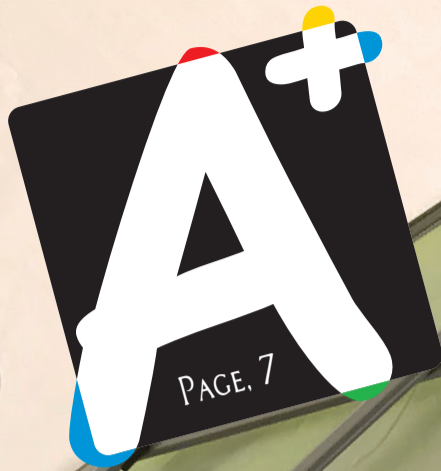


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Reston CONNECTION

‘Out Evil Plant, I Say!’

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Group Sessions Focus On Reston Rezoning

NEWS, PAGE 3

Area to Get New Arts Venues

NEWS, PAGE 12

From left -- Boy Scout John Foong, 16, of Oak Hill explains his Eagle Scout Project to Clara Rainhart of Reston and her sisters, Meredith and Rebecca at the Reston Farmers Market on Saturday, July 14. Foong seeks volunteers of all ages to help with the eradication of the non-native invasive plant in Frying Pan Farm Park.

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Can Development and Infrastructure Concerns Make Peace?

'Small Workgroup Sessions' on the PRC Zoning Amendment start this week.

By MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Nearly nine months after a crowd of 700 Restonians turned out at South Lakes High School to oppose a proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment by Fairfax County, this week and during the remaining weeks in July, representatives from Reston Association (RA) and the Coalition for a Planned Reston (CPR) will engage in four 'Small Workgroup Sessions,' at for representatives from Fairfax County Planning Staff and Public Schools.

Two days before the first session began, Sridhar Ganesan, Vice President of RA commented about his expectations for the sessions in an online interview.

"Reston Association is excited to get started with the small group meetings with Fairfax County and other stakeholder organizations such as Coalition for Planned Reston (CPR). In response to the County's proposal to increase PRC density, we asked for these upcoming small group meetings to learn in detail the County's implementation plans, schedule and funding to support our needs in critical areas such as transportation infrastructure, parks and recreation, and public facilities infrastructure including schools. RA hopes that through this process, we will also be able to address other points that we have raised in our November 2017 letter to Supervisor Cathy Hudgins. We look forward to a strong engagement over the next several months and reporting to our membership on the outcomes," said Ganesan.

DURING THE SESSIONS, Fairfax County staff and representatives will address questions asked by RA, Coalition, and stakeholders in Reston focused on four key concerns previously identified by RA and Coalition as related to the proposed amendment and their implications on public facilities and infrastructure which serve Reston.

The four designated areas of concern are transportation, parks and open space, public infrastructure including school capacity, and overall planning and land use. Although the sessions will be open to the public for viewing only, seating is very limited; however, sessions will be taped or live streamed.

The idea for the sessions came about in an attempt to keep the dialogue open between RA, Coalition and the County, as related to the proposed amendment and citizens' concerns. The apparent hope for all parties is to reach a mutually agreeable plan.

In the current version of the amendment,



CONNECTION FILE PHOTO

Restonians turned out last October to oppose proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment by Fairfax County.

County staff has proposed two key changes. The first is to raise the overall population cap on PRC zoned parts of Reston from its current 13 persons per acre to a maximum of 16 persons per acre, allowing for, as RA reported on April 11, 2018, in an online statement, "Reston's population to more than double."

County staff also proposes that in any "High-Density Multi-Family" areas zoned PRC, to allow 50+ dwellings per acre. RA stated on April 11, 2018, this would effectively leave "the upper limit (of density) to the County Board of Supervisors' discretion on a case-by-case basis." RA and the Coalition believe such changes would create an unsustainable burden on Reston's infrastructure.

"Reston is only Reston if it remains a planned community. We welcome new people and new ideas but strongly believe that promises of supporting infrastructure must be kept in order to preserve our 'live, work and play' philosophy for future generations," said Dennis Hayes, president of Reston Citizens Association, one of the three organizations, which comprise CPR, wrote in an email dated July 12. "A plan that can

be changed at any time, especially unilaterally, is not a real plan."

The invitation to attend the 'Small Workgroup Sessions' and the county's acceptance came after a flurry of letters and emails following last fall's standing room only public hearings held by the county to address the proposed amendment. According to RA, the sessions will be open to the public for viewing only. Seating for observers is very limited.

SESSIONS will be taped or live streamed. RA announced the PRC Zoning Amendment work session meeting dates, topics, and locations are as follows (all meetings at 6 p.m.):

❖ Session 1 - Transportation, scheduled for Tuesday, July 17 at 12005 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Conference Room. This session will be taped and available for viewing later.

❖ Session 2 - Parks and Open Space, scheduled for Wednesday, July 18 at 12005 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Conference Room. This session will be live streamed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oO9H4xdz3l0>.

❖ Session 3 - Public Infrastructure, Schools/Public Facilities, scheduled for Tuesday, July 24 at 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Reston Association Conference Center. This session will be live streamed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kRwckgPFqzQ>.

❖ Session 4 - Overall Planning and Village Centers, scheduled for Monday, July 30, at 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Reston Association Conference Center with live streaming at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HOvXI_bnhcg.

On May 14, 2018, representatives of RA and CPR met with Supervisor Catherine Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) and Fairfax County staff to resume earlier discussions on modifications to the Reston Master Plan they believed would eliminate the need for the County's proposed amendments to the zoning ordinance increasing the density cap in the PRC district.

In their June 2018, "CPR Update" available online, CPR stated it believed reasonable changes to the Master Plan would eliminate the County's perceived need for the proposed amendments to the zoning ordinance.

Earlier this spring, Fred Selden, the Director of the Department of Planning and Zoning of Fairfax County, sent a letter to Supervisor Hudgins regarding the proposed amendment. In the letter, Selden told that County staff was open to clarifying several areas in the Reston Master Plan and would work with the Reston community but added: "staff does not support the proposed changes to the Reston Master Plan that would affect land use, density or intensity recommendations."

"In attending the small group meeting, I would hope that the community will be better informed how the impact of development will be mitigated, including such areas as transportation, schools, parks, environment and affordable housing and others. I would hope the information would bring great understanding."

AREA ROUNDUPS

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 wit-

nessed 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.

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.

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.

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-

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

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Reston
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A Budget Surplus?

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

Newspaper headlines last week declared "State posts surplus of more than \$500 million." Such headlines about a "surplus" in Virginia's budget appear with some regularity. I checked the meaning of "surplus" the old-fashioned way — in Webster's Dictionary: "an amount or quantity in excess of what is needed."

Hardly is the term surplus applicable to Virginia's current situation. More accurately the excess cash the state had on the day it finalized its books should be termed an unappropriated balance or an amount of revenues received beyond the forecasted amount.

Why is the distinction I am making important? To suggest that the state has a surplus of money over what it needs is to totally discount unmet needs in the state that do not even make their way into budget consideration. It would be nice to have more money than needed allowing all taxpayers to get a refund. It is also important that the state not have to go into debt to meet current obligations. A full assessment of the cost of government if the state met its clear obligations has never been made to my knowledge. Such an assessment would allow for an honest discussion of whether the state has a temporary receipt of cash beyond what it expected or has a surplus of cash beyond what it needs. I have ranted in this space before about my concern with the misleading way the state handles its budgeting.

I believe one example will make my point that there is no reasonable way the state could be con-

sidered to have a surplus when there are such outstanding unmet needs in the areas for which the state has a responsibility—that example is funding for public schools. On the same day that the half billion dollar "surplus" was announced, The Commonwealth Institute issued a report, "State K-12 Funding in Virginia: Incremental Progress and Opportunities for Long-Term Solutions," that found that if public schools were funded today at the same level they were in 2009 an additional three-quarter billion dollars would have been provided—all the surplus and about half that amount more.

Instead, school staffing in Virginia has declined by 1,242 positions while enrollment has increased by more than 50,000 students since 2009. A promise by the state to fund fifty-five percent of the cost of public schools with localities picking up the remaining forty-five percent has been flipped with localities having to pick up a much greater amount since the recession. Virginia ranks forty among the fifty states in the state funding it provides for public schools.

This example focuses on the inadequacy of the level of public school funding, but other examples could be given in the areas of mental health services and public health and safety. The conservative approach of forecasting revenue and the tight limitation on spending will keep Virginia with a more than balanced budget. If realistic state responsibilities were factored in, we could have a realistic balanced budget. Instead, we have underfunded programs and services with persons scratching their heads wondering how we could have a surplus with so much more left to do.

LETTERS

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 students 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.'

Questioning Cost Benefit of the Pool Renovation

To the Editor:

Andrea Worker's article of Wednesday June 27, 2018 (Reston Community Holds Annual Meeting) noted that questions that I had asked during the meeting were satisfactorily answered. While RCC staff answered my questions, that's not the real issue. The cost benefit of the pool renovation remains nebulous – what percent of the community will benefit for the costs incurred.

By comparison with the local Special Tax District, the \$5 million being spent by the McLean Community Center will provide an additional 7,500 square feet of new space, an art studio, updated meeting rooms and community

room, lobby and rehearsal space as well as needed administrative space. RCC's pool renovation which started as a \$1.5 million update of dated pool equipment has expanded to its present estimated cost of \$5.542 mm. The attractive improvements will certainly be welcomed by its existing users, but the footprint / capacity of the pool will not increase even at a current estimated cost of \$5.542 million. The RCC Board and staff may be preparing the community for a material cost increase in the near term.

The cost of the project will be borne by the RCC's reserve being drawn down from its present level. While the reserve is reported to be adequate to absorb

the pool renovation costs, RCC staff reported that there is currently no floor (percent or dollar amount) below which the reserve could fall. The reserve will have to be replenished primarily by net revenue after expenses over time. Assuming that RCC revenues and expenses move in the same direction and in the same magnitude as they have in the recent past, it will take about 13 years to rebuild the reserve to its present level. What might happen if a major system fails? Could the Special Tax District tax assessment rise; will pool programs be cut or their cost to members rise?

Robert Petrine
Reston

RCC Response: A Sound Investment

To the Editor:

As noted to Mr. Petrine at the meeting he attended, Reston Community Center (RCC) undertook the renovation of the RCC Terry L. Smith Aquatics Center after months of engagement with the community and our patrons. It is a project designed to serve the needs articulated to us and that we ascertained from considerable market research we (and others) have conducted in the past several years. The needs of the McLean community and Reston community are not analogous and don't represent the best comparison of the value of each of our capital project plans to our respective communities. We are confident that the project we are planning will benefit our community greatly and prove to be a project prudently undertaken, as well as appropriately planned and funded.

In response to Mr. Petrine's concerns identified in his letter to the editor regarding our renovation project, published in The Reston Connection (online edition) on July 11, I offer the following:

1. The reserves of RCC are identified to cover capital facility projects (to a maximum level of \$3M), catastrophic maintenance issues (12 percent of revenue), feasibility studies (2 percent of revenue) and economic/program contingencies (remaining balance). Our reserves will remain at combined levels of more than \$1 million throughout the period of the aquatics project renovation (FY19 and FY20) and assigned consistent with the above formulas and limits. For the period of the construction, it is possible that we will not fund the fourth reserve category or reach the ceiling of the capital project reserve.

2. Replenishment of our reserves will occur at a pace that will amply provide for the mandated levels of each reserve account. It is not financially sound for us to simply accumulate reserve funds – the purposes of those funds are to be addressed by them when needed. We tackle capital project needs in order of their priority and potential to continue to serve our community and mission. It's not appropriate to carry such a high level of reserves as had accumulated by FY17; we examined our capital project and facility needs in FY17 to determine the best way to use reserves to meet them. With an annual core budget of roughly \$7M, we should use reserves in excess of the reserve account parameters to serve our community and mission, not to accumulate funds above the mandated levels.

3. Fairfax County Government has ascertained that construction estimates of the recent past may escalate by a factor of roughly 20 percent due to the current circumstances affecting that industry – labor/materials shortages due to hurricane recovery, high levels of regional construction and potential impacts of new tariffs. Given that parameter, we prudently will reassign savings from our FY18 budget to the renovation project to cover potential new estimated construction costs. During FY18, RCC experienced an unusual level of position vacancies due to retirements and relocations – in addition, we achieved our typical annual savings due to programmatic fluctuations; thus, we experienced substantial savings that we will redirect to the pool project. We will not need to use any additional funds from reserves to absorb the added cost.

4. The renovation project will convert our current single pool to a two-pool solution that will greatly expand our capacity to serve patrons. The objectives of the renovation project are to accomplish these outcomes:

- Replacement of all legacy equipment systems (the original funding allocation to do that had been estimated to total roughly \$1.5M)
- Separation of bodies of water to allow for two separate temperatures that will better meet the needs of the different communities of swimmers.
- The combined capacity of the two new pools roughly doubles our existing capacity – the added capacity comes from subtracted deck space that goes largely unused in the current configuration.
- Improved participation as a result of the substantive upgrades and improvements in the overall aquatic facility profile of the Terry L. Smith Aquatics Center.

e. Replacement of the roof over the aquatics environment as a function of the project rather than as a separate project which will save money and down time.

It was a pleasure to meet Mr. Petrine at our Annual Public Hearing in June and to respond to his inquiries there. We are always glad to hear from constituents and to explore their ideas, input and concerns. We welcome everyone to follow this and all of RCC's programs, services and projects through our website, meetings and publications. Comments can be addressed to us at RCCContact@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Leila Gordon
Executive Director
Reston Community Center

'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."



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

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

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

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 perspective 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.

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

— **Barbara Marshall, Montgomery College**

Recommendations

For audio book reviews and suggestions:
www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/notalists/ncr

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PET Connection

Publishes: July 25, 2018 • Ads close: July 19, 2018

Connection readers love their pets. This keepsake edition will feature photos, anecdotes, advice and more about beloved family pets.

The Pet Connection will publish on July 25, 2018, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by July 19.

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

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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

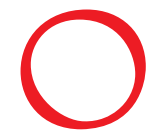
Impressions Theatre: Tom Sawyer. 2:30 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Tom and Huck's adventures take them to Paris, Rome and Egypt as they search for pieces of famous monuments. Cosponsored by the FGMRL. Age 6-12. No registration required. Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov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



On June 28, the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce hosted its Annual Meeting and Awards for Chamber Excellence (ACE) Luncheon. During the luncheon the Chamber recognized companies and individuals who demonstrated excellence, industry innovation and Chamber support throughout the year. The Chamber also recognized member milestone anniversaries, installed its new board members and heard from Stephen Moret, who shared the economic outlook for Virginia with a focus on Northern Virginia.

Charlene Wheelless, Vice President, Bechtel Corporation addressed the membership as the new Board Chair. She spoke about her vision for the Chamber's upcoming year including setting a theme of diversity and inclusion for all potential member companies.

Supervisor Cathy Hudgins administered the oath of office to incoming Board members, who

included:

- ❖ Joe Becker, Not Your Average Joe's
- ❖ Kendall Coleman, CST Group
- ❖ Jennifer Elgin, Bean Kinney & Korman
- ❖ Andy Klaff, Newmark Grubb Knight Frank
- ❖ Shane Murphy, Reed Smith, LLP
- ❖ Michael Raiken, MillerMusmar
- ❖ Tom Smith, Sheraton Reston
- ❖ Gordon Thrall, Guernsey Office Supplies
- ❖ Monica Tressler, Sandy Spring Bank
- ❖ Dr. Carrie Welch, ComfortWorks

Each year, through the presentation of Awards of Chamber Excellence, the Chamber recognizes outstanding businesses, volunteers and committees that are leaders in their industry and support the mission of the Reston Chamber. The Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce presented the winners of this year's Awards for Chamber



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Chamber recognized companies and individuals who demonstrated excellence, industry innovation and Chamber support throughout the year.

Excellence:

- ❖ Committee of the Year: NoVA B2G Matchmaking Conference Steering Committee
- ❖ Small Business of the Year: Tagence
- ❖ Medium Business of the Year: AOC Key Solutions
- ❖ Large Business of the Year: SOS International (SOSi)
- ❖ Member of the Year: Dave and Joanne Adams, Dave and

Joanne Adams Group

- ❖ New Member of the Year: Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant
- ❖ Volunteer of the Year: Omicron Kappa Kappa (OKK) Foundation
- ❖ Young Professional of the Year: Colin May, KME.digital
- ❖ President's Award: Tom Madden, Visual Impact Productions

❖ Pinnacle Award: Charles Kapur, Access National Bank

The Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce is the catalyst for business growth and entrepreneurship by providing quality programs, education, connections and advocacy for our members and organizations in Western Fairfax and the Dulles Corridor. Learn more at www.RestonChamber.org.

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



Moon

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).



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

Announcements

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

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BULLETIN BOARD

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

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.

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.

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<p>Find us on Facebook and become a fan! www.Facebook.com/connectionnewspapers THE CONNECTION Newspapers & Online The Connection to Your Community www.connectionnewspapers.com</p>	<p>An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them. -Werner Heisenberg</p>	

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 'Soycumstance,'" 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.

Area to Get New Arts and Cultural Venues

Conversation with ARTSFAIRFAX'S Linda Sullivan.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

The arts are a big business in Fairfax County. "We're seeing an increased recognition to the value the arts bring to our region. The arts attract and inspire a strong workforce, help educate our children, entertain us, and enhance our communities," said Linda Sullivan, CEO and President of ARTSFAIRFAX.

ARTSFAIRFAX is the organization that helps support the arts and provides a voice for the arts in Fairfax County.

There are about 250 arts organizations, big and small in Fairfax County according to ARTSFAIRFAX. A recent study developed by Americans for the Arts in collaboration with ARTSFAIRFAX indicated that more than \$270 million is generated annually in economic activity from the arts and culture industry in Fairfax. Additionally more than \$9.0 million of local government revenue is generated and more than 6,200 full-time equivalent jobs supported.

Yet more can be accomplished. "Fairfax County has always had many outstanding arts organizations but with a shortage of arts venues they have not been as visible as they might be in other communities." For



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARTSFAIRFAX

Proposed Capital One Center



**Linda Sullivan,
CEO and President
ARTSFAIRFAX**

PHOTO BY
NESHAN NALTCHAYAN/
COURTESY OF
ARTSFAIRFAX

smaller non-profits arts and cultural organization, what may have been an issue "is the lack of professional arts venues that can accommodate audience growth, and lower than regional average financial support that can help an organization enhance its programs and productions.

In terms of cultural facilities, Fairfax County is working to match other communities with more than 1 million populations which may have larger cultural facility infrastructures. "The county grew rapidly over a relatively short period of time, that the focus had to attend to roads, schools, and other infrastructure. Now, with a large, diverse and growing population, it's the cultural infrastructure that will help communities, and the entire county, to thrive," said Sullivan.

Sullivan indicated that in the Tysons area there is heightened interest in developing arts and cultural facilities. As examples, she mentioned the Capital One Center (McLean Metro) that will include several performance spaces for live productions and a rooftop green space for outdoor music and small performances. Additional arts facility development is anticipated in Tysons with a performing and visual arts venues in early planning for The View development near the Spring Hill Silver Line.

Herndon is developing a major arts facility and an arts education center called the Floris Arts Conservatory is to be built along Frying Pan Park.

"We are seeing an increased recognition to the value the arts bring to our region," said Sullivan.



Children get ready to swim at a previous Reston Kids Triathlon.

Reston Kids Triathlon Returns on Aug. 5

The 8th Annual Reston Kids Triathlon will be held on Sunday, Aug. 5, 8 a.m. The race is open to all youth in the DMV area ages 6-14. The event is co-sponsored by Reston Association and YMCA-Fairfax

County, Reston. All net proceeds benefit youth scholarship programming at both organizations. Registration is now open at restonkidstri.org or contact 703-435-6530/aquaticsinfo@reston.org.

PHOTOS BY WILLIAM O'BRIEN



Children sprint toward the finish line during a previous Reston Kids Triathlon.