting zoo brought in by Frying Pan Park, Fairfax County Park Authority. The adjacent Herndon Fortnightly Library offered storybook readings and a bunny and Easter crown crafts. Of course, the Easter Bunny made an appearance so parents could snap a picture of their child with the festive rabbit.

John H. Walsh, Recreation Services Supervisor II for Herndon Parks & Recreation, was one of the event organizers. He commented about why Easter Egg Hunt holds a special meaning to him. “Growing up in the town and attending this event as a child, makes it that much more important to me. It is an absolute pleasure to see how happy the participants are.” Looking out over the crowd of children, parents, and grandparents he added: “That’s why we do this; it makes people happy.”

The first age-designated hunt was for the oldest children, ages 5-7. It was set to begin shortly after 9:45 a.m. The children and their families circled the lawn filled with hundreds and hundreds of candy-filled eggs. Before the emcee could announce, “Ready, Set Go,” the anticipation was too much for one young boy and he darted onto the field. The children around him then followed, as did all the other children who then swarmed onto the field with them. No problem. “I guess it’s on,” the emcee said laughing.

Obviously, the older children were experienced egg-hunters and must have plotted beforehand how best to scoop up massive amounts of candy-filled eggs in a blink of an eye. To say the search went quickly would be an understatement. Pails, baskets and bags overflowed and all in under 90 seconds.

When all the eggs had been snatched up, the emcee announced for the children to empty their eggs because inside two of the eggs were Golden Tickets. Children who found the Golden tickets from each age group would receive a special gift.

Maggie Losey, 5 1/2, of Springfield, bounded up to the stage with a golden ticket in her hand with Dad, Steve Losey, close behind. Maggie exchanged her golden ticket for a stuffed rabbit nearly as tall as she was.



Kristina Meeniga, 7, and her brother Joshua, 4, share a moment with the Easter Bunny before the start of the Herndon Easter Egg Hunt held Saturday, March 31, 2018.



Nandika Karthik, 7, and her brother Sidharth, 3, of Herndon wear their Easter finery and excitedly wait for the Easter Egg Hunt to begin.



Marlina Torres, 7, and her friend Kara Livingston, 7, take a break from opening their treat-filled plastic Easter eggs.

“He’s soft,” she said. “I’m going to take him to my car, then home and then to my bedroom. I want to sleep with him,” Maggie said.

“She has a menagerie of stuffed animals,” explained her dad, Steve.

The 3-4-year-old age group went next.



The Easter Bunny prepares for the next age group of children to gather eggs at the Herndon Easter Egg Hunt. It was more like an “Easter Egg Pick-up” rather than “hunt” much to the delight of the children and parents.

Most of them had a firm grasp of what was going to happen. They cleared the egg field in a record-setting 2 minutes.

However, it was the littlest ones, the toddlers to twos, accompanied by parents and siblings who hunted for the eggs, not with speed nor focused on quantity, but selec-

tively choosing each one, admiring it and then handing it up to their parents, brothers or sisters to equally enjoy.

The day could not have been more perfect, crisp clear weather, blue skies and families having fun together in the Town of Herndon.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Youth Art Month. Through April 7 at Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE), 12001 Market St #103, Reston. The GRACE Art exhibition features selected works from elementary school students participating in GRACE's signature art enrichment program, GRACE Art. Emerging Visions features exceptional work from students at local high schools. Free and open to the public. Visit restonarts.org/exhibition/emerging-visions-2/.

Emerging Visions: Becoming. Through April 7 at GRACE, 12001 Market St., Suite 103, Reston. Offers Fairfax County high school students the opportunity to work with Greater Reston Arts Center's education staff to create exceptional artworks to be exhibited in the GRACE Gallery. The 2018 exhibition includes works from students at Herndon, Oakton, and South Lakes high schools. Visit www.restonarts.org.

Rebels, Masters, and Scoundrels: The Art of Star Wars. Through April 29 at ArtInsights, Reston Town Center, Reston. New art by LucasFilm concept artist Bill Silvers and rare images by movie campaign artist John Alvin will be on exhibit and for sale. Call 703-478-0778. Visit www.artinsights.com.

Craig Moran: Spaced Out. Through May 29 at GRACE at Signature, 11850 Freedom Drive, Reston. A D.C.-based painter known for his boldly patterned canvases, Moran's newest body of work is a whirl-wind of exuberant colors and energetic shapes, evoking elements of the natural world and portraiture in a dynamic flattened space. Call 703-471-9242 or visit www.restonarts.org.

Homegrown Yoga. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Alison Adams is bringing Homegrown Yoga to all levels. Drop in and take a class. \$25 two week unlimited pass or drop-in available. Visit www.homegrownpoweryoga.com

The Elden Street Tea Shop. Saturdays in ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Sip tea and enjoy a variety of locally made snacks and pastries while enjoying the latest art installations in the gallery. Visit www.eldenstreettea.com.

IMPROVING ENGLISH

One-To-One English Conversation. Mondays, 1 p.m. at Reston Library, Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Free. Multiple one-on-one practice sessions with a volunteer are available each week. Call 703-689-2700 to reserve a spot.

Pre-Beginners. Wednesdays 10-11 a.m. at Reston Library, Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Free. Call 703-689-2700 to reserve a spot.

Beginners. Tuesdays 10-11 a.m. with Beth; Thursdays 10-11 a.m. with Genie; Fridays 10-11 a.m. with Ivan. At Reston Library, Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Free. Call 703-689-2700 to reserve a spot.

Intermediate. Mondays 10-11 a.m. with Rick; Wednesdays, 1-2 p.m. with Susan; Wednesdays 2-3 p.m. with Sharoni. At Reston Library, Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Free. Call 703-689-2700 to reserve a spot.

Advanced. Thursdays 10-11:30 a.m. with Richard; Fridays, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with Mary. At Reston Library, Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Free. Call 703-689-2700 to reserve a spot.

Vocabulary Building. Mondays 11 a.m.-1:15 p.m. at Reston Library, Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Free. Call 703-689-2700 to reserve a spot.

Speak & Write. Mondays, 1:30-3 p.m. at Reston Library, Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Free. Call 703-689-2700 to reserve a spot.

Dialogs & Grammar. Tuesdays, 11:15-12:30 p.m. at Reston Library, Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Free. Call 703-689-2700 to reserve a spot.

Pronunciation. Thursdays, 1-2:30 p.m. at Reston Library, Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Free. Call 703-689-2700 to reserve a spot.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 4

Chick-fil-A Opens. At 1494 Northpoint Village Center, Reston. Overnight party on April 4 where guests will be one of the first 100 adults

Herndon Author Begins Coast-to-Coast Book Tour

Kwame Alexander will stop at Scrawl Books in Reston, Wednesday, April 5 for his new book, 'Rebound.'

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Are your tweens obsessed with books in verse? How about sports? Herndon resident, Kwame Alexander is a poet, educator and the New York Times Best Selling author of 25 books, including “The Crossover,” a Newbery Medal winner. The book is a sports novel written in verse for middle school-aged children.

School Library Journal (starred review) praised “The Crossover.” “Alexander has crafted story that vibrates with energy and heat and begs to be read aloud. A slam dunk.”

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books (starred review), wrote, “Alexander fully captures Josh's athletic finesse and coming of age angst in a mix of free verse and hip-hop poetry...”

Now Alexander is out to promote his newest book, “Rebound,” the follow-up to “Crossover.” He is on a 30-day, 24-stop, coast-to-coast book tour. Reston is his fourth stop. Just like basketball teams, Alexander travels in a tour bus, but his bus is professionally wrapped to look exactly like the cover of his new book.

Alexander and his bus will be in Reston at 4 p.m. Thursday, April 5, 2018, at Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston. Alexander is there for a book signing.

Booklist (starred review) praised “Rebound”: “{brilliant} wordplay and syntax. There is a rhythm to each page, whether it's the snappy give-and-take of

through the door to win a year of free Chick-fil-A meals. Operator Larry Everett, who is a retired firefighter of 30 years from Fairfax County, will provide a year supply of Chick-fil-A to the first 100 eligible participants, 18 years and older, who follow the rules. The First 100 promotion registration will begin at 6 a.m. on Wednesday, April 4. A valid ID is required to participate. Visit the website thechickenwire.chick-fil-a.com.

Yoga and Wellness. 7 p.m. at Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Local yoga and wellness coach, Rupa Shah, will discuss the benefits and practice of Ashtanga Yoga. Bring your own yoga mat. Learn some simple Asanas and Breathing/Pranayama based on Ashtanga Yoga. Beginners to Intermediate level. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/reston-regional.

THURSDAY/APRIL 5

Read! Build! Play! 10:30 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join for stories, build with DUPLOs and play with friends. Age 3-5 with adult. Register at 703-689-2700.

Classical Piano Concert. 2:15 p.m. at Reston Community Center Hunters Woods CenterStage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Pianist George Fu, graduate of Harvard, Curtis Institute, the Royal Academy in London. Email aclark24@gmu.edu or call 703-503-3384.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RHALEE HUGHES PUBLIC RELATIONS + MARKETING

Kwame Alexander writes sports novels for middle school-aged children in verse. His latest book, 'Rebound,' is the follow-up to his Newbery Medal-winning and New York Times Bestselling book, 'The Crossover.'

dialogue, the throbbing of Charlie's bottomless melancholy, or the rushing excitement of a basketball game... Alexander is unstoppable.”

“Rebound” by Kwame Alexander is available in hardcover for \$16.99, 414 pages. The book is appropriate for readers 10-12 years of age. Sales opened April 2, 2018.

Kwame Alexander at Scrawl. 4-5:30 p.m. at Scrawl Books at Reston Town Center, 19111 Freedom Drive, Reston. Free. Join Kwame Alexander fans welcoming the Newbery winner and his tour bus to Scrawl Books. He will sign his newest title, “Rebound,” a prequel to “The Crossover.” Visit www.scrawlbooks.com.

Millennials Book Club. 7 p.m. at Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Call for title. Check out a library copy or pick up a copy of your own. Adults from early 20s to early 30s. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/reston-regional.

FRIDAY/APRIL 6

VIP Reston. 2 p.m. at Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Support for individuals with vision impairments. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/reston-regional.

Open Mic Poetry Night. 7-9 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Featured members of the Poetry Society of Virginia will be present to share their poetry. An open mic will follow, allowing for anyone attending to have a moment on stage. Free. Visit www.artspaceherndon.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 7

Reston-Herndon Little League Opening Day. 9-10 a.m. at Reston Town Center. Local teams will parade along Market Street from the Pavilion to Reston Town Square Park in celebration of the opening of their season. Visit rhbaseball.org.

Spring Cleaning in the Parks. 9-11:30 a.m. at 10 different Fairfax County parks: Cub Run RECenter, Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, Hidden Oaks Nature Center at Roundtree Park, Hidden Pond Nature Center, Huntley Meadows Park, Lake Accotink Park, Lake Fairfax Park, Riverbend Park, Scott's Run Nature Preserve, and Sully Historic Site. More than 750 volunteers will join the Fairfax County Park Authority and The Nature Conservancy for annual “spring cleaning” efforts to kickoff Earth Month. The volunteers will remove trash and debris, while also assisting scientists and conservationists by recording data about what they remove. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/.

Lucky Enough Book Talk. 11:30 a.m. at Scrawl Books at Reston Town Center, 19111 Freedom Drive, Reston. Free. About a young travel team baseball player featuring sports author Fred Bowen. Visit www.scrawlbooks.com.

Delaney's Book Drive. 4-5 p.m. at 1713 Ascot Way, Reston. A record number of kids are growing up in low-income households and many public schools lack the funding and resources to provide basic necessities, like books for their students. Help volunteers collect 2,000 used or new books for children in need. Visit www.barberafoundation.org/events/delaney-book-drive-1.

Singles Dinner and Movie Night. 5 p.m. at American Tap Room, 1811 Library St., Reston. Fixed price dinner followed by movie at Bow-Tie Cinema. Cost is \$35. RSVP required. Sponsored by New Beginnings, a support group for separated/divorced men and women. Call 301-924-4101 or visit www.newbeginningsusa.org.
TGIF – Free Friday at GRACE. 5-7 p.m. at Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market St., #103, Reston. Enjoy an after-hours evening of free family art-making and storytelling. Visit restonarts.org or call 703-471-9242.

SATURDAY/APRIL 7

Sing! Books With Miss Emily. 10:30 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join Miss Emily for singing storytime with illustrated songs. Age 2-5 with adult. No registration required.

DUPLOs and Play. 2 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Build and create with DUPLOs and play with friends. Age 3-5 with adult. No registration required. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/reston-regional.

SUNDAY/APRIL 8

Walk MS Fundraising Event. 9 a.m. registration. Walk begins at 10 a.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Walk for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. More than 800 people expected to attend. Visit walkMS.org, call 855-372-1331 or email fundraisingsupport@nmss.org.

RCC Cycles Classes. Multiple dates. Reston Community Center is offering program that helps riders of all ages learn cycling fundamentals. Cycling instructor Kelley Westenhoff will teach four sessions: Adult (ages 13 and up) on April 8 and 29 and youth (ages 6 to 12) on April 21 and May 5. Each class is one three-hour session. The cost is \$65 for Reston patrons/\$98 for non-Reston. The fee includes bike rental and use of a helmet. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com or call 703-476-4500.

Strings on the Promenade - Harp Performances. 3-4 p.m. at The Promenade at Reston Town Center. Enjoy harp music on Sundays in April, featuring Carmen Robinson playing tunes for all ages: Celtic, rock, R&B and popular theme songs. Free. Visit www.restontowncenter.com.

TUESDAY/APRIL 10

Family History Research. 2 p.m. at Reston Library, Research family history with a library staff member using local history and genealogy resources. For adults and teens. No registration required. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/reston-regional.

Read to the Dog. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Read aloud to a trained therapy dog. Ages 5-11. Register at 703-689-2700.

NEWS

Town Councilmember Jeffrey L. Davidson Sustains Serious Injuries in Crash Flown to a Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Maryland State Police in Frederick County, Md. are investigating a two-vehicle personal injury crash that involved Herndon Town Councilmember Jeffrey L. Davidson, 68. The accident happened on Northbound US 15 near Catoctin Hollow Road shortly after noon on Thursday, March 29, 2018.

For an undetermined reason, the car Davidson was driving traveled off the right side of the highway road and struck a metal guardrail. The vehicle continued north, crossed the median and entered the southbound lanes. The car collided with a Chevy pickup truck.

Davidson was transported to the State Police hangar at Frederick Municipal Airport and then



Herndon Town Councilmember, Jeffrey L. Davidson sustained life-threatening injuries in a car accident Thursday, March 29, 2018.

medevaced to Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore with life-threatening injuries. The driver of the other vehicle, Jon Phebus, 50, of Gettysburg, Pa. was not injured.

After hearing about the accident, Herndon Mayor Lisa C. Merkel responded on the Mayor's Facebook page. Merkel asked the community to keep Davidson and his family in their thoughts and prayers. She wrote: "Jeff is a friend, a neighbor and a community leader. His passion for Herndon has helped to shape our town and will continue to do so."

As of Monday, April 2, Davidson remained hospitalized. Maryland State Police continue to investigate the crash. They ask anyone with information to

contact Trooper Jeremy Hite at the Frederick Barrack, 301-600-4151.

Herndon High School presents "Into the Woods," April 13-15 and 19-21, 2018. There are full-length shows, children's shows, "behind-the-scenes" activities for young children, and even a pizza night.



PHOTO BY ROBERT MAXWELL

Herndon High School to Present Into the Woods See fairytale characters from Brothers Grimm.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Herndon High School's spring musical, "Into the Woods," opens at Herndon High School, 700 Bennett Street, Herndon on Friday, April 13- Sunday, April 15 with additional performances Thursday, April 19-Saturday, April 21, 2018.

Directed by Raphael Schklowsky, Herndon High Theatre, the classic performance of the Tony

award-winning musical comedy is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International.

Herndon High School is offering three types of performances, special pre-performance experiences for young children ages 3-7; performances for families with children under 13 years of age; and full-length performances for more mature audiences.

For ticket information, visit www.HerndonDrama.org.

WEEK IN HERNDON

Town-wide Spring Clean-up Week April 9-13

The annual spring clean-up will take place throughout the Town of Herndon during the week of April 9-13. Spring clean-up provides an opportunity for residents to place large or bulky items curbside for pick-up on their scheduled trash collection day. Items can include:

- ❖ Appliances (remove doors)
- ❖ Furniture
- ❖ Vehicle parts and plumbing fixtures (all under 50 lbs.)
- ❖ Tires (maximum 2 per household)
- ❖ Limited amount of building materials (approximately one cubic yard, lengths not to exceed 4 feet)

Loose yard waste, auto parts in excess of 50 lbs., large quantities of building materials, brick & block, electronics (including televisions, stereos, computers & peripheral) and household hazardous waste will not be picked up.

Items should be placed curbside by 7 a.m. on your trash day only, but no earlier than 24 hours prior to pick-up.

Residents may contact the Department of Public Works at 703-435-6853 or email public.works@herndon-va.gov for more information, or visit the town's website at herndon-va.gov/RefuseandRecycling.

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THE CONNECTION
 Newspapers & Online

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Just in Time for Summer Planning
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NEWS

Area Teenagers Win Golf Trophies

On Saturday, March 24, and Sunday March, 25, 2018, the Hurricane Junior Golf Tour held the Laurel Hill Junior Shootout in Lorton at the Laurel Hill Golf Club. Reeve Felner of Vienna finished in first place in the Will Smith Division Boys 14-15. In the Ernie Els Division Boys 11-13, Bryan Kim of Brookeville, Md. finished in first place with a two-day total score of 148 (73-75). In the Justin Timberlake Division Girls 14-18, Tigress Suh of Herndon took home the prize, finishing with a two-day



In the Justin Timberlake Division Girls 14-18, Tigress Suh of Herndon took home the prize, finishing with a two-day total score of 156 (75-81)



Reeve Felner of Vienna finished in first place in the Will Smith Division Boys 14-15.



Victoria Matthews of Great Falls finished in first place in the Justin Rose Division Girls Under 13

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

total score of 156 (75-81). Victoria Matthews of Great Falls finished in first place in the Justin Rose Division Girls Under 13.

'Collect for Kids' Seeks Help

Donations and help from organizations is requested.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Foundation for Fairfax County Public Schools announced their community partners are preparing for the 2018 "Collect for Kids" school supplies and backpacks drive for students in Fairfax County Public Schools. In 2017, the drive helped more than 39,000 of the 55,000 students who receive free or reduced-price meals in Fairfax County Schools. The goal for 2018 is to provide 40,000 of these children and youth with school supplies and backpacks.

"Collect for Kids" is seeking monetary contributions and help from organizations. Their online donation form states: "100 percent of your

donation will be allocated for school supplies for FCPS students in need." Even though a robust and connected group of partners make "Collect for Kids" work, the organization is also seeking help from new organizations to support their effort. Currently, more than 20 businesses, government agencies and community organization work together on the campaign, among them Apple Federal Credit Union, Britepaths, Western Fairfax Christian Ministries, Cornerstones, and Kids R First.

According to "Collect for Kids," "Every school in



By Mercia Hobson/The Connection

The Foundation for Fairfax County Public Schools announced their community partners are getting ready for the 2018 "Collect for Kids" school supplies and backpack drive as they seek monetary donations and help from organizations.

Fairfax County is touched by need. Some schools have as few as 1 percent of students living in poverty and some schools have over 90 percent of students living in poverty."

In the Oak Hill/ Herndon area, supporting partners of "Collect for Kids" serve students at Coates, Dranesville, Herndon, Floris and Hutchison Elementary Schools, Herndon and Rachel Carson Middle Schools, and Herndon High School.

For more information on how to donate or help with the effort visit collectforkids.org.

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BULLETIN BOARD

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

PARENTS HELPING PARENTS

Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax or www.nam-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html.

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/kindergarten-registration.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 4

First Wednesday with Supervisor Hudgins. 4-6 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Stop in and talk with Supervisor Cathy Hudgins one-on-one. No appointment necessary. Call 703-478-0283, email huntermill@fairfaxcounty.gov or visit fairfaxcounty.gov/huntermill.

THURSDAY/APRIL 5

Autism 101: An Introduction to Understanding Autism. 10-11:30 a.m. at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 100, Dunn Loring. Join the **Autism Society of Northern Virginia** to learn accurate, important, basic information at this workshop highlighting Autism Acceptance Month. Open to all who want to learn more about autism. Visit www.fcps.edu/node/28279.

FRIDAY/APRIL 6

Strategies to Support Elementary School Students. 10 a.m.-noon at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 100, Dunn Loring. A Closer Look at Stress and Anxiety: Strategies to Support Elementary School Students. Highlights will include recognizing and validating a child's worry, managing anxiety in the school setting, helping a child remain calm, and using stress reduction tools. Visit www.fcps.edu/node/28279.

Scholarship Nomination Deadline. The National Capital Region Chapter of the National Football Foundation is accepting nominations for their 2018 Scholar-Athlete banquet. The Chapter awards five \$1000 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.

TUESDAY/APRIL 10

Flash Forward! Postsecondary Education and Employment Options. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Entrance 1 - Cafeteria, Fairfax. Flash Forward is for students receiving special education services and their parents to explore options for life after high school. The agenda includes information tables, an overview of postsecondary options, and workshops on supported employment, competitive employment, and postsecondary education. Visit www.fcps.edu/node/28279.

TUESDAY-THURSDAY/APRIL 10-12

FY 2019 Budget Meetings. April 10, 4 p.m.; April 11-12, 1 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center (Board Auditorium), 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The advertised budget plan can be found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/advertised-budget-plan. Sign up to speak at the public hearings on the FY 2019 budget at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speakers-form or call 703-324-3151.

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Label Me Presumptuous



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I have not been collecting return-address labels for years. I have however, been receiving them for years. Either as thank yous for charitable contributions made or as inducements for charitable contributions yet to be made. Regardless of the reason, I have had an ample supply until recently. And they have served me well as both a reminder of what I have and have not done. And over time, they have most definitely served their purpose. Amazingly though, the pages of return-address labels in inventory has been shrinking of late. Due to some combination of my lack of charitableness as well as a reduction in the numbers of unsolicited charitable quid pro quos (there may be a relationship there).

Let me be clear: I am under no delusion or pressure to respond to these letters/requests for money. Just because I receive them doesn't mean I must adhere to them. They're hardly a subpoena nor are they payment for services rendered. They are merely a pre-approach-type solicitation mailed to me at my home offering goods (the labels) for services (my contribution) not yet rendered. Opening an envelope and reading its contents doesn't make me a partner in their pursuit of my dollars.

But what exactly is the protocol here? Certainly I can understand keeping and/or using the return-address labels if I make a contribution, but what if I don't make a contribution? Do I have to throw these perfectly good return-address labels away? Don't some of these labels, by their design/content – and ultimately by their use by yours truly, indirectly support the original sender's cause? Isn't their use some kind of tacit paying-it-forward-type approval/contribution on my part? I realize money and/or in-kind contributions likely help more, but is there use by a non-contributor not abuse at all? After all, I'm sort of passing the word/keeping their chain going, aren't I?

If all is fair in love and war, certainly there's a little wiggle room in the world of mailing unsolicited inducements to unsuspecting recipients? I mean, I'm not asking for trouble here, am I? I'm merely asking for some understanding and clarification. If what was sent to me – not at my request and not as part of a phone conversation securing a commitment, was not my doing, then why am I responsible for it being done?

Obviously the labels are a convenience for me, and that is worth some amount of money and time that now I'm not having to spend. Still, it feels like an intrusion of sorts, a method to their madness – presumably, but to me a presumption, nevertheless. And that's just a few letters away from an assumption, and you all know what is said about assuming?

I suppose if you cast a wide enough net you're going to catch a few contributors who don't find anything fishy about this direct mail process and who feel compelled to respond favorably – so to speak, because a good deed has been for them. And if a good deed (or a "solid," to quote Detective Andy Sipowicz/Dennis Franz from NYPD Blue) deserves another then contributions will be made and address labels will be affixed.

But after years of receiving these return-address-labels-masquerading-as-solicitations-for-contributions – to a variety of charities, some more well known than others, I don't feel the least bit stuck in my decision to use these return address labels as I see fit. In a way, I am the beneficiary of their largess and in turn, they are the beneficiary of my non-cash contribution. It's sort of a win-win. But I don't suppose that was their intention. I suppose they wanted more, not less.

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

OPINION

Legislators: County Has Authority To Ban Loaded Rifles on Road

The following letter to all members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors from members of the General Assembly from Fairfax, urges common sense action on guns; the state legislators say Fairfax County has the authority to ban loaded shotguns and rifles on the roads.

Dear Madam Chairman and Hon. Supervisors: Section 15.2-915.2 of the Code of Virginia gives all local governments in Virginia the authority to ban loaded shotguns and loaded rifles on public highways.

§ 15.2-915.2. Regulation of transportation of a loaded rifle or shotgun.

The governing body of any county or city may by ordinance make it unlawful for any person to transport, possess or carry a loaded shotgun or loaded rifle in any vehicle on any public street, road, or highway within such locality.

A similar ordinance has been enacted in the counties of Fauquier, Loudoun, Madison, Albemarle, Chesterfield, Clarke, James City, King George, New Kent, Northumberland, Surry, Warren and the cities of Alexandria, Fredericksburg, Petersburg, Richmond,

Roanoke, Virginia Beach, and Williamsburg.

We, members of the Virginia General Assembly representing Fairfax County, do not believe that there is a need for loaded shotguns or loaded rifles on Fairfax County's public roads. High emotions that come with traffic congestion in our region have led to instances where firearms have been discharged in incidents of road rage. Requiring that shotguns and rifles are not loaded at the beginning of a trip will help to reduce the potential for such split-second, life-changing decisions to occur in a moment of anger. Such an ordinance will also help to protect the driver and passengers, including children, as well as law enforcement from the accidental discharge of one of these weapons. For example, in 2006, Virginia State Trooper Kevin C. Manion was killed after a loaded rifle went off during a wreck cleanup in Clark County.

We recognize that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors considered this issue in 2015.

However given recent events, we believe that it is important at this time for all our localities

to use their existing authority to foster gun safety and protect the driving public.

We hereby ask that you initiate the processes necessary to change Fairfax County's ordinances to prohibit the transportation of loaded shotguns and loaded rifles to the fullest extent possible under Virginia Law.

We look forward to working with you on this important initiative.

Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36)
Sen. Richard Saslaw (D-35)
Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31)
Sen. David Marsden (D-37)
Sen. Jennifer Wexton (D-33)
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Del. Karrie K. Delaney (D-67)
Del. Paul Krizek (D-44)
Del. Jennifer Boysko (D-86)

March for Your Cause

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

Our Founding Fathers were brilliant individuals. Not only did they craft a new form of government with the United States Constitution, but they established a government of "we the people" leaving behind monarchies and special privileges. While it created "a more perfect union," it included within its structure mechanisms upon which the union could be further perfected.

While it did take a civil war to bring about the most needed reform that had been debated at the Constitutional Convention and not settled but compromised away, many other reforms and perfections have taken place through constitutional amendments, laws

and judicial decisions.

With the massive changes that have taken place in our nation's history, particularly in civil rights, it is amazing that there have been so few changes to our basic structure of government. Building on the ideals of Thomas Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence that all persons have inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, the Constitution and its provisions created a way to realize these goals that ensures America's greatness is not in its past but in its future.

Most often mentioned in the guarantees that propel our country into future greatness are the freedoms of speech, press and religion. Less discussed in the past but now seen as a critically impor-



tant right to maintain our free government is the freedom to assemble. If freedoms are to be maintained in the future, it may be our right to assemble that will ensure it happens.

It is somewhat ironic that at a time

when the internet enables advocacy blitzes to fill the electronic mail boxes of public officials to support a cause that the crowds of people filling the streets in various marches may be our greatest safeguard. Many feel it is not enough to simply send a letter or brochure or give or listen to a speech; we need to visibly show the depth and breadth of our cause by assembling supporters by the thousands in the heat, cold, rain or sunshine.

I participate in marches in our

Nation's Capital as well as our State Capital to show support for equality in our society and for an end to gun violence. I find the marches inspirational because of the worthiness of the cause and the wonderful people I meet who have such strong dedication and conviction that they will take part however inconvenient. If you have not taken part in a march, I encourage you to do so. After all, assembling together to support our rights is part of what the Founding Fathers had in mind when they included the right to assemble in our Bill of Rights. The other important day to be sure to exercise your right to assemble is on election day when you have an opportunity to express your right as a citizen. It amplifies your voice when you assemble with others to vote for the persons who most clearly are representing your views on issues.

local school. Offer to be a guest reader or to share how reading or librarians influenced your life and career.

Contact your local school today and connect as school librarians help make connections with students, teachers, community and the world.

Alyssa Lingler
 Burke

Enjoy School Libraries

April is School Library Month and a great time to consider all the amazing things a school library achieves for students and the school community. The American Association of School Librarians has dubbed this year's theme "Making Connections," which is a very appropriate theme. All of

schools in Burke are lucky to have certified librarians, which studies show increase reading test scores, overall higher test scores and encourage a love of reading and learning that continues throughout life.

School libraries have much more than books; most have labs where students create, investigate and collaborate on learning projects. In addition to assisting students, the school librarian is a treasured

resource for all classroom teachers in the school. The connections the school librarian makes, and encourages students to make with learning, their community, the world and reading, impact learners as they go on to become life-long learners and productive members of our community.

You can support the American Association of School Librarians and School Library Month by sharing your connections with your

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