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Oak Hill Herndon CONNECTION

Bike to Work Day 2018 cyclists at the pit stop in Herndon check the time as they head back on the W & OD Trail to commute to work rather than driving.

Clean, Fun and Healthy

NEWS, PAGE 3

A Field of Hope for Child Abuse Victims

NEWS, PAGE 8

Paisano's Fundraiser for Police Unity Tour

NEWS, PAGE 2

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NEWS

Paisano's Hosts Fundraiser for Police Unity

Herndon Police Department supports the effort.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Paisano's Pizza in Herndon participated in its inaugural fundraiser to support the National Police Unity Tour 2018 on Blue Friday, April 27, 2018. Pierre Chahine is the owner of Paisano's Pizza in Herndon. Chahine extended his fundraising effort to his other two Paisano's Pizza restaurants located in Fair Lakes and Annandale as well.

More than 2,500 officers took part in the tour as they cycled into Washington D.C. on May 12. Many of the 2,500 law enforcement officers rode the entire 300 plus mile trip from its beginning in Northern New Jersey, May 10 and ending at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington D.C. on May 12.

The Police Unity Tour has become the single largest supporter of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

In their letter to ride participants, Patrick P. Montuore, Police Unity Tour CEO and Founder and Harry E. Phillips, Executive Director, wrote, "Every year ... law enforcement officers die in the line of duty. Nothing can ever replace them to their family and friends. The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C. allows for their memories to live on and honors these men and women forever."

Members of the Herndon Police Department, including Chief Maggie DeBoard, attended the Paisano's fundraiser in Herndon to benefit the Tour. Chief DeBoard explained the National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund does not receive any public funding or taxpayer dollars but instead relies on public contributions, which are used among other things, to support the engraving of fallen officers' names on the memorial.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Town of Herndon Chief of Police, Maggie A. DeBoard (center) is joined by (second row) Officer Ron Eicke, Andy DeBoard, Sgt. Bobby Galpin, (third row) Officer Eddie Stapleton, Amir Bastawrous, Pierre Chahine, owner of Paisano's and Charbel Chahine during the Herndon Paisano's Blue Friday fundraiser to support the 2018 Police Unity Ride.

In an online report, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund dated December 2017, states, "There are currently 21,183 names of officers killed in the line of duty inscribed on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, DC."

At the time of Paisano's fundraiser in late April, Chief DeBoard said the week had not been very good for officers. She recounted two officers lost their lives in the days prior, one in Dallas, Texas after a routine call at a Home Depot and the other officer killed in central Maine.

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund reports from Jan. 1 through May 18, 2018, 55 law enforcement officers across the United States have died while on duty, citing 28 of the deaths as firearms-related, an uptick of a 47 percent in comparison to the same period in 2017.

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial is located on E Street, between 4th and 5th Streets, NW, in Washington, D.C.

National Police Week is Sunday, May 13- Saturday, May 19. The week honors the service and sacrifice of law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

THE CONNECTION

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Rachel Carson Wins Third Place at the National Science Bowl

Rachel Carson Middle School won third place at the 2018 U.S. Department of Energy National Science Bowl Finals held last weekend in D.C. More than 14,000 students participated nationwide, representing more than 3,000 middle schools. The top 48 were selected to all-expense paid trip to D.C. to compete in the finals.

After enjoying the sights of D.C. for two days, on Saturday the teams went to work in a grueling, nearly 10-hour day of fast-paced questioning on numerous science subjects, including math, chemistry, physics, biology, earth science and astronomy.

Rachel Carson Middle School was undefeated in the round robin tournament, and had its only two losses at the very end of the double elimination round to the eventual first and second place teams. While those teams were primarily eighth graders, Rachel Carson Middle School was all seventh graders and has their eyes on first place next year.

Rachel Carson Middle School team members were Om Duggineni, Deccan Maniam, Srihan Kotnana and Shruti Kamasamudram. They were coached by Sudhir Duggineni.

The team took home \$1,000 for Rachel Carson and the third place trophy, the first time the school finished in the top three.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Coach Sudhir Duggineni with Rachel Carson Middle team members.

NEWS

HERNDON CONNECTION EDITOR KEMAL KURSPAHC
703-778-9414 OR HERNDON@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Functional, Fun and Healthy

Herndon Pit Stop draws both morning and afternoon cyclists at Bike to Work Day 2018.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Rain and dreary weather did not stop thousands of cyclists psyched up, geared up and power-ready to pedal their way to their places of employment in the Washington D.C. area on Friday, May 18, Bike to Work Day 2018. Commuter Connections and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) organized the event at the regional level with assistance from the Bike to Work Day Steering Committee, which met at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) in Washington, D.C. from September to May. The goal for the event was “to increase awareness and participation in bicycling as a method of transportation to work instead of driving alone.”

Cyclists by the hundreds showed up at each of the local 100 pit stops across the Washington metropolitan areas, including the pit stop in Herndon.

Herndon Parks & Recreation, Life is a Cycle, and Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling hosted the Herndon stop and sponsored by A-1 Cycling welcoming bicyclists with refreshments, bike re-

pairs, and words of encouragement, especially needed for those out on their first ride of the season.

The Herndon pit spot located at the intersection of Lynn and Elden Street, just off the W&OD trail was one of the earliest pit stops to open and one of the few to offer an afternoon stop at the same location. Herndon welcomed cyclists arriving as early as 5:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. and again upon their return in the afternoon from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Registered attendees for the Herndon pit stop received their free t-shirts and chances to win bicycles and other prizes.

Organizers of Bike to Work Day 2018 encouraged first-time rider participants to join in the exciting experience through their Ride Buddy for Bike to Work Day program using the online Washington Area Bike Forum open to riders of all ability levels. Want-to-be cyclists could pick up a bike at one of the hundreds of Capital Bikeshare stations in Fairfax County including the sixteen existing stations in nearby Reston. Many Bike to Work Day participants navigated their way to their places on employment via bike lanes, sharrows, on-street routes and via the W & OD Trail.



Tony Roane, left, and Janson Whitlock of Herndon stop at the Bike to Work Day 2018 pit stop in town before cycling to work. Roane said, “I do this a couple of times of a week in fair weather. It breaks up the monotony of commuting by car.”



For Nick Guman of Ashburn, Bike to Work Day 2018 was a new experience; he expressed excitement about cycling to MITRE Corporation located in McLean. “This is the first time I’ve ever ridden to work. I set out at 6:15 this morning and I’m guessing I’ll make it in under two hours,” Guman said.



Drizzle did not stop cyclists during Bike to Work Day 2018 as they descended upon the Herndon pit stop for refreshments, bike repairs and camaraderie.

PHOTOS BY
MERCIA HOBSON/
THE CONNECTION

PanKate Breakfast to Benefit Kate’s Cause

Kate’s Cause is a nonprofit organization created to raise awareness, raise funds, and give back to the pediatric cancer community. Help us, help them find less toxic treatments for childhood cancer. Join us as we celebrate our very first birthday. The fun-filled, family-

friendly event will feature activities for children and a delicious breakfast including birthday cake on Saturday, June 2, 8 -11 a.m. at Herndon United Methodist Church, 701 Bennett St, Herndon.. Visit katescause.com or [facebook.com/prayersforkate13](https://www.facebook.com/prayersforkate13)

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



OPINION

Keep Teens Safe for Summer

BY JOHN C. COOK
BRADDOCK DISTRICT SUPERVISOR



COMMENTARY

Prom and graduation seasons are upon us, and these are the biggest landmarks in our teens' lives so far. While it is certainly a time for celebration, it is also a time for parents to ensure the safety of these young adults. I want to ask all parents to keep our community safe by not hosting parties with alcohol and speaking to your children about the dangers of drunk driving.

The way parents raise their own kids in the privacy of their homes is their business. However, when other children are involved and given alcohol, it becomes a community concern and threat to public safety. Through a motion I presented, the Board of Supervisors unanimously directed our Police Department

to arrest parents who host parties for minors where alcohol is served. If you are caught hosting one of these parties then you will be arrested and sent to jail.

There is no responsible way to host a teen party with alcohol. Not only are teens underage, but teen brains are more negatively impacted by alcohol than an adult's. The developing mind already has a tendency to take risks and not perceive consequences for their actions. When one introduces alcohol to this situation, the risky behavior goes into overdrive and puts our young people in a dangerous position. Teens are also more likely to binge drink, which creates an even greater risk to their health in the short and long term. At its worst, teen drinking can result in drunk driv-

ing, assault, drug use, teen pregnancy, injury, or even death. When parents provide youth with alcohol, they are jeopardizing these children's lives.

Every year we hear stories about devastating accidents caused by teens driving under the influence after prom or graduation. It is not something that just happens in other neighborhoods. These accidents happen in our own backyards. Nationally, 10,497 people died in 2016 from drunk driving accidents. Fifteen percent of those accidents were caused by drivers under 21. A single accident like this is one too many.

That is why it is up to us as parents to set good examples to our children. We have to set clear rules and expectations for them to follow in this season of celebrations. Talk to your teens about the dangers of drinking. Make it clear that if they drink and drive or go to these underage drinking parties they are risking their future.

The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same

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



COMMENTARY

As the General Assembly heads back into Special Session on May 23 to continue work on the biennium budget impasse, I looked back at how long we've been fighting to expand Medicaid — the major sticking point in our current budget standoff. Here's what I wrote in September 2014 — nearly four years ago!

"Recently the New York Times editorial board wrote about the 'health care showdown in Virginia.' Their comments were not favorable. 'In Virginia, there are 400,000 low-income people who can't afford health care coverage but don't qualify for federal subsidies,' they wrote. 'If they lived across the state line in Maryland, West Virginia or Kentucky, which have expanded their Medicaid programs, they could get the coverage they need.' The reason they cannot; 'a group of recalcitrant Republicans in the House of Delegates' have blocked Medicaid expansion at every opportunity."

Highly regarded retired editorial writer for the *Virginian Pilot*, Margaret Edds, wrote about the current impasse in Virginia two weeks ago. Drawing on her extensive command of Virginia's history, Edds points out that Virginia was the last state to join Social Security in the 1930s. She argues that there is a moral imperative that "we cannot afford to take this risk" of not expanding Medicaid. She writes that "designing a health care system that embraces everyone is the right thing to do." Reston resident, Elliot Wicks, in a recent letter to the editor makes the same argument that closing the coverage gap morally is the right thing to do.

In an unprecedented move, the Virginia Chapter of the American Association of Retired People (AARP) called a press conference to announce that letters sent by the Speaker of the House and other Republican lawmakers to their constituents over age 60 contained "inaccurate information about changes in Medicare."

These letters from Speaker Howell and other lawmakers implied that expanding Medicaid in Virginia would hurt Medicare beneficiaries. "Expanding Medicaid to uninsured Virginians won't harm the Medicare program or its beneficiaries," the AARP spokesperson said.

Revenues for the Commonwealth are expected to fall short of projection for this year by as much as \$300 million. Ironically, Virginia is losing \$5 million a day amounting now to three-fourths of a billion dollars paid by Virginians that could be returned to the state through Medicaid expansion. The money could

not be used to balance the budget in the current year, but in future years more than \$200 million that Virginia pays for indigent care from its general tax revenue could be paid by Medicaid.

State and local chambers of commerce, medical and health care associations, and editorial boards of the major newspapers in the state have endorsed Medicaid expansion. A major compromise in the form of Marketplace Virginia, proposed by three Republican senators and endorsed by all Democratic legislators, has been introduced. The compromise proposed in Marketplace Virginia addresses the Republicans' stated concerns by including a provision to discontinue the program if the federal government reneges on its commitments. It is time for Republicans in the House of Delegates to agree to the compromise. Their insistence on separating Medicaid from the state budget is a costly stalling tactic that is hurting a large number of Virginians and threatens to hurt even more if the budget stalemate continues.

While the players have changed—it's now Senate Republicans resisting Medicaid expansion—the song remains the same.

Send Father's Day Photos

Father's Day is Sunday, June 17, and once again this newspaper will publish a gallery of Father's Day photos.

Every year at this time, we put out the call for photographs of fathers and their children, grandfathers and their children and grandchildren.

Send in photos with the following information: the town where you live, the names of everyone in the picture, the approximate date the picture was taken, the ages of the children and a sentence or two about what is happening and where the photograph was taken. Be sure to tell us your town name and neighborhood. Photos are due by June 12.

You can submit your photos online at www.connectionnewspapers.com/fathersday. You can also email photos to editors@connectionnewspapers.com.

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CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Reston Farmers Market. Open Saturdays, through Dec. 1, 8 a.m.-noon at 1609 Washington Plaza N., Reston. Fairfax County Park Authority markets are strictly producer-only meaning that vendors must grow or make from scratch everything they bring to market. Call 703-642-0128 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets.

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

THURSDAY/MAY 24

DMV2Go. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St., Reston. The wireless office on wheels offers all DMV services: driver's license and ID card applications and renewals, driving records, vehicle titles, license plates, decals, order disabled plates, and more. Information on all services available at dmv.virginia.gov/general/#dmv_2go.



Historic Downtown Herndon will play host to the 38th Annual Herndon Festival May 31-June 3.

Herndon Festival 2018

The Herndon Festival features local and nationally-known entertainment on three stages, a carnival, fireworks displays on Saturday, children's hands-on art area, arts & crafts show, business expo, 10K/5K races and fitness expo on Sunday, complimentary shuttle bus service, and an assortment of food vendors. Free admission; some individual events, vendors and rides have a cost. See the full schedule and other information at www.herndonfestival.net.

FRIDAY/MAY 25

Ballet: Swan Lake. 7:30 p.m. at Center Stage at Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Ravel Dance Studio will be performing Swan Lake. The Ravel Dance Studio has 24 highly trained ballerinas to perform the roles of the entranced Swan Maidens. Eighty other ballerinas ages 8 and older will perform in Act III of the ballet. \$25. Call 703-437-9664 or visit www.raveldance.com.

Submission Deadline. The Reston Photographic Society, a special interest group of the League of Reston Artists, invites photographers to enter photographs in the RPS at Lake Anne show by May 25 through the web site. Entries will be judged and \$1,000 in prizes will be awarded at the reception on Sunday, June 3, from 2-4 p.m. at the gallery. The exhibit runs from May 29 through June 25 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.

SATURDAY/MAY 26

Vegetable Plant Clinics. 10 a.m.-noon at Baron Cameron Park, 11300 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston. Learn about growing nightshade plants (tomatoes, etc.). Fairfax County Master Gardeners will add a focus on vegetable gardening to their Plant Clinic program. Contact the VCE Fairfax County Master Gardener Help Desk at 703-324-8556.

Myths & Monsters at the Museum. 11:30 a.m. at Reston Historic Trust & Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza, Reston. Meet the authors of Myths and Monsters of Reston Virginia: Field Guide. Get the scoop on Reston's supernatural secrets in a presentation by the authors at 11:30. Rock decorating and hiding starts at 12. All ages welcome. Free. Visit www.restonmuseum.org.

Ballet: Swan Lake. 2 p.m. at Center Stage at Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. \$25. Call 703-437-9664 or visit www.raveldance.com.

Christian Perez Chamber Ensemble. 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. This project combines musicians of different backgrounds (classical, Bulgarian folk, Jazz, Tango, Bluegrass, Latin-american, etc.). The ensemble will perform original compositions and arrangements from Perez's first album "Anima Mundi" as well as newer compositions. Visit artspaceherndon.org.

Star-Spangled Salute. 7 p.m. at Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St., Reston. Presented by The Reston Chorale. Bring a lawn chair

and enjoy patriotic music performed by The Reston Chorale along with Brass of the Potomac. Free. Donations of items for troop care packages are welcomed. Visit restonchorale.org.

TUESDAY/MAY 29

International News - Cross-Cultural Communications. 7-8:30 p.m. at Herndon Fortnightly Library, Meeting Room 2, 768 Center St., Herndon. Part of Hot Topics: News, Blues and How to Defuse. An interactive workshop on international news and dialogue skills. Guided by experts from GMU's School of Conflict Analysis and Resolution and FCPL Librarians. Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/3971589.

MAY 29-JUNE 25

Photography Exhibit "Liquid Beauty." 9 a.m.-8 p.m. at the JoAnne Rose Gallery, Reston Community Center at Lake Anne, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston. The Reston Photographic Society, a special interest group of the League of Reston Artists, invites photographers to enter their work in the "RPS at Lake Anne" show by May 25 through the web site. Entries will be judged and \$1,000 in prizes will be awarded at the reception on Sunday, June 3 from 2-4 p.m. at the gallery. Free and open to the public. Visit www.leagueofrestonartists.org

THURSDAY/MAY 31

Artist Talk: Zachary Oxman. 6-8 p.m. at Aperture at Reston Station, 11410 Reston Station Blvd., Reston. The artist will talk about his new public artwork "Convergence" at

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 7

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NEWS

Becoming Dementia Friendly Community

Town of Herndon is working to become the first dementia friendly community in Virginia.

According to the Alzheimer's Association 2018 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures, an estimated 5.7 million Americans of all ages are living with Alzheimer's dementia. This number includes 5.5 million people age 65 and older and 200,000 individuals under age 65 who have younger-onset Alzheimer's. Dementia Friendly America estimates nearly 60 percent of people with dementia live in their own communities and one in seven lives alone. Communities across the country are experiencing an urgent call to support people with dementia and their caregivers by becoming "dementia friendly."

In an effort to create more awareness for the effects dementia has on the person with the disease, the Town of Herndon is using an evidence-based, dementia-friendly community toolkit to engage community members in a process that will help them determine their current strengths and gaps, identify community goals and ways to respond, and to act together to be dementia friendly.

A dementia friendly community: 1) raises awareness of and develops respect and inclusion for people with dementia; 2) has services and resources embedded in all areas of community to ensure meaningful access to community and promote quality of life; 3) supports and educates people with dementia, their care partners and families from diagnosis through disease progression; and 4) promotes meaningful engagement in community.

Several key organizations are leading the Town of Herndon community action team, including A Family Tie, Arden Courts Memory Care Community, Assisted Living Locators, Brightview Great Falls, Comfort Keepers, Dementia Care Connections, Great Falls



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

DFA Herndon Community Action Team

Assisted Living, Herndon Adult Day Health Care Center, Herndon Village Network, Insight Memory Care Center, Oasis Senior Advisors, Prepare to Care, Sunrise of Fairfax and Vienna Memory Caf .

Toni Reinhart, Owner of Herndon-based Comfort Keepers, spearheads this team of community leaders throughout each phase of the initiative.

"I highly recommend Ms. Reinhart to lead the Herndon chapter of Dementia Friendly America," said Herndon Mayor Lisa C. Merkel. "With her drive to enhance community awareness for persons with dementia and 16-year commitment to serving the Herndon-Reston area, her passion for senior care would only serve greater purposes statewide."

The Town of Herndon is one of 38 communities in the Dementia Friendly America network. The Dementia Friendly America initiative is a multi-sector, national collaborative of over 35 leading organizations that are catalyzing a movement and set of best practices to foster "dementia friendly" communities across the United States to improve opportunities and outcomes for a growing number of people with dementia, their families and care partners. Visit DFAHerndon.org.

Northwest Federal Credit Union Named Best Place to Work

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

A large banner on the grounds of Northwest Federal Credit Union's campus at 200 Spring Street in Herndon, reads, "Northwest Federal Credit Union is proud to be a Washington Business Journal Best Place to Work."

Washington Business Journal recently selected the Herndon headquartered financial institution as one of the Best Places to Work 2018 for extra-large companies (500+ employees) in the Washington D.C. metro area. According to a media release by NWFCU, "The program, in its 12th year, recognizes companies in the area who scored the highest on Quantum Workplace's employee engagement survey."

Jeff Bentley is President and CEO of Northwest Federal. "Northwest Federal is honored to be recognized by the Washington Business Journal for our commitment to employee engagement and satisfaction," Bentley said. "We believe that excellent member service begins with employees who feel valued and empowered."

Northwest Federal held a celebratory barbecue for their employees in honor of the award.



PHOTO SCREENSHOT OF NWFCU MEDIA RELEASE

Members of Northwest Federal's Executive Team- Alex Lane, SVP of Operations, Michael Kapfer, SVP/Chief Information Officer, Jeff Bentley, President and CEO and Joe Hasto, SVP/CFO prepare for a celebratory BBQ for employees. Washington Business Journal named the institution Best Place to Work.

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BULLETIN

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Assistance League of Northern Virginia, a volunteer nonprofit, invites community members to join the organization to participate in its Reading Express program. Volunteers provide one-on-one tutoring to first grade students during the school year. To learn more contact VP Membership Mary Gronlund at gronbiz@aol.com or Program Coordinator Lynn Barron at lynnieb517@verizon.net.

STEM Professionals Needed. Help assist K-12 STEM teachers as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2018-19 school year. In the 2017-18 school year, there are 85 volunteers in six Northern Virginia school districts. Contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488, or donaledge@aol.com.

Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriendA-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact Ibrahim Khalil at Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-4547.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 5

Aperture, as well as "Untold Stories" at Lake Anne Village Center, and other public artworks. He will also reflect on growing up in Reston and how it impacted his creative journey. The Artist Talk is free and open to the public, however space is limited. RSVP to RSVP@publicartreston.org. Call 703-880-1177 or visit www.publicartreston.org for more.

THURSDAY/MAY 31-SUNDAY/JUNE 3

2018 Herndon Festival. The 38th annual Herndon Festival, a community-wide celebration in and around Herndon's Municipal Center complex and historic Town Hall Square. Will feature entertainment on three stages, a carnival, fireworks on Saturday, a Kids' Alley with children's hands-on art area, arts and crafts show, business expo, 10K/5K races and fitness expo, and a variety of food vendors. Free and open to the public, although there is a charge for some activities. Follow on Facebook.com/[herndonfest](https://www.facebook.com/herndonfest) and on Twitter [@herndonfestival](https://twitter.com/herndonfestival). Visit the website www.herndonfestival.net. Contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 703-787-7300 or visit herndon-va.gov/recreation.

FRIDAY/JUNE 1

Baby & Me. 10:30 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. A nurturing yoga workshop is designed for the two of you. No experience needed. Please bring a towel or yoga mat. Age 6 weeks - 15 months with adult. Register beginning May 18. Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-689-2700.

SUNDAY/JUNE 3

17th-Century Spanish Music. 7:30-8:30 p.m. at United Christian Parish of Reston, 11508 N. Shore Drive, Reston. Circe's Consort presents 17th-Century Spanish songs of love, devotion and jealousy sung in Spanish by soprano Rachel Elezi and played on baroque guitar by Annalisa Ewald. Free. Call 703-620-3065 or visit www.ucpreston.org for more.

TUESDAY/JUNE 5, 11, 15 & 19

Maker Camp. 5 p.m.; June 15, 3 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Explore, make, and share on four days of technology, crafts, and fun. Registration begins May 22. Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-689-2700.

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Oh Happy Daze



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As I sat on the couch Saturday morning with my wife, Dina, and pretended not to watch or listen – too attentively, anyway, to the “fairy tale” wedding of the former Meghan Markle and the current Prince Harry, in Windsor Castle on May 19, I was reminded of my own wedding, proposal, courtship and introduction to Dina, dating back to November 1976 when we first met. (I’ll try not to self-indulge too much; it’s boring I know.)

After graduating undergraduate school in May 1976, I moved back home to Boston, and began looking for work. Upon receiving an offer from the now-defunct Prince Georges Post to write a weekly column, I returned back to Maryland in late summer and moved in with my brother, Richard. Unfortunately, after meeting with the Editor-in-Chief, I was informed that due to a revenue shortfall, the tabloid was shrinking its page count to 32 from 40, and with it my column and budget for it was shrunk as well. At that moment, my Art Buchwald-type dream was over.

Though living with Richard in his one bedroom apartment and sleeping on his living room couch was not costing me much money, it was hardly the ideal transition to post-college life I had anticipated. I needed to find a job and my own place to live. Soon after speaking with my college buddy, “Mot,” my housing and job status would change. I moved in with him into a group house in Potomac, where one of his roommates, Rick, was a lunch manager at the Sir Walter Raleigh Inn Restaurant in upper Georgetown.

Always looking for daytime staff, I was immediately hired and within days began my new job. On my first day, I drove in with Rick. After parking behind the restaurant, we walked in the back door, through the kitchen and into the dining room. Rick looked around at the various employees doing their pre-lunch set-up, saw Dina to his right and said: “Dina, train the new man.” After spending the morning together, she thought I was weird; I thought she was stuck-up. Amazing how little has changed. Six months later we were dating.

I remember the exact circumstance when I told Dina that I loved her. We were driving north on Connecticut Avenue past the Avalon Theatre heading into Chevy Chase Circle. While rounding the Circle, it just hit me so I said it: “Dina, I think I love you.” I don’t recall how Dina responded but my ill-timed delivery didn’t seem to be a problem.

A few months after that, another awkward progression toward our getting married. We were sitting in a sub/pizza place called C.J.’s located in the Cabin John Shopping Center having a casual lunch. While we were talking and eating, it struck me that I wanted to ask Dina to be my wife. Without too much thought or preparation – and with no ring – I grabbed my paper placemat and wrote a proposal on it – in the margins, if I recall, and then slid it around toward Dina for her to read. Again, I don’t remember too much about her reaction other than her answer was “Yes.”

A year or so later, we were married – twice. Due to our differences in religion, we agreed to be married by a judge, for whom Dina’s maternal grandmother had once worked. Five weeks after the invitations had been mailed and five days before the wedding, we went to visit the judge to discuss the service. After we made our in-person introductions and exchanged pleasantries, the judge says to us with a serious look as he could muster: “I can’t marry you on Sunday.”

A moment of silence/horror passed between us. “What!?” we murmured politely. Then he smiles reassuringly and says: “I’m a Pennsylvania judge. I can’t legally marry you in Delaware on Sunday. (Another collective gasp as we’re trying to process what we’re hearing.) He goes on: “Just come by my chambers on Friday and we’ll do it legally. Then on Sunday, I’ll do it for show.” The result: two wedding-anniversaries, Oct. 20 and 22, one year though: 1978.

Harry and Meghan may have their “fairy tale,” but we have our funny tale; still being told almost 40 years later.

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

A Field of Hope for Child Abuse Victims

Herndon Police Department supports SafeSpot Children's Advocacy Center of Fairfax County.

By MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

There are children in Fairfax County who suffer from a hidden epidemic, one of child abuse and neglect. The American Society for the Positive Care of Children cites the United States has one of the worst records among industrialized nations for child abuse, losing on average almost five children every day. Nationwide, nearly 60,000 children are sexually abused each year, that is 1 in 16, with 90 percent of juvenile victims knowing their perpetrators.

Earlier this year, Detective Jonathan Sorg of the Herndon Police Department heard the call to make a difference. Sorg took local action to heart and brought awareness to the children in Fairfax County impacted by child abuse and sexual abuse.

With the Herndon Police Department behind him and help from various other groups, Sorg organized the inaugural Herndon Police Department Field of Hope, Playing for a Cause held on April 21, 2018, at Haley Smith Park in Herndon. "This is something I came up with because I wanted to bring awareness to child abuse and help children who might have been involved," Sorg said during an interview. "To me, a lot of children feel ashamed, think it's their fault and afraid of the impact it might have on their families. I think events like these are important. People care, and we can hear their voices."

SAFESPOT is a facility in that it is a centralized family-friendly location, one which provides direct services to child victims of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse in Fairfax County through an inter-agency multi-disciplinary team. The center's top priority is the child.

Michele Thames is Executive Director of SafeSpot in Fairfax. "The hope is all children feel safe in our community, and if they don't, they find a trusted adult," Thames said. "In 2017, SafeSpot served 425 Fairfax County children ages 3-18." That equates to at least one child a day walking through the doors of SafeSpot.

Detective Sorg's ticketed event, Field of Hope was open to children up to 14 years of age. It sold out quickly as pro-athletes Kofi Opare of D.C. United and Ryan Kerrigan, #91 Linebacker of the Washington Redskins had been scheduled to play games with the children and show them some moves. Tug-of-war elicited massive displays of kid super-strength and soccer



Kofi Opare of D.C. United adds his strength to the tug-of-war game as he muscled up and joins his team of youth against those of Ryan Kerrigan, #91 Linebacker of the Washington Redskins during the Herndon Police Department Field of Hope, Playing for a Cause.



Ashlyn Ransbotham, 2, of Berryville, Va. pets Pecos, the SafeSpot Children's Advocacy Center Facility dog during the Herndon Police Department fundraiser, Field of Hope, Playing for Cause to benefit the center.

was a big hit with many of the children. A raffle brought in extra funds to support SafeSpot.

The pro-athletes were thrilled to be part of the day.

Kerrigan said, "It's always an honor to serve the community in any capacity especially a cause as related to an issue as important as helping children in need.

Opare added: "As an athlete, part of our job is to entertain, to put a smile on people's faces, whether a child or an adult."

Up until 2014, child abuse victims were interviewed in various locations in Fairfax County. The child went from agency to agency to tell their story to professionals and investigators, a wearisome and emotional toll on the child. Although the Police Annex was eventually stood up as a given

location, it was sterile and unwelcoming with families waiting in the public lobby. Now SafeSpot offers a child-friendly, culturally sensitive environment.

SafeSpot's model program brings the system to the child, with a one-time-only forensic interview to find out if something happened, get the details and determine if criminal charges should be pursued. Multiple agency professionals work together as a team to ensure the safety and well being of child victims of abuse. The team works together to intervene, investigate, prosecute and treat sexual abuse and physical abuse.

Depending on findings, the case may be presented to the District Attorney, a suspect charged or case refused. The child and family can receive mental health services, critical resources, and support as the case moves

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



Ryan Kerrigan, #91 Linebacker of the Washington Redskins high-fives youth at Herndon Police Department Field of Hope, Playing for a Cause, a fundraiser for SafeSpot Children's Advocacy Center of Fairfax.



Detective Jonathan Sorg of the Herndon Police Department came up with the idea for children to join pro-athletes in a ticketed fundraising event called Field of Hope, Playing for Cause. The event helps fund SafeSpot Children's Advocacy Center of Fairfax.

through the justice system. If Child Protective Services are needed, the child may be removed from the home or case opened for services or closed.

FIELD OF HOPE, Playing for a Cause raised approximately \$6,500 to benefit SafeSpot. The donation will help partially fund SafeSpot's expenses for items such as a child's complete therapy at an estimated quoted total of \$1500 per child and forensic interview sessions for each child victim of abuse cited at \$250.

SafeSpot's next two events are an Open House on Friday, June 8, 9-11 a.m. and a Happy Hour for Hope at Courthouse Social in Arlington on Saturday, June 9, 4-7 p.m. For locations to these events and to donate to SafeSpot, visit www.safespotfairfax.org.