Reston Connection

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# Missing Link

News, Page 3

Fairfax County has obtained an easement from Northgate Condominium Unit Owners Association to complete the Wiehle Avenue Walkway, connecting points north of Baron Cameron Avenue to community amenities on Wiehle Avenue, including the W&OD Trail.

## Learning in Japanese

News, Page 3

## Connecting Homeschoolers

News, Page 4

inside

Honey, Reptiles and Water

NatureFest 2008 takes place this weekend.

Photo by Mirza Kurspahic /The Connection

Opinion, Page 8 ❖ Real Estate, Page 15 ❖ Faith, Page 17 ❖ Classifieds, Page 18

September 17-23, 2008 ❖ Volume XXII, Number 38

www.connectionnewspapers.com

# LONG & FOSTER

## Reston North Hills Office

### 1675 Reston Parkway • Reston, VA • 703-435-4900

**Oakton** **$915,000**

Privacy on 5 acres in Oakton. Charming Williamsburg col w/ 9ft ceilings double staircase, 1st flr library w/custom built-ins, main lvl Fam rm, hdwds, 2 fpls, secluded back yard w/oversized 3 tier deck, huge mudroom, fin walk-out bsmnt w/sep entry for nanny or in-law suite. Also FOR RENT $3600.

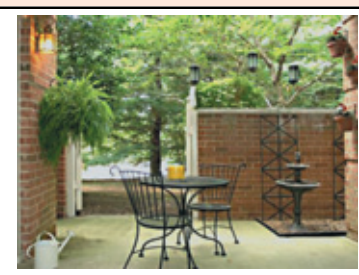
**Reston** **$750,000**

Spectacular contemporary on beautifully wooded lot! Open 5-level floopaln with dramatic angles, overlooks, custom windows & more! Updated kitchen and baths! Walkout lower level! Front & Rear Decks!

**Reston** **$290,000**

Fantastic bright condo overlooks pool, clubhouse & courtyard! 2 Master suites! Living/dining combination w/gas fpl in LR! Upgraded neutral carpet & pad & kit w/Hdwd, GE profile appliances, Corian w/maple cab,s plus hostess counter. Hdwd foyer w/crown molding. Great for commuting, entertainment & shopping.

**Call Debbie Gill 703-346-1373**



**Reston** **$298,000**

**Dog Owners**

Would love the convenience of this 2 BR – 2BA with easy access to wooded common area for taking your dog outdoors. Large private courtyard patio is tucked away in the trees! Former builder's model with open floor plan! Gas fireplace, high ceilings, custom closets & more!

**Call Karen Swanson 703-795-9970**

**Leesburg** **$2,500,000**

**One-of-a-Kind Offering on 35 Ac!**

Stately brick custom Col on 14.96 wooded ac w 4 fin lvls, 6 BR, 5.5 BA, 6 fpls in main house, + 1 BR apt in Carriage house. Crestron automation, 10 ft ceilings, gleaming HWD. Heated pool/spa, 2 decks, party patio w b/in BBQ+2nd full kit in LL. Sale includes 20 ac fenced equestrian lot next door. **Call Terry for private showing@703-861-0538.**

**Stunning Gulick Home!** **$1,045,000**

Style and class breathe into every room of this exquisite home. Gorgeous private setting in an intimate enclave of 23 low maintenance homes. Encircled by nature but within short walking distance of urban amenities.

**Call Pat Orend 703-407-3300**

**Reston**
**$487,900**
**All-Brick Beauty!**

Nestled in the trees in N Reston is this Devonshire all-brick gar TH. Inviting 3BR, 3.5 BA has updated kit, warm HDWDs, open floor plan & lux owners suite. Walk-out lwr lvl w/full BA & gas fpl; x-large deck has space for outdoor entertaining & privacy.

Minutes from all that Reston has to offer! Details at www.**HomesbyTrudy**.com or call **703-668-1819.**

**Reston** **$173,500**

**A Perfect 10**

Gorgeous, renovated 1 BR condo with a wall of windows that opens to a huge balcony backing to trees. Everything new: windows, tile floors in foyer, kit, DR & bath; carpet, appliances, bath vanity & fixtures, all lighting & paint.

**Call Marcy Thomas 703-927-2190**

**Reston** **$785,000**

Smashing contemporary with over 3500 sq ft in sought after North Reston on a gorgeous landscaped private oasis. Soaring ceilings and walls of glass, chef"s gourmet kitchen, 2 fireplaces,sep master retreat,fin lwr lvl w/rec rm & study. This is a "wow" home throughout, don't miss this one!

**Reston** **$849,000**

Breathtaking Wrenn Patio home in sought after lakeside cluster in N Reston. Fav flpln w/g'met kir, hdwds, walls of glass, dramatic 2 story LR, Sumptuous master retreat w/wet bar, FP, garden BA. Fin lwr lvl salk-out w.full gst suite, rec rm, workshop. Move-in perfect w/3600+SF.

**Call Missy Edmondson 703-932-8484**

**Reston**
**$479,900**
**Stunning!**

3B 3-1/2 BA Welcome home to an upscale, updated beautiful home. Relax & enjoy friends/family on the private patio & deck. G'met kit incl Italian Ceramic flr, tumbled marble & stainless apl, updated baths, gleaming hardwood fls. Private deck and patio w/prof hardscape & landscape w/water feature.

**Reston**
**$319,000**
**Renovated & Beautiful!!!**

All of the works been done. NEW kitchen, carpet, wood lamiate bath vanities, mirrors & lighting. Freshly painted, Just like new! Don't miss this one!

Walk to Reston Town Center.

**Call Mary Miceli at 730-362-2242**

**Reston** **$924,900**

Gorgeous single family in desirable N. Reston. 1st floor master suite w/luxurious master BA, 2 story Great room, open kitchen w/ctr island & breakfast area. Huge finished walk-out basement w/5th BR & full BA. Peaceful setting w/fenced rear yard backing to trees. Great floor plan w/lg rooms. Must See!

**Reston** **$542,500**

Victoria model w/2600+ fin SF. New hdws t/o main lvl! Recessed lighting. Lg. BR's w/vaulted ceilings. Lux mstr BA w/soaking tub/sep shower, w/o fully fin bsmt w/fp, laundry, & den. Gar entrance mn lvl. Extra parking in front. Gorgeous lot backing to towering trees. Walk to pools, tennis, Buzz Aldrin elem, N Point Village Ctr.

**Call Marnie Schaar 703-509-3107**

**Woodbridge**

COMING SOON! Luxury main level living a moment from glorious Leesylvania State Park in Woodbridge. Boasting 4 BR, 4 FBA, stadium theater, cherry flrs & cbnts, fab lwr lvl granite bar for entertaining in huge rec room. Almost 6,000 s.f. w/18-20 ft ceilings. Peaceful, beautiful neighborhood. A rare and wonderful light-filled find!

**Call Lisa Carlisle 571-334-3440**

**Reston** **$497,400**

**Looking for Something Special?**

Many updates through-out this 4 BR home. Beautiful hdwds, granite in kit along with recessed lights & recently replaced appliances. Two FPs, super location, minutes to pool, tennis & shops. Private cluster dock for year-round enjoyment on Lake Anne!

**Call Carolyn Murray 703-819-7663**

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**call Anita Lasansky**

**703-435-4900**

Reston Connection Editor Steven M. Mauren
703-917-6451 or reston@connectionnewspapers.com

# Easement for Trail Completion Acquired

## Long delay ends for Wiehle Avenue walkway.

By Mirza Kurspahic
The Connection

After eight years of negotiations, Fairfax County will be able to start the work to complete the Wiehle Avenue walkway, the missing link to connecting points north of Baron Cameron Avenue to the rest of the Wiehle Avenue Trail. On Aug. 15, the Northgate Condominium Unit Owners Association committed to an easement for a 700-foot segment of the trail that will permit the walkway's completion.

"There has been a long delay and we were fortunate to get cooperation from the Northgate owners," said Supervisor Catherine Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill). She said the completion of the walkway would present a "tremendous" amount of safety improvements for pedestrians and bicyclists in the area, to include the faith communities located on the opposite side of Wiehle Avenue from Northgate Condos, St. Thomas a Beckett Catholic Church and Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation.

**"It would complete an essential link . . ."**
**— Nicole Mogul, a coordinator of Reston On Foot**

The eight-year negotiation process is of an unusual length, but Hudgins said land acquisition is always difficult. The first meeting on the project took place in November 2000. "Acquisition has been the main reason for the delay," said Hudgins. She said that new leadership in the condo association cooperated with the county, making it possible to work through an agreement without the use of eminent domain. "We are pleased to not have to go that way," said Hudgins about the government's power to acquire private property for public use. She added that Reston Association played an important role in presenting the case to the Northgate Condo owners about how the easement would benefit the entire Reston community.

**The easement makes possible the completion of a missing link in the Wiehle Avenue Trail.**

Map courtesy of Supervisor Hudgins's office

Photo by Mirza Kurspahic/The Connection

**The Wiehle Avenue Trail ends at North Shore Drive. No pedestrian infrastructure exists north of North Shore Drive on either side of Wiehle Avenue.**

See Walkway, Page 17

# Immersion Program Reinforced

## Fox Mill Elementary School principal tours Japan to learn country's culture and language education.

By Mirza Kurspahic
The Connection

Fox Mill Elementary School fifth grader Rushi Patel has lived in the United States his entire life, mostly in the Herndon-Reston area. Although his family does not stem from Japan, Patel communicates with his teachers and classmates in Japanese half of each school day.

"If I go to Japan one day, I will be able to understand people and get directions," said Rushi, a Japanese Immersion program student at Fox Mill. The school initiated the program 15 years ago and Principal Patricia Sheehy said some former students have gone on to work in the Peace Corps, an English language teaching program in Japan or businesses that have contracts in Japan.

However, the immersion program does not teach students Japanese language, rather the curriculum for the first half of the day is taught in Japanese. Sheehy said about a third of Fox Mill's 675 students are enrolled in the Japanese Immersion program. "Even the Pledge of Allegiance is spoken in Japanese," said Sheehy.

"We don't teach Japanese, we teach concept, math and science, in Japanese," said Nahoko Nakayama, a teacher of 15 years at Fox Mill Elementary School. "Language is a tool," she said.

Nakayama is a native Japanese speaker, as are all of the other teachers in the program. Sheehy said many of the teachers in the program acquired teaching certifications in Japan before coming to the United States and acquiring teaching certifications in Virginia. Nakayama immigrated to the United

See Immersion, Page 17

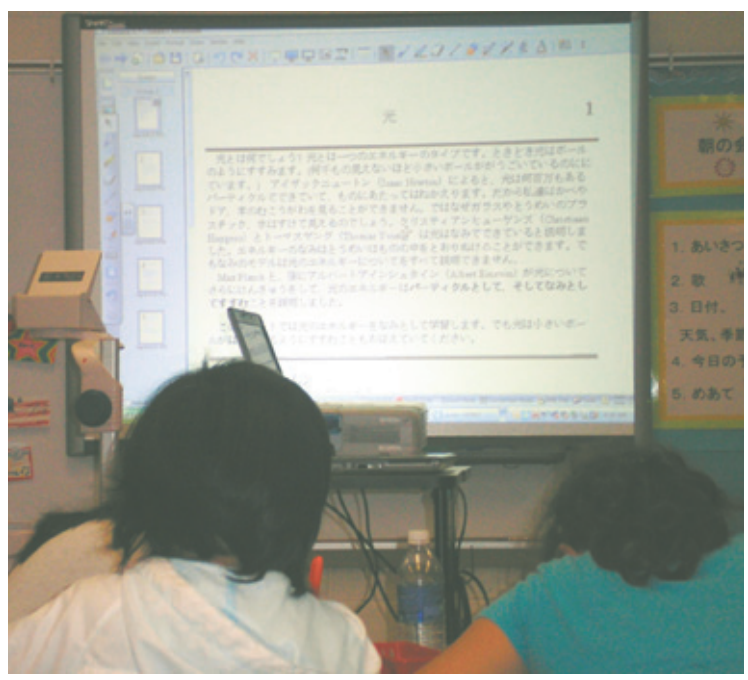

Photo by Mirza Kurspahic/The Connection

**A morning 5th Grade class at Fox Mill Elementary School is taught a math lesson in Japanese. The overhead projector displays Japanese characters.**

## Car Theft and Destruction

Fairfax County Crime Solvers is asking the public's assistance in identifying the person(s) responsible for stealing a car and then intentionally damaging and crashing it. On Tuesday, July 29, at 6:38 a.m., the police were called to Lake Fairfax Park for a hit and run vehicle. An investigation concluded that a 2002 Lexus ES300 was stolen from the 1600 block of Dunterry Place in McLean during the overnight hours. The suspect(s) drove the car over a hillside and through a metal fence at the Watermine Park, then keyed the car, smashed the windows and crushed the hood and roof by jumping on top. Damage to the fence was estimated to be about $6,500. Detectives believe the suspect(s) may be related to other similar incidents in the county.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS(8477), e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text TIP187 plus the message to CRIMES (274637). A $100 to $1,000 cash reward will be paid for information that leads to an arrest. The callers never have to give their name or appear in court.

## Snake Bites Reported

With some reported snake bites in the Reston area, the Reston Association is providing information about Northern Copperheads and other local snakes to assist with identification and to offer precautions, when needed. The reported bites occurred in neighborhoods off Aldenham Lane, Thanlet Lane and Woodbrook Lane. Unusually high numbers of encounters can occur in September when snakes search for under-rock dens when they can spend the winter.

The copperhead is the only venomous snake in Reston. The key to recognizing a copperhead is the pattern on the body. The color on copperheads can vary and is not always reliable for identification. The copperhead has an hour-glass shape draped across its body. The thin middle of the hour-glass is on the middle of the snake's back. They also have a vertically slitted, elliptical pupil that resembles a cat's eye. All baby copperheads have a bright, yellow tail.

For more information contact Claudia Thompson-Deahl, Reston Association Natural Resource Manager at 703-435-6547 or via e-mail at claudia@reston.org.

## Chalk for Peace at School

Hunters Woods Elementary School of Arts and Sciences will participate in the 3rd Annual Chalk4Peace during the school week of Sept. 15-19. On Saturday, Sept. 20, from 9 to 12 p.m., the school is inviting the Reston community to the final day of celebration. Images of what peace means will be drawn on the sidewalks at school using sidewalk chalk and pastels. The theme is "What does peace mean to you?" Refreshments will be available.

## R4 Collection Day Set

Reston Town Center will host the R4 Collection Day: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Reston on Wednesday, Sept. 17 from 1 to 4 p.m. In an effort to increase awareness and provide options for disposal, items that can be diverted from landfill will be accepted for collection at the Reston Town Center Pavilion. Reston Town Center is partnering with Clean Fairfax, The Bike Lane, Lions Club of Reston, Office Shredding, Turtle Wings, The Home Depot, Reston Interfaith and REACT for this event. For more information, or to see a list of collection items, visit www.restontowncenter.com.

## Reston GOP To Host Stewart

The Republican Club of Greater Reston will host as its guest speaker Corey Stewart, the Prince William County Board of Supervisors chairman on Friday, Sept. 19, at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will take place at Reston Community Center at Lake Anne in Reston. Attendees are encouraged to bring snack or dessert to

See Week, Page 6



# Connecting Homeschoolers

## Reasons for homeschooling vary in Herndon-Reston area.

By Mirza Kurspahic
The Connection

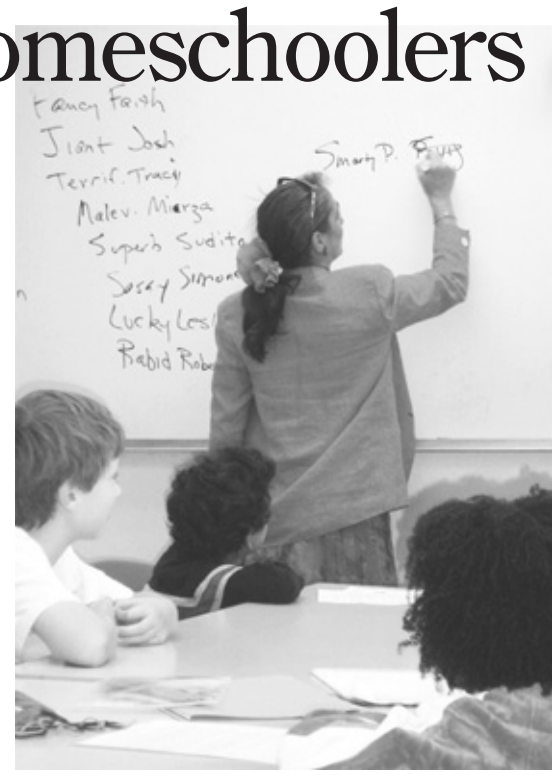

Photo by Mirza Kurspahic/The Connection

**Ritzya Mitchell directs a warm-up for the Odyssey of the Mind at Herndon's Neighborhood Resource Center on Thursday afternoon, Sept. 11. The activity is part of a program for homeschooled children in the Herndon-Reston area.**

Reston resident Cathleen Wolcott spent a little more than a year at Herndon High School before opting out of public schooling. Her grades freshman year and early as a sophomore suffered, her report card was marked with Ds, but Wolcott managed As and Bs on every test and quiz taken at Herndon.

"I'm an auditory learner and I have visual memory," said Wolcott, adding that she learns by listening to a teacher and then drawing to remember the lesson. "I got in trouble for doodling a lot," she said. "It's just how I learn."

"The teachers pretty much ignored her IEP (Individualized Education Program)," said Dawn Walker, Wolcott's mother. Walker said the grades were also based in large part on missed homework assignments, something she said required organizational skills. Walker added that it was documented that Wolcott needed special help in those skills.

> "I got in trouble for doodling a lot. It's just how I learn."
> **— Cathleen Wolcott, Reston homeschool student and former Herndon High student**

Two years later, Wolcott is a 17-year-old homeschooled high school student. Her social life has not suffered, she said, since she has left Herndon High. She still sees her friends from Herndon High at parties and her responsibilities have accelerated, even though she gets to get up at 9. "I'm so busy now," said Wolcott, who also works part time, does fencing and is dual enrolled at Northern Virginia Community College where she takes 12 credits. Next year she hopes to transfer to Virginia Commonwealth University.

"Forget AP (Advanced Placement) classes and take the real thing," said Walker, regarding Wolcott's dual enrollment in college.

**WOLCOTT IS ALSO** involved in the Odyssey of the Mind group for homeschooled students that meets on Thursday afternoons at the Neighborhood Resource Center in Herndon. Odyssey of the Mind is a competitive activity that seeks to develop creative problem solving skills through teamwork. Herndon resident Max Leon-Guerrero, 16, is on Wolcott's team. He left Westfield High School halfway through the school year last year. Leon-Guerrero likes homeschooling for a number of reasons and does not miss Westfield where he could not get on the football team with so many students interested in the same activity. "You can work at your own pace. If you have a question you don't have to wait a long-time for an answer and there is no set schedule. It [an assignment] has to be done by the end of the day," he said. Leon-Guerrero plays football on a Herndon Optimists team now.

"It's really fun, but it's really noisy and hard to hear," said Joshua Roberts, 13, of Vienna, after finishing an hour-long Odyssey of the Mind session at the Neighborhood Resource Center. Odyssey of the Mind is not the only activity Roberts is involved in either. "Every school year I go to tons of activities," he said. His favorites are tennis, karate and track. "I do all sorts of groups," said Roberts.

Tami Conklin, the coordinator of the homeschoolers' Odyssey of the Mind group, said she hopes the group that meets at the Neighborhood Resource Center would enter four or five teams in competition later in the academic year. Conklin, a Herndon resident, has three children. The oldest, six-year-old Zachary, is homeschooled. Conklin decided on homeschooling Zachary for religious reasons for the most part. "We are free to discuss things at home that we would not be free to discuss at school," she said about the decision to homeschool.

Carryn Woollard, also a Herndon resident, is homeschooling her 14-year-old daughter Sierra for religious reasons also. "We rarely are home," said Woollard. She said Sierra plays in a homeschool band and is a member of a Hispanic dance company. Because of a more flexible schedule, she has been able to perform at the State Department and has traveled the country doing volunteer work through Generation Joshua Student Action Teams, designed for young people to help pro-life political candidates. "She does a lot of volunteer work," said Woollard.

Reston resident Lisandrea Wentland said she chose homeschooling for her five-year-old son Logan because she can customize his education according to his needs. She said Logan has a 13-year-old's vocabulary and reads at a 5th grade level. If he was enrolled in a school, she said, "He would be a part of introductory reading in Kindergarten, which we feel would be a condescending, and boring, environment for him. It's so much easier to individualize his education at home and keep pace with his intense intellect and curiosity."

**PARENTS OF HOMESCHOOLERS** opted out of public education and private schools for different and multiple reasons. Their typical days are as different

See Homeschoolers, Page 15

**Nathan Pool**

**Anne Keady**

**Kaliah Perry**

**Reza Moghaddasnia**

**Tayo Falaiye**

# SLHS Tag Day on Saturday

The 2008 Tag Day annual fundraiser run by the award-winning South Lakes High School Band has been rescheduled to Saturday, Sept. 20, because of tropical storm Hannah.

Donations collected during Tag Day are used to purchase new music, hire additional clinicians, pay competition fees, rent equipment, repair instruments and to reduce the cost of student trips to participate in competitions or festivals.

Members of the SLHS Band Wind Ensemble will travel to New Your City this spring to participate in the Third Annual New York Band & Orchestra Festival at Carnegie Hall from March 29 until April 2, 2009. Participation in this invitation-only event is the latest in a string of honors received by the South Lakes Wind Ensemble under the direction of Grayson Fore.

In March 2007 the South Lakes High School Wind Ensemble was one of 17 bands from across the United States selected to participate in the National Music for All Festival.

In April 2006, the South Lakes Wind Ensemble was one of three high school bands and two college wind ensembles invited to play at the Kennedy Center as part of the inaugural Washington, D.C. International Wind Band Festival.

For more information, visit the South Lakes Band Web site at www.southlakesband.org.

## School Notes

Upcoming **South Lakes High School** dates:

**Sept. 17**, PTSA Meeting;

**Sept. 18**, 12th Grade Parent Meeting 7 p.m. Lecture Hall;

**Sept 22-23**, Underclass Pictures;

**Sept 23-25**, Essence Repertoire Dance Company 2:15 p.m.; **Sept. 25,** Back to School Night 7 p.m.

Students at **Hunters Woods Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences** will use colorful chalk to create drawings depicting their visions of peace during the upcoming Chalk4Peace global art project this week, **Sept.15-19**. All of the Hunters Woods students will participate — by grade level, beginning at 9 a.m. and ending at approximately 3 p.m. Their artwork will fill the sidewalks around the school, weather permitting. FCPS Art teachers Wendy Pierce, Norma Morris and Mary D'Amico are spearheading the event.

The school's PTA is sponsoring a Chalk for Peace Social for Hunters Woods families and the community on Saturday, **Sept. 20** from 9 a.m.- noon.

**The 1st Annual Seahawk Community Yard Sale** will be held on Saturday, Oct. 4, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. To rent a table or booth, visit www.seahawkboosters.com. Space rental is $20 per space (two parking space widths); table rental is $10 per 6-foot table. Location is South Lakes High School, Faculty/Main parking lot (Flagpole side). The Booster Club will also have a table of items for sale, apparel, memberships, snacks and drinks. Contact Debbie Neuman at 703-620-0564 or email SLHSComminitySale@comcast.net.

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From Page 4

share. All are welcome. For more information call 703-904-0428.

## FY2010 Budget Input Sought

Fairfax County, in conjunction with the Fairfax County Public Schools, has scheduled 20 community dialogue sessions for citizen input on the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget. The county has also established a budget hot line and an online budget feedback form. One of the first of the community dialogue sessions will take place on Saturday, Sept. 20, at 9:30 a.m. at the Reston Regional Library, located at 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. The budget hot line can be reached at 703-324-9400 and comments can be left on the budget Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

## Obama Reston-Herndon Office

The Democratic Party of Virginia will host a grand opening on Saturday, September 20, from 1 to 4 p.m., of the Reston-Herndon office for Presidential candidate Barack Obama. The "Campaign for Change" office is located at 462 Herndon Parkway, Suite 102, in Herndon. For more information contact ccurrie@vaobamaforchange.com or call 571-839-0671.

## Congressional Debates

The League of Women Voters (LWV) of the Fairfax Area and Fairfax Community Access Channel are co-sponsoring televised debates between candidates for this fall's Northern Virginia congressional district elections. The debates will be broadcast live on Fairfax channel 10 and available on the internet at http://easylink.playstream.com/winlive/insidescoop.wvx. Incumbent U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D) and 8th district challengers Mark Elmore (R) and J. Ron Fisher (IG) will face off on Monday, Sept. 22, from 7 to 8 p.m.

## RCA Hosts Nicoson

Reston Citizens Association (RCA) will host Patti Nicoson, President of the Dulles Corridor Rail Association, at its regular meeting on Monday, Sept. 22, at 8 p.m. The presentation is the third in the series on the rail extension to Dulles hosted by the RCA. The discussion will be televised live on Channel 28.

## ADAMS PEACE Gathering

The All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS) will hold the 7th Annual Interfaith PEACE Gathering at the ADAMS Center in Sterling on Saturday, Sept. 27, from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. The gathering is held in remembrance of the victims of the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks. Interfaith groups will be represented and speaking at the event. ADAMS will also be honoring local Police and Fire Departments for their continuous community service.

## Congressional Forum

A forum for candidates running for a congressional seat representing Virginia's 8th District will debate on Reston Community Television, Channel 28, on Monday, Sept. 29 at 8 p.m. Incumbent Jim Moran (D) and challenger Mark Ellmore (R) will make opening statements, field questions from a panel of community journalists and ask one another a question. The 2008 forum is sponsored by the Reston Citizens Association and Reston Impact.

## Dogwood Pool Meeting

An informational meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 30, at 7 p.m. on the proposed changes to the Dogwood Pool. The features being considered include a 3-lap lane 25-meter main pool with a diving well, a splash area with spray features, a new bathhouse and in-water benches. The meeting will take place at Southgate Community Center, located at 12125 Pinecrest Road. For more information visit www.reston.org or call 703-435-6528.

# People

Photo by Lou Ann Armstrong

## Debating Out of State

**Members of the South Lakes High School Debate Team traveled to Winston-Salem, N.C. on Friday, Sept. 12 to participate in the weekend Wake Forest Early Bird Tournament. Team competitors were Hala Nicolas, Momin Khan, Jibran Khan and co-captain Sophia Armstrong. German Teacher Cheryl Finley accompanied the team as coach.**

## New Officers

**The new Student Council officers at Dogwood Elementary School are Sgt. At Arms Will Macomber, Secretary Stephanie Edmonds, President Christopher Valenzuela, Vice President Kelcie Macomber, Treasurer Anna Manalansan, and Historian Scott Bryan.**

## FISH Seeks Gala Fling Sponsors

Herndon-Reston FISH (Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help), Inc., announces its contract with the Crowne Plaza Dulles Airport Hotel, 2200 Centreville Road, Herndon, for the next FISH Fling Gala and Fund-raiser, scheduled for Saturday, May 9, 2009. FISH invites sponsorships for this event, which will celebrate the 40th anniversary of FISH, and encourages the community to save the date on their calendars.

The majority of Herndon-Reston FISH clients are the working poor and the working middle class, who are able to make ends meet until an event occurs to cause a financial crisis — such as an illness or job loss. The rise in foreclosures, food prices, and gasoline prices has resulted in the need for FISH volunteers to raise more funds to meet the needs of more people.

FISH receives revenues for its Family Assistance Program from The Bargain Loft (thrift shop in Herndon), grants, churches, corporations, individual donors, and the annual FISH Fling.

FISH will be working throughout the year to attract donors and sponsors for the 40th Anniversary of FISH. Local businesses are encouraged to become sponsors of Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc., a 501 (c) (3) organization, while developing their budgets this fiscal year. For more information, visit www.HerndonRestonFISH.org. Donations may be made to FISH at 336 Victory Drive, Herndon, VA 20170, or contact President Marcia Di Trapani at 703-391-0105 or email hrfish@gmail.com.

**Marcia Di Trapani, FISH President, and Jay Bhalla, Crowne Plaza, director of catering, review contract for FISH Fling 40th Anniversary for May 9, 2009.**

# Crime

*Activities reported by the Reston district of the Fairfax County Police Department through Sept. 10.*

**LARCENIES**

**Apgar Place 13300 block.** Motorcycle stolen from residence.

**Bowman Towne Drive 12000 block.** Two wedding rings stolen from residence.

**Cavalcade Street 10500 block.** Briefcase stolen from vehicle.

**Centreville Road 2100 block.** Jewelry stolen from vehicle.

**Edmund Halley Drive 2000 block.** Laptop computer stolen from business.

**Forestville Meadows Drive 800 block.** GPS and wallet stolen from vehicle.

**Great Passage Boulevard 1100 block.** Computer and GPS stolen from vehicle.

**North Point Village Center 1400 block.** Portable DVD player stolen from business.

**North Shore Drive 11500 block.** Two cameras stolen from school.

**Reston Parkway 1600 block.** Money stolen from business.

**Reston Parkway 1600 block.** Chainsaw stolen from business.

**Rock Chapel Road 1300 block.** GPS stolen from vehicle.

**Southgate Square 2200 block**. GPS stolen from vehicle.

**Stoneview Square 11600 block.** License plate stolen from vehicle.

**Wiehle Avenue 1700 block**. Cellular phone stolen from residence.

**Winterthur Lane 11900 block**. Bicycle stolen from residence.

**VEHICLE THEFTS**

**Logan Wood Drive 2500 block.** Honda Civic.

**Oram Place 2100 block.** 1997 Lincoln Continental.

## RCTV Schedule

*For more information about the shows and channel, and to see many of these shows in their entirety, visit www.rctv28.com.*

**THURSDAY/SEPT. 18**

9:30 a.m. Body Quest Pilates
10 a.m. Strength Advantage
11:30 a.m. Real Estate Showcase
4:30 p.m. Real Estate Showcase
6:30 p.m. Arnette Report
7 p.m. Life with Connie
7:30 p.m. Eyes on Reston – Asian Festival
8 p.m. Toastmasters
8:30 p.m. Swingtime
9 p.m. Yoga with Cynthia
9:30 p.m. Business Focus
10 p.m. Defend Yourself
10:30 p.m. Where's MJ

**FRIDAY/SEPT. 19**

11:30 a.m. Real Estate Showcase
4:30 p.m. Real Estate Showcase
7 p.m. Just Another Sports Show°

**SATURDAY/SEPT. 20**

8:30 a.m. Arts Council
9 a.m. Yoga – Yoga 360
9:30 a.m. Body Quest Pilates
10 a.m. Defend Yourself
10:30 a.m. Strength Advantage
11 a.m. Guitar Instruction
11:30 a.m. Just Another Sports Show
1 p.m. South Lakes High School Football Game of the Week
4:30 p.m. Real Estate Showcase
6 p.m. The Community of All People
6:30 p.m. Arnette Report
7 p.m. Toastmasters
7:30 p.m. Guitar Instruction
8 p.m. Dogs Best Friend
9:30 p.m. Eyes on Reston – Asian Festival

**SUNDAY/SEPT. 21**

9 a.m. A New Living Way
9:30 a.m. Body Quest Pilates
10 a.m. Strength Advantage
11:30 a.m. Just Another Sports Show
4 p.m. A New and Living Way
4:30 p.m. Real Estate Showcase
5:30 p.m. Guitar Instruction
6 p.m. RCC News & Views
6:30 p.m. Connecting with Supervisor Hudgins
7 p.m. Strength Advantage
7:30 p.m. Business Focus
8 p.m. Reston Impact: Don Beyer for Barack Obama
9 p.m. Health Focus
9:30 p.m. Where's MJ
10 p.m. Latin Profiles

**MONDAY/SEPT. 22**

11:30 a.m. Real Estate Showcase
4:30 p.m. Real Estate Showcase
6 p.m. The Community of All People
7 p.m. Strength Advantage
7:30 p.m. Defend Yourself
9 p.m. South Lakes High School Football Game of the Week

**TUESDAY/SEPT. 23**

9:30 a.m. Body Quest Pilates
11:30 a.m. Real Estate Showcase
4:30 p.m. Real Estate Showcase
6:30 p.m. Health Focus
7 p.m. Update On ...


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# Opinion

# Candidate Appearances Are Educational

## Also, in support of changing the grading system, and delaying a decision on purchase of second headquarters building.

As it turned out, a local Fairfax park was probably the best venue for last week's rally for John McCain and Sarah Palin, given the size of the crowd that turned out to see them (http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=319474&paper=73&cat=104).

But we disagree with members of the school board and others who claimed it was inappropriate for Superintendent Jack Dale to allow the rally to take place at Fairfax High School.

One of the school board's goals for students includes to "Know and practice the duties, responsibilities, and rights of citizenship in a democratic society, be respectful and contributing participants in their school, community, country, and world," and "understand the purpose, role, and means of interaction with the different levels of government."

What could be more educational for students that watching the logistics and politics of a presidential campaign? We'd like to see the policy amended to allow political events on school property as long as students are able to interact and learn from the process.

Both major party candidates are delivering a critical message in Virginia right now: Every vote counts.

**ON TWO OTHER ISSUES,** we agree with recent recommendations from the executive board of the Fairfax County Council of PTAs.

❖ The council wants the Fairfax County School Board to delay action on the purchase of a second headquarters building until after public hearings, although at this point, no public hearings have been discussed or scheduled. The FCCPTA leadership correctly said that the school system briefings on the topic "haven't reached enough people or offered clear, well-publicized opportunities for comment."

❖ It seems like a no-brainer that the grading system in Fairfax County should not penalize students, who work as hard as students elsewhere. The current system requires a 94 percent, rather than 90 percent, to qualify for an A, and fails to give the same extra weight for advanced coursework. This leaves Fairfax students at a disadvantage compared to students from other school systems, whose weighted grade point averages can often top 4.0.

While college admissions offices say this probably does not affect admissions, it almost certainly does put county students at a disadvantage for merit scholarships.

There is no advantage or educational benefit to the current grading scale, and it should be changed.

**FAIRFAX SCHOOLS** are making progress towards a workable and affordable way to move high school start times later, a move that is long overdue. We urge the board to continue this progress, and press ahead to have the change in place by September 2009.

See http://www.sleepinfairfax.org/ for more.

— Mary Kimm,
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Editorials

# Tune in to the Debates

Voters will have several opportunities to see candidates for U.S. House of Representatives and Senate in action in the next few weeks. The choices are important for Northern Virginia, with the retirement of longtime U.S. Sen. John Warner and U.S. Rep. Tom Davis, both powerful advocates for Northern Virginia's interests and needs.

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area and the Fairfax Community Access Channel (FCAC) are co-sponsoring televised debates for two of the congressional races, which will be broadcast live on Fairfax channel 10. They will also be available live on the Internet at: http://easylink.playstream.com/winlive/insidescoop.wvx

U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D) and 8th district challengers Mark Ellmore (R) and Independent Green candidate J. Ron Fisher will face off next Monday, Sept. 22, from 7 to 8 p.m.

The debate between Gerald Connolly (D), Keith Fimian (R) and Independent Green Joseph Oddo, candidates for the 11th district, will be held at the same time on Monday, Oct. 6.

Viewers can call in or e-mail questions until the mid-point of the broadcast to 571-749-1166 or debate@FCAC.org.

Incumbent Frank Wolf decline to participate in a Fairfax League debate; but Wolf and his opponent, Democrat Judy Feder, will appear together at the Prince William Committee of 100 forum on Thursday, Oct. 16 at 7:45 at the Four Points by Sheraton in Manassas.

Prince William Committee of 100 forum will also host the 11th Congressional Candidates, Gerry Connolly and Keith Fimian, this Thursday, Sept. 18 at the Montclair Country Club. E-mail secretarycommitteeof100@yahoo.com or call 703-577-3123.

The candidates for U.S. Senate, Mark Warner (D) and Jim Gilmore (R) will debate this Thursday, Sept. 18 at a sold out Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce event. The debate will be broadcast live on Channel 8 at 10 a.m, and will be rebroadcast before the election.

# Greening of Our Schools Long Overdue

By Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum
State Delegate (D-36)

Recently I was a speaker at the National Press Club for the Green Building Council's announcement of its initiative to expand the application of the LEED for Schools Rating System to more schools throughout the country. The LEED for Schools Rating system is the recognized benchmark for green schools with third-party reviews to ensure that schools are healthy for students, comfortable for teachers, and cost-effective.

The Green Building Council pointed out that 20 percent of all Americans go to school every day — more than 55 million students and more than 5 million faculty, staff, and administrators. The Council estimates that over a quarter of these students and teachers attend schools that are considered substandard or dangerous to occupant health. The Council projects that if all new school construction and renovations went green starting today, energy savings alone would total more than $20 billion over the next 10 years (www.usgbc.org).

I spoke as a legislator with nearly 30 years service in the General Assembly and as an educator with nearly 30 years of mostly concurrent experience as a teacher/administrator for Fairfax County Public Schools. I indicated my intent to organize a green caucus in the Virginia legislature. As an educator, the green school initiative appeals to me because I believe our school buildings should serve as laboratories demonstrating good environmental stewardship. As I told the media and advocacy groups at the National Press Club, "I want our children to see us as good stewards of the environment."

**THE IDEA ALSO** appeals to me as a legislator. In my speech I said, "At this time in our history when we have become painfully aware of the scarcity of our resources, we need to invest wisely the public dollars available for infrastructure including schools. The familiar, usual, regular school design may seem relatively low cost to us in the short term, but in the long run when inefficiencies in energy use become apparent we will not have saved any money. Studies cited by the Green Building Council indicate that green schools use 33 percent less energy, save 32 percent water use, and reduce solid waste by 74 percent. Expenditures for school and classrooms must not be viewed as simply costs but rather should be considered as investments — investments in the teaching models the buildings can provide for students and investments in energy conservation and efficiency and resulting cost savings these schools can provide to the community."

School construction is a responsibility of local school boards in Virginia. Just as I will be pushing for action at the state level to encourage the use of green principles in school construction, we need advocacy at the local level for our school systems to join the green movement.


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# Partisan School Board Policy?

By Jack Kenny
Past President, Republican Club of Greater Reston

## A Differing Point of View

On July 11, Robinson High School, a Fairfax County public school, was used to house a campaign event by Democratic Presidential Candidate Barack Obama. Approximately 2,800 persons attended the event held during a summer session school day. It is assumed that Superintendent Dale authorized the event as it would be a learning experience for the students who would be permitted to attend in lieu of classes. Nothing was heard from the Fairfax County School Board, to any other Democratic office holders.

On Sept. 10, a campaign event was scheduled by Republican Presidential Candidate John McCain at the Fairfax High School, owned by the City of Fairfax and operated and managed by the Fairfax County Public Schools. Superintendent Dale also authorized this even to take place in the 6,500 seat field house using the same rationale: that it would be a learning experience for the students.

Once this event became known, former School Board member and presently Del. Kristen J. Amundsen (D-Fairfax) questioned the action of Superintendent Dale citing "School Board policy" which precludes events that would be disruptive to classes in session.

Not to miss an opportunity, School Board Member Stuart Gibson sought to organize an emergency School Board meeting to consider this issue. We all know Stuart Gibson, an attorney employed in the U.S. Department of Justice, who makes a mockery of The Hatch Act when running for office. Gibson makes no secret of his allegiance to the Democratic Party by unabashedly posting his signs in their campaign booths and campaigning in front of the booth while running for a non-partisan position. We also know Stuart Gibson as the candidate who recently got his hand slapped for an ethical violation by releasing privacy information on a student.

As circumstances would have it, the McCain campaign, deluged with requests for tickets realized that the capacity of the Fairfax High School field house would not house the expected turnout. As the event drew at least 23,000 people, about 17,000 Republicans would have been left outside. The weather looked good, the Secret Service could shift the location, and the McCain campaign staff quickly moved the event to nearby Van Dyck Park.

Call it whatever, the sleazy attempt on the part of Democrats, from the Democrat county chairman with his stupid estimate on the sex and ethnic composition of the crowd to the abortive Gibson effort to a member of the House of Delegate should have been awed by 23,000 people: about 60 percent women chanting "Sar Rah, Sar Rah." Such blatantly partisan politics only sends a message that democracy is under serious threat in Northern Virginia.

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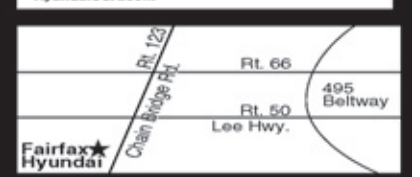


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## Opinion

# Turning Back the Clock?

By John Lovaas
Civic leader and Reston Impact producer/host

Troubling changes are afoot in our homeowners association. If a rule of reason is not restored, the community could be headed back to the bad old days when feelings against RA, especially its then-fearsome Design Review Board, ran high — so high that a gargoyle became a symbol for DRB.

In Reston, we are bound by covenants or regulatory standards for our yards and the exteriors of our homes. The covenants are policed by the RA Covenants staff and adjudicated by the Design Review Board. Covenants staff are paid employees while the DRB consists of community volunteers. In the last two-plus years, there has been a

See Turning Back, Page 14


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1400 Lake Fairfax Dr., Reston, 20190
*RSVP toll-free at 1-877-926-8300*

**Monday, September 22**
AARP Divided We Fail Town Hall Meeting
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Herndon Fortnightly Library
768 Center St., Herndon, 20170

AARP Divided We Fail Town Hall Meeting
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library
7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, 22043

**Wednesday, September 24**
AARP Divided We Fail Town Hall Meeting
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Centreville Regional Library
14200 Saint Germain Dr., Centreville, 20121

Steve Gurney, publisher and founder of *Guide to Retirement Living Source Book,* will serve as moderator for the town hall meetings.
The town hall meetings are open to the public.
Light refreshments will be provided.

**We want to hear your story at these Divided We Fail Town Hall Meetings. RSVP at 1-877-926-8300 toll-free and specify which meeting you want to attend. Learn the issues, add your voice and find out how you can get involved at DividedWeFail.org.**

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# E

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## Things To Do

**Robert Young of Community Gardens is one of the Reston Town Square Farmers' Market's vendors who will be participating in Thursday, Sept. 18's "Meet and Shop" at the corner of Market and Explorer streets from 5-7 p.m. Rain date is Oct. 2. See www.smartmarkets.org.**

*Send announcements to reston@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-917-6451. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.*

### THURSDAY, SEPT. 18

**"Meet and Shop."** Reston Town Square Farmers' Market, 5-7 p.m. meet vendors, enjoy live jazz, corner of Market and Explorer streets.

### FRIDAY, SEPT. 19

**"Gallery Talk by Tricia Ratliff** on the Paint Herndon Plein Air Art Exhibit at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Call 703-956-6590 for more information. Free. Collectors and galleries welcome.

### SATURDAY, SEPT. 20

**Bluegrass Concert**. Sonrise will perform at Holy Cross Lutheran Church at 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon at 7:30 p.m. Admission is $12.

**Karate Championship.** The 10th Worldgate Challenge Karate Championship will be held at the Worldgate Sport and Health Club, 13037 Worldgate Drive, Herndon. Registration runs 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and competition begins at 9 a.m. Contact Barbara Kurland at 703-929-1450.

**2nd Annual Arts and Crafts Show.** Sunset Hills Montessori School, 11180 Ridge Heights Road from 10a.m.-5p.m.

### SUNDAY/SEPT. 21

**NatureFest 2008**. Event spotlights plants and

See Calendar, Page 13

# Honey, Reptiles and Water

## NatureFest 2008 takes place this weekend.

By Mirza Kurspahic
The Connection

Snakes, bugs, trees and plants will dominate the happenings at Herndon's Runnymede Park on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 21. Dubbed one of Northern Virginia's premier nature events, NatureFest 2008 will be held at the park highlighting its and the area's natural resources and ecosystems.

"It's our big annual event for the Town as far as environmental awareness is concerned," said John Dudzinsky, the Town of Herndon forester. "It's gotten more popular every year," he said.

David Swan, president of the Friends of Runnymede Park, estimated that about 1,000 people would visit the park during the four-hour event on Sunday, including 400 to 500 children. "It's free, it's fun, it's just a fantastic event," said Swan.

> "It's our big annual event for the Town as far as environmental awareness is concerned."
> — John Dudzinsky, Town of Herndon Forester

The theme for this year's NatureFest is "Runnymede Park: A Park for All Seasons." The organizers promise a diversity of live animals at the event, including farm animals, reptiles, bats, butterflies and birds of prey. Swan said one of the activities is the catching, tagging and releasing of monarch butterflies at the park. There will also be a demonstration sampling the water from the stream at the park.

"You can learn anything from how to make honey to how to recycle," said Dudzinsky of the planned activities. "You'll learn about different wildlife," as well as domesticated animals brought from Frying Pan Park, added Dudzinsky.

Children will earn free cookies for completing visits to 11 of the 14 nature stations.

Photo by Mirza Kurspahic/The Connection

**The Native Plant Project at Runnymede Park. The park will be the site of NatureFest 2008 on Sunday, Sept. 21, from 1 to 5 p.m. Activities for adults and children will include live animals and demonstrations on natural resources available at the park.**

Dudzinsky said the event is perfect for local Boy and Girl Scouts. "For any scout groups, it's a good way for them to check off a lot of different requirements," said Dudzinsky. "I encourage everybody to come out," he said.

Runnymede Park is located in the 100 block of Herndon Parkway. Parking and admission are free. Parking will be available at the park or at the Herndon Police Station, located at 397 Herndon Parkway, a third of a mile from the park. Free shuttle service from the police station will be provided. For more information visit the Friends of Runnymede Park web site at http://frpweb.org.

## Art

Oak Hill artist **Jill Poyerd**, will be exhibiting her painting entitled "Wishing for Spring" in the Virginia Watercolor Society's 29th Annual Juried Exhibition being held **Sept. 22- Nov. 1** in Roanoke. Poyerd is one of 80 artists featured in this year's show as selected by juror, Donna Watson, a nationally recognized, award-winning artist. This year's exhibit will be held at The Shenandoah Club in Roanoke and is open to the public. Show hours are Monday-Saturday, 2-5 p.m. Visit www.jpwatercolors.com for more on Jill Poyerd.

The 8th Annual **GWAC Youth Art Fest** will be held on Saturday **Sept. 27** at the Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St., Reston. The Fest brings together professional artists, artisans and performers to share their work and talent with youth and their families. The art competition is open to all youths K - 12. Visit www.YouthArtFest.com or call 703-268-5626 for more information.

**Gail Axtell-Beading** will have an **artist demo** at the Reston Art Gallery, 11400 Washington Plaza, on Saturday, **Sept. 27**, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Call 703-481-8156 for details.

Grand opening of the ArtSpace Herndon gallery with exhibit of **Plein Air Paintings**, through **Sept. 28**, at ArtSpace Herndon at 750 Center St., Herndon. Free.

**Greater Reston Arts Center** will present a selection of photographs about trees by **John Bessey** (1949-2008) **through Sept. 28**. For more information, call GRACE at 703-471-9242, and visit www.restonarts.org.

**The Greater Reston Arts Center's annual C-Note Sale** is Sunday, **Sept. 28**, open for art preview at 11 a.m. with light brunch provided, and sale starting at 1 p.m. GRACE will display the available works of art beginning Tuesday, Sept. 2 during gallery hours, Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m.

C-Note tickets are now on sale, $150 each, available by phone at 703-471-9242, and in person at GRACE. Images of C-Note Sale art are also now online for preview at www.RestonArts.org/support/C-Note2008.htm.

Artist **Shinji Turner-Yamamoto** is installing a large dead dogwood tree inside the **Greater Reston Arts Center Gallery**, 12001 Market St., Suite 103, where it will stretch across the room as if asleep. Along the trunk and branches, he will plant tiny fern seedlings which will grow and carpet the tree with lush, new growth. In an adjacent space he will exhibit related works on paper. The **opening is Saturday, Oct. 11, 5-7 p.m.**, and the exhibit will be on display from **Oct. 10- Nov. 14.** Visit www.restonarts.org.

# Calendar

From Page 12

wildlife of Runnymede Park, a 58-acre natural park, is located in the 100 block of Herndon Parkway, 1-5 p.m. Parking and admission are free.

**Oktober fest.** Vinifera - Oktober fest Grill and Beer Garden featuring: sour beef and dumplings, braised red cabbage, grilled bratwurst with spicy German mustard herb spaetzle, Reston Heights — in front of the Sheraton Reston and The Westin Reston Heights — 5-7 p.m., with Heidi und Heimat Echo Band.

### TUESDAY/SEPT. 23

**Author's Night.** At 7 p.m., Stephen Ruffa will be discussing his new book, "Going Lean: How the Best Companies Apply Lean Manufacturing Principles to Shatter Uncertainty, Drive Innovation, and Maximize Profits" at Barnes and Noble in Reston.

### THURSDAY/SEPT. 25

**Semi-Annual Used Book Sale.** Special collection of used books. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Cosponsored by the Friends of the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. 703-689-2700. All ages.

### FRIDAY/SEPT. 26

**Semi-Annual Used Book Sale.** Special collection of used books. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Cosponsored by the Friends of the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. 703-689-2700. All ages.

**Open Mike Night**. Reston's Used Book Shop, 7:30 p.m., 703-435-9772.

**Framed lino cut by Mary Marks, entitled "String Beans" is one of 200 works of art available in annual C-Note Sale at the Greater Reston Arts Center on Sunday, Sept. 28. Every C-Note ticket-holder will receive a piece of art, each ranging in value from $150 to over $700, all donated by artists in support of GRACE.**

**Also part of GRACE's C-Note Asale is an acrylic painting (20" x 20") by Joan Kelly, entitled "Summer Relaxation."**

### SATURDAY/SEPT. 27

**Semi-Annual Used Book Sale.** Special collection of used books. 10 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Cosponsored by the Friends of the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. 703-689-2700. All ages.

**Artist Demonstration**. Reston Art Gallery & Studios at Lake Anne, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Featured artist: Gail Axtell–Beading.

**Stream Restoration Walk.** Explore Reston's watersheds and learn about the stream restoration project along Snakeden Branch from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Wear waterproof shoes or boots, long pants and bug spray. Meet at the Hunter's Woods Village Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston,ºon the path near Rite Aid and Wachovia Bank. 703-435-7986.

**Barktoberfest.** Enjoy this festival for pet lovers which includes live music, treats, games and pets for adoption. Held at the outdor amphitheater at Melodee Music, 46077 Lake Center Plaza, Sterling, the festival runs from 12 –6 p.m., with free admission.

**Concert.** Bill Emerson & the Sweet Dixie Band are playing at the Frying Pan Farm Park Visitor Center, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon at 8 p.m. $15 pre-paid reservations are recommended. Call 703-437-9101 for details.

**Art Fest.** The 8th Annual GWAC Youth Art Fest will be held at the Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St., Reston from 1-6 p.m. The art competition is open to all youths K - 12. Visit www.YouthArtFest.com or call 703-268-5626 for more information.

**Harvest Fall Festival.** From noon to 4 p.m. at the Temporary Road Pavilion in Reston at the intersection of North Shore Drive and Temporary Road. Games for the children, free hotdogs, lemonade, cotton-candy and helium balloons, free clothing give away and sports activities. Free. 703-834-8100.

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# Opinion

# Turning Back the Clock?

From Page 11

wholesale replacement of Covenants staff by RA management. The institutional memory is gone and a new mindset is emerging. For example, I understand Covenants staff titles have changed from Covenants Counselor to Covenants Inspector.

Trouble flared recently when a resident was cited by Covenants staff for having a political yard sign not approved by the DRB. The citation was based on a complaint by a neighbor of a different political persuasion. I can find no one who remembers the last time a homeowner was cited for having an unapproved political sign. Surely there must have been a case in our 45 years, but the only one that has surfaced that is even close occurred in 2004 when a neighbor called RA to complain about a political yard sign and was told by staff to forget it, that RA would not get involved. That appears to have been RA's practice until now, despite a covenant barring signs visible on private property that exceed one foot square, except Realtor signs.

In the current case, when Covenants "Inspectors" came to investigate, they not only checked the rogue yard sign but also examined the entire property and cited the owner for other, unrelated violations as well. This too is new — using a sign inspection as a pretext for a complete property review.

Last Monday, the RA Board Administration Committee briefly unveiled another coming innovation — Inspectors' sweeps to inspect entire clusters. Until now, inspections have been conducted only: in response to a complaint; when a home is sold; or, at the request of a cluster or condo association. Now, clusters will be inspected at RA's whim. What problem RA seeks to solve with the new intrusiveness is not clear. It should be.

There is a chance common sense may yet prevail, at least for political signage, which because of implications for abridging free speech is most troubling. The DRB itself, not thrilled with RA management's expansion of its role, will review sign guidelines and may conclude that political signs, as temporary signs, are exempt from enforcement as *de facto* they have been for some considerable time. Somehow, it seems fitting that a common sense solution could come from the wiser heads now on the once-dreaded DRB.

## Write

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
7913 Westpark Drive, McLean, VA 22102
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*Send announcements to reston@connectionnewspapers.com or 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean VA 22102. Call 703-917-6449 with questions.*

Eleven companies from Herndon and Reston will showcase their products and services at the **Remodeling & Home Décor Show**, at the Dulles Expo Center on **Sept. 26-28**.

Participating businesses include: A-1 Concrete Leveling Inc., Herndon; Woodstone Studio, Herndon; Communications, Herndon; & Stools, Herndon; Euro Stone Craft, Herndon; Nova Lighthouse, Herndon; 92 Blessings, Reston; Driveway Impressions, Reston; Lavender Hill Interiors, Reston; My Green Cottage, Reston, and Preferred Siding Inc., Reston.

Admission is $10 for adults; $3 for children ages 6 to 12; free for ages 5 and under. For more information, including how to purchase discount tickets, visit www.capitalhomeshow.com.

**Weichert Realtors** will offer free career seminars in the following area locations. Call to confirm reservations:

**Herndon:** first and third Monday at 5:30 p.m. and Tuesdays at 1 p.m., 13001 Worldgate Drive, Herndon. Call Jennifer Cerda at 703-709-0101. **Reston:** Wednesdays, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. at 1760 Reston Parkway, #111, Reston. Call Bev Feitshans at 703-264-0000.

**Reston Home Tour.** Go on a self-conducted tour of five private homes in Reston, plus a chef demonstration at Linden Springs on Saturday Oct. 18 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tickets and information available at the Reston Museum by calling 703-709-7700 and at www.restonmuseum.org.

# Homeschoolers Learn Together

From Page 4

as their reasons. The Conklins get up at 5 a.m. and start school an hour later. For the next two hours or so, Tami Conklin teaches reading, writing and math. "The rest of the day we do social stuff," she said, which includes playgroups, book clubs and trips to museums and science centers. "Last year we went to see the Pope. There is no shortage of things to do," said Conklin.

The Wentlands rise at 9 a.m. and do not follow curriculum. On most days Logan is exposed to experiential learning, for example taken to a park to learn about nature. Wentland said that is the best way for her five-year-old son to learn. "I lay back and let it happen," she said. Before coming to Odyssey of the Mind on Thursday afternoon, Sept. 11, the Wentlands spent two hours ice-skating at SkateQuest in Reston. "We want to shatter those misconceptions about homeschooling," said Wentland, referring to assumptions that homeschooled students do not experience extra-curricular activities.

"When we learn about government, we take a trip downtown," said Walker. Recently Walker and Wolcott visited the Supreme Court.

On Thursdays and Fridays, Wentland brings Logan to the Neighborhood Resource Center. Thursday is Odyssey time and Friday is co-op time, where a group of homeschoolers from Herndon and Reston put their children through a day of classes. Wentland teaches an American Sign Language class. The students in her class range in age from four to 16.

"They are very helpful," said Conklin about the teens that are in the same class with much younger students.

"They are living a more realistic life," said Woollard about the students' age difference. "I doubt that when they are 30 years old and have a job that they will be sitting in an office with 25 other 30-year-olds," she said.

The students are also diverse in race and religion. "We purposed to be in that diversity," said Wentland, adding that diversity is a reality in the Herndon and Reston area. She said that while she teaches her children Christian values at home, it would be "sheltering" to not expose them to the community's diversity. About 27 students participated in the first day of co-op on Friday, Sept. 5.

**HOMESCHOOL TEACHERS** also do not lack in qualifications, according to the parents gathered for Odyssey of the Mind on Thursday, Sept. 11. "Most of us are highly degreed people," said Woollard. Conklin holds a bachelor degree in math and works part time as a tutor for tutor.com. Wentland is halfway to completing a master's degree in education. She also works a part time job as an editor, copywriter and researcher. Other parents, said Wentland, teach in other environments, including area colleges. "Most of the ladies doing this have master's degrees," said Walker.

Photo by Mirza Kurspahic/The Connection

**Max Leon-Guerrero and Sierra Woollard discuss their Odyssey of the Mind problem with teammates and coach Ritzya Mitchell.**

Homeschooling in the Herndon-Reston area is not limited to the families who participate in Thursday and Friday programs at the Neighborhood Resource Center. "It's huge," said Walker of the area's homeschooling community. Conklin said she is grateful to the center for hosting Thursday's Odyssey of the Mind program, but that she hopes churches, for example, could open their doors so the program could expand with a larger space. "There are more people who want to join," she said. Conklin added that people who participate in the Odyssey of the Mind program found the information online.

According to Wentland, the Homeschoolers of Herndon-Reston (HHR) Yahoo group, one of the groups in the area, had 114 members as of Sept. 11. She said families sometime belong to more than one group and activities may or may not be organized through one of those groups. The Odyssey of the Mind is not a function of the HHR group, but a "Not Back To School" picnic at Frying Pan Park held on Saturday, Sept. 13, was.

Wentland is not proposing attracting more students out of the public schools. "Homeschooling is our choice. It's what's best for our family," she said. However, homeschool families tend to find one another by coincidence, said Wentland, adding that she hoped the "underground of homeschooling families," which is hundreds strong in the Herndon-Reston area, could continue growing a cohesive fellowship.

**Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.**

**Loudoun County**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 20285 Beechwood Ter., #200 | $179,900 | Sat 12-4 | Linda Vane | REO | 703-256-7648 |
| 609 Diskin Place Leesburg | $549,000 | Sun 1-4 | Weichert Robin Hill | | 703-927-6667 |
| 105 Peyton Rd. Potomac Falls | $499,900 | Sun 1-4 | Weichert | Debbie McGuire | 703-406-9009 |

**Broadlands**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 42717 Ridgeway Dr. | $849,888 | Sat. 1-4 | Joseph Doman | Keller William | 703-815-5700 |
| Hamilton38068 Colonial Hwy | $649,900 | Sun 1-4 | Margie Jensen | Long & Foster | 703-431-7633 |
| 94 Adams Dr., NE #52 | $124,900 | Sat 12-4 | Mark Gaetjen | RE/MAX 703-255-9700 | |
| 43410 Cloister Pl. | $1,749,000 | Sun 1-4 | Eileen Summers | Long & Foster | 703-759-9190 |
| 529 Fortress Cir., SE | $579,000 | Sun 1-5 | H. Cronin | Weichert | 703-760-8880 |
| 40881 Spectacular Bid Pl. | $999,900 | Sun 1-4 | JoWilla Beck | RE/MAX 703-771-2345 | |
| 23255 Watson Rd. | $537,900 | Sat 12-4 | Mark Gaetjen | RE/MAX 703-255-9700 | |

**Purcellville**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***20012 Unison Rd.*** | ***$1,495,000*** | ***Sun 1-4*** | ***Mary Chatfield-Taylor*** | ***Thomas & Talbot*** | ***540-454-6500*** |

**Pictorial feature of the week*

**Sterling**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 204 Gordon St. | $312,900 | Sat 12-4 | Linda Vane | REO | 703-256-7648 |
| 100 Maple Ave. | $133,900 | Sat 12-4 | Mark Gaetjen | RE/MAX 703-255-9700 | |
| 46342 Sheel Ter. | $389,999 | Sun 1-4 | Heather Elias | Weichert | 571-233-5491 |
| 207 St. Johns Sq., #207 | $157,900 | Sat 12-4 | Mark Gaetjen | RE/MAX 703-255-9700 | |

**More OPEN HOUSES FOR 9-20 & 9-21**

**Herndon**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1309 Dulles Pl | .$185,900 | Sat 1-4 | Philip Chernitzer | REO | 703-256-7648 |
| 13515 Huntsfield | $469,900 | Sun 1-4 | David Lloyd | Weichert | 703-527-3300 |
| 2408 Hay Rake Ct | $379,900 | Sun 1-4 | Sheryl Lambson | Keller Williams | 703-535-3610 |
| 13221 Pleasant Glen Ct. | $549,000 | Sun 1-4 | Srinivas Anamolu | Trust | 703-961-9280 |
| 12100 Richland Ln. | $979,000 | Sun 1-4 | Mary Ball | Prudential | 703-272-2326 |
| 888 Station St. | $615,000 | Sun 1-4 | Julie Hertel | Long & Foster | 571-243-5952 |
| 13200 Tuckaway Dr. | $650,000 | Sun 1-4 | Mary Ball | Prudential | 703-272-2326 |

**Reston**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1830 Fountain | $650,000 | Sun 1-4 | Ray Wedell | Weichert | 703-855-7299 |
| 12084 Kinsley Place | $775,000 | Sun 1-4 | Ray Wedell | Weichert | 703-855-7299 |
| 1320 Park Garden Ln. | $574,900 | Sun 1-4 | Paddy Murphy | Remax | 703-757-5769 |
| 11115 Timberhead Ct. | $549,900 | Sun 1-4 | Mark Ruchstahl | Samson | 703-282-2040 |
| 1262 Wedgewood Manor Way | $624,900 | Sun 1-4 | Doris Leadbetter | Remax | 703-757-5760 |
| 1242 Vintage Place | $439,900 | Sun 1-4 | Stephanie Czajkowski | Avery Hess | 703-492-6500 |

To add your Realtor represented Open House
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# Immersion Program Reinforced

From Page 3

States in 1991. This year she is teaching first graders. Her students have only been exposed to the language for two weeks.

Photo courtesy of Patricia Sheehy

**Fox Mill Elementary School Principal Patricia Sheehy visited the Golden Pavilion, Rokuon-Ji Temple in Kyoto, during a tour of Japan for educators who administer Japanese language education.**

**"AT FIRST** they have no clue" what she is saying to them, said Nakayama. She said they copy her movements and begin by conversing with her. "I model a lot," she said, adding that early lessons also include a lot of music and dancing. Then, she said, her goal is to have the students converse with one another. Nakayama has taught at all grade levels since arriving to Fox Mill 15 years ago. "Eventually they pick it up," she said.

Rushi has no problem following his teacher's instructions, he said. He can respond to the teacher when asked to do so and is able to communicate with his classmates in Japanese. Also, he said, he finds it easy to switch from Japanese to English language once the Japanese immersion part of the day is completed and he goes to classes taught in English.

> "If I go to Japan one day, I will be able to understand people and get directions."
>
> **— Rushi Patel, Fox Mill Elementary School 5th Grader**

**TO PROMOTE** cultural understanding of Japan and to deepen the understanding of Japanese language education, the Japan Foundation, part of the Japanese Embassy, invited 26 educators from across the United States for a two-week tour of the East Asian nation. Sheehy was one of the participants.

"It was a combination of both cultural exposure as well as academic," said Sheehy. The group visited schools as well as temples in Tokyo, Kyoto and Shimoda. Professors from American and Japanese universities and institutions also presented lectures on teaching. Sheehy said she would repeat the tour in a heartbeat. She said the best part of the tour was "Not so much the pedagogy, but more so gives me the appreciation of Japanese culture."

Sheehy said the tour reinforced what the educators at Fox Mill thrive to accomplish in terms of combining language and cultural understanding of Japan. The art and music teachers, for example, teach lessons on Japanese art and music even though they are not part of the Immersion program. Also, the school hosts events that feature Japanese food and entertainment. Hallway signs are printed in Japanese as well as in English. The idea behind it all, said Sheehy, is to expose children to another language early. Even if they choose not to pursue Japanese language in the future, she said, research shows that learning another language at a young age makes it easier for a child to learn a different language in the future.

# Long Delay for Walkway Ends

From Page 3

**"FROM A BIG PICTURE,** Reston has 55 miles of pathways and from anywhere in the community you could get on to a trail and walk to a village center," said Milton Matthews, Reston Association CEO. In this area, he said, there is neither a sidewalk nor a pathway on either side of Wiehle Avenue. This has resulted in phone calls and e-mails to the Reston Association from concerned members who wanted a safe place to stand while waiting for a bus or to access the churches on the other side of Wiehle Avenue. "This is the one area in the community that is incomplete," said Matthews. He said the Reston Association viewed it as very important to complete the missing link.

Nicole Mogul, a coordinator of Reston On Foot, a study that identified missing links in Reston's pedestrian connectivity, said the segment plays an important role in connecting the community's northern and southern portions. "It would complete an essential link so that, whether for transportation or recreation, people can access the W&OD [Washington and Old Dominion] Trail safely and straightforwardly," said Mogul. "I know a lot of people are looking forward to its completion."

**THE FUNDING** for the completion was set aside in 1998, although Hudgins could not recall from memory what the amount set aside was. She said that as soon as the administrative details are settled, the county would release a request for proposals for the project. Any proposal will also need the approval of Reston Association's Design Review Board before it is built.

"We didn't put a date down," said Hudgins about the start or completion of the project.


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**Time:** 7-9 PM

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# Extra Mile, Some Labor

## Entrepreneur strives to meet a need of area's underprivileged families.

By Mirza Kurspahic
The Connection

When Collin Wheeler, 24, tells his friends he is the presi dent of his own company, a regular response he receives is, "You have a college degree, why are you dealing with junk?" Wheeler started his own business, 123Junk, in January of this year and business has been growing ever since.

The business is simple, thus the numbers in the name 123Junk; customers decide they want to get rid of things from their homes, including large furniture pieces. The company — comprising Wheeler, who is responsible for marketing, advertisement and customer relations, two full time workers and a couple of part time workers — then charges the customers per truck space their "junk" takes up. Wheeler said the junk industry is still developing, but competition exists in the area from companies such as 1-800-GOT JUNK and College Hunks Hauling Junk.

"I don't think there is any way we can't continue to grow," said Wheeler, a lifelong Herndon resident and 2002 graduate of Chantilly High School. 123Junk was doing two jobs per week when it first started in January, then in the April-May period calls for service increased a great amount. "In the summer, it just exploded," said Wheeler. Throughout the summer, said Wheeler, 123Junk was doing 15 jobs per week.

> "There is a couple of families, we've furnished their entire homes. It's pretty rewarding."
> **— Collin Wheeler, 123Junk President**

Wheeler decided to go into the business on his own after spending more than a year working for a local moving company. As a sales consultant, he often heard from customers asking whether the moving company offered a service to haul away the things they did not want to keep. "One out of every two or three houses was asking for that," said Wheeler. After the company's president decided he did not want to start a division to offer the service, Wheeler took $6,000 of his own money, bought a truck from his uncle and started 123Junk. "I bought a truck and some ads and I was pretty much flat broke," said Wheeler. Six months after starting the business, Wheeler bought a brand new truck, in excess of $25,000.

**WHERE WHEELER** claims to differ from the competition is in taking extra time to determine what pieces of "junk" the company had collected are still in good condition. He then contacts local charities that put him in touch with families that are in need of furniture and makes drops for them. He also provides receipts to his customers so they can claim tax deductions.

"There is a couple of families, we've furnished their entire homes," said Wheeler. "It's pretty rewarding."

"He goes the extra mile," said Aaron Sawyer, manager of The Closet in Herndon. Wheeler makes drops at The Closet and The Bargain Loft as well as to individual families. "He gives us an opportunity to salvage what we can without cost," said Sawyer.

"We've seen the need from different ministries here in the church," said the Rev. Martha Real of the Floris United Methodist Church about the charitable service Wheeler provides. Wheeler is a member of Floris UMC and Real said he often contributes to the projects with the ministries. "He is just a nice young man," said Real. "He seems to have a real heart for the community."

Marcia Di Trapani, president of Herndon-Reston FISH (Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help), which runs the Bargain Loft, said the organization estimated last year's non-cash giving, which included furniture, at $2,246. The amount does not represent the need in the community for the service Wheeler offers, said Di Trapani, because the estimates are based on what the Bargain Loft would charge for the furniture, not its true value. "If he can fill that need in some way, that is great," said Di Trapani. She added, "One person's junk is another person's treasure."

Wheeler said that it is not only the receiving families that might see the furniture as treasure. "No one wants to see their stuff go to junk, their once worldly treasures," said Wheeler. While the charitable work is done out of good intentions, Wheeler has also kept his entrepreneurial sense. Although it costs him extra time, labor and gas for the miles driven to sort out and deliver the pieces that are in good condition, he is also saving money by not taking the pieces to the landfill for $57 per ton. Wheeler does not charge the recipients of the donated goods. "There is no reason for me to charge them," he said, adding, "What goes around comes around."

> "Just to see a kid not just think about himself. We didn't solicit him, he came on his own to see if he can be a part of it."
> **— Aaron Sawyer, The Closet manager**

**THE REASON** Wheeler is confident business will continue to grow is that the state of economy could not impact the industry a great amount. He said that, although unfortunate, foreclosures bring business to the junk companies, as they are often called upon to empty the foreclosed homes, which the Realtors are eager to place back on the market. Another solemn source of business, said Wheeler, comes from estates of people who have died. Their descendants go through the late person's possessions and keep what they want, then they call the hauling companies. "Those are the best jobs from the donation standpoint," said Wheeler.

While Wheeler plans to get 123Junk to a point where he can franchise the company, his immediate concerns are to plan for the anticipated slowdown in business as cooler months approach. In the meantime, he will continue to rely on networking, word-of-mouth and personal referrals to keep the business going strong. He attributes his family's connections in the area to the success of his business in the early months. "Neighborhood stay-at-home moms are the best marketing friends you can have," said Wheeler. He has also teamed up with local moving companies who often refer their clients to him for hauling purposes.

Sawyer is one of the people helping spread the word about the young Herndon entrepreneur. "It's very commendable, what he does," said Sawyer. "Just to see a kid not just think about himself. We didn't solicit him, he came on his own to see if he can be a part of it."

To learn more about Wheeler and 123Junk, visit http://123junk.com.

Photo by Mirza Kurspahic/The Connection

**Herndon resident Collin Wheeler, 24, is president of Junk123.**

# Barreling Through in Burtonsville

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Knowing as little as I do about the future price of a barrel of oil, and by association, the future price of a gallon of gasoline and home heating oil, commodities with which I am financially very familiar — and impacted, I can only guess as to there future level. As such, the present is what matters to me. And to that end, I am now reading financial news updates on the web, specifically as it relates to oil, trying to anticipate its price fluctuations. It's almost as if, not being able to beat them, perhaps I can join them, in some small way, at least as far as this Joe Schmoe is informed.

And so, I now pay attention to international — or national events — that might affect oil production and/or its transportation, gasoline stocks/supplies/inventory, monetary exchange rates, the weather and of course, the actual price at the pump. When the per gallon price is higher than it was previously, I try to buy less; when the price at the pump is lower, I try to buy more. I guess you could say it's my way of dollar cost averaging. And though I certainly realize, that in spite of my best intentions, buying less gas per trip because the price is high is only going to result in my returning sooner to those very same pumps rather than later, still it's mind over matter. If I think I'm spending less, maybe I actually am. (Any port in a storm, I suppose.)

Granted, it's all very delusional because gasoline, and to a lesser degree, home heating oil, is not exactly a voluntary purchase. In fact, it's practically mandatory. For without it, you're going nowhere — literally, and if you're at home, and it's winter, you're freezing too. Talk about adding insult to injury. So you have to buy it, or else; with cash, credit or debit, and let the other chips (bills) fall where they may. And though oil and other fossil fuel-type commodities may not be as crucial as food, water and clean air, try living without it. Not only will the effects not be pretty, they'll be downright painful, and not just at the pump, either.

And so this morning, I had my wife, Dina, call me as she drove by our local gas station to give me a price-per-gallon update. Yesterday (Aug. 30) the per gallon price for the mid-grade my car requires was $3.43, a recent low. I knew I should have filled up then, what with Hurricane Gustav churning and strengthening in the Gulf, but since I had groceries — frozen food and ice cream, in particular, I couldn't risk the time it would have taken, sitting in line at the gas station with my perishables maybe perishing, so I drove on home. regretting my decision by not really second guessing it. And unfortunately for me and my flowing cash, I paid for it, eventually.

Dina called and told me the price was now $3.57 per gallon, 14 cents higher. Certainly not Earth-shattering (or even mind-numbing), but 4.1 percent higher than it was the day before. And though I can absorb the increase, I'd rather not. I don't know if it's my advancing age but, the older I get, the more difficult it is to do with less. And with respect to the dollars on the barrel head, the less I have, the more careful I am spending it.

I realize it's only money, but the oil companies have plenty of it already. I'm just trying to find a way to keep more of it for myself, however pointless it sometimes seems.

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




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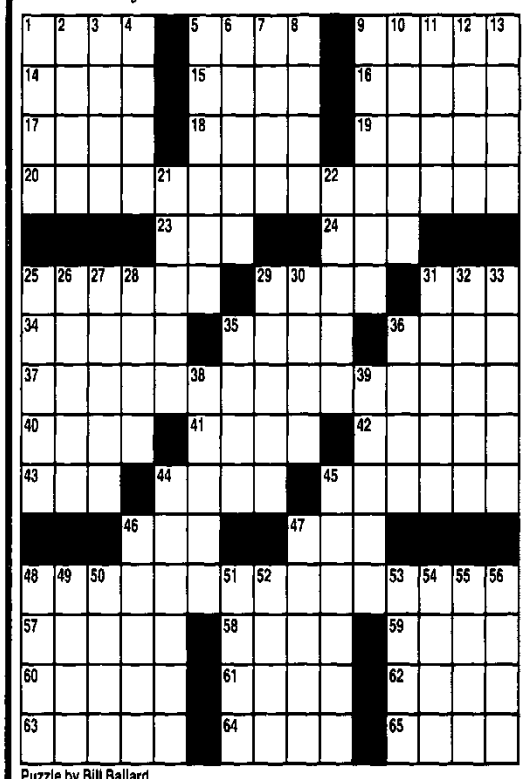
# NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0329-1



Puzzle by Bill Ballard

### ACROSS

1 Where Picassos hang in N.Y.C.
5 Baby buggy
9 Popular jeans
14 During
15 Four-star review
16 Defendant's excuse
17 Honored lady
18 Portent
19 St. Kitts and —— (Caribbean nation)
20 Fashion slogan in the business world
23 Brooch
24 What's left after deductions
25 Palestinian chief Yasir
29 Trot or canter
31 Concert music blaster
34 Childbirth
35 "Schindler's ——"
36 Asterisk
37 Advice for the impulsive consumer
40 Pianist Myra
41 Bruins' sch.
42 "—— ho!"
43 Surgery sites, for short
44 Son of Seth
45 Food wrappers and such on the street
46 Slump
47 Response to a bad call
48 Catch phrase for the avid mailgoer
57 Approvals
58 Dinghy propellers
59 College in New Rochelle
60 Leader after Indian independence
61 Soothing agent
62 Runs (for)
63 Carpenter's device
64 Educator Horace
65 Helper: Abbr.

### DOWN

1 Anti-D.W.I. group
2 Gen. Bradley
3 One who gives the silent treatment?
4 Summer quaffs
5 Loss's opposite
6 —— Novarro, 1926 Ben Hur
7 Allege
8 Kind of room
9 Surgical instrument
10 Vote into office
11 On the qui ——
12 Wading bird
13 Snake sound
21 The fifth tire
22 Togetherness
25 Notwithstanding, informally
26 Pinker than pink
27 Bottomless pit
28 Watch chains
29 Cyndi Lauper's "—— Just Want to Have Fun"
30 On a deck, perhaps
31 No longer on deck?
32 Purple shade
33 Snoop
35 Kooky
36 It's for the birds
38 Mushrooms, e.g.
39 State sch. in Athens
44 Completely consumes
45 Start to untie
46 —— whale
47 "Don Juan" poet
48 In —— (together)
49 Toe's opposite
50 Worker welfare org.
51 Rich soil
52 Kind of land
53 Woman who can carry a tune
54 French kings
55 Handy bills
56 History

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

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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!
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Note: Due to space limitations, the crossword may not appear from time to time. In that case, you may look on our Web site: www.connectionnewspapers.com and click on the "Print Editions" button. It should appear in a newspaper from a different Classifieds zone.

# SLHS Football Gets into Victory Column

## Johnson rushes for 255 yards to lead the Seahawks.

By Rich Sanders
The Connection

The last thing the South Lakes High football team needed was an 0-3 win-loss record going into this week's start of the Liberty District schedule.

Following losses to non-Northern Region opponent Heritage High (Leesburg) and cross-town rival Herndon to begin the season, the Seahawks realized they were facing a must-win scenario for their week three, non-district game at Falls Church last Friday night. Indeed, South Lakes, playing with a fierce sense of determination, outplayed the Jaguars on way to an impressive 35-12 victory.

"It's big," said South Lakes coach John Ellenberger, of the Seahawks' first `W' of 2008. "It was very important to get that win going into Liberty District play."

With the relief of a win under its belt, South Lakes is a more confident team going into this Friday night's district opener against visiting Madison High of Vienna.

"We play Madison this week and they're always tough," said Ellenberger.

The Warhawks were one of the better Div. 5 teams in the region last year, winning a first round region playoff game against South Lakes before falling to Edison. But the Warhawks, who were 9-3 in 2007, are a younger squad this season. Like South Lakes, Madison lost its first two games of the current season, falling to Oakton and Yorktown, before righting the ship with a 33-8 home win over Wakefield last week.

Photo by Craig Sterbutzel/The Connection

**South Lakes quarterback Justin Zeller hands the ball off in the Seahawks' week two game at Herndon. Last Friday night, South Lakes defeated Falls Church for its first win. The team will be at home this Friday night against Madison.**

Madison, in the win over the Warriors, had a big game from running back Sasha Vandalov, who rushed for 125 yards on 15 carries with a touchdown. He also caught a scoring pass from quarterback Will Clarkson.

**SOUTH LAKES**, a pass-oriented team last year when they had perhaps the region's top wideout receiver in AJ Price, is focused on running the football more this season. Ellenberger said the Seahawks are geared more for that style of play this season because of the talent they have at the running back position.

"We've got some very good running backs, probably the most skilled since I've been here," said Ellenberger, who has been part of the South Lakes football program the past 12 years. "And our [offensive] line is coming together. The kids are finally starting to pick up our new [running style] offense."

South Lakes will need to have success running the ball against Madison, which proved to be a little vulnerable to the run against a Wakefield team that rushed for 126 yards on 24 carries last week.

The Seahawks, against Madison, will be without talented sophomore fullback Ja'Juan Jones, who sprained a shoulder in the Falls Church game and is expected to miss two to four weeks. South Lakes, following the injury to Jones, received a huge lift against Falls Church from senior running back Will Johnson. Filling in for Jones at fullback, Johnson had one of the better games ever by a South Lakes runner, rushing the ball for 255 yards on 19 carries and a touchdown.

Ellenberger said Johnson has proven to be quite a versatile player for South Lakes, having seen action at fullback, wide receiver and a slot running back position on offense this season, as well as at cornerback on defense.

"He just does whatever we ask," said Ellenberger, of Johnson. "Will is a tough, physical kid and can run. We put him back there, gave him the ball and he did a tremendous job."

**ANOTHER BIG GAME** from the running back position came from senior back Brandon Price (10 carries, 48 yards), who ran for three, short-yardage touchdowns. Ellenberger also credited backs John Stewart and Bralynn Harris with having excellent blocking games out of the backfield.

"We controlled the ball, didn't throw interceptions and our offensive line did a nice job for us," said Ellenberger, summing up the offensive success against Falls Church.

South Lakes got a score from its special teams when sophomore Darius Smith returned a kickoff 65 yards for a touchdown.

Defensively in the win, the Seahawks came up with a huge goal line stand in the third quarter after Falls Church positioned itself to score with a first down at the one yard line. But in four plays, the Jaguars could not cross the goal line.

South Lakes, in the win, built up a 14-0 halftime lead and was ahead 21-6 after three quarters. For the game, the Seahawks accumulated 340 rushing yards.

# South Lakes Boys Impressive at Judge's Meet

## Seahawk boys and girls cross country under new coach this fall.

By Rich Sanders
The Connection

The South Lakes High cross country program is getting a little taste of its past this season. Kevin Donovan, who was head coach of the Seahawk girls' cross country team in the falls of 2005 and 2006, has returned to take over both the girls' and boys' teams this autumn.

"I love it," said Donovan, of his return to the Reston school. "I grew up in Reston and grew up next to the school."

Donovan, who was hired to take over the program last June, replaces former coach Mo Weaver at the helm of the program. He was an assistant cross country coach at South Lakes from 1997 through 2000 under former head coaches Mark Hunter and Scott Rackzo. And five years later, he returned to the South Lakes program as head coach of the girls' team for a couple of years.

Last fall, 2007, Donovan was an assistant coach with the Fairfax High cross country program. Then during the winter and spring of last school year, he was Westfield High's pole vault coach.

Donovan is a former Herndon High cross country runner. His coach while at Herndon was current Herndon director of student activities Mike Mahoney.

South Lakes, which competed earlier this week at the re-scheduled Monroe Parker Invitational at Burke Lake Park, participated at the Judge's Classic meet in Winchester last Thursday. There, the Seahawk boys finished fourth among 15 schools, just missing out on a team trophy given to the top three teams. It marked the first time since 2000 that a South Lakes boys' cross country team has finished so high at an invitational meet.

"I thought they did outstanding," said Donovan, of his boys' runners. "They all ran outstanding as a pack, which is what we'll have to do to be successful this year."

South Lakes' top two boys finishers at the Judge's meet were sophomore Nick Guarnaccia (13th overall) and Will Sickenberger (17th). Two other South Lakes runners who ran well were Steven Zaboji and Fred Kyle, both of whom barely missed top 25 medal finishes.

On the girls' side, junior Val Moyer (22nd overall) and senior Devin Erickson (27th) had solid runs to help the Seahawks finish 11th overall in the team standings. Three of South Lakes' top seven finishers were fresh

See Cross Country, Page 23

Photo by Craig Sterbutzel/The Connection

**South Lakes boys' cross country runner Will Sickenberger helped his team to a strong fourth place finish at last week's Judge's Classic in Winchester.**

Photo by Carl Hutzler Photography

**The RYA 95-American defense, led by Paul Sesay, swarms to tackle a Dulles South runner.**

# Reston Football Opens Season

Reston Youth Association (RYA) football got off to a fast start in week one of the Fairfax County Youth Association Football League (FCYFL) last weekend. Reston Seahawk teams won seven of their 11 games in contests played throughout Northern Virginia. Four of Reston's wins came in the inaugural home games on the new lighted turf field at Lake Fairfax. FCYFL includes more than 375 teams, 7,200 players, and 1,100 coaches for 24 clubs. Next weekend's schedule can be found at RestonSeahawks.org.

*For full recap of last week's Reston Seahawks' action, see www.connectionnewspapers.com.*

## Cross Country

From Page 22

men runners.

"We're still learning, but we're excited about those girls," said Donovan.

This was to be quite a busy week for both the South Lakes boys and girls teams. Along with competing in the Monroe Parker on Tuesday, the Seahawks were gearing for this Saturday's Oatlands Invitational in Leesburg.

"We'll get a pretty good idea of where we stand," said Donovan, of what his squads will learn about themselves after competing in the two large, popular early season races.

**WEAVER**, the former head coach of the South Lakes program, stepped down as cross country coach last spring. During the fall '07 season, Weaver had struggled physically with the shingles virus. He continued to run the South Lakes program throughout that autumn, but gave up his other non-school related duties as a personal trainer and coach.

"It took so much out of me physically," said Weaver, of the illness. "By the end of the season I was totally wiped out."

As a result, Weaver informed the school he would not be able to coach the South Lakes indoor and outdoor track and field teams over the rest of the 2007-08 school year. But he still held out hope he would be able to continue to coach cross country in the fall of '08. But his wife encouraged Weaver to relinquish his cross country duties so that he could work to regain his health and dedicate himself to his other endeavors, including speaking engagements, personal coaching pursuits and his Web site — coachmowellness.com.

"I was hoping to come back in the fall," said Weaver, known affectionately as `Coach Mo.' "My wife encouraged me to step down. I do miss the kids, though, and would like to go out [to some meets] and root them on. I thought I was making headway in making them better people and kids. But I made the decision that if I couldn't be at my best ...."

Weaver said he has gotten better physically over the months.

"I do feel better, night and day," he said.


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