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Steve Benedittis signs in for his second term as Herndon's mayor under the watchful eye of daughter Emileen.

Sworn In

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Encouraging Gang Awareness

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inside



Ready for The 4th

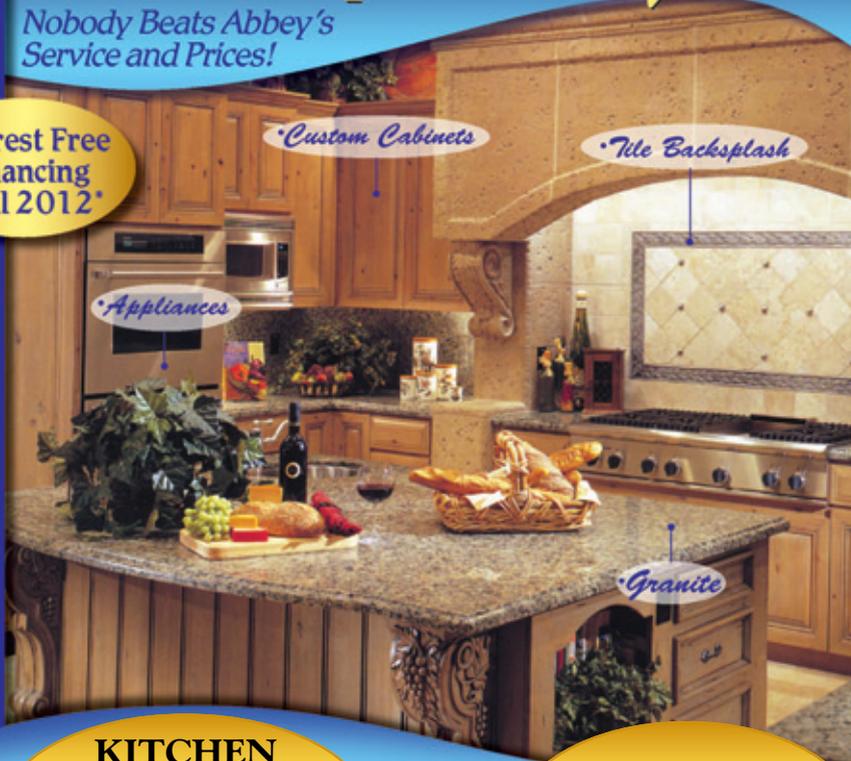
NEWS, PAGE 3

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PHOTO BY ANDREW DODSON/THE CONNECTION

Det. Eric Vega speaks to residents last week about gangs and the Northern Virginia Gang Task Force.

Ready for The 4th

Town's annual event celebrates community spirit and patriotism.

Herndon residents will again this year have an opportunity to come together to celebrate the birth of the nation. The Town of Herndon Parks and Recreation Department has organized a family friendly event at no cost to the participants for Friday night's celebration.

"It's a real traditional hometown Fourth of July" celebration, said Steve DeBenedittis, Herndon Mayor. "It's just another great community building event," he said. DeBenedittis added that the celebration is a chance for neighbors to get together over the summer and celebrate something they all share. He said he could remember the celebrations when he was growing up in Herndon, but that since then the celebration has gotten bigger and fireworks are much better.

"It really brings our community together," said Art Anselene, town manager. He said each year the event is a showcase of camaraderie and patriotism adding up to an unbelievable showing of a sense of community. "It creates a tremendous sense of good will," said Anselene. His favorite part of the celebration is the closing song, which jumpstarts the fireworks display. "People singing a patriotic number as fireworks kick-off," said Anselene, is his favorite part of the celebration.

The celebration will be held at Bready

Detective Encourages Gang Awareness

Regional Gang Task Force seeks to stay ahead of problem.

BY ANDREW DODSON
THE CONNECTION

Northern Virginia's gang task force is the strongest of its kind in the nation, and the results have shown with diminishing gang-related crimes. That was the message last week, Thursday, June 26, during a meeting on gang awareness to a crowd of 30 people by

Det. Eric Vega, in coordination with the Herndon Police Department.

The meeting explained how police in Northern Virginia currently operate their gang task force, what residents should do to help the problem, and explained how gangs operate.

Success in Northern Virginia's gang task force is credited to the regional approach taken in prevention. Herndon Police Chief

To Help

To report gang activity, call 1-866-NO-GANGS. For more information on the Northern Virginia Gang Task Force, visit www.preventgangsnova.org.

Toussaint Summers said larger cities do not join regionally, making it difficult to con

SEE GANGS, PAGE 4

SEE THE 4TH, PAGE 5

Benedittises Begin Second Term as Herndon's First Family

Second term made official at swearing-in ceremony.

BY BEN LEATHERWOOD
THE CONNECTION

Steve Benedittis began his second term as Herndon's mayor by taking his oath of office on a Bible on Wednesday, June 25, supported by his wife and two children.

Benedittis' dual run as head of the town may not be so surprising to people who know his family well.

"We all live within a mile of each other," said Tony Benedittis, Steve's father. "When the kids got married they just stayed in Herndon. 'These days kids move away, I don't know what we did right!'"

Part of it might have been his emphasis on the importance of community.

"My dad always impressed upon me that it's important to be involved," said Steve Benedittis, recalling a philosophy that would make running for local office a logical step for the lifelong town resident.

"We just talked about it and decided we wanted to go for it," said Rosemary Benedittis, Steve's wife.

SEE FIRST FAMILY, PAGE 5



PHOTO BY BEN LEATHERWOOD/THE CONNECTION

Steve Benedittis takes his oath of office flanked by wife Rosemary and children Stevie and Emileen.

Conquering Two-Wheelers

Fairfax County Park Authority is seeking volunteers to assist with the Lose The Training Wheels program. The program uses specifically designed bicycles that help children with disabilities ride two-wheelers without fear. Volunteers, 15 years old or older, are needed for weeklong sessions in July. The Park Authority is seeking two types of volunteers, spotters who run alongside the child to provide physical and emotional support and administrative assistants to help with the check-in and other paperwork. Volunteers earn five RECenter guest passes for every session they work.

The sessions will take place from 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on following dates and places:

- ❖ July 14 through July 18, Fairfax County Criminal Justice Academy in Chantilly
- ❖ July 21 through July 25, Herndon High School
- ❖ July 28 through Aug. 1, Herndon High School

For more information contact Emily House at 703-324-8641, 703-803-3354 or emily.house@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Homes Tour Recreated

Herndon's civic groups are teaming up to bring back the Herndon Homes Tour as the Holiday Homes Tour of Herndon. Organizations participating in the tour will be asked to identify a house, decorate it for the holidays and provide tour guides for it. The Cultivating Community Initiative and the Herndon Dulles Visitor's Center will handle the tour's advertising, marketing and coordination.

Service clubs who would like more information on participation in the Tour can contact Connie Hutchinson at the Herndon Dulles Visitor's Center at 703-HERNDON. The Tour will take place on Dec. 6, the traditional first Saturday of December, and the cost of the tickets will be \$10 in advance or \$15 on the day of the tour. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with the effort or to have their home considered for the tour can also contact Connie Hutchinson.

Music Under the Stars On Saturdays

The "Music Under the Stars" summer concert series has moved to one Saturday a month and will feature two more concerts this summer. "The Fabulous Hubcaps," an oldies band, will perform on July 19 and "Trout Fishing in America," a Grammy nominated family folk and storytelling group, will be featured on Aug. 16. The concerts begin at 7:30 on the Town Green, 777 Lynn Street in Herndon, and are free to the public.

Rust Appointments

William Howell, Speaker of the House at the Virginia General Assembly, appointed Del. Tom Rust (R-86) to four committees and commissions. Rust was selected to serve as a member of the Economic Development, Transportation and Cultural Affairs Committee of the Southern Legislative Conference, which deals with issues relevant to the progress of the southern region of the Commonwealth. Rust also received appointments to the Commonwealth Competition Council, the Commission on the Prevention of Human Trafficking and the Joint Commission on Technology and Science.

Giving Circle's Grant Cycle Open

The Giving Circle of HOPE, a Reston-based organization that provides help to nonprofits in Northern Virginia, has opened its 2008 grant cycle. Grant guidelines and applications are available at www.givingcircleofHOPE.org or can be requested at givingcircle@hotmail.com. The applications are due Sept. 1. Grants of \$1,000 to \$5,000 will be awarded to organizations in December. Since inception in January 2004, the Giving Circle has given more than \$200,000 to 23 nonprofit organizations in Northern Virginia.

NEWS

White Honored as Eagle Scout

BY NOORA HASAN
THE CONNECTION

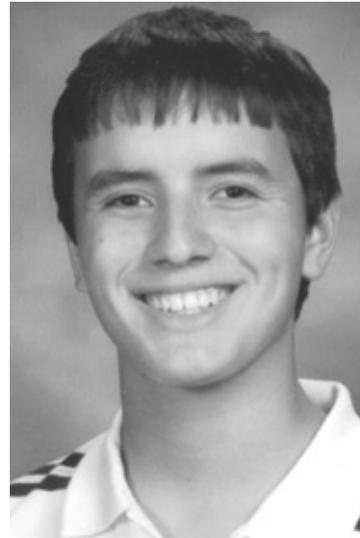
Bernard A. White received Scouting's highest award in the Eagle Court of Honor on June 16 at the Trinity Presbyterian Church of Herndon.

White, 17, has been a scout for seven years, two years with Troop 1577.

To become an Eagle Scout, he had to earn 21 merit badges, serve as a leader in his troop and complete a major community service project. "Receiving the award felt great, everyone was really supportive," he said.

A leader in his troop of the First Year Program, White provided counsel to young scouts in their first year of scouting. His project was the development of a picnic area for his church, St. Veronica Catholic Church in Herndon.

White felt motivated to serve the community after observing some of his friends do the same: "I just felt like it was the right thing to do. I had seen some of my friends help out at the church and I



Bernard White

wanted to do my part."

Researching via the internet, White located plans for a picnic table. He downloaded the plans, developed scale figures, determined material requirements and put together plans for the work. Recruiting the support over 30 adults and troop mates, he constructed four tables and benches for an arbor area at St. Veronica.

The cutting was conducted off sight; the pieces were transported to the church and then assembled.

As a participant in his high school DECA program, White developed leadership and business skills beyond what the classroom can provide. Over the last two years, he has competed at the local, regional and national levels of DECA, developing marketing strategies for specific scenarios such as personal selling and restaurant management. He also earned the underclassmen awards for marketing classes for the last three years. He was designated "Student of the Year" for the last three years in his marketing classes at Westfield High School.

He is entering his senior year at Westfield High School. He will work at Potbelly restaurant through the summer. He aspires to attend the University of Virginia upon graduation. He feels his community and leadership skills and community service experience might benefit him in the future by helping him "exercise leadership throughout college and in future jobs."

Working Together against Gangs

FROM PAGE 3
fine specific gangs.

"In places like Chicago and Los Angeles, their gang task forces are so scattered, it allows gangs to move from community to community," Summers said.

Vega also attributed the region's strong economy, police departments, political leaders, and the relationship police departments have with schools. There is also \$2.5 million secured through Congress specifically for the gang task force.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA'S gang task force began in 2002 and involves 15 local agencies. The task force takes a multi-disciplined, multi-jurisdictional approach, dealing with gang prevention, suppression, and intervention.

"Not only do we put bad guys in jail, but we also educate the public on awareness and how to help," Vega said.

Vega explained the history of infamous gangs and classified hand signs, graffiti, and tattoos. These three identifiers are key in identifying gangs in a certain area. Vega and Summers both emphasized that gang prevention goes beyond law enforcement; it must involve the community as well.

The task force asks residents to take pictures of new graffiti in their area and submit them to their

police department. The sooner attention is brought to new graffiti; the sooner police can focus on that specific gang problem.

Vega explained the education aspect of the task force is to inform the public on gang trends and characteristics, and the dangers of gang involvement. After school programs, mentors, and summer camps are all educational amenities offered by the task force.

With the recent Supreme Court decision of uplifting the gun ban, Vega said it will have no effect on future gang violence.

"Gang members have access to that contraband," Vega said. "Even if nothing happened, they would still have access to guns."

WITH SUCH a task force, a threat is not felt in many areas. Betty Taylor of Herndon said she feels no danger of gangs in the area. "The police have things under control," Taylor said. "Because of the way they handle things, we are safe."

Vega explained that gangs are very fluid and they run on all lines, not an ethnic line. Gangs are always traveling and can appear at any given time. It is up, not only to the gang task force to suppress gang activity, but up to the community as well.

"We need to continue to stay involved," Vega said. "This is our community — not theirs."

PEOPLE NOTES

Brigid Wright of Herndon made the Highly Distinguished Honors List for the spring 2008 semester at the College of Charleston

Lafayette College in Easton, Pa. has **Benjamin Wheeler**, Herndon, Class of 2011, to its dean's list for the Spring 2008 semester.

Katherine E. Wolfe, Herndon,

daughter of Leonard and Elaine Wolfe of Oak Hill, and a 2004 graduate of Oakton High School, graduated cum laude with a bachelor of arts in Economics at Bucknell University. She had been named to the university's dean's list for the spring semester of the 2007-08 academic year.

Arienne Johnson, a Herndon native, is participating in the Goshen (Ind.)

College Study-Service Term (SST) in Senegal during this summer, along with 22 other students. Goshen established an SST unit in the French-speaking West African country in 2004. **Arienne**, daughter of Michael and Barbara Johnson of Herndon, is majoring in history at Goshen College. She is a 2006 graduate of Archbold (Ohio) High School and attends Zion Mennonite Church.

NEWS

Ready for The 4th

FROM PAGE 3

Park at the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Avenue, starting at 6:30 p.m. It will feature games and arts and crafts for participants of all ages, including a community kickball game. The headline entertainer is Javier Mendoza. Hot dogs, hamburgers, funnel cakes, cotton candy and other food will be on sale.

The fireworks, choreographed to music, will begin at 9:30 p.m. Parking is available at Herndon Middle School or St. Joseph's Church, as well as Herndon Community Center. The fire marshal will dismiss the cars parked at St. Joseph's Church or at the Herndon Community Center.

The rain date for the fireworks display is July 5. For more information call the Parks and Recreation Department at 703-787-7300.

— MIRZA KURSPAHC

Herndon senior public works employee Bo Kirk helps to raise American flags around the perimeter of Bready Park prior to the evening's July 4 celebration last year.



FILE PHOTO

Herndon's First Family

FROM PAGE 5

Tony Benedittis, Steve's father, remembers his emotions upon initially being told that his son was running for mayor. "He came over to our house and dropped it on us one day," remembered Tony Benedittis. "We thought it was a little bit courageous and crazy," he said, "because I was still thinking of him as a little kid. When I saw him actually doing it, though, I realized he wasn't in over his head." °

The elder Benedittis continued to support his son throughout each election, going door to door with him to court voters and even lending advice at his weekly meetings.

"I suggested the colors for his campaign; the [Virginia] Tech colors," he said, "because I knew the others would all use red, white and blue."

Steve Benedittis' mother, Mary, took care of his two children twice per week in the time leading up to the election but she played down her overall role in the effort. Instead she praised her son's competence and poise during the campaign.

"He's very intelligent, has good sense on him," she said. "I think he'll do a great job."

Now that the campaign trail has come to an end, Mary Benedittis and the other Benedittises are finally free to bask in the glory of victory. °

"It feels good to serve the town," said Steve Benedittis. "We wanted to be here and we wanted to raise our family here so it's great to get the opportunity to serve."

"I'm still not over it, still can't believe it," said Tony. "I am very proud of what he's done."

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OPINION

Children and Teens at Risk

Summer in the suburbs shouldn't mean biking, skateboarding head injury.

No typical Northern Virginia parent would knowingly expose his or her children to, say, a virus that had a low but significant chance of causing brain damage.

We are affluent, educated, hyper-involved parents. We worry about who might be contacting our children in cyberspace, about stranger abductions, water quality, salmonella, even about whether a system of lower grades might be hurting teenagers. There is nothing, it would seem, that we would not do to protect our children.

So why is it that during summer in the suburbs you see a steady stream of children of all ages flying up and down the rolling hills of their communities on bikes and skateboards and scooters, but often not a helmet in sight?

Thousands of children and teens each year sustain a major brain injury in Virginia, and the consequences can be devastating.

Bicycling injuries account for a very large percentage of the injuries, and while wearing a bicycle helmet reduces the risk of brain injury by approximately 90 percent, according

to a Virginia survey, only half of Virginia's children between 5 and 15 always wear their helmets. Casual observation would lead one to believe helmet use is a lot lower than 50 percent.

A nationwide study found that only 24 percent of U.S. children regularly wear a helmet when riding a bike, and that passing and enforcing local ordinances requiring children to wear helmets significantly increased the rate.

EDITORIAL

Most of us have seen television reports recently about the after effects of head injuries in soldiers injured in Iraq. But if your child crashes while he or she is riding a bike or skateboard without a helmet, you could be living with the same outcome.

CDC estimates that at least 5.3 million Americans, approximately 2 percent of the U.S. population, currently need lifelong help to perform activities of daily living as a result of a head injury. The two age groups at highest risk for brain injury are children under 4 years old, and 15-to-19 year olds.

And it's good practice: Telling your 10-year-old he or she must wear might not be comfort-

Protect Their Brains

The Brain Injury Association of Virginia, www.biav.net, recommends:

ALWAYS WEAR A HELMET:

- ❖ when riding a bike, scooter, motorcycle, or horse;
- ❖ when playing football, ice hockey, baseball, or softball;
- ❖ when skating, skiing, or snowboarding.

HELMET SAFETY

- ❖ A bicycle helmet should fit comfortably and snugly.
- ❖ The helmet should sit level on the head about two finger widths above the eyebrows.
- ❖ The side adjuster buckles should form a "V" directly under the ear lobe.
- ❖ Only two fingers should fit between the chin and strap.
- ❖ Helmets should be labeled as meeting the Consumer Product Safety Commission standard for bicycles.
- ❖ Replace any helmet that is more than five years old, and always replace a helmet after a crash.

able or fun at first, but it paves the way for discussions about driving safety and other risks when they're teenagers.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM.
703-917-6416

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Support Appreciated

To the Editor:

Even with all the economic concerns we are hearing about in the news lately, Herndon High School PTSA celebrated another successful year for its After Prom and All Night Graduation Celebrations with community support and donations. The combined funds for these events exceeds \$70,000, most of which comes from donations, and over 1,000 volunteer hours are given in kind — all because you care about our children and community.

Herndon HS remains one of only a select few schools that still holds an After Prom event. Under the care of this year's chairpersons, Laura Medvene and Nina Joyce, the generous donation of the Reston Community Center — Hunter Woods and a host of another 50-75 volunteers nearly 386 students attended the After Prom Event the night of May 17 into the early morning of May 18. Great food, activities, DJ and prizes held the students' attention until 5 a.m.

One month later our seniors graduated and we once again hosted the All Night Graduation Celebration. Carol Keeling and Rhonda Marsteller co-chaired this wonderful event, guided another 10 committee chairs and all at the donated Herndon Community Center. It is estimated that 73 percent of the graduating class attended this event. With the change in the dynamics of the population now attending HHS this was a great turnout. However, we are seeing that some cultural differences are changing and parents and students are now helping with and attending such events as After Prom and

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9



At the piano recital were, from left, first row, Tommy Kang of Potomac Falls, Paul Mulcahy of Herndon, Jagger McKay of Reston, Luci Drahozal of Herndon, second row, teacher Rhonda Stutzman of Herndon, Braden Cuttler of Herndon, Christiana Briggs of Leesburg, Ceci Janssen of Herndon, Eva Procopio of Herndon, Michaela Plescia of Reston, and third row, Daniel Glista of Herndon, Casey Chay of Oak Hill, Colleen Flanagan of Herndon, Luke Finet of Herndon, David Lax of Chantilly, Marley McKay of Reston, and teacher Soni Oberleas of Sterling.

Pianists Perform in Recital

Piano instructors Soni Oberleas and Rhonda Stutzman held a Spring Piano Recital, featuring 15 promising musicians, at the Dranesville Church of the Brethren on Saturday morning, May 31.

Performing were Caroline Janssen, "The Highlands of Scotland" and "Pipes and Drums"; Marley McKay, "Scenic Train Ride"; Braden Cuttler, "Sunny Strut" and Paul Mulcahy, "Butterflies and Rainbows".

Also performing were Jagger McKay, "Dancing Donkey"; Michaela Plescia, "Peter Cottontail" and

"Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious"; Christiana Briggs, "Noisy Woodpecker" and Ava Procopio, "Circus Jugglers".

Additional performers were Tommy Kang, "For You Alone"; Luke Finet, Prokofiev's "In the Hall of the Mountain King"; David Lax, "The Singing Mermaid" and Daniel Glista, "Struttin' Cool" and Beethoven's "Theme from the Fifth Symphony". Completing the program were Casey Chay, Pachelbel's "Canon in D" and Colleen Flanagan, Beethoven's "Sonatina in G".

THE CONNECTION

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CRIME

Activities reported June 23 through June 29, according to the Herndon Police Department:

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

1300 Block Springtide Place. A 36-year-old male of Herndon was arrested for aggravated assault, after striking an acquaintance with a bottle causing lacerations to their face and arm, June 28.

ASSAULT

100 Block Spring Street. The victim was assaulted by an acquaintance, June 27.

300 Block Linden Court. A 29-year-old male of Herndon was arrested for assault, June 23.

500 Block Florida Avenue. The victim was assaulted by two subjects, June 28.

600 Block Center Street. The victim was assaulted by an acquaintance, June 24.

800 Block Station Street. The victim was assaulted by an acquaintance, June 23.

1000 Block Trevino Lane. The victim was assaulted by an acquaintance, June 29.

LARCENY

400 Block Elden Street. Two individuals made fraudulent purchases on credit cards, June 26.

900 Block Crestview Drive. Window was broken and GPS and other items stolen from vehicle between June 27-28.

13000 Block Worldgate Drive. Cash reported stolen from lockers, June 23.

NARCOTICS VIOLATION

200 Block Spring Street. A 22-year-old male of Ashburn was arrested on a narcotics violation, June 24.

DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY

100 Block Herndon Parkway. Damage to locks and front panel of a door was reported between June 24-26.

500 Block Florida Avenue. Damage to a vehicle was reported, June 23.

500 Block Florida Avenue. Graffiti reported on a fence, June 26.

700 Block Cordell Way. Damage reported to a vehicle between June 24-25.

700 Block Dranesville Road. Damage to a front door was reported, June 25.

700 Lynn Street. Graffiti was reported, June 27.

1000 Block Trevino Lane. Window reported broken at residence, June 29.

DRUNK IN PUBLIC

400 Block Herndon Parkway. A 26-year-old male of Manassas, arrested for drunk in public, June 28.

700 Block Herndon Parkway. A 26-year-old male of Sterling was arrested for drunk in public, June 29.

1000 Block Knight Lane. A 25-year-old female of Sterling, was arrested for drunk in public, June 25.

1100 Block Elden Street. A 30-year-old male of Herndon was arrested for drunk in public, June 29.

1200 Block Elden Street. A 37-year-old male of no fixed address, arrested for drunk in public, June 23.

1200 Block Elden Street. A 28-year-old male of Herndon was arrested

for drunk in public, June 25.

1200 Block Elden Street. A 51-year-old male of no fixed address, was arrested for drunk in public, June 25.

OTHER VIOLATIONS

300 Block Herndon Parkway. The victim reported receiving intimidating phone calls from an acquaintance between June 22-23.

300 Block Herndon Parkway. The victim reported receiving harassing phone calls from an acquaintance, June 24.

700 Block Grant Street. An individual attempted to cash a counterfeit check June 26.

700 Block Grant Street. An individual attempted to use a fraudulent check, June 24.

1000 Block Elden Street. A 43-year-old female of Reston was arrested for trespassing, June 29.

1100 Block Elden Street. A 30-year-old male of Herndon was arrested for no operators license, June 25.

1200 Block Elden Street. Trespassing reported, June 23.

1300 Block Dulles Place. A 41-year-old male of no fixed address was arrested for no operators license, June 25.

TRAFFIC RELATED INCIDENTS

Herndon Parkway/Crestview Drive. A 45-year-old male of Herndon was arrested for DWI, June 25.

200 Block Elden Street. A 32-year-old male of Reston, arrested for DWI, June 28.

400 Block Pickett Lane. A 21-year-old male of Herndon was arrested for DWI, June 26.

12000 Block Worldgate Drive. A 49-year-old male of Stafford was ar-

rested for DWI, June 27.

287(G) ENFORCEMENT

The table below provides statistical data in relation to the Town of Herndon's Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). A contact is an event that resulted in a 287 (g) investigation. A detainer is generally obtained when the investigation, or ICE authorization, calls for detention. Detainees are held in the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and eventually processed through the federal court system. Final disposition of these cases is under the purview of ICE.

2008 Contacts	Detainers Issued
January 15	4
February 17	5
March 16	12
April 12	6
May 21	10
Year to Date 81	37

BULLETIN BOARD

WEDNESDAY/JULY 9

Mothers First - Herndon/Reston is a nonprofit support organization dedicated to helping women who have chosen to alter their careers to raise their children at home. The next meeting will at 10 a.m. at the Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Contact 703-827-5922 or www.mothersfirst.org.



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Herndon Community Center

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www.MerrifieldGardenCenter.com

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

HERNDON CONNECTION ♦ JULY 2-8, 2008 ♦ 7

Have a Great 4th of July!



Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

Ashburn					
22664 Blue Elder Ter., #104	\$179,000	Sun 1-4	Bill Fritz	RE/MAX	703-858-9108
21788 Flanders Ct., #21788	\$259,900	Sun 1-4	Shawn McGregor	Keller William	703-674-1189
Broadlands					
21324 Small Branch Pl.	\$600,000	Sun 1-4	Kristie Stavrou	Long & Foster	703-728-7797
Hamilton					
38068 Colonial Hwy	\$649,900	Sun 1-4	Margie Jensen	Long & Foster	703-669-9829
Leesburg					
455 Fox Ridge Dr., SW	\$350,000	Sun 2-4	Maria-Del Wilson	Coldwell Banker	703-691-1400
609 Diskin Pl., SW	\$594,000	Sun 1-4	Robin Hill	Weichert	703-759-6300
Reston					
12601 Thunder Chase Dr.	\$575,000	Sun 1-4	Brian Brown	Keller Williams	703-444-4663
11530 Hemingway Dr.	\$775,000	Sun 2-5	Claudette Schwartz	Weichert	703-760-8880
Round Hill					
17527 Bristol Ter.	\$255,000	Sun 12-3	Jennifer Skorich	Keller Williams	304-261-8118
Sterling					
219 Meadowland Ln.	\$310,000	Sun 1-4	David Rathgeber	Your Friend In Real Estate	571-434-9071
Stone Ridge					
42217 Terrazzo Ter., #505	\$285,000	Sun 1-4	Shawn McGregor	Keller William	703-674-1189

To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Lauri Swift or Winslow Wacker

703-821-5050 or E-Mail the info to Lauri@connectionnewspapers.com
All listings due by Tues at 10 am.

NEWS

White House Award for Express Care

Express Care, a Herndon-based nonprofit organization, received an award from President George W. Bush through the White House Faith-Based and Community Initiative.

"We have worked very hard to be recognized," said Naila Alam, Express Care CEO. She said the award from the White House is "the greatest honor."

Alam and Yasmeen Durrani, Express Care director and Alam's sister, received the award on Thursday, June 26, at the White House National Conference of Faith-Based and Community Initiative programs.

Currently the nonprofit is training 25 people through the Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board to become personal care assistants. "We are trying to bring more people into the workforce," said Alam.

Since its inception in 2003, Express Care has assisted ap-



PHOTO COURTESY OF EXPRESS CARE

From left, Express Care Director Yasmeen Durrani, Director of the White House Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Jay Hein and Naila Alam, the CEO of Express Care.

proximately 500 area families. It is the recipient of a number of awards at the local level, including the Herndon Mayor's Volunteer Appre-

ciation Award and two awards from the Herndon Rotary Club. For more information visit <http://expresscare.org>.

— MIRZA KURSPAHIC

My Wakefield Journey...

Hunter has been at Wakefield since 6th grade. While here he has performed at the National Cathedral, worked with a record company, and performed in an opera at Wakefield. These experiences, and more, accompanied by the support and guidance of the Wakefield teachers have prepared him to do well at Swarthmore this fall.

Hunter Bayliss '08



Visit us now to begin the journey of a lifetime.

Open House Dates:

Thursday July 10, 9-11a.m. Pre-K through 12th
 Tuesday July 22, 10-11a.m. Pre-K & K
 Tuesday August 12, 9-11a.m. Pre-K through 12th

Visit our homepage, www.wakefieldschool.org, to see some of our students' accomplishments.



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 4439 Old Tavern Road
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www.wakefieldschool.org

Accepting applications on rolling basis for Fall 2008

Financial Aid available

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

All Night Grad. This committee was able to spend more than half of its budget just on prizes for the graduates. Wow!

Both events could not take place without the support of our parents, schools, churches and communities. Every year through events like Friday Night Live — the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce is able to support our events with a very generous donation of \$5,000. The Town of Herndon also donates \$1,000. Additionally, all of our school PTAs public and private, churches (HUMC and St. Joe's) and civic organizations (Masonic Lodge, Reston Assoc., Herndon Woman's Club, Herndon Fortnightly, HCTV) all made cash donations. The Herndon Optimist donate time and volunteers in running the casino every year for All Night Grad. Many local businesses support our events through various donations (financial, gift cards, food or gifts: Worldgate Centre, Town Center Orthopedics, Fox Mill Foot & Ankle Center, Va. Dental Solutions, Commonwealth Ortho, Spencers Lock & Safe, Bruce Robinette CPA, Kolman Apt., LR Enterprises, Burger Cabinet Shop, The Container Store, McLean, Game Stop, Sterling, Dormbuys.com, Cosi Restaurant-Reston, Robeks-Herndon, Potbelly's -Herndon, Red Robin-Sterling, Panera Bread-Herndon, Starbucks-Reston, Target-Reston, Best Buy-Reston, Appalachian Spring-Reston, Moe's Southwestern Grill, Rita's Ice, Whole Foods, Domino's Pizza, Subway, Chick-Fil-A, Omia's, Milwaukee Frozen Custard, Mamma Lucia's, Great Harvest, Bloom, Giant-Northpoint and Elden St., Safeway-Herndon, SFW, Harris Tetter, Wegmans, Costco, Subway, Dunkin Donuts, Bagel Café, Chipotle and Tortilla Factory. It truly takes a village to raise a child. Thank you to each and everyone of you who have helped now and in the past to support Herndon High School PTSA, our students and our wonderful events.

Becky Field-Ross

HHS PTSA DAFA Coordinator

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PHOTO BY AMY MCDOWELL

Hidden Creek Country Club Golf Course in Reston.

Golf Tourney To Benefit Reston Interfaith

Reston Interfaith's 14th Annual Rucker Memorial Golf Tournament will take place this year on Monday, July 14, at the Hidden Creek Country Club in Reston. This annual event raises funds for Reston Interfaith which promotes self-sufficiency for those in need of food, shelter and other human services.

"This tournament is a significant event for Reston Interfaith because it directly supports our efforts to promote self-sufficiency among our neighbors in need. We are working closely with Fairfax County to end homelessness in Northern Virginia, and this tournament is named after Embry Rucker, an individual who worked tirelessly to establish the first and only homeless shelter in Reston. All funds raised by this event will be applied to our advocacy programs, thus helping us to work to ensure that all who work in our community can also afford to live here," said Amy McDowell, the events and communications manager at Reston Interfaith.

This year's auction will feature packages such as "Red Carpet Treatment," various sports teams experiences and more. The event features a breakfast and 7:30 a.m. Shotgun start, a lunch and 1 p.m. Shotgun. There is also a tournament awards dinner featuring live and silent auctions and raffles.

For more information or to get tickets or register a foursome, contact McDowell at 571-323-9582.

— LEAH KIEFF

Celebrate the 4th

Town's July 4th Celebration. Join the Town of Herndon for a free family-fun event featuring games, races, craft activities, Bingo and more. The event takes place in Bready Park, around the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon starting at 6:30 p.m. Main Stage entertainment will have the crowds up and dancing. Look for special entertainers around the park. Throughout the evening, festive food, ranging from Hot Dogs and Hamburgers to Funnel Cakes and Cotton Candy will be on sale. The fireworks show is choreographed to music and starts at 9:30 p.m. Visit www.herndon-va.gov.

July 4th Celebration. Start the day with a splash at the Lake Newport Pool, 11601 Lake Newport Road, Reston, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Come to the pool and enjoy the festivities before the fireworks. There will be a DJ, pool games, and prizes. Food will be available for purchase from local food vendors. Call 703-435-6577.

At Lake Fairfax. The Fairfax County Park Authority will sponsor fireworks at Lake Fairfax Park in Reston on Friday, July 4. Food vendors. Free admission to the park, though visitors to the Water Mine water park must pay regular admission fees. Fireworks start at 9:15 p.m. The rain date is July 5. Lake Fairfax is located at 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive in Reston. For more information, call 703-471-5415.



Shutterbugs Shooting Fire in the Sky

A tutorial on how to shoot Fourth of July fireworks.

Since the day of purchasing that fancy camera, some people have waited for Fourth of July fireworks — an opportunity to tune up your photography skills and look like a professional, or at least pretend to.

Fourth of July photos create lasting memories, so it is important to enjoy the festivities first and worry about taking the photos later.

"When you see something beautiful, just enjoy it," said Charles Neenan of the League of Reston Artists. "You don't need to obsess over taking pictures."

For those who want to pursue capturing fire in the sky though, there are facets of your camera to understand.

First, digital single-lens-reflex cameras and most point-and-shoot cameras have an ISO setting. ISO is an international stan-



Fireworks by Sayer Seeley.

dard that measures the speed of film, which is how sensitive it is to light. Neenan recommends starting at an ISO of 800 and if images still underexpose drastically, bump it up to 1600.

Secondly, use a midrange zoom lens such as a 24-70mm. Using too wide of an angle makes fireworks appear small. Using a long zoom cuts off the full firework. Aperture of a lens is the amount of light it lets in, so using a lens with a wide aperture such as f-stop 2.8 allows for faster shooting.

Lastly is location. Choose a location that will give you enough room and is not in the way of other firework attendees. Also, use a tripod or a monopod to keep the camera steady to ensure sharp images.

After all preparation, feel free to shoot away.

"Auto focus on the first firework that goes up and then throw your camera into manual focus so the camera won't waste time looking to focus again," said Neenan. "It's also a good idea to underexpose a half step to give leeway. You don't want to overexpose."

— ANDREW DODSON

CALENDAR

Send announcements to herndon@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-917-6449. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit connectionnewspapers.com.

THURSDAY/JULY 3

Vivace Virtuosi. A classical music concert will be performed at the Reston Town Center Pavilion by The Little Mozart Academy and Youth Music Preservation and Promotion Association at 7:30 p.m. Visit www.ymppa.org.

Senior Cinema at 10:30 a.m. at the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. To find out what's playing or to be placed on the mailing list call 703-787-7300.

Ice Cream Social. Come out to Autumnwood Pool, 11950 Walnut Branch, Reston, and enjoy some refreshing ice cream as you lounge poolside. Make sundaes for the children. Supplies are limited. Call 703-435-6577.

FRIDAY/JULY 4

Town's July 4th Celebration. Join the Town of Herndon for a free family-fun event featuring games, races, craft activities, Bingo and more. The event takes place in Bready Park, around the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon starting at 6:30 p.m. The fireworks show starts at 9:30 p.m. Visit www.herndon-va.gov.

July 4th Celebration. Start the day with a splash at the Lake Newport Pool, 11601 Lake Newport Road, Reston, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Call 703-435-6577.

Friday Night Live will be from 6:30-11 p.m. on the Herndon Town Green, 777 Lynn St., Herndon. Hyjinx will perform along and there will be fireworks. Call 703-481-6133.

SATURDAY/JULY 5

Concert on the Town. Enjoy music at the Reston Town Center Pavilion from 7:30 - 10 p.m. This week's performers will be the J Street Jumpers who play swing and jump blues.

SUNDAY/JULY 6

Acoustic Jam. Whether pickin', strummin', or just listenin' come down and enjoy some music. Bring an instrument or come by the Frying Pan Farm Park Country Store, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon, to enjoy this free, drop-in session from 1-4 p.m. Call 703-437-9101.

TUESDAYS/JULY 8

Summer Horse Show Series. Bring a picnic and enjoy an afternoon at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon, watching local talent competing in jumping and flat classes at this free horse show starting at 4 p.m. The cost for competitors is \$12 per class. Spectators are free. Call 703-437-9101.

Mr. Brian and the Boppets. Puppet fun and high energy music at the Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St. Herndon, 2:30 p.m. Cosponsored by the Friends of the George Mason Regional Library. All ages. Call 703-437-8855.

Reading Magic! A magic show full of comedy and good old-fashioned fun with Turley the Magician at the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston, 2:30 p.m. Cosponsored by the Friends of the Reston Regional Library. Age 6-12. Call 703-689-2700.

Book Signing. Writer Donna Andrews will sign and discuss her latest book, "Cockatiels at Seven," at 7 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 1851 Fountain



Reston Festival

Celebrate Reston's Birthday with activities for children, live entertainment, crafters, business booths, non-profit organizations, food vendors and roaming entertainers from 10 a.m. - 10 p.m., July 12 and 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., July 13, at Market Street and Pavilion in downtown Reston. Visit www.restonfestival.com. Volunteers are needed for set-up, break-down, children's activities area, food and t-shirt sales, information booth and more. Volunteers will receive snacks and a free Reston Festival 2008 t-shirt. Volunteers must be at least 13 years old to volunteer. Large groups are welcome and students can receive validation for community service hours. Contact Ha Brock at 703-435-7986 or habrock@reston.org.

Drive, Reston. Call Ginna Brahms at 703-437-8147.

Youth Night. Youth Nights are back at the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon, 8-10 p.m. Have fun playing basketball, volleyball, or other games, hang out in the teen room or game room playing Xbox or pool and munch on snacks. Ages 10-15. \$4 Drop in Fee. \$30 Youth Night Pass (8 visits). Visit www.herndon-va.gov.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 9

Wine and Cheese Tasting. Enjoy a selection of international wines and cheeses at Market Street Bar and Grill, 1800 President St., Reston, 6-8 p.m. All wines available by the glass and all bar menu selections \$5. \$30 per person, includes 3oz pour of each wine. Space limited, reservations at 703-925-8250.

Cross-Stitch Bookmarks. Learn to cross-stitch and come home with a beautiful craft at the Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St. Herndon, 10:30 a.m. Age 8-12. Call 703-437-8855.

Book Babies. Interactive storytime for

children and adults at the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston, 10:15 a.m. Age 13-23 months with adult. Call 703-689-2700.

Book Discussion at the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston, 10:30 a.m. Call 703-689-2700 for title. Adults. No registration is required.

THURSDAY/JULY 10

Farmer's Market Fun Day will run from 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.. Mr. Brian and the Boppets will perform a Rock n' Roll puppet show at the Town Green, 777 Lynn St., Herndon. Free. Visit www.herndon-va.gov.

Baby Signs. Come meet Beebo the Baby Signs Bear, hear stories, and learn some simple signs at the Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St. Herndon, 10:30 a.m. Age 6-24 months with adult. Call 703-437-8855.

Girls Read at the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. All-female book

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 12

Northern Virginia Magazine's
50 BEST BARGAIN RESTAURANTS

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Daily: 11am - 7pm

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www.allsportsgp.com

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

discussion, 7:15 p.m. Ask for title. Age 8 and up. Call 703-689-2700.

Friends' Book Discussion at the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston, 7:30 p.m. Ask for title. Adults. No registration is required. Call 703-689-2700.

Farmers' Market from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. at 765 Lynn St., Herndon. Visit www.herndon-va.gov.

FRIDAY/JULY 11

Friday Night Live will be from 6:30-10:30 p.m. on the Herndon Town Green, 777 Lynn St., Herndon. Jah Works will perform. Call 703-481-6133.

Kiddie Open Gym, 10:30-11:45 a.m. Bring toddlers and enjoy open play, tumbling on the mats, and kiddie basketball. Don't forget to pick up the calendar on the first day and a prize after each visit. Play with parent. Ages - Walking - 5. Drop in Rate - \$4. 5 Visit Pass - \$17. At the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Visit www.herndon-va.gov.

Kid's Night Out, 6:30-10 p.m. This program offers an opportunity for parents to enjoy a night out while their children participate in gym activities, play board games, do arts and crafts and much more. Cheese pizza, snacks and a movie on the big screen TV will also be offered. Pre-

registration is required. \$12. Ages 5-12. At the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Visit www.herndon-va.gov.

Cow Appreciation Day. The Chick-fil-A chain will celebrate its annual "Cow Appreciation Day" by offering a free meal to any customer who isn't "too chicken" to visit fully dressed as a cow. Festivities are planned throughout the day at the Chick-fil-A at 12160 Sunset Hills Road, Reston.

Stormin' Bob Swanson, the Singing Weatherman. Lively and en-lightning weather presentation with music and meteorology at the Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St. Herndon, 11 a.m. All ages. Call 703-437-8855.

HERNDON - FIREWORKS TWO GREAT - FREE - EVENTS!

FREE!



☆ Festivities begin at 6:30 pm at the Herndon Community Center/Bready Park - 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon

☆ Children's games, arts & crafts, and great food for sale!

Friday, July 4 • 6:30 pm
Fireworks • 9:30 pm

☆ 7:00 pm live performance by Javier Mandoza

This event is produced by the Town of Herndon Parks and Recreation Department.

Town of Herndon Celebration Title Sponsor:



For more information go to www.herndon-va.gov or call 703-787-7300

OR WATCH THE FIREWORKS FROM DOWNTOWN AT...

A special concert hosted by Friday Night Live!

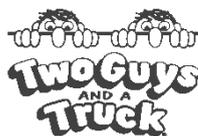


Great band, food vendors, beer and wine sales.

Featuring Hyjinx, playing high energy covers from 6:30 - 11:00 pm

This event is produced by the Herndon Chamber of Commerce.

Friday Night Live Title Sponsor:



For more information on Friday Night Live, visit www.herndonrocks.com or call 703-481-6133

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County Might Buy Foreclosures

Most members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors support the idea of addressing the local foreclosure problem with county resources, even if several had questions about the most controversial aspects of the proposal during a June 30 meeting. A vote on the proposal will come later this summer.

At the direction of county chairman Gerry Connolly (D), staff has looked into the possibility of Fairfax County purchasing 10 foreclosed or abandoned detached homes considered neighborhood nuisances. The county would fix up the homes and sell them to people who could not afford a freestanding house in Fairfax otherwise.

Supervisor Pat Herry (R – Springfield) questioned whether the real estate market might take care of the foreclosure problem on its own.

“This might be just a solution looking for a problem,” said Herry. At Herry’s request, the board asked staff to reexamine how it gathers foreclosure statistics.

Supervisor Jeff McKay (D – Lee) was in favor of the county buying up foreclosed homes but wanted to make sure the 10 homes would spread across many ZIP codes.

Ten percent of the Washington region’s total foreclosures took place in Fairfax County, according to the report. Of the 2,058 Fairfax foreclosures, about 22 percent took place in four parts of the county – Herndon, Centreville, Route 1 and Lorton.

— JULIA O’DONOGHUE

School Board Nixes Morality Report

The Fairfax County School Board voted June 19 to indefinitely postpone a staff report on students’ character and morality development, two months after the same report spurred widespread public outrage.

In late March, school officials presented data that showed white and Asian students performing better in areas like “demonstrating sound moral character and ethical judgment” than their peers who are black, Hispanic or qualify for special education services.

The school system relied on “soft” information from sources like elementary school report cards and student surveys to determine character performance.

School board member Phil Niedzielski-Eichner (Providence) said he had regretted that such a report had ever seen the light of day.

Over the past two months, some members of the African-American and Latino communities have come forward to disparage the report and the school system for airing it publicly.

— JULIA O’DONOGHUE

THE COUNTY LINE

MORE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Sacrifice for Wider Beltway?

Five-year project comes with tree loss, traffic and noise.

BY JULIA O’DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Like many local mountain bike enthusiasts, Kathy Levy is making frequent trips to Wakefield Park this summer.

Levy and her two sons live in Vienna but regularly drive to the park, just outside the Capital Beltway, because of its trails. Wakefield offers some of the only trails for mountain bikers near the core of the Washington metropolitan area.

“It is the only place to do technical riding that is close in,” said Levy. The park, located at 8100 Braddock Road, is home to several mountain bike events during the summer.

But at least a portion of the mountain bike trails will succumb to the expansion of the Capital Beltway, set to start this month.

Virginia Department of Transportation and its private partner, Fluor-Transurban, will permanently close some trail areas to add four “high occupancy toll” (HOT) lanes to Interstate 495.

THE BIKE TRAIL is one item in a long list of community amenities that the HOT lanes project could affect. The construction will force clearing of almost every tree within 50 feet of the Beltway on both sides. Sound walls that protect residential neighborhoods from Beltway noise will come down, possibly for several years, and the criteria for replacement is still unclear. And traffic along the Beltway will slow as construction moves forward.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors sent a list of dozens of issues it would like VDOT to address before kicking off the construction later this month. Many residents are up in arms already about trees VDOT and Fluor-Transurban have cut down, even though the actual project has not started.

“That was the tip of the iceberg of a project that has been pretty non-controversial to date because of a lack of information. We are going to start hearing from more people,” said supervisor Jeff McKay (Lee), head of the board’s transportation committee.

THE HOT LANES project is set to expand the Beltway from eight to 12 lanes, with two new toll lanes in each direction from the Springfield interchange to just north of the Dulles Toll road near the American Legion Bridge.

Buses, motorcycles, emergency vehicles and cars with three people or more would use the HOT lanes for free. All other motorists can opt to pay a toll that will vary by the level of congestion to travel in the new lanes. The lanes will cost an estimated \$1.4 billion in total, with Virginia paying for approximately \$400 million and the federal government covering \$587 million through a grant. Fluor-Transurban, an Australian company, will provide the rest of the financial backing in exchange for being able to collect and keep all the HOT lanes tolls for the more than 50 years.

The project is appealing for some people because it could allow for mass transit — buses — to move along the Beltway, although the project does not provide any transit or buses. “I am not an enormous proponent of the concept of HOT lanes to begin with but we have to have mass transit on the Beltway,” said McKay.

The highway expansion also comes with \$250 million worth of upgrades to the Beltway’s aging infrastructure. VDOT and Fluor-Transurban have committed to replacing more than 50 bridges and overpasses, replacing and adding new sound walls, and upgrading 12 of the interchanges along the HOT lanes stretch of the



Much of the tree canopy that separates Wakefield Park from the Capital Beltway could disappear when they add four additional lanes to the interstate.

What Are HOT Lanes?

The Beltway plan calls for adding two outside lanes in each direction, then dedicating the two inside lanes as “High Occupancy Toll” Lanes, or HOT Lanes. These expanded lanes will function in part like carpool lanes, free for cars with three or more people in the vehicles. But the HOT lanes will also be open to vehicles with one or two occupants for a fee. The toll rate will vary based on traffic congestion, with the price rising to keep traffic flowing in the HOT lanes. The contractors, Fluor and Transurban, will collect and keep the toll revenue, but have yet to finalize many specifics, including how tolls will be collected or methods of enforcement.

For the unabridged story, maps and more photos, see www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Beltway.

But even people who support the HOT lanes expect the project’s construction to cause a lot of pain over the next several years. “I do think the pay off is going to be worth it in the end but that end is a long way out,” said supervisor John Foust (Dranesville), who represents McLean,

Great Falls and Herndon.

According to VDOT spokesperson Steve Titunik, in general, all the trees within 50 feet of the Beltway on either side will be taken down. “Is it going to be severe? Yeah. Are we going to take down a lot of trees? Yeah,” he said.

“You cannot take all the trees out and have the Beltway bare to the community,” said supervisor Sharon Bulova (Braddock.) Bulova said it is unacceptable that the park could be left with potentially no barrier between it and the highway.

Wakefield is one of the most popular parks in the system, according to Winnie Shapiro, Braddock representative on the county park authority board. “I think people are going to be shocked by the tree loss,” said Shapiro.

BUT THE HOT Lanes construction will have the most dramatic effect on local traffic patterns and congestion.

Officials plan to start work on every single interchange and bridge along the portion of the Beltway that includes the HOT lanes at the same time. “While work may be going on at all the bridges, some bridges will have more work than others,” Titunik, said.

Construction will stop and no lanes will be closed on the Beltway between approximately 5 a.m. and 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Motorists who are trying to cross over the Beltway between Braddock Road and Route 123 may see more severe impacts than Beltway commuters. Some bridges could have lane closures for long stretches, said Titunik.

He added that motorists living in this area should consider alternative routes. Some supervisors fear the effect on neighborhoods of thousands of commuters seeking alternative routes.

“The only realistic way to avoid the Beltway is to cut through neighborhoods,” said Foust.

County officials and the public have not had much advance notice of new aspects of the HOT lanes plans and sometimes they don’t have enough time to adequately respond to new information. Not even Foust, the local supervisor, found out about VDOT’s plan to clear acres of trees across from Cooper Middle School before it had already happened. Several community members said the lack of communication has made them skeptical of how VDOT will handle similar situations in the future.

“When overnight, they clear an area across from a middle school, that kind of thing makes you lose trust. We would have worked with them in good faith to come up with another solution,” said McLean resident Mary Anne Hilliard.

Supervisors set up an ad hoc committee to meet regularly with VDOT about the HOT lanes project and strengthen the lines of communication between the agency and local government.

“You cannot take all the trees out and have the beltway bare to the community.”

— Supervisor Sharon Bulova (Braddock)

Herndon Braves Approaching Midseason Form

Cal Ripken Sr. collegiate league team has struggled early on, but is playing better.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Over the first half of the Cal Ripken Senior Collegiate Baseball League season, the Herndon Braves have pitched and fielded fairly well. But the team's biggest struggles have come at the plate. Chris Smith, the team's manager, is hoping to see that area of the team improve as the summer moves on.

"We're playing very good defense," said Smith. "We're third in the league in fielding percentage. And other than giving up [too many] walks, our pitching is pretty good. [But offensively] the hitters are just striking out too much. We lead the league in K's. Our approach at the plate isn't very good with two strikes. We need to put the ball in play more."

The elite Cal Ripken league is for

"Basically, you're playing almost every day. The players handle it well, but there is a mental grind. They get [to the field] three or four hours before a game for batting practice. That's what the big leaguers do."

—Braves Manager Chris Smith

collegiate players who have high hopes of playing professional ball in the future. Wooden bats are used, as opposed to the college season where players use aluminum bats. Lots of professional scouts show up to the summer league games in order to take a good look at the vast talent which the Cal Ripken league showcases. Most of the Braves' players are from throughout the East Coast.

Through June 29, Herndon carried an 8-11 overall record following a double-header sweep over the visiting Maryland Redbirds, 9-8 and 10-2, at Herndon High School. Two days earlier, Herndon defeated the Alexandria Aces, a talented, first year team and league member under general manager Pat Malone.

The Braves are nearing the midway point of their 42-game summer sched-

ule. The regular season will run through most of July before the postseason tournament takes place beginning July 30. A late season league All-Star game is scheduled for Tuesday, July 22 at Povich Stadium in Maryland.

RECENTLY, Herndon came off a stretch of games where it played 10 times over nine days. Smith said his team has held up well physically, but that the mental grind of such a stretch can wear players down. But he said it is a good test for his players, who all hope to play an even more rigorous pro ball schedule one day.

Most of the Braves' players stay with host families over the summer season. And a few stay with extended family or friends they know from the Northern Virginia area.

A handful of the Herndon players participated in the recent college World Series tournament that concluded just last week with Fresno State's improbable national title.

Herndon plays five or six games per week. The team's players are kept busy with pre-game workouts, the games themselves and rest. "Basically, you're playing almost every day," said Smith. "That sounds great until a stretch like [10 games in nine days]. The players handle it well, but there is a mental grind. They get [to the field] three or four hours before a game for batting practice. That's what the big leaguers do."

Once the season ends, most of the players will prepare to go back to their respective colleges and universities in September. And, throughout the upcoming school year, they will play autumn ball and then spring baseball. For most of these players, baseball is a year round deal.

Smith said his players are fortunate to have

good host families and a summer baseball organization that cares deeply for them. The Braves' sponsor couple, John and Lisa Lombardozi, help the team members adjust to their new surroundings and living arrangements. The players, Smith said, enjoy the host families they live with for the summer months.

"Our host families are great," said Smith. "Our kids like it here. They take charter busses to games and get fed on the bus."

THE BRAVES play their home games at Herndon High School. The crowds, which number at about 150 on good days, are lively and loyal. Fans can celebrate their birthdays at the park. Kids celebrating their birthdays enjoy eat pizza, hotdogs, cake and have the opportunity to meet the Braves' players.

The team has special thematic days at the ballpark. This Wednesday (July 2) at



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

The Braves have one of the top defensive teams thus far in the eight-team Cal Ripken collegiate league.

Herndon, the Braves will celebrate Armed Forces Day. The first 50 fans at the game will receive American flags and all members of the armed forces will be invited to the field for pre-game ceremonies and the playing of the national anthem.

Many of the team's fans are youngsters who have or are attending Herndon Braves' youth baseball camps. The youngsters get a chance to learn the game and meet the Braves players, who help out with the camps. It's only natural that the campers come to Herndon home games to support their new heroes.

"The kids like coming to see them play," said Smith. "The last two weeks we've had really good crowds."

Smith said his players are from such places as New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina and Indiana. One team member is even from Russia.

A handful of the team's players are local products, such as infielder Conor Mulle (St. Peter's College) and pitcher Joe Devlin (Lynchburg College), who are both graduates of Broad Run High School. Other locals include former Westfield High graduate Val Arduini (Okaloosa-Walton college), former Langley High player Derek Anderson, a pitcher who is playing collegiate ball at Trinity College, and Lake Braddock High grad Lee Bolyard (Johns Hopkins).

The Braves players are hungry to excel, but still hit a wall at one time or another over the challenging summer schedule.

"These kids want to learn," said South Lakes High baseball coach Galvin Morris, who is the Braves' assistant head coach. "It's fun and they're getting a good experience swinging a wooden bat and having to hit it

in the right spot [on the bat]."

Said Smith, "We always tell them to play hard, play smart and to have fun."

The eight-team Cal Ripken Senior Collegiate Baseball League consists of eight teams.

They are: the Herndon Braves, Alexandria Aces, Bethesda Big Train, College Park Bombers, Maryland Redbirds, Rockville Express, Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts, and Youse's Maryland Orioles.

The Braves play home games this week against the Alexandria Aces on Wednesday night at 7 and the Youse's Maryland Orioles on Saturday. Check out the latest on the Braves at Herndonbraves.com.

THE HERNDON BRAVES recently lost games to the top two teams in the Cal Ripken Sr. League—Youse's Maryland Orioles and the Bethesda Big Train. However, the Braves did take two out of three games against the Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts. Herndon infielder Connor Mulle has been hot for the Braves of late, recording eight hits in seventeen at-bats with three RBIs, while scoring five runs over four games. Catcher Mike Galvin and Drew Gehringer also had stellar weeks. Galvin was six-for-eleven, driving in five runs and scoring three, while Gehringer finished seven-for-seventeen, with five runs scored and two RBI. Local fans can listen to all of the Braves' games, home and away, on www.herndonbraves.com.

The Cal Ripken Senior League is comprised of some of the best college baseball players from throughout the east coast, and plays its home games at Herndon High School.

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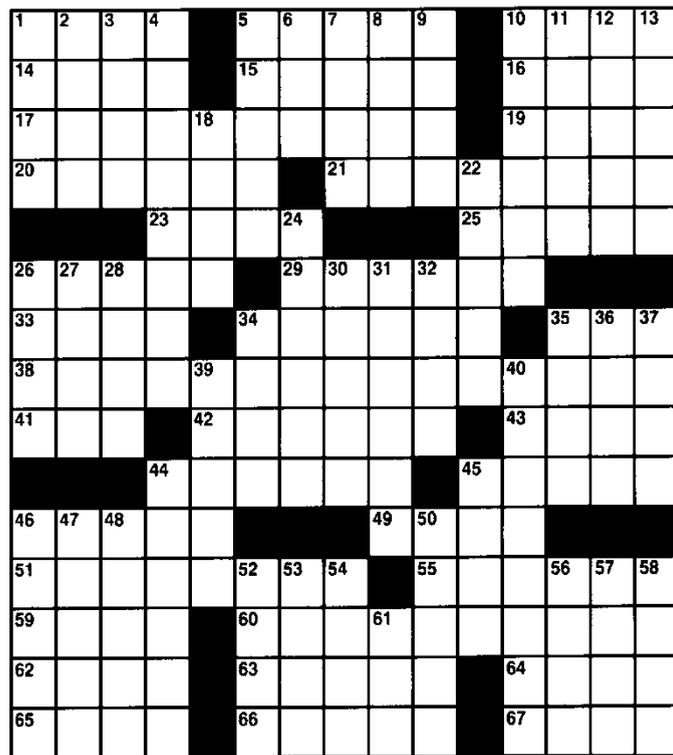
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66 Muddleheaded
67 Common flag feature

- 11 Utah's Hatch
12 "Mother —" (old standard)
13 Outfielder's asset
18 Pound sterling, informally
22 Vindictive anger
24 Gong hitter
26 Intro to physics?
27 Shuckers' units
28 Junket
30 Actress Graff
31 "Hail Mary" counter
32 Tampa Bay players, in headlines

- 34 Taj Mahal home
35 "Right on!"
36 Bog stuff
37 Capital on a fjord
39 Pusher's pursuer
40 Crossword solvers' smudges
44 Elasticized garment
45 Top Four matchup
46 Turns on an axis
47 Delicious
48 Neptune's realm
50 Empty spaces
52 Yemen's capital
53 P.D.Q., on "ER"
54 Six-foot avians
56 "Vamoose!"
57 Socialite Maxwell
58 Nostradamus, for one
61 Assayer's specimen

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

F	I	D	E	L	A	M	A	S	B	A	R	B				
A	N	O	D	E	M	O	R	K	O	B	I	E				
T	H	R	E	E	M	I	L	E	I	S	L	A	N	D		
C	A	I	N	A	N	D	A	N	T	E						
A	L	E	T	R	O	Y	A	R	B	O	R					
T	E	S	T	E	R	A	S	T	O	U	N	D				
						R	A	Y	O	V	A	C	L	E	S	
F	O	U	R	I	N	C	H	E	E	L	S					
F	L	O				N	U	R	S	E	R	Y				
L	A	P	D	O	G	S				D	R	E	A	M	Y	
A	N	S	E	L		B	T	U	S	N	A	E				
						C	A	T	T	A	I	L	D	A	I	S
F	I	V	E	Y	A	R	D	P	E	N	A	L	T	Y		
I	R	A	N			T	O	E	S	A	D	O	R	E		
B	E	N	T			A	D	R	Y	P	A	G	E	S		

SEE YOUR NAME IN PRINT!

Be the first person to fax in the correct crossword puzzle answers each week, and we'll put your name here! Fax the completed puzzle, with your name and the puzzle number, to the Crossword Puzzle Desk, fax # 703-917-0998!

The winner of puzzle #0315-1 is:

Guy Culbert

Chilled to the Bone, Sort Of



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the 32nd President of The United States (1933-1945) said it best — and most famously, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." But FDR probably never had to call an air-conditioning repair man smack dab in the middle of a heat index measuring 105 degrees (on the personal Richter scale) in Washington, D.C., in the summer, no less. Certainly FDR was familiar with Washington's status as center of the free world, but perhaps he was not as familiar with Washington's status as center of the "humiture index," the combination of heat and humidity, the summertime version of the ever-familiar and ever-uncomfortable, "wind chill."

Talk about carte blanche, and I don't mean the credit card, either. I mean the opportunity for an individual, acting in the best interests of the customer whose air conditioning is no longer conditioning properly, to evaluate and diagnose your unit's cooling issues and recommend a solution — a solution which will undoubtedly cost money, serious money, the kind of money you probably don't have sitting around.

Let's just say I'm skeptical of the repair being as simple as replacing the solenoid switch on my automobile's starter (versus a more involved and expensive repair) as advertised in a current Advance Auto Parts television commercial. Not only does my unit not have a solenoid switch (whatever that is), it's not likely to have any switch whose repair/replacement will likely cause minimal damage to my bank account. My fear is, my expectation is that whatever repair the technician says is necessary, however much he says the repair/replacement will cost, it's hardly information that I'll be able to verify independently or shop competitively. Moreover, given the temperature in the house, the heat and humidity outside of the house, and the presence of a technician in and out of the house, the last thing that seems prudent to do in the middle of a typical summer sizzle is, call another technician from some other company to come over at some other less convenient time and diagnose my air conditioning unit's condition and hope that his assessment/cost to repair will be less expensive than the assessment/solution that the technician who is at this very moment on-site and ready to repair is proposing; that helplessness, that inevitability, that lack of cost control is my fear.

And my related fear is, the technician has to know this, doesn't he? And the reason he knows this is, idiot that I am, I may have told his dispatcher of the urgency of my situation, which encouraged the dispatcher to send someone over to my house in the first place. Furthermore, I may have joked that my house "was like a sauna," quoting Kramer from a Seinfeld episode in which he and Jerry were actually sitting in a sauna when he said this. Sensing then that I was a "hot lead," literally and figuratively, what margin of cost-reasonability I had hoped for is likely heading out the open window.

And if I had plenty of money, plenty of time, plenty of patience, and plenty of knowledge to have an even remotely intelligent conversation with the technician/repairman, perhaps I wouldn't feel so totally at their mercy. And it's not that I don't appreciate and respect their knowledge on the subject at hand, it's more that I understand my own deficiencies and anticipate that these circumstances will lead me down a garden path to a repair/replacement I don't need or a repair/replacement I can't afford.

Either way, it's more than fear that I'll end up fearing; it's more like the money that I'll have to pay that I don't have and can't easily replace. But what options do I have? Perhaps I can find another famous FDR quote that applies. FDR also said: "When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on." And so I shall. I suppose it beats the alternative.

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

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NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S

SALE OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT

6234 QUANDER ROAD, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22307

SALE TO BE HELD AT 4110 CHAIN BRIDGE ROAD, FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030

JULY 11, 2008

AT 10:00 A.M.

In execution of the Deed of Trust dated August 9, 2004, and recorded in Deed Book 16387, Page 2016, among the land records of Fairfax County, Virginia (collectively, the "Deed of Trust"), securing The Washington Savings Bank, F.S.B. (the "Noteholder"), default having occurred in the payment of the debt secured thereby, and being instructed to do so by the Noteholder, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will offer for sale the property described below at public auction on the front steps of the Fairfax County Courthouse located at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia 22030 on July 11, 2008, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

The real property encumbered by the Deed of Trust that will be offered for sale by the Substitute Trustees is generally known as 6234 Quander Road, Alexandria, Fairfax County, Virginia 22307 and is described in more detail in the Deed of Trust and as follows:

PARCEL 2, containing 2.183 acres, more or less, of the subdivision of the PROPERTY OF ELIZABETH J. QUANDER, as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 1785, Page 264, among the land records of Fairfax County, Virginia.

LESS AND EXCEPT all of that lot or parcel of land containing 8,750 square feet more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a corner of Parcel 2 of the subdivision of the Residue of the property of Elizabeth J. Quander in the southwesterly line of Quander Road (Route #630) and running thence with a line of said parcel S.44 degrees, 22' 50" W. 160.0 feet to another corner of said parcel thence running through the parcel N. 0 degrees, 37' 10" W. 98.99 feet and N. 44 degrees 22' 50" E. 90.00 feet to a point in the line of Quander Road, thence with the line of said road S. 45 degrees 37' 10" E. 70.00 feet, to the point of the beginning.

TERMS OF SALE

ALL CASH. The property will be offered for sale "AS IS, WHERE IS" and will be conveyed by Substitute Trustees' Deed (the "Substitute Trustees' Deed") subject to all encumbrances, rights, reservations, conveyances, conditions, easements, restrictions, and all recorded and unrecorded liens, if any, having priority over the Deed of Trust, as they may lawfully affect the property.

The Substitute Trustees and the Beneficiary disclaim all warranties of any kind, either express or implied for the property, including without limitation, any warranty relating to the zoning, condition of the soil, extent of construction, materials, habitability, environmental condition, compliance with applicable laws, fitness for a particular purpose and merchantability. The risk of loss or damage to the property shall be borne by the successful bidder from and after the date of the time of the sale. Obtaining possession of the property shall be the sole responsibility of the successful bidder (the "Purchaser").

A bidder's deposit of \$25,000.00 (the "Deposit") by certified or cashier's check may be required by the Substitute Trustees for such bid to be accepted. The Substitute Trustees reserve the right to prequalify any bidder prior to the sale and/or waive the requirement of the Deposit. Immediately after the sale, the successful bidder shall execute and deliver a memorandum of sale with the Substitute Trustees, copies of which shall be available for inspection immediately prior to the sale, and shall deliver to the Substitute Trustees the Deposit and the memorandum of sale. The balance of the purchase price, together with interest at 8.5% per annum from the date of sale to the date of settlement, shall be paid by the Purchaser. Settlement shall occur within ten (10) days after the sale date, TIME BEING OF THE ESSENCE with regard to the Purchaser's obligation.

Settlement shall take place at the offices of Venable LLP, 8010 Towers Crescent Drive, Suite 300, Vienna, Virginia 22182. Purchaser shall pay all past due real estate taxes, rollback taxes, water rents, water permit renewal fees (if any) or other municipal liens, charges and assessments. The Purchaser shall also pay all settlement fees, title examination charges, title charges and title insurance premiums, all recording costs (including the state grantor's tax and all state and county recordation fees, clerk's filing fees and transfer fees and taxes), auctioneer's fees and/or bid premiums, and reasonable attorneys' fees and disbursements incurred in the preparation of the deed of conveyance and other settlement documentation.

The Purchaser shall be required to sign an agreement at settlement waiving any cause of action it or they may have against the Substitute Trustees, and/or the Beneficiary for any condition with respect to the property that may not be in compliance with any federal, state or local law, regulation or ruling including, without limitation, any laws, regulation and ruling relating to environmental contamination or hazardous wastes. Such agreement shall also provide that if notwithstanding such agreement, a court of competent jurisdiction should permit such a claim to be made, such agreement shall serve as the overwhelming primary factor in any equitable apportionment of response costs or other liability. Nothing herein shall release, waive or preclude any claims the Purchaser may have against any person in possession or control of the property.

If any Purchaser fails for any reason to complete settlement as provided above, the Deposit shall be forfeited and applied to the costs of the sale, including Trustees' fees, and the balance, if any, shall be delivered to the Beneficiary to be applied by the Beneficiary against the indebtedness secured by and other amounts due under the Deed of Trust in accordance with the Deed of Trust or applicable law or otherwise as the Beneficiary shall elect. There shall be no refunds. Such forfeiture shall not limit any rights or remedies of the Substitute Trustees or the Beneficiary with respect to any such default. If the property is resold, such re-sale shall be at the risk and the cost of the failing bidder, and the failing bidder shall be liable for any deficiency between its bid and the successful bid at the re-sale as well as the costs of conducting such re-sale. Immediately upon conveyance by the Substitute Trustees of the property, all duties, liabilities and obligations of the Substitute Trustees, if any, with respect to the property so conveyed shall be extinguished, except as otherwise provided by applicable law.

/s/ Henry F Brandenstein, Jr.

Substitute Trustee

/s/ Jessica L. Sartorius

Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lauren T. Coapstick, Esq.

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TRUSTEE'S SALE

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In execution of a Deed of Trust from Robert Thompson and Amy Beth Thompson, dated April 29, 2005, and recorded May 2, 2005, in Deed Book 17238 at page 1788 among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Judicial Center for Fairfax County, at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

At 11:32 a.m. Eastern Daylight Savings Time

the following property being the property contained in said Deed

of Trust, described as follows:

Lot 314, Section 4, Fox Mill Estates, as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 3802 at page 498, among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Commonly known as 2625 Viking Drive, Herndon, Virginia 20171.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$50,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 5.25 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

Any defaulting purchaser shall forfeit the deposit and stand the risk and cost of resale.

Sale shall be made subject to all existing easements and restrictive covenants as the same may lawfully affect the real estate. Sale is further subject to mechanic's and/or materialman's liens of record and not of record. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, covenants, restrictions, rights of redemption of federal lienholders or encumbrances, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any.

In the event the undersigned trustee is unable to convey to the purchaser good title, then purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy shall be in the refund of the deposit paid at the time of sale.

The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Purchaser shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zoning code violations whether of record or not of record, as well as for all unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser also shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the property at

his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the risk of loss and shall be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of sale. Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Conveyancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of title, state stamps, and all other costs of conveyance are to be at the expense of purchaser. State and local taxes, public charges, and special or regular assessments, if any, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by the purchaser.

The undersigned trustee unconditionally reserves the right: (i) to waive the deposit requirement; (ii) to approve or disapprove the creditworthiness of any bidder and/or purchaser; (iii) to withdraw the property from sale at any time prior to termination of the bidding; (iv) to extend the time for bidding; (v) to reject any or all bids; (vi) to postpone or set over the date or time of sale; and (vii) to extend the period of time for settlement hereunder.

Additional terms and conditions of sale may be announced at the time of sale.

DAVID N. PRENSKY

Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

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