



Oak Hill Herndon CONNECTION

Herndon Parks Offer 'A Lifetime of Discovery'

NEWS, PAGE 3



Bryce Harper Comes to Herndon

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'The Little Mermaid' At Herndon Middle

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with this year's theme, "A Lifetime of Discovery." Children learn tennis skills and strategy at the Bready Park Tennis Courts operated by Herndon Parks & Recreation.

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Herndon Parks Promote ‘A Lifetime of Discovery’

Explore the town’s parks, recreation areas, programs and events.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

At a recent Herndon Town Council Public Hearing, Mayor Lisa C. Merkel and councilmembers prepared to present a proclamation recognizing “National Parks and Recreation Month,” July 2018 in the Town of Herndon. Cindy Roeder, Director of Parks and Recreation, was on hand to accept it.

Reading the proclamation, Councilmember Grace Cunningham encouraged residents during the nation’s official Park and Recreation Month and throughout the year “to participate in outdoor activities; connect with nature, family and friends; and discover new ways to have fun in our community.” Continuing to read, Cunningham challenged residents “to take the opportunity to redefine how they think about parks and recreation” to uncover “A Lifetime of Discovery.”

THE REASON his year’s national theme for Parks and Recreation month is “A Lifetime of Discovery,” is stated best in the July issue of the National Recreation and Park Association. “While we celebrate all the fun



During National Parks and Recreation Month, July 2018, Jill Kyle-Keith owner of Beale Street Puppets of Baltimore, Md. performs “Dig Those Dinosaurs” at Herndon Parks & Recreation’s Farmers’ Market Fun Days.

and exciting programs that are offered, we also celebrate the critical role that parks and recreation plays in the communities it serves every single day. Sometimes, some of the offerings and efforts aren’t recognized — due, in part, to the fact that they are “undiscovered” by members of the community.”

Although one of the most visible operations of the town’s Parks and Recreation Department is the 56,000 square foot Herndon Community Center and many town residents appear to be familiar with at least some of the town’s eleven top qual-

ity parks operated by the department, there remains undiscovered places and events.

How many residents know about a shady wooded park in the town where deer, foxes, herons, ducks, raccoons and other animals thrive and are frequently seen drinking water from the rocky stream running through the park? Joggers and walkers use the park’s 4.1-mile trail with a 17-foot climb for exercise and to connect to the Fairfax County trail system and the Washington & Old Dominion Trail. Discover it at Runnymede Park.

People of all ages turn out in the tens of thousands to attend Parks & Recreation’s signature events. Among them are the Herndon and Labor Day Festivals, the 4th of July Celebration, as well as other activities such as Farmers Market Fun Days for young children.

But do teens know adventures such as horseback riding and tubing awaits them through Parks and Recreation? Explore it at Teen Discovery.

Parks and Recreation Department offers programs and classes year round for all ages and abilities in a multitude of areas but how can children and adults get a competitive edge in tennis, with practices focused on skill and strategy? Uncover it at Bready Park Tennis Courts in Herndon.

Herndon Parks and Recreation offers STEM fun at a Lego camp, innovative health and wellness opportunities, Kids Triathlon Conditioning and conservation efforts such as the Monarch WayStation.

After the proclamation was read, Cindy Roeder, Director of Parks and Recreation addressed the Mayor and Town Councilmembers. She thanked them for their support. “We are fortunate to have the support of a council like you, who funds our programs, supports our programs, and encourages others to be there.”

HERNDON PARKS AND RECREATION offers STEM fun at a Lego camp, innovative health and wellness opportunities, Kids Triathlon Conditioning and conservation efforts such as the Monarch WayStation.

Dulles Toll Road Rate Increases Public Hearings Announced

Public comment period is open through Aug. 3, 2018; Online ‘Open House’ is available.

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority announced it is hosting three public hearings to inform and solicit comments from the community about proposed toll rate increases along the Dulles Toll Road. These rate increases, which will be voted on by the Airports Authority Board of Directors later in 2018, would take effect in 2019 and support the construction of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Silver Line Extension Project and improvements along the Dulles Toll Road.

The first public hearings occurred Wednesday, July 11, at Spring Hill Elementary School in McLean and Tuesday, July 17, 2018, at South Lakes High School in Reston.

The next hearing will be held Thursday, July 19, 5 -8 p.m. at Stone Bridge High School in the School Cafeteria located at 43100 Hay Road, Ashburn.

There will be informational exhibits related to the Dulles Toll Road and planned improvements that may be made, the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Silver Line Extension Project, the revenue projections associated with the proposed toll rate increases and how this addi-

Proposed Toll Rate Adjustment

§ 10.1. (Effective January 1, 2019) Tolls for Use of the Dulles Toll Road

Except for persons permitted free use of toll facilities under Virginia Code §33.1-252, it shall be unlawful for any person operating a vehicle to use the Dulles Toll Road (also known as the Omer L. Hirst-Adelard L. Brault Expressway) or any portion thereof without payment of the tolls as set forth in the following schedule:

Vehicle Class	Main Line Plaza*		Ramps*	
2-Axle	\$2.60	\$3.25	\$1.00	\$1.50
3-Axle	\$6.00	\$6.50	\$2.00	\$3.00
4-Axle	\$6.25	\$7.75	\$2.50	\$3.50
5-Axle	\$7.50	\$9.00	\$3.00	\$4.00
6 or more axles	\$8.75	\$10.25	\$3.50	\$4.50

* Toll rates being replaced by new rates are shown with strike-through line.

Screenshot of Proposed Toll Rate Adjustment.

tional revenue will be spent. Representatives from the Airports Authority will be present to discuss these items.

The public comment period on the proposed toll rate increases will run from July 2 through Aug. 3, 2018.

An “online open house” is available at <http://www.dullestollroad.com/toll/toll-setting-process> throughout the comment period. It contains an explanation of the informational exhibits and a comment form.

Comments may also be submitted at the

public hearings, on the website, via email to dtrcomments@hntb.com or mailed during the comment period to MWAA Public Comment Period, c/o HNTB, 2900 South Quincy Street, Suite 600, Arlington, VA 22206.

The Authority is inviting comments on the following topics:

Whether the proposed increase of \$1.25 in the cost of a typical Dulles Toll Road trip should be allocated as proposed between the ramp and mainline toll plazas (i.e., a

50-cent increase at the ramp plazas and a 75-cent increase at the mainline plaza) or should be allocated in a different manner between the ramp and mainline plazas Whether, at a future date to be determined, the Dulles Toll Road’s toll plaza lanes that allow customers to pay in cash should be converted to “E-ZPass only” (or open road tolling), similar to newer toll facilities Whether, at a future date to be determined, credit cards should be accepted in certain Dulles Toll Road toll plaza lanes, similar to the Dulles Greenway and other toll facilities

Whether any other operational improvements should be made to the Dulles Toll Road. The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority operates the U.S. Capital Region’s gateways to the nation and the world, Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and Washington Dulles International Airport, as well as the Dulles Airport Access Highway, the Dulles Toll Road and construction of the Silver Line project, a 23-mile extension of the Metrorail public transit system through northern Virginia. A record 46.6 million passengers passed through the two airports in 2017.

SCREENSHOT OF PUBLIC HEARING SLIDES

OPINION

Girls Learn about Fire and Rescue at Camp

To give girls confidence in their abilities, push them beyond their comfort zone.

BY TRACEY REED
CAPTAIN II, STATION 15,
CHANTILLY, C-SHIFT
GIRLS FIRE AND RESCUE ACADEMY
COORDINATOR

Eighteen girls are attending camp Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. for the second session of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Girls Fire and Rescue Academy. The purpose of the academy is to build the girls' confidence in their unique abilities, push them beyond their comfort zone, and to learn the value of supporting others rather than putting them down.

Monday began with team building exercises that continued all week to emphasize the importance of communication and working together. Then the girls learned how to put on firefighter personal protective equipment (PPE). They learned about the Fire Prevention Division and talked to a few of the Fire Marshals about what their job is like. In the afternoon they learned about medical skills including patient assessment, how to measure vital signs, intubation, splinting, patient moving devices, epi pens, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and 12 lead EKGs.

Tuesday began with physical fitness training which was a combination of body weight exercises and activities firefighters perform such as raising ladders and climbing stairs. Then they changed into their PPE and learned about ladder truck operations: searching, forcible entry, and riding in the



PHOTO BY KENDALL WARNER, FCF&RD PIO INTERN

Participants in the the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Girls Fire and Rescue Academy used their newly acquired skills to respond to simulated emergencies.

tower bucket 100 feet in the air. During lunch they were treated to a visit by Belle, one of the department's therapy dogs.

In the afternoon they learned about trauma; spinal immobilization, chest decompression, and how to stop bleeding using wound packing and tourniquets. Then they used their newly acquired skills to respond to simulated emergencies including an auto accident with a pedestrian struck. The scenarios were similar to the basic emergency medical technician (EMT-B) certification test and the girls did great.

Wednesday's physical fitness training involved partner exercises — "you go, I go." One person completes repetition of a specific exercise and then they tag their partner who does the same amount of the same exercise while the first

person rests. Working together to accomplish missions in many different ways is an important part of public safety. Afterwards they learned about the use of canines in arson investigations.

Then they were back into their now familiar PPE for engine company operations; getting water from a hydrant, pulling hose lines and re-racking them for deployment, and flowing water.

They put these skills together and worked in small groups to extinguish car fires using a propane car fire simulator. After learning about master streams, which of course involved getting wet on a hot afternoon day, the girls came inside to learn how to tie knots with rope and webbing, mechanical advantages with pulley systems, and extrication tools.

Thursday the girls went to the

department's Wellness and Fitness Center to learn the importance of fitness and proper body mechanics. The girls watched Technician Black complete the work performance evaluation that is required for all Fairfax County firefighters on an annual basis. Then they participated in the Candidate Physical Abilities Test which is one step in the process to become a firefighter.

Later, they worked with Virginia Task Force One, one of only two internationally certified Urban Search and Rescue Departments in the United States. They learned about various search techniques using cameras, listening devices and canines.

Friday they visited the police helicopter unit to learn how they assist on medical calls as well as their police function. They also heard from the Explorers (the county volunteer fire and rescue program for high schoolers), the high school cadet program, and representatives from the Volunteer fire stations.

The afternoon involved hazardous materials training including working in hazmat suits and using meters. Graduation was in the evening with the families and station personnel to celebrate their accomplishments.

We appreciate all the support and donations we have received from the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department members and leadership, Centreville Volunteer Fire Department, Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, Franconia Volunteer Fire Department, Greater Springfield Fire Department, McLean Volunteer Fire Department, Fairfax County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association, Battalion 7, B & B Associates, FireVMS.com, Chic-fil-A, and Mission BBQ.

selves. Not only was the audience impressed by the students' talent and level of maturity, but the message they were sending became very clear: something needs to change. Many adults in the audience were moved to tears, as they realized that they let their children down, lacking in protecting them from the all too familiar dangers of gun violence. While the general public has become desensitized by news reports from the adult's point of view, hearing words of immense fear and frustration come from the mouths of young students as they expressed themselves truly hit

SEE SPEAK OUT, PAGE 5

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Area Students Stand Up, Speak Out

To the Editor:

In the aftermath of the recent school shootings, high school students across the nation have found themselves paralyzed with fear, hoping for a break in the cycle of violence. Following the March for Our Lives rally in the nation's capital, Vienna students were inspired to raise awareness for the issue in their local community. They organized a benefit concert called "Stand Up, Speak Out" to raise



Helen Ehrlich and Leana Travis, the co-organizers of the fundraiser.

money for Everytown for Gun Safety. The event took place at Jammin' Java, a Vienna coffee shop.

The afternoon consisted of mu-

sic and spoken word performances by students from several local high schools. Many songs and poems were written by the students them-

Oak Hill & Herndon
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LETTERS

'A Great Friend and Leader'

To the Editor:

My family and I have lived here in Northern Virginia since 2001. We moved from California, and love the Virginia area, the schools, which have been excellent for our two boys, and the wonderful community of people here.

This is home.

Now a "senior citizen," at age 61, I value home, safety, leadership and the economy in a different way, and I see Congresswoman Barbara Comstock as the leader necessary to continue these priorities throughout Northern Virginia.

Congresswoman Comstock is a caretaker of the budget, is active on the jobs front locally, which is so vital for the benefit of young people, and is a supporter of laws

to defend our community against crime and gang violence.

These challenges are exacerbated by our region, and Congresswoman Comstock never ignores our needs, despite the obstacles.

I urge you to check out Congresswoman Comstock's "report card" in areas important to you and you'll find, as I have, Congresswoman Comstock is our future and a great friend and leader for us in Northern Virginia.

I'll be voting again for Congresswoman Comstock, to continue her priorities, policies and strong leadership, which are steps in the right direction.

Paul Vogelzang
Oak Hill

Area Students Stand Up, Speak Out

FROM PAGE 4

home. Along with 71 others, Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34) attended the event, and she spoke briefly about what she believes needs to be done to prevent the repetitive, tragic headlines. She commended the younger generation for their dedication to the cause and recognized how instrumental they are in creating a better future for our nation.

The powerful words of the students made an impact on the audience, and the students are proud to say they raised \$750 for Everytown for Gun Safety. The stu-

dents believe, more importantly than the money they raised, the biggest concept they hope the audience and other observers will take away is that all one needs to make a difference is ambition and dedication. While most nights the news may leave viewers feeling helpless, it is necessary to remember that every single person has the power to change the world, if only they believe they can.

Leana Travis
Vienna
Along with Helen Ehrlich, Leana Travis organized a benefit concert 'Stand Up, Speak Out.'

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.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board's Merrifield Center offers a new stand-up information kiosk. Part of a pilot project, the new feature aims to improve the customer service experience and decrease wait times for individuals who are seeking mental (behavioral) health services. To check in, individuals respond to five simple questions, then the CSB's Patient Track software alerts staff. Based on clinicians' schedules and availability, as well as the needs of the client, individuals are triaged and seen by the next available staff member. For more information on available services, call the CSB at 703-383-8500 (Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.). In an emergency 24/7, call CSB Emergency Services at 703-573-5679 or the Fairfax Detox Center at 703-502-7000 (TTY 703-322-9080).

WEDNESDAY/JULY 18

Managing Your Personal Brand Online. 5-7 p.m. at Hilton Dulles, 13869 Park Center Road,

Herndon. Learn about social media best practices to develop and protect one's personal brand. Young Professionals program is open to all members and guests, and includes light refreshments including local beer. \$25 for members; \$35 for future members/guests; \$10 more at door. Visit www.restonchamber.org for more.

THURSDAY/JULY 19

Story Time: Taking on Challenges. 10-11 a.m. at The Parent Resource Center Library, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 105, Dunn Loring. This Story Time will highlight books and activities to support taking on challenges in young children. Life is full of stresses and challenges. Children who are willing to take on challenges do better in school and in life. Registration is limited and required for children ages 4-6 and their parents. Visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center for more.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

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'Out Evil Plant, I Say!'

Local Boy Scout seeks individual and corporate volunteers to help out in the community as part of his Eagle Scout Project.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

A local teen is out to earn his final and highest rank in Boy Scouts, that of an Eagle Scout. It has not been a trail for the timid. It's taken the Scout years to advance by tests through the seven required progressive ranks of Scout, each rank broke down into increments teaching skills such as self-reliance, physical fitness, citizenship, personal growth responsibility and leadership.

After planning, organizing, leading and managing his extensive Eagle Scout Project, which will benefit the community for an extended period, he is nearing its culmination. If his final efforts are deemed successful, if he can secure the volunteers needed to put the plan in action, the Scout will join only 4 percent of scout enrollment since 1912 who attain the rank of Eagle Scout and he will consider it one of his most treasured accomplishments.

JOHN FOONG, 16, of Oak Hill

is a member of Troop # 159 at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in the Town of Herndon, Powhatan District, National Capital Area Council Boy Scouts of America. On Saturday, July 14, Foong stood in front of his Eagle Scout display at the Reston Farmers Market, 1609 Washington Plaza North. He was on a two-fold mission to accomplish his goal.

Mission One: Foong needed to educate the public about his project, the eradication of the non-native invasive plant Japanese stiltgrass at given locations at Frying Pan Farm Park, Fairfax County Park Authority, located at 2709 West Ox Road in Herndon. As families and individuals came up to his table, Foong told them about the annual summer grass that makes for such a terrible neighbor. Not only is Japanese stiltgrass spreading at Frying Pan Park and is an environmental threat to native plant species at the park, if left unmanaged it replaces other vegetation by shading them out, Foong also explained.

It is threatening the native understory vegetation at the park,

home to wildlife such as deer, raccoons, rabbits, woodchucks and many other animals. Japanese stiltgrass has very little wildlife food value; foraging animals avoid it and instead eat native plants further reducing native vegetation and habitat. As Foong stood in front of his educational table filled with pamphlets, Legos and a stuffed Scout bear to entice children, not only did he share these facts with the public about his community-based project but asked them to spread the word to their friends and neighbors.

Mission Two: Foong needed to secure a workforce to fulfill his Eagle Scout Project. He urged people of all ages to sign up as volunteers to help remove the invasive species. He emphasized the commitment could be a one-time event, about an hour and a half on given days in August. He shared if the volunteers were students, they could earn service hours.

In his prepared "elevator speech," Foong said, "I have cleanups set for August, but I need enough volunteers to make sure they (the cleanups) are effective.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Boy Scout Jon Foong educates children at the Reston Farmers Market on July 14, on how invasive plant species are a huge problem in our community, especially at Frying Pan Park in Herndon.

You can find dates and times plus a signup link on our Facebook page."

Foong is committed to his Eagle Scout Project to reduce the invasive plant stiltgrass at the local Fairfax County Park near his home with the assistance of the Fairfax County Invasive Management Program so native plants can be returned to the habitat, protecting plants and wildlife at Frying

Pan Park.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED in learning more about Japanese stiltgrass or would like to sign up to volunteer as an individual, with friends or with co-workers as a corporate service, visit Facebook: <http://bit.ly/2urJNsG>; Signup Genius: <http://bit.ly/2zq5miZ> or Volunteer Fairfax at <https://bit.ly/2uww1AV>

There's a New Foundation in Town

The Barbera Foundation: 'Helping You, Helping Others.'

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Nonprofit corporations are generally formed to fulfill a need not answered in the community. The Barbera Foundation is a new nonprofit corporation founded in Reston, September 2017, by CEO and Founder Kevin Barbera. The foundation serves the local area including Herndon, Vienna, McLean, and beyond by connecting like-minded individuals who want to get involved in service opportunities in the community. The volunteer service events featured on the foundation's website generally are one time events lasting a couple of hours or less.

The goal of the organization said Barbera is to tap into the volunteer demand and coordinate activities. It is not about raising money, he emphasized but trying to inspire people and connect them with opportunities to get involved. The organization's mission is to inspire others by actively engaging and giving back to their communities.

The foundation partners with charitable organizations such as shelters, veterans groups and businesses, which host philanthropic events.

"It's been working well this way," Barbera said. Events are fun and social; they uplift people as they cook meals at a homeless shelter, assist disabled veterans or, as volunteers did Saturday, July 14, hand out flowers to residents of a retirement home in Reston.

The organization tries to organize a variety of events to unite people from all lifestyles as they give back to their local community.

"Helping others is truly a rewarding experience that has helped me live a more fulfilling, purpose-driven, and optimistic life," Barbera says on the foundation website.

Upcoming events include service during "National Night Out" on Aug. 7, 4 - 9 p.m. Volunteers can sign up to support the elderly community at a local retirement home and first responders if they volunteer for one or more of three shifts that evening. Volunteers can choose to assist with setup, dinner service and games, or clean up.

If in the next few weeks, a volunteer would rather help out by purchasing certain items than giving time, there is the "Back to School: School Supply Drive." Volunteers can help an underprivileged child by purchasing new school supplies from a given list and delivering them to a drop-off location in Reston. The donation can be used as class payment to "Fitness and Philanthropy" held at Reston Town Center.

For more information about the Barbera Foundation, events and volunteer opportunities, visit, <https://www.barberafoundation.org/>.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE BARBERA FOUNDATION

At the Tall Oaks Assisted Living "Flower Power Event" held in Reston, Saturday, July 14, volunteers hand out flowers to the residents. The volunteers who served signed up through the Barbera Foundation.

Kevin Barbera, CEO and Founder of the Barbera Foundation, gathers with 'purchase volunteers' after a free yoga class held at Reston Town Center called 'Fitness and Philanthropy.' Barbera collected purchased school supplies on behalf of the foundation. The items will be donated to underprivileged children when school begins this fall.



Best for Family Road Trips

Top audiobook picks for long drives with children.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

With summer comes roadtrips. In fact, a study by New York University's School of Professional studies showed that 63 percent of American families will take a vacation by car this summer. Long stretches of interstate and backseat time call for loading up on audio books before hitting the road.

"Audio books are great for long car rides and they're much better than video games," said Barbara Marshall, department chair for Education and Social Sciences at Montgomery College. "They don't take the place of actually reading a book, but there is a time and place for them."

One of those times, says Marshall, is long drives without scenic views. She and others who are familiar with children's literature suggest some of the best books for family vacations by car.

"Ghost" by Jason Reynolds and narrated by Guy Lockard is a recommendation by Jennifer Rothschild, Youth Services Collection Development Librarian for Arlington Public Libraries. This 3.5 hour audio books is about a gifted runner named Ghost who has a chance to run for a prestigious middle school track team, but is challenged to stay on track both literally and figuratively in order to reach his full potential.

Fantasy buffs might appreciate "Dealing with Dragons" by Patricia C. Wrede, while fans of dystopian novels might enjoy "Leviathan," written by Scott Westerfeld and narrated by Alan Cumming, suggests Rothschild.

Set in an alternate version of WWI, Leviathan is the first in a trilogy. Primary characters include Prince Aleksander, the would-be heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, and Deryn, a girl who disguises herself as a boy to serve in the British Air Service. The story takes off when the two cross paths.

History lovers might appreciate another Rothschild pick: "Notorious Benedict Arnold" which was written by Steve Sheinkin and narrated by Mark Bramhall. Running at 6.5 hours, this is a true story about an American war hero who loses his career and freedom for greater recognition.

Music lovers might enjoy "Solo" by Kwame Alexander, says Yunna Iqbal of Scrawl Books in Reston. The audio version of the New York Times best selling book by the same name, tells the tale of Blade, the son of a former rock star with a drug addiction. Intertwined with songs, the story follows Blade as he tries to escape his family's fame and fortune.

"Each chapter has a specific song and story follows and that makes it good for both young kids and older kids," said Iqbal.

"Artemis Fowl" by Eoin Colfer, narrated by



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Audio books are helpful in passing time during a family vacation by car.

"Audiobooks are great for long car rides and much better than video games."

— Barbara Marshall, Montgomery College

Nathaniel Parker could appeal to thrill-seekers. The main character, a 12-year-old named Artemis Fowl is the heir to a crime family who appears to be unusually skilled at masterminding crimes until greed threatens to ruin his most brilliant plan. This Rothschild suggestion runs 6.5 hours.

Timeless classics like "Charles and the Chocolate Factory" and "James and the Giant Peach," both by Roald Dahl, are also fail-safe choices for family road trips, says Iqbal.

"Ghost Boys" by Jewell Parker Rhodes is a recommendation from Lelia Nebeker, Book Buyer at One More Page Books in Arlington. "It's a very short book, so if you're only driving for three hours, you can probably finish it," she said. "It's from the per-

spective of a seventh-grade black boy who is shot and killed by the police, and his ghost is telling the story of seeing the world after his death, where he meets the ghost of Emmett Till. It's a heartbreaking book, but beautifully written, well performed on the audiobook."

Despite the mature sounding premise, Nebeker says that it's intended for readers ages 9 and up.

"Avalon High by Meg Cabot' is a fun contemporary take on the King Arthur myth by the prolific Meg Cabot," advised Nebeker. "This one does take place in a high school setting, but it's appropriate for ages 10 and up for sure. So cute and funny."

"Two of my coworkers read 'Love Sugar Magic: A Dash of Trouble' by Anna Meriano ... and raved about it," said Nebeker.

"Amal Unbound' by Aisha Saeed is about a 14-year-old girl in Pakistan who becomes a servant to pay off her family's debts," said Nebeker. "[This is] another book for young readers that has some mature content, but is good for ages 10 and up and will start good discussion between parents and young readers."

"Howl's Moving Castle" by Diana Wynne Jones and "A Wrinkle in Time" by Madeleine L'Engle are two additional suggestions from Nebeker.

For a wider selection of choices, Marshall suggests the American Library Association's website which offers reviews of audio books: www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/notalists/ncr.

THE CONNECTION Newspapers & Online

SPECIAL PULLOUT TAB

Newcomers & Community Guide August 22, 2018

The annual Newcomers and Community Guides for each of our 15 communities with inside facts on what makes each community special, their secret places, the real power players, how to get involved and more.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Art Exhibit: Herndon Town Calendar Competition. Through Aug. 8, gallery hours at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. This exhibit features finalists in the 8th Annual Herndon Town Calendar Competition. Jurors evaluated images submitted to the competition by photographers and select finalist photographs for the exhibit. Visitors to the gallery can vote for the People's Choice. The 12 winning photographs and People's Choice will be announced during the Awards Reception on July 29. Visit www.artspaceherndon.org for more.

Reston Concerts on the Town. 7:30-10 p.m. Saturdays through August. At Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St., Reston. Music genres from around the nation are performed by live bands each week. Bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets for seating. Free. Rain or shine. Alcohol permitted at restaurants only. Visit www.restontowncenter.com/concerts.

Muscle Up Mondays. 6:30 p.m. Meets Mondays, May through October, at Pavilion at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Free fitness classes presented by CRUNCH Fitness-Reston group instructors. (No class on Memorial Day, May 28.) Call 571-267-5000 or visit crunchreston.com Facebook.com/ CrunchReston.

Mr. Knick Knack! 10:30-11:15 a.m. May through October. At Reston Town Center Pavilion. Free performances of heart-centered music for children. No performances on Memorial Day, Labor Day, or Columbus Day. Visit www.restontowncenter.com/events.

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. Visit www.homegrownpoweryoga.com to sign up.

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.

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. Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Potomac River Running, 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 or visit www.potomacriverrunning.com/reston/.

Over-40 Softball League. A Fairfax-based league is looking for enough players to form another team. Players



Rob Hinkal and Heather Aubrey Lloyd.

Live Music: ilyAIMY

For 17 years as ilyAIMY, Rob Hinkal and Heather Aubrey Lloyd have played everything from bait shops to biker weeks to clothing-optional resorts nationwide. They engage audiences with humor and award-winning songs veering from the political to the personal. Saturday, July 21, 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St. Herndon. \$20. Visit www.artspaceherndon.org.



PHOTO BY KEVIN DANAHAR

Patrons swing to the sounds of King Teddy at Summerbration in 2017.

Summerbration

Reston Community Center's Summerbration concerts features live entertainment under the stars at Reston's newest outdoor stage. Select concerts also feature professional dance instruction. Fridays through Aug. 31, 7-9 p.m. at Reston Station, in the open-air plaza atop Wiehle-Reston East Metro. Free. Parking is free in the ParkX parking garage from 6:30-9:30 p.m. during the concerts. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com or call 703-390-6166.

must be at least 40 years of age to be eligible. All games are doubleheaders - played on Sundays at Bready Park in Herndon between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. If interested, email skeduman@aol.com for more.

SUMMER CAMP

Reston Community Center is gearing up for an exciting 2018 summer camp season, with selections that offer something for everyone. Want to play chess, kick a soccer ball or practice tae kwon do? Want to make jewelry, play paintball or design a video game? Find all that and more through RCC. Registration is ongoing, but camps are filling quickly. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com or call 703-476-4500.

nonprofit providing free transportation to senior citizens. Guest bartending party will feature raffles, prizes, and more. Visit herndonvillagenetwork.org for more.

Teen Advisory Board. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join the Teen Advisory Board to gain leadership and volunteer experience and share ideas about how to make the library a wonderful place for teens. Volunteer hours granted. Age 13-18. No registration required. Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-689-2700.

FRIDAY/JULY 20

Gymboree Music I. 10:30 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Discover melody pitch and rhythm while building a repertoire of joyful songs. Cosponsored by the FRRL. Age 6-18 months with adult. Registration open July 6. Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-689-2700.

Gymboree Music II. 11:15 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Dance and sing to a new musical style each month, including Latin, Rock 'n' Roll and Classical. Cosponsored by the FRRL. Age 18-24 months with adult. Registration open July 6. Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-689-2700.

Instant 3D Prints. 3:30 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Explore the origins of 3D printing. Make professional grade models and molds of your own design to create things you can use. All projects go home. Cosponsored by FRRL. Age 13-18. Registration opens July 6. Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-689-2700.

Summerbration Concerts. 7-9 p.m. at Reston Station, in the open-air plaza atop Wiehle-Reston East Metro. Reston Community Center's Summerbration featuring Jason Masi Band. Parking is free in the ParkX parking garage from 6:30-9:30 p.m. during the concerts. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com or call 703-390-6166.

Art Exhibit: Entry Deadline. The League of Reston Artists and the Reston Photographic Society invite artists and photographers to enter work in the upcoming show at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reston. Paintings and photos will be on display from July 23-Aug. 26, 2018. Enter at www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

SATURDAY/JULY 21

Mercier School of Dance. 11 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. See a presentation of ballet, creative movement and Scottish Highlands Dance. Age 4 -12 with adult. No registration required. Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-689-2700.

Art Exhibit: Building Worlds. Through Sept. 15 at GRACE, 12001 Market St., Suite 103, Reston. The artists in this exhibition create their own worlds, including cultural references and artifacts, to question the assumptions of history-making and truth-telling. Building Worlds features the work of Michael Booker, Rachel Guardiola, Timothy Harper, Laura Beth Konopinski, and Katherine Tzu-Lan Mann. Opening Reception and Curator's Talk: July 21, 5-7 p.m. Free and open to the public. Call 703-471-9242 or visit restonarts.org for more.

Live Music: ilyAIMY. 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St. Herndon. For 17 years as ilyAIMY, Rob Hinkal and Heather Aubrey Lloyd have played everything from bait shops to biker weeks to clothing-

optional resorts nationwide. They engage audiences with humor and award-winning songs veering from the political to the personal. \$20. Visit www.artspaceherndon.org.

Concerts on the Town: Entrain. 7:30-10 p.m. (rain or shine) at Reston Town Center. These family-friendly concerts include a wide range of musical styles including Motown, swing, blues, jazz, Latin fusion, Celtic, bluegrass and zydeco and take place every Saturday night through Aug. 25. Free. Visit www.restontowncenter.com for more.

SUNDAY/JULY 22

Vegetable Plant Clinics. 4-6 p.m. at Baron Cameron Park, 11300 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston. Focus will be on planning a fall vegetable garden. Fairfax County Master Gardeners will add a focus on vegetable gardening to their Plant Clinic program. Sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension. Contact the VCE Fairfax County Master Gardener Help Desk at 703-324-8556.

Sunday Art in the Park. 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Reston Town Square Park, 11900 Market St., Reston. Greater Reston Art Center, in partnership with the Reston Community Center, welcomes visitors to the Sunday Art in the Park series. Before attending the Sunday concert in Reston Town Square Park, come to the gallery to see the exhibition and drop in on an art making activity. Free and open to all ages. Visit restonarts.org for more.

MONDAY/JULY 23

Baby Lapsit. 10:30 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Enjoy nursery rhymes and songs while building early literacy skills for children. Age birth to 11 months with adult. Registration opens July 9. Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-689-2700.

Origame Workshop. 4 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Create colorful, fun works of art using step-by-step paper folding techniques. Age 8-12. Registration open. Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-689-2700.

Open Orchestra Rehearsals. 7:30 p.m. at Sunset Hills Montessori School, 11180 Ridge Heights Road, Reston. Join members of the Reston Community Orchestra for open rehearsals during July and August. For those who have wondered what it would be like to play with the Reston Community Orchestra, looking for a chance to play between seasons or semesters or who have an instrument that's collecting dust but keeps calling them to come back. Music and stands provided. \$20 per session; \$75 for all four. Register at restoncommunityorchestra.org/2017-2018-concert-series/open-rehearsals/

TUESDAY/JULY 24

Impressions Theatre: Tom Sawyer. 2:30 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Tom and Huck's adventures take them to Paris, Rome and Egypt as they search for pieces of famous monuments. Cosponsored by the FGMRL. Age 6-12. No registration required. Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-689-2700.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 25

Toddler Story Time. 10:30 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join for fun stories, songs and finger plays. Age 2 with adult. Register beginning July 11. Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-689-2700.

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Providing plenty of comic relief and energy is Sebastian, the crab, portrayed by Lainey Bradley, a rising freshman at Herndon High.

'The Little Mermaid' at Herndon Middle

The Herndon High School Drama Boosters Club will present Disney's "The Little Mermaid" based on the Hans Christian Andersen story and the Disney film produced by Howard Ashman & John Musker and written & directed by John Musker & Ron Clements. Originally Produced by Disney Theatrical Productions.

Disney's The Little Mermaid, a family-friendly, musical adventure that follows young Ariel on her quest for independence—and true love. On the way, meet Ariel's fishy friends and enjoy some unforgettable songs, and, if you have little guppies in your party, check out the magical "Behind the Seas" children's program offered before Sunday's performance.

Performances: Friday, July 27 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, July 28 at 7 p.m.; Sunday, July 29 at 2 p.m. at Herndon Middle School, 901 Locust Street, Herndon General Admission Tickets: <https://herndontheatre.org/tickets/> In Advance Online: \$10/student/child and \$12/adult; No Service Charge.

At Door: \$12/student/child and \$15/adult. "Behind the Seas," Children's Program, 1-1:45 p.m. on Sunday, July 29. Register in advance by contacting HerndonTheatreBoosters@gmail.com

Production Leadership Team — includes adults and students

Director: Raphael Schklowsky, Theatre Director, Herndon High School

Vocal Director: Jane Waldrop,



Nina Manser, a rising senior at Westfields High, develops an evil plan with her sidekicks Flotsam and Jetsam, respectfully played by Kate Grover of Herndon High and Sofia Silvestri of Langley High.



Sebastian does not find Faith Hargadon, who plays Chef Louis, very funny. Here, Faith is already making plans on how to prepare a wonderful dish.

Music Teacher, Clearview Elementary School

Tech Director: Lukas Funke, FCPS Employee (and former Herndon High student)

Assistant Director & Choreographer: Erin Maxwell, Rising Senior, Herndon High School

Stage Manager: Gigi Henriquez, Rising Senior, Herndon High School

Orchestra Conductor: Jeremy Shoop, Director of Music Ministries, Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Costume Designer: Maria V. Bissex, Owner, MVB Costumes

PHOTOS BY RENEE MAXWELL



Karen Corbett Sanders



Ilryong Moon

School Board Names Chair, Vice Chair

The Fairfax County School Board has elected Karen Corbett Sanders (Mount Vernon District) as chair and Ilryong Moon (at-large) as vice chair for a one-year term. The chair and vice chair assumed office at the July 12 School Board meeting; they are elected by School Board members during the Board's annual organizational meeting.

"I am honored by my colleagues to be selected to serve as chair of the Fairfax County School Board," said Corbett Sanders. "We look forward to continuing the important work supporting our students and teachers as we implement our FCPS strategic plan. We will continue our focus on making the One Fairfax equity goals a reality, achieving excellence in education for every student in Fairfax County."

Born and raised in Fairfax County, Corbett Sanders is a retired international business executive, a community advocate for healthcare and education issues, past PTA president, and Odyssey of the Mind coach. She has served on boards of directors and operating committees for international telecommunications companies and, locally, on the quality board of Inova Children's Hospital and the regional board for Odyssey of the Mind. Corbett Sanders earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame and a master's degree from Boston University. She serves on the Dean's Advisory Board of Boston University's Wheelock School of Education and previously served on the parent advisory board of Creighton University. Corbett Sanders has

served on the School Board since 2016 and during the 2017-18 school year, she served as vice chair of the Board.

Moon is a partner with the law firm Moon, Park, and Associates, and earned his juris doctor degree from the Marshall-Wythe School of Law, College of William and Mary. He earned his bachelor of arts in East Asian studies from Harvard University. Moon is a member of the Annandale Rotary Club and has

served as a member of the Fairfax County Planning Commission, the Governor's Urban Policy Task Force, and the Virginia Advisory Committee of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. Previously, he served as a member of the Fairfax-Falls Church Regional Council of the United Way, the Community Service

Fund (Fairfax-Falls Church Region), and the United Way. He is a former ESOL student and father of two FCPS graduates. He served on the Board previously from July 1995 to 1999, and from January 2004-present. Moon served as Board chairman in 2006, 2012, and 2013, and as vice chair in 2005 and 2011.

In addition to the chair and vice chair, members of the Fairfax County School Board, whose terms run to 2019, are: Sandy Evans (Mason District), Karen Keys-Gamarra (at-large), Pat Hynes (Hunter Mill District), Tamara Derenak Kaufax (Lee District), Ryan McElveen (at-large), Megan McLaughlin (Braddock District), Dalia Palchik (Providence District), Jane Strauss (Dranesville District), Elizabeth Schultz (Springfield District), and Thomas Wilson (Sully District).

"We will continue our focus on making the One Fairfax equity goals a reality, achieving excellence in education for every student in Fairfax County."

—Karen Corbett Sanders

Arts Herndon Appoints Executive Director

The Board of Directors of Arts Herndon (AH) has announced the appointment of Joanna Ormesher as the new Executive Director.

Ormesher has worked as the Cultural Arts and Marketing Director for the City of Fairfax for fifteen years. A graduate of the University of Wales, she previously served as CEO of Profile Marketing Associates in Hampshire, United Kingdom for more than ten years, before relocating to the United States in 2003. In her position with the City of Fairfax, Ormesher initiated partnerships with art and tourism agencies to create sustainable revenue streams, procured major sponsorships and national grant awards, and created local, regional and statewide advertising programs. She served as Executive Director of Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts Festival, developing partnerships with community leaders, Fairfax County Public Schools, George Mason University, and Northern Virginia

Community College to encourage sponsorship and inclusion of more than 67 diverse events, and she led the City of Fairfax involvement in the 2015 World Police & Fire Games, fostering collaboration between community leaders and key decision makers.

"Joanna brings extensive professional experience as well as established networks and contacts to help lead and develop Arts Herndon as we move forward," Board member Don Owens says.

Michael O'Reilly, of the O'Reilly Law Firm and president of the Arts Herndon Board, welcomes Ormesher to Arts Herndon.

"Joanna brings not only a wealth of experience but also an enormous enthusiasm and vision for the future of the arts in Herndon. We believe that she will make a valuable contribution to the direction of Arts Herndon as we move forward."

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NEWS

Butler Appointed Chief of Fire and Rescue Department

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors appointed John S. Butler as the county's next Fire and Rescue Department chief. He succeeds Chief Richard Bowers, who retired in April. Butler's appointment is effective Sept. 1.

Butler has been with the Howard County, Md. Department of Fire and Rescue Services since 1993 and was appointed chief in 2014. He began as a firefighter-paramedic in Howard County, rising through the ranks to serve in a variety of roles with that department, including as battalion chief, emergency medical services chief and administrative chief. In addition to his firefighting experience, Butler served in the U.S. Marine Corps for 21 years, including two combat tours.

"After an extensive search including a community engagement process, Fairfax County is pleased to appoint Chief Butler to the position of Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Chief," said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova.

"He will have the opportunity to lead an elite world-renowned department and I look forward to working with him."

During his tenure in Howard County, Butler expanded services, hired the most diverse firefighter/paramedic trainee class in the department's history, helped establish the first and only local affiliate of

the International Association of Women in Fire and Emergency Services (iWomen), established numerous community outreach programs, led the construction of several fire stations and improved service delivery and response times.

"We had a number of strong candidates, however, Chief Butler demonstrated the leadership, vision and communications skills that will move our excellent Fire and Rescue Department forward," said County Executive Bryan Hill. "His proven experience and successful leadership at the helm of a large department will continue to strengthen our culture and contribute to a positive future for the department."

Butler holds a Master of Science in management from Johns Hopkins University and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Baltimore.

He is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program and holds a certificate from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government Leadership in Crisis Program. He is a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs Human Relations Committee and Maryland's Emergency Medical Services Board and is a 2014 recipient of Johns Hopkins University's Global Achievement Award for his humanitarian work in Africa.

He will receive an annual salary of \$201,878.77.



John S. Butler

Have a Ball at the Bocce Picnic

Northern Virginia Senior Olympics (NVSO) is gearing up with a free Bocce Picnic and Play event on Thursday, Aug. 2 at the host site for the 2018 bocce competition at Green Acres Center in the City of Fairfax. Medalists from past competitions are expected to be present at the picnic offering tips on bocce moves.

The event will be held by RSVP which is the region's largest volunteers group for those 55 years and older. They serve more than 30 of the local non-profit organizations and government agencies. To register for the event contact volunteer specialist Carly Hubicki at 703-403-5360 or www.rsvpnova.org.

This year's NVSO is scheduled to begin on Sept. 15 and conclude Sept. 25 with the bocce competition on Thursday, Sept. 20 at Green Acres. Registration for the NVSO events began in June and will end Aug. 24.

The NVSO is a joint project of the cities in Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun and Prince William. It includes more than 60 events from swimming and diving, track, pickle ball, bowling, golf to duplicate bridge with three new events added this year: canasta, croquet and beach ball wallyball. For a complete list of events visit www.nvso.us.



FILE PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION
Northern Virginia Senior Olympics
bocce competition

— SHIRLEY RUHE

BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 5

Community Information Meeting. 6:30 p.m. at the Hunter Mill District Office, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. The Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) will hold the next public information meeting on the Soapstone Connector project. The meeting will begin with an open house at 6:30 p.m., followed by a formal presentation at 7:15 p.m. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/projects/soapstone-connector for more.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 25

Online Reputation Management Strategies. 8:30-10 a.m. at Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, 886 Metro Center Drive, Suite 230, Reston. Having a positive online reputation is playing an increasingly important role in business success today. Rick Hogan, CEO and Co-Founder of Bleevit Interactive LLC, will provide a deep dive into online reputation management. \$15 for visitors; free for members. Visit www.restonchamber.org for more.

THROUGH AUG. 3

Public Comment Period. The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority is hosting three public hearings to inform and solicit comments from the community about proposed toll rate increases along the Dulles Toll Road. An "online open house" will be available at www.dullestollroad.com/toll/toll-setting-process throughout the comment period. It will contain an explanation of the informational exhibits and a comment form. Comments may also be submitted at the public hearings, via email to dtcomments@hntb.com or mailed during the comment period to: MWAA Public Comment Period, c/o HNTB, 2900 South Quincy St., Suite 600, Arlington, VA 22206.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 8

Is Your Website Wasting Time? 8:30-10 a.m. at Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, 886 Metro Center Drive, Suite 230, Reston. Jennifer Ferraro Randolph and Kevin Taylor, both of cbd-x, will explore the hidden power of the website's backend, and the benefits of tapping that power for small and medium-sized businesses. Visit restonchamber.org for more.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 15

Candidate Filing Deadline. 5 p.m. Reston Community Center (RCC) is seeking interested candidates to run for seats on its Board of Governors. The Board of Governors is a nine-member body responsible for oversight of RCC. All residents of Small District 5, ages 18 or older, are eligible to run for appointment to the RCC Board of Governors. Candidates must complete a Candidacy Statement in order to have their names placed on the Preference Poll ballot. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com or call 703-476-4500.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 22

2018-2019 Social Media Trends. 8:30-10 a.m. at Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, 886 Metro Center Drive, Suite 230, Reston. With 4 billion people around the world now online, new digital behaviors are emerging. To keep up, business owners need to rethink their strategies, create new capabilities, and quickly adapt. Rachel Adler will present her expert analysis of the major trends in digital and social and share how businesses can take advantage of the biggest opportunities in 2018 into 2019. Visit restonchamber.org for more.

SUPPORT GROUPS

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.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html.

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Comparatively Speaking



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

After writing such an emotional column last week ("A Relative Unknown"), I'm having a little trouble finding footing for my pen for this week's column.

It reminds me of thoughts I had about continuing to write my "Everything in general about nothing in particular"-themed columns – which I had published in The Connection from December 1997 through May 2009, after I received my terminal cancer diagnosis in late February, 2009. How could I continue to write such lightweight nonsense after being given a "13 month to two-year" prognosis?

Not that my intention writing forward was ever to immerse you regular readers in self-indulgent Kenny at his self-important worst. Hardly. It was more that I had a need and apparently, an ability, to write about my cancer experiences with a similarly light touch as I had previously done so discussing everyday topics dating back 12 years or so.

Those columns, as you incredibly regular readers may recall, ranged from the sublime to the ridiculous, including everything in between. However, they never mentioned politics, current events, personalities in the news or anything of substance, quite frankly.

To give you a few examples: "Armed and Dangerous," a column about drivers who drive with their left arms hanging out the driver's side window (one of my mother's favorites); "Sole Man," a column about seeing so many single shoes lying by the side of the road; "Registering a Complaint," a column about the new (at the time) self-checkout registers at supermarkets; and "Victim of 'Soycumbstance,'" a column about why there are always so many packets of soy sauce in Chinese carry-out, and so many more, hundreds in fact, about "everything in general ...".

For me, they were – and continue to be, an amusing diversion/avocation which enabled me to pursue my passion and dream about writing a syndicated climate from a warm climate, preferably one with an ocean view, while maintaining my day job. A day job which I still maintain. And though the challenge for maintaining both may be greater now than ever, us true believers in the newspaper business will continue to read and write as best we can, in print and online.

Now, throw in a cancer diagnosis, which at the outset was extremely discouraging, and you might wonder how any of this makes sense. Well, perhaps it didn't. But perhaps having tasks and responsibilities was exactly the kind of regularity that a cancer patient given a rather grim prognosis needed, consciously, and maybe more importantly, subconsciously.

Somewhere in my head (or wherever one's subconscious exists) going on about life as if nothing was particularly life threatening (heck, more like life ending, at age 54 and a half, no less) perhaps was the kind of antidote my body needed. Though told then – and now, that there's no cure for what ails me: non-small lung cancer, stage IV, nevertheless, I am still alive nine-plus years later, "advocating" and "vocating."

However, maintaining my status quo; reading, writing and "rithmeticking" doesn't generally make me cry as writing last week's column did. And in living long enough to experience what I wrote about last week, I am always grateful to whomever/whatever power is responsible for yours truly being here, there and everywhere (also a reference to the name of the first song, by The Beatles, that Dina and I danced to as husband and wife).

Amazingly, life goes on, as does this column. But fortunately, for you irregular readers, not for much longer.

Have written this far, I think I've transitioned now from an extremely emotional experience: meeting my cousin from Argentina to an un-emotional/normal one: life in the mundane and boring Kenny lane. A lane I hope to continue to travel. At least I hope so, anyway.

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



Bryce Harper participates in dedication of an All-Star Complex bearing his name at Fred Crabtree Park in Herndon. Harper won the MLB Home Run Derby on Monday night.



PHOTO POSTED ON FACEBOOK KENNETH R. PLUM

Delegate Kenneth R. Plum (D-36) congratulates Bryce Harper, professional baseball right fielder for the Washington Nationals of Major League Baseball at the Bryce Harper All-Star Complex Dedication held Monday, July 16 in Herndon.

Bryce Harper Comes to Herndon

Bryce Harper dedicates an All-Star Complex bearing his name at Fred Crabtree Park in Herndon before winning the Home Run Derby.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Before Bryce Harper won the 2018 MLB Home Run Derby on Monday night on national TV, he spent time in Herndon. Fairfax County Park Authority announced Monday, July 16 on twitter: "All-star Bryce Harper is dedicated. And now, so is the Bryce Harper All-Star Complex in Herndon, VA. Great morning celebrating baseball, teamwork and future all-stars!" The Fairfax County Park Authority, Major League Baseball, the Nationals and the Dream Foundation worked to renovate two youth baseball fields at Fred Crabtree Park located at 2801 Fox Mill Road, Herndon, near Harper's home in Northern Virginia. The park was possible



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

The new Bryce Harper All-Star Complex is located at 2801 Fox Mill Road, Herndon, adjacent to Crossfield Elementary School. The complex is within the Fred Crabtree Park operated by Fairfax County Park Authority.

thanks in part to what was described as a generous donation from the outfielder himself, according to MLB News.

"Growing up, you always wondered what field you were going to play at, and seeing that you were playing at a nice field that day, there was nothing better," Harper said

after he took pictures and showed off his cleats for the Home Run Derby with kids in attendance, according to MLB News. "Being able to have these kids play at my field each and every night is pretty incredible. Very excited for them."

Among the many attendees, Monday



The two newly renovated youth baseball fields at the Bryce Harper All-Star Complex are a welcome addition to Fred Crabtree Park operated by Fairfax County Park Authority.

morning was Ken Plum, Virginia State Delegate for District 36. Plum congratulated all involved in the partnership to make it a reality and part of the 2018 All-Star Legacy Initiative. "Could not find a better role model for children than Bryce Harper and baseball for building character," Plum said.

AREA ROUNDUPS

Investigating Bank Robbery in Herndon

Fairfax County Police are investigating a July 11 bank robbery at the BB&T in the 2100 block of Centreville Road in Herndon. Officers in the area searched for a suspect who has initially been described as a 5'9" black male, thin build, in jeans and wearing a black baseball hat and jacket according to FCPD Media Relations Bureau.

Two Dead in Car Crash, Detectives Asking for Public's Help

Detectives are looking for witnesses to an early morning crash on Sunday, July 15, that killed two people and injured two others. Tonnisha McCoy, 21, of Sterling, and Joselyn Herndon, 23, of Reston, were pronounced

dead at the scene. Officers responded to the accident around 2 a.m. Sunday on the Fairfax County Parkway near Walnut Branch Road. Preliminarily, it appears that a 2004 Acura MDX was traveling northbound on the Fairfax County Parkway when the incident occurred. The driver lost control and the vehicle rotated and left the roadway. At least one other vehicle was on scene during the crash and stayed when officers arrived. Detectives believe speed and alcohol may have been factors. Due to the complex nature of the investigation, detectives are asking anyone who may have

witnessed the crash or has information to call 703-280-0564. Tips can be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by visiting <http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org>, or calling 1-866-411-TIPS. They can also be sent in via text by texting "TIP187" plus the message to CRIMES (274637). Text STOP to 274637 to cancel, or HELP to 274637 for help. Message and data rates may apply. Anonymous tipsters are eligible for cash rewards of \$100 to \$1000 if their information leads to an arrest.