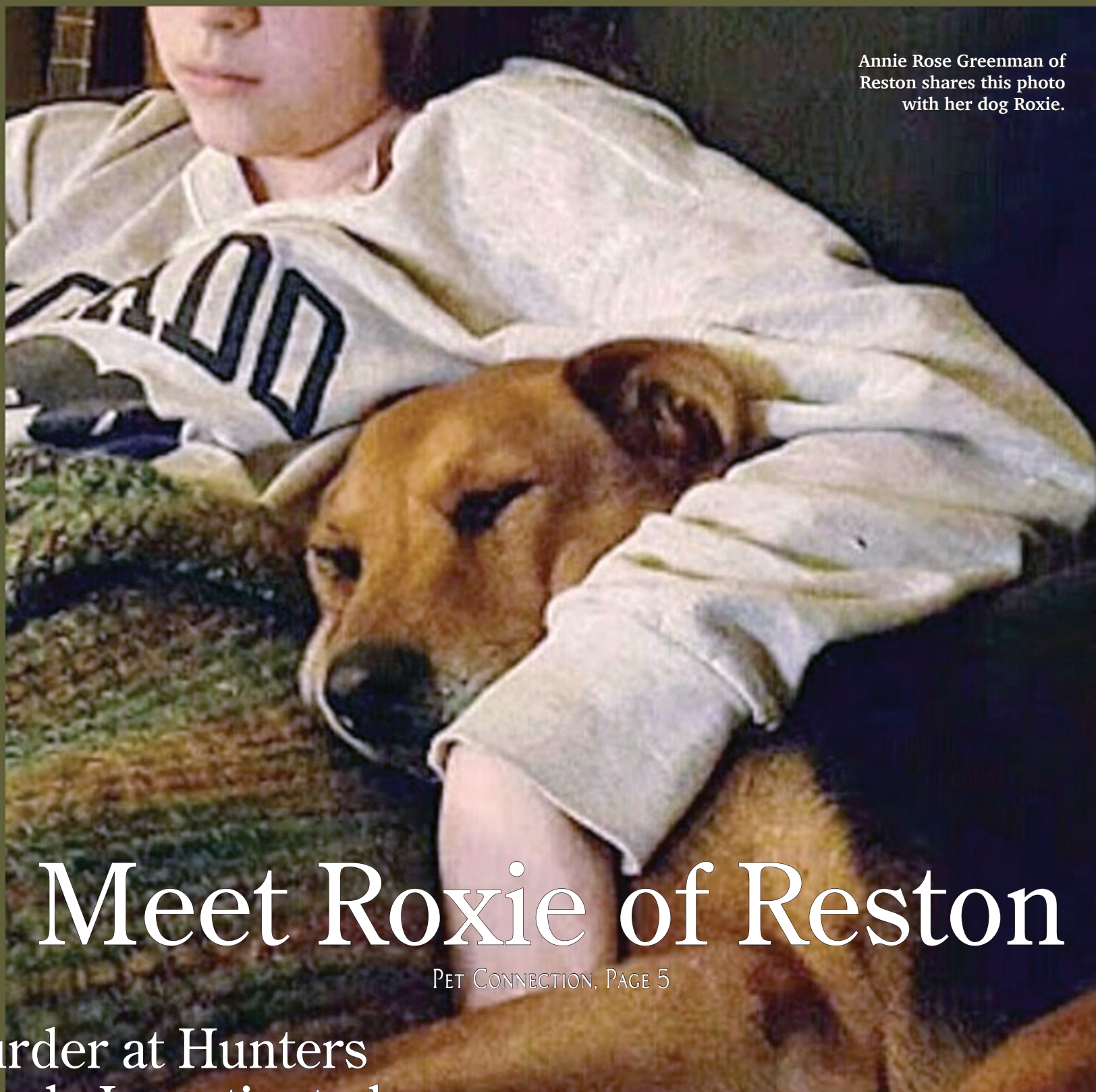


Reston CONNECTION

Inside
PET CONNECTION

Annie Rose Greenman of
Reston shares this photo
with her dog Roxie.



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Murder at Hunters Woods Investigated

Hudgins holds Community Meeting to assure residents.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

In response to citizen concern regarding the investigation of the suspicious death of Jose Lorenzo Guillen Mejia, 24, of Reston, found dead early Sunday morning, June 23 near a walking trail between Hunters Woods Plaza and Breton Court, Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) held a Community Meeting at Reston Community Center at Hunters Woods Monday evening July 29.

Resident Melanie Meren said, "Providing an opportunity for residents to ask questions, voice concerns, and share ideas with county police and leaders encourages the kind of community that's cultivated daily in Reston and Hunter Mill. We all want to live without gun violence and the tragic loss of life."

SUPERVISOR HUDGINS opened the community meeting describing the murder of Mejia as a "horrific." "I appreciate your support," said Hudgins.

Lieutenant Michael A. Shamblin of the Fairfax County Police Department provided an update on the investigation. Officers arrived a little before 1:45 that morning after at least three different residents called and reported gunfire. Officers began searching the area and walked the paths, eventually locating Mejia deceased.

According to Shamblin, detectives from the Fairfax County Police Department's Major Crimes Division processed the scene for the better part of three days. They found, he believed, 29 shell casings from "a couple of different firearms." He said that since that time, the department conducted hundreds of interviews and processed hundreds of pieces of forensic evidence.

"It's a slow, methodical process," Shamblin said. He stressed while there were no witnesses to the murder "to point them in the right direction," they were getting closer every day. Shamblin emphasized, "It's a priority for the Major Crimes Bureau."

"If you know anything or think you know anything, please call and talk to a detective," Shamblin urged attendees. He added that the caller could remain anonymous. "The information you have may be what turns this case and breaks it for us. We need the public's help," he said.

Asked by an audience member if the murder could be a gang initiation, Shamblin responded, "We have not seen gang initiated killings in Reston." Another person asked about behavior seen in the area such as drinking and loitering, which might be related to the murder and asked what Reston District Station was doing.

Lieutenant Karen Maslona, Assistant Commander Reston District Station of the Fairfax County Police Department answered

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Attendees at the Community Meeting held Monday, July 29 at 7 p.m. at Reston Community Center Hunters Woods called by Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins in response to the suspicious death investigation of Jose Lorenzo Guillen Mejia, 24, of Reston.



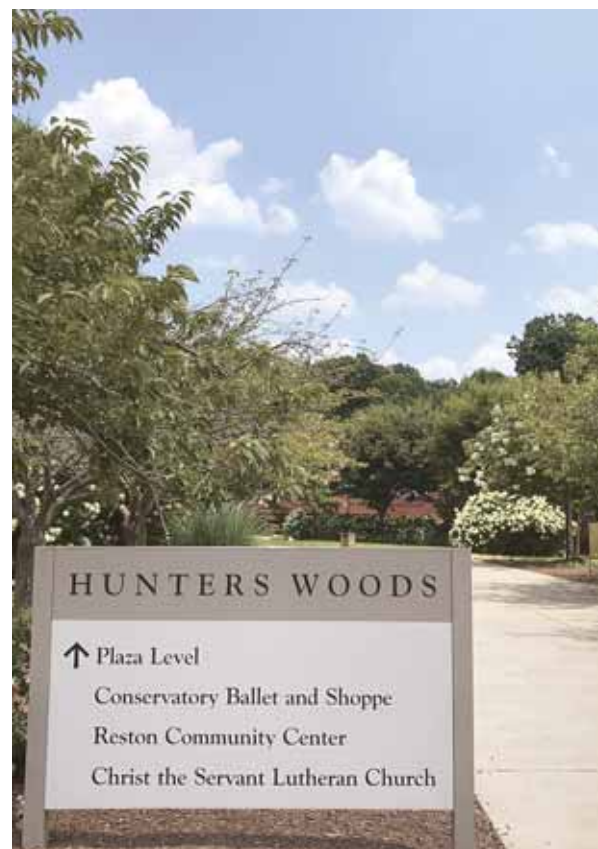
Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill).



Lieutenant Karen Maslona, Assistant Commander Reston District Police Station.

that before the murder, its Neighborhood Patrol unit had already set up a plan to provide walking and bike patrols, both in uniform and plainclothes. "They were working this night, but this happened after they left for the evening," she said. According to Lt. Maslona, since the incident, the station extended its patrol unit until 2 in the morning.

Asked if the death was gang-related,



Sidewalk leading to Hunters Woods Plaza and paths.

Shamblin stated he could not answer definitively. "It's still an avenue of investigation we are looking at," he said. However, Shamblin added that to their knowledge, the victim was not a gang member.

Asked how many weapons and what kinds, Shamblin stated that there were at least two different firearms fired, "two different calibers," but did not believe either was an automatic weapon.

Multiple citizens questioned the presence of people living under the bridges and an encampment behind the Lutheran Church. Maslona stated they were residents of Reston coming and going and confirmed there was no encampment anymore behind Christ the Servant Lutheran Church.

Private First Class Katy Defoe, Crime Prevention Officer Reston District Station clarified Reston Association (RA) owned the trails, and there was no way for the police to enforce a curfew on a property that doesn't belong to the state. She stressed that trail curfew was a question for RA, and although the trails were private property, they were open for the public to use. "When we stop and identify people, we discover they have Reston addresses, which means they are using the property just like everybody else in Reston has the ability and right to use that property."

Leila Gordon, Executive Director of Reston Community Center since 1983 and representative for Hunters Woods Neighborhood Coalition attempted to dispel the public's perception of Hunters Woods as unsafe from both a personal viewpoint and data-driven viewpoint. "I have worked here all hours, day and night... I never had a situation that felt dangerous to me in all those years... I can count on one hand the number of incidents that have involved an attack on another human being in this area in all those years... From a factual basis, a data basis, Hunters Woods like Reston, is one of the safest places you can possibly be. Reston has the enviable status as they pointed out earlier as having the lowest number of crime incidences of any district station in Fairfax County... a very safe county," she said.

GORDON said ten years ago Reston Association, Reston Community Center, Fairfax County Police Department, Cornerstones, Christ the Servant Lutheran Church and the property owner Edens formed HWNC. According to Gordon, all of them got together because of concern about the public's perception and fear observing folks who congregate, hang out together, and who may have been drinking or not, some without fixed addresses at that time.

Gordon shared three strategies HWNC developed to decrease the level of fear. "(First), you can walk without looking at a phone or talking on a phone, and with a friend. Two is that if you have a vehicle, and you park it here, you should lock it. ... The third thing you can do is, as said earlier this evening, if something is wrong when you feel it in your gut, you see it, you feel it, call. That's when you should use your phone if something is wrong that makes you feel threatened, unsafe. ... Call 911."

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by visiting www.fairfaxcountysolvers.org or calling 1-866-411-TIPS (8477). They can also be sent by texting, "TIP187 plus the message to CRIMES (274637).

OPINION

Beginning of Representative Government in America

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

Four hundred years ago yesterday, July 30, 1619, a group of 22 colonists met in the wooden and mud church on Jamestown Island as instructed by the investors of the colony "to establish one equal and uniform government over all Virginia" and to provide "just laws for the happy guiding and governing of the people there inhabiting." They adjourned on Aug. 4. That event is variously described as the beginning of representative government in America and as the beginning of the oldest continuous law-making body in the western hemisphere. It merits the commemoration it is receiving.

In order to fully understand the importance of a signature event as this one, I believe it is important to put it into perspective as our knowledge of what happened afterwards allows us to do. While termed the beginning of representative government, the first legislative meeting was anything but representative. Only white males could vote or serve in the Assem-



bly. The indigenous people — called Indians because one of the purposes of sailing to this new world was to find a shorter route to India — were not able to participate even though they had inhabited the land for at least 15,000 years.

Not only were they kept out of the Assembly, they were forced off their lands where they had their homes, governance, religion, and farms. In less than a half century the immigrants had taken over the land and displaced the indigenous people.

Nor could women take part in that first Assembly because they did not arrive in Virginia until 1619 and did not secure the vote until three centuries later!

Enslaved people from Africa did not arrive in the colony until 1619 and not only were they not in the First Assembly but they were the subject of laws in subsequent sessions of oppressive slave codes that denied them basic human rights. It was necessary in the beginnings of the Assembly to belong to and pay taxes to the established church.

The history of Virginia and of America has been to move from this humble beginning and through decades and centuries of events to evolve into what is more closely a representative government. The planners of the events surrounding 1619 have correctly I believe termed it "evolution." Contrary to what some may have us believe, our state and our country did not start out meeting the ideals and vision that we have. We have built on a humble beginning to evolve into the country we are today.

I trust that this important celebration will not be allowed to be taken over by an ignorance of what happened at Jamestowne and turned into a biased partisan view to justify the terrible actions of government today against people of color, people from other lands, and people in the LGBTQ communities. We do not need to try to return to a past that was much more imperfect than we sometimes care to admit. I am attending the Commemorative Session of the General Assembly to learn more about the past and how we can learn from our experiences and evolve further into a more perfect union. I will not be attending the session with POTUS.

Hopeful for Reston Association

BY JOHN LOVAAS
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST

Change is in the air in Reston this summer. Supervisor Cathy Hudgins is quietly completing her tenure of twenty years. Her replacement will be Walter Alcorn, who stands unopposed for the election in November. He'll be sworn in to take her place in January. Walter is quite experienced in a big part of her job — land use planning and development — having served 16 years as a political appointee on the Fairfax County Planning Commission. He brings a thoughtful competence to the job, and the transition from Cathy to Walter should be seamless.

The first major action we can expect will be the re-opening of the Reston Master Plan with a view to reducing density in village centers, among other things.

That's right, reducing the density. That was the outcome of the huge brouhaha over the proposed increase in Reston's zoning cap last year. Walter committed to a review of the Master Plan and reduction of densities at least in some village centers. Keep your eyes on this ball and join in! At Reston Association, stability seems to be returning. After the Tetra/Lake House fiasco of a few years ago followed by collapse in management and financial controls, a Board of Directors led by Sherri Hebert restored order and reined in some costs (such as



INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

bloated consultant lawyer fees approaching \$1 million), introduced controls on procurement, built a much stronger Fiscal Committee, and even cut the annual assessment. Recently, however, RA has not filled the key Chief Financial Officer slot, has trimmed procurement controls, and at times management has bypassed the capable, community-based Fiscal Committee on budget/financial control decisions — a bit reminiscent of the recent bad old days.

Yet I remain hopeful. At the beginning of the year, the Board hired a new CEO to replace the casualty of the Tetra affair and its aftermath. He is Hank Lynch, an experienced non-profit CEO who is said to be low-key and methodical and seems to have what it takes to follow through on the restoration of needed management systems and actually put them to their intended use.

In addition, he is launching a major initiative to increase non-assessment revenues to supplement assessments and hopefully slow the pace of their increases. RA reports that fees for elegant weddings at Lake House are growing and may ease the burden of operations' costs for that facility, while keeping it available for use by com-

munity

groups at affordable rates, they say.

Lynch announced at a recent Board meeting that RA is encouraging major events at lakes, pools, and other facilities to generate additional revenues. Also, a proposed policy calls for greater policing of boat usage and licensing on lakes and possibly charging fees for violations. Keep an eye on this one.

The staff at RA, especially their naturalists and parks personnel, continue to impress with their excellent service to the community. In the last year, I witnessed them organizing an eagle scout project with a lakeside cluster association to put in an attractive erosion control to protect Lake Anne and the cluster's property, all at a very low cost.

And, when the fountain in Lake Anne broke down and needed replacement, RA staff not only went out and identified a fountain, but also researched the plans for Reston and the intentions of Mr. Simon when the original fountain was installed 55 years ago. They learned that the original was patterned after a fountain in Italy (Portofino perhaps). They succeeded in locating a US source for one very similar to that original model, with up-to-date features such as colored lights which will add a unusual beauty at night. The fountain, which will shoot water 50 feet in the air versus the 30 feet of the last one, will be installed very soon. Everyone is anxious to see it in action.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Deserving Place in Heaven

To the Editor:

This 74 year old grandmother feels she is deserving of a place in heaven!

Friday night I took my grandchildren to the JoJo concert at Wolf Trap and sat on the lawn on one of the hottest days of the year with 7,000 other crazies who paid outrageous

amounts of money for tickets to see JoJo and BoBo strut

their stuff on stage while her granddaughter sat on her lap jumping up once in awhile to sing every word and dance like JoJo while dressed in her \$16 JoJo bow and "who knows how much" sequin outfit as I looked through a

rainbow of tulle towards what could have been a stage if only I could have seen it while texting her parents and my friends that I was having a heat stroke in my black jump suit with no bow in my hair. Yes, it was texting because I don't know how to "Twitter." And yes I know that

SEE LETTER, PAGE 7

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Published by
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PET CONNECTION

Meet Roxie of Reston

Annie Rose Greenman of Reston shares pictures with her dog Roxie.



Sam, Blu and myself. Sam loves to get on picnic tables and benches when we stop for water breaks.

Blu, Sam and Molly

Sam, the black and white Husky has spent the past 6 months bonding with her pack mates, Blu and Molly. My neighbor and Molly's mom, Margie Dellagiarino, and I are now able to pop the three of

them into the car so that we can take them walking in various locations around Reston on a weekly basis.

—CINDY MORROW, RESTON



Molly and Margie at Lake Fairfax.



Myself, Sam, Blu, Molly and Molly's Dad, George, on a walk to support Briggs Animal Adoption Center at Blandy Farm, Boyce Va.

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Obituary

Obituary

Charlotte Finwall Graves

Proud, devoted and loving wife, mother, grandmother, nurse, realtor, patriot, and fitness/health advocate died from complications due to Acute Myeloid Leukemia.

Charlotte was predeceased by her parents, Bud and Alma Finwall, her brother-in-law, Alan Stern and her niece, Chris Finwall. She is survived by her husband, Brian; her three children, Jeff Graves (Mishel), Kathy Daurt (JD), Jenny Graves; nine grandchildren; two brothers, Charlie and Tom (Colleen) Finwall; three sister-in-laws, as well as many loving nieces and nephews. She led a full, healthy, happy, and active life and was a lifelong member of the Episcopal Church. She was a faithful member of St. James' Episcopal Church in Leesburg, VA.

Her early years were spent in Winston-Salem, NC and she was active in athletics throughout high school. She attended UNC, Chapel Hill and NC Baptist Hospital School of Nursing in Winston-Salem, NC. She was commissioned as an officer in the US Navy Nurse Corps following graduation and served at the US Naval Hospital in San Diego, CA. It was there that she met and married Brian, the love of her life. She continued to work as a RN at various locations as they moved in their married life. She worked at NC Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, NC; Sacred Heart Hospital, Eugene, OR; Charlotte Memorial Hospital, Charlotte, NC; and in a pediatric office in Reston, VA. She had a successful second career in real estate, working for Shannon & Luchs and Long & Foster in Reston, VA. At one point in her real estate career, she was listed in the top 1% in sales in the country.

She was most proud of her family and especially her marriage of 53 unforgettable years to Brian. They traveled and also spent many wonderful winters in their home in FL. Their happiness was completed with their three children and nine grandchildren. Together, Charlotte and Brian passionately supported them in all their athletic and musical endeavors. Charlotte adored her family and never missed a chance to tell them how much she loved them. She was full of optimism and a cheerleader to all. She loved the "life is good" saying and found joy and positivity in every situation. Nicknamed "She-rah," Charlotte didn't "succumb to cancer" nor "lose her battle." Quite the contrary; her journey with cancer taught us all how to live more fully. She will be missed beyond measure.

In lieu of flowers, one could, as an act of caring for others, donate blood or platelets at a Red Cross Center near you (www.redcrossblood.org). You may also consider a donation to the Capital Caring Adler Center at 24419 Millstream Drive, Aldie, VA 20105.

A celebration of Charlotte's life will be held on Saturday, Aug. 3, 2019 at 11:00 AM at St. James' Episcopal Church (14 Cornwall St NW, Leesburg, VA 20176).

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DONATIONS NEEDED

School Supply and Backpack Drive. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Parent Resource Center, 2334 Gallows Road, Room 105, Dunn Loring. For the nearly 56,000 students in Fairfax County Public Schools living at the poverty line, obtaining school supplies can be difficult. FCPS is partnering with roughly 20 nonprofits and businesses to ensure that students will have the supplies they need this fall for its "Collect for Kids" campaign. A \$25 donation will fill a backpack with FCPS approved supplies for a student. Organize a collection drive of new backpacks in your community and bring to one of the Collect for Kids drop off locations. Visit www.collectforkids.org/get-involved or call 703-204-3941.

THURSDAY/AUG. 1

Candidacy Filing Opens. 9 a.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. Filing deadline is Thursday, Aug. 15, 5 a.m. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com or call 703-476-4500.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 7

Setting the Stage for School Success: Preparing for a New School Year. 10 a.m.-noon at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 – Room 100, Dunn Loring. Transitioning to a new school year can be overwhelming. Join us to learn important strategies to help kick-start a child's school year in elementary, middle, or high school. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center for more or to register.

TUESDAY/AUG. 13

Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group. 7-8 p.m. Fairfax County's Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group meets by phone on Tuesday, February 13, 7-8 p.m. This month's focus is an open discussion on caregiver stress. Share experiences, gain support and get information without having to travel. Call 703-324-5484, TTY 711 to register.

Letter

FROM PAGE 4

was a very long "run on" sentence because I was a FCPS teacher.

Seriously, I want to thank all the working people at Wolf Trap who must have thought I was handicapped (or crazy) and gave me handicapped parking, a ride to the entrance and waved me through a sea of cars at the not too soon ending of the show with all 6999 yelling "Jo Jo" for

her to make an encore. ... What we do for the love of grandchildren!

One conciliation was that I learned, on my own, how to add an APP to my phone, buy tickets on StubHub, and show my phone tickets to get into Wolf Trap. Surviving the heat with sweat (not Southern perspiration) rolling into my eyes and fogging my glasses; watching my gourmet picnic not be eaten because Popeyes ruled; and enduring sarcastic texts from my friends, I know for a fact, I deserve a place in heaven along with all those moms with JoJo bows and dads, yes, dads who endured this experience for someone they loved.

Ann Erickson

Reston
Grandmother of the Year

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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			

Money For What, Exactly?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Presumably, most of you readers are aware that many supermarkets have a rack located somewhere near the rear of the store that is stocked with off-price merchandise: discontinued items, items with damaged packaging, out of season products, etc.

Over the years, I have been a regular checker of this rack looking for such bargains. I have purchased breakfast cereal, soup, cookies, candy, and miscellaneous other non-perishables. I've even purchased two bags of Kingsford charcoal.

In addition, I've seen household products, health and beauty, school supplies; and everything else you can imagine, running the gamut from "A" to "Z," for sale. Recently however, on this rack I saw a product I'm not sure I even thought was available to the general public, and if it was, would not have thought buying it from the discontinued merchandise rack at the supermarket would not have been the way to go. But what do I know? As has been proven many times: not much.

The item? A DNA Paternity Test Kit. I guess, I thought, if this test was necessary, it would involve a physician or at least be administered by a health care professional and/or involve witnesses/legal representation (at least a notary). Going to the supermarket or even the drug store? And then testing yourself without necessarily knowing the precautions and proper procedures appropriate for the task at hand?

There seems as if there's a bit more at stake here than an at-home pregnancy test, a test with which many of us are familiar. But DNA testing at home?

What is this, the Maury Povich Show?

Having not traveled down this particular road myself, perhaps I'm unaware of the realities. All I know is what I've seen on television or read about in the papers.

I guess I just assumed (generally a bad thing), that the steps one takes to verify/confirm/resolve paternity-type issues were a bit more involved than a visit to the supermarket.

Apparently, this subject is just another where I know very little about, like tools and how to use them, automobile repair, home maintenance, lawn and garden, cooking, and on and on and on. But enough about me.

What about those wanting answers to extraordinarily important questions: Who's the father? And is that my child? Looks can be deceiving so a professional, or so I thought, incorrectly, is brought in to oversee the process.

Nope. No professional need apply. Just go to your local "chemist," as they say in England. No need to visit "the surgery," as they also say over there.

Just find a box with the right letters on it and go back to your home/work and swab, stick, pin-prick or whatever and the results will be known soon enough if you or someone else is whomever they claim to be or not to be. That is the question which begs an answer, Shakespeare notwithstanding.

It seems only fair that one's birthright should be gotten wrong. And not that home-testing can't be trusted. Just the opposite. Nevertheless, some things, like circumcisions, though they can be performed at home (see "Shaky the mohel" from a long ago Seinfeld episode).

I would have thought, a DNA Paternity test, given the need/want of a resolution/clarification which could possibly impact multiple individuals/families over generations, be similarly performed in the most careful of conditions. This kind of test has no margin for error – or humor.

"Bought the kit in the discount rack at my local supermarket." Is that the answer you want to give when all eyes are on you? And saying how much you saved over regular price is unlikely to endear you to any and all of the interested parties on hand.

After all, money really isn't the issue.

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

ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Readings with the Reston Community Orchestra. Aug. 5 and Aug. 12, 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Sunset Hills Montessori School, 11180 Ridge Heights Road, Reston. Music and stands provided. \$20 per session. Additional string session Aug. 19 (\$20). Scholarships are available. Contact Linda Ackerman at rcomanager.la@gmail.com or 571-271-9189 or visit www.restoncommunityorchestra.org to register.

Guesstimation Game. Through Aug. 8 at Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Guess how many pieces of candy are in the Guesstimation jar and complete the entry form. Prizewinners each week. For ages preschool-6th grade. Call 703-437-8855.

Junior Golf Fairfax Camps, Clinics and Competition. Burke Lake Golf Center is located at 6915 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Pinecrest Golf Course is located at 6600 Little River Turnpike, Alexandria. Twin Lakes Golf Course is located at 6201 Union Mill Road, Clifton. Oak Marr Golf Complex is located at 3136 Jermantown Road, Oakton. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/junior.

Art Exhibit: For the Love of Art. Trough Aug. 18, gallery hours at RCC Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Through a myriad of styles and media – oil, watercolor, pen and ink – Angie Magruder, a long-time Reston resident, shares her many talents as an artist in this exhibit at Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com/.

Art Exhibit: Finding Home. Through Aug. 24, gallery hours at RCC Lake Anne - Jo Ann Rose Gallery, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston. Visual art meets poetry in Finding Home, a collaboration between visual artist Morgan Johnson Norwood and poet Sally Toner at RCC Lake Anne's Jo Ann Rose Gallery. A reception and reading takes place Saturday, Aug. 3, noon-2 p.m. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.net/attend-shows-events-exhibits/event-detail/2019/07/31/default-calendar/morgan-norwood-and-sally-toner-exhibit for more.

Summer Reading for Teens and Adults. Through Aug. 31 at Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Read, log the books and win a prize! The Summer Reading Program is not just for children. Call or stop by the Herndon branch for more information. Call 703-437-8855.

Registration Open: Northern Virginia Senior Olympics features more than 60 events that challenge the mind as well as the body. New games this year: jigsaw puzzle and line-dancing. The games run Sept. 14-28. There will be no on-site registration. Paper registrations, available at most local recreation and senior centers, must be postmarked by Aug. 24. Online registrations must be completed by Aug. 31 at www.nvso.us.

Herndon Farmers Market. Thursdays, through mid-November, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in Historic Downtown Herndon, Lynn Street. Visit www.herndon-va.gov/FarmersMarket for more.

Reston Farmers Market. Saturdays, through Dec. 7, 8 a.m.-noon at Lake Anne Village Center, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston. The largest of the Fairfax County Farmers Markets. SNAP accepted, bonus dollar program.



Game and Toy Sale

Hundreds of strategy games, games from other countries, collectible dolls, LEGOs, some collectible cameras and more. Benefits The Closet of the Greater Herndon Area. Saturday, Aug. 10, 9 a.m.-noon at First Baptist Church of Herndon, 681 Elden St., Herndon. Free admission. Visit www.theclosetofgreaterherndon.org or call 703-437-7652.

THURSDAY/AUG. 1

One on One English Conversation. 7-8 p.m. at Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. One on One English Conversation. Sign up at the Herndon Library Information Desk or by calling the branch at 703-437-8855.

Hunter Mill Nights: Incendio (Latin). 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. With a mix of performances through for the whole family, Hunter Mill Nights returns through Aug. 22 with performances by entertainers from across the United States and around the world. Allow time for a picnic in the park, a visit with the farm animals and a wagon ride, along with the show. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/hunter-mill-nights for more.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 1-4

4-H Fair and Carnival. Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Enjoy some old-fashioned family fun at the 71st Annual Fairfax County 4-H Fair and Carnival at Frying Pan Farm Park. There will be carnival games, rides and tempting foods. Stretch the budget on Thursday or Friday with free parking and discount tickets for unlimited rides. Friday also features the free Big Truck Night event, 5-8 p.m. Carnival rides run 10 a.m.-9 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Sunday with a Tractor Pull at 4 p.m. on Saturday. Stop by the 4-H Fair throughout the weekend as exhibitors display their winning entries and get their farm animals ready to show. Admission is free; \$10 per car parking fee on Saturday and Sunday. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park/4-h-fair.

FRIDAY/AUG. 2

20th annual Totally Trucks. 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Reston Association's Central Services Facility, 12250 Sunset Hills Road (next to the YMCA), Reston. Bring the kids and check out all the big trucks that Reston Association uses to make Reston beautiful. Children will receive a "Totally Trucks" construction helmet. Rain or shine. Popcorn, cotton candy, sno cones and water will be available for purchase. \$2 for children 2-12 years; free for children under 2. Registration requested. Register through WebTrac or contact Ashleigh@resotn.org or 703-435-6577.

Play Date Cafe. 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Toys and play space for children. Coffee and conversation for adults. Ages 5 and under with adult. Call 703-437-8855.

The Storytime Social Hour. 11 a.m. at Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston. Every Friday, moms, dads, caregivers and kids are invited to join a Storytime Social Hour. Scrawl will provide coffee and treats for the adults; stories and fun for the little people. Make new friends or meet up with neighbors. Visit www.scrawlbooks.com or call 703-966-2111.

Dreamcatchers With Shannyn Snyder. 1:30-3 p.m. at Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Use a variety of mixed media to create a dreamcatcher using beading and weaving techniques. Age 12-18. Registration required. Call 703-437-8855.

SATURDAY/AUG. 3

Fundraiser Breakfast with NCNW. 8 a.m.-noon at Famous Toastery, 12100 Sunset Hills Road, R-6, Reston. Support the National Council of Negro Women's mission to advance opportunities and the quality of life for African American women, their families, and communities through research, advocacy, national and community-based services and programs. Individuals purchase breakfast. Visit ncnwrestondulles.org or call 703-635-3558.

The Bookworms Club. 11 a.m. at Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston. Young readers are invited to join Scrawl's all-new and completely free Bookworms Club. Explore a new theme each week with picture books, special guests and most often, authors. www.scrawlbooks.com or call 703-966-2111.

Artist-led Workshop: Overlooked. 1-3 p.m. at Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market St., Suite 103, Reston. Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) presents Overlooked, a group exhibition featuring nine artists on issues that are often unnoticed, ignored, or otherwise not part of "polite conversation." \$30. www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

Dairy Days. 1-4 p.m. (on the hour) at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly.

SUNDAY/AUG. 4

Concert Series: Jazz Piano. 7-8 p.m. in Reston Town Square Park. Professor of Jazz Piano Robert Larson joins special guests for an evening of jazz trio standards. Free. Visit restoncommunitycenter.com



BY OLIVE IMAGES/COURTESY DARK HORSE THEATRE

Dark Horse Theatre in rehearsal for "No Exit" at ArtSpace Herndon. From left: Jane Steffen, Arianne' Warner, Scott Pafumi.

'No Exit' at ArtSpace Herndon

Dark Horse Theatre returns to town.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Artspace Herndon will be welcoming the classic "No Exit" by Jean-Paul Sartre to its performance venue.

Produced by Dark Horse Theatre, "No Exit" is a tale about souls caught in the afterlife for all eternity.

"There's a reason why this show is so well known. It is timeless," said Nataschia Parnian, managing artistic director, Dark Horse Theatre. "It is relevant to everyone's story. I love that the text probes into one's ethical values and personal limitations."

"Without giving too much away, there are some major surprises in our production," added Parnian. "One thing I can tell you; we have placed each of the characters from different time periods. This gives us a unique opportunity to explore how the political climate and social norms of these times would meld together in one room."

"Artspace Herndon is a very special theatrical venue. It is so intimate that it is exhilarating

to act and direct in," said Parnian. "There is nowhere for the actors to hide. You can't get away with sleight of hand there."

"We have sought to make professional theatre approachable for all. Ticket prices for all performances are \$20 or less," said Parnian. "We are more of a fringe, nomadic professional company. We can remain flexible in our staging."

For an immersive experience, "we are putting the audience in the round, so they will not only be watching the play unfold, but will have the ability to watch other audience members across the way," said Scott Pafumi, Dark Horse Theatre Company member.

Dark Horse Theatre has also "done a lot of mining of the text for hidden meanings and backstories. We hope our portrayal will be fresh and vivid, while also respecting the author's intent," said Pafumi who plays a key character in "No Exit."

Joining Pafumi in Dark Horse's production of "No Exit" is Skye Lindberg who plays Valet, a role traditionally played by a male. Lindberg is a graduate of the George Mason University Theatre program. The full cast includes Jane Steffen, a newcomer to Dark Horse productions and Arianne' Warner.

Satre's "No Exit" is "both a philosophical and existential play and should help serve as a springboard for good post show discussion with fellow patrons," said Parnian.

Inviting audiences to "No Exit" Arianne Warner said, "What sets Dark Horse apart is the shows we put on. We specialize in regional premieres, new works, and forgotten favorites."

Where and When

Dark Horse Theatre presents "No Exit" at Artspace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Performances Aug. 16 at 7:30 p.m., Aug. 17 at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Aug. 23 at 7:30 p.m., Aug. 24 at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Aug. 30 at 7:30 p.m. and Aug. 31 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 general admission, \$15 student tickets available at the door and online at www.darkhorseva.com/shows