

Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) raises a toast, as Charles Wight and Kohann Williams, two of this year's Best of Reston, look on.



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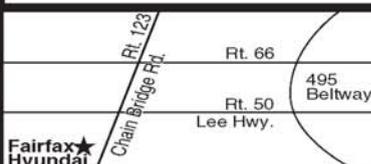
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County Presents Lake Anne Amendment

Proposed Comprehensive Plan amendment is met by community with mixed feelings.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

“I must say, this plan has come a long ways,” Lake Anne Village Center resident John Lovaas told county planners at a meeting at Washington Plaza Baptist Church last Tuesday, Feb. 10.

After five years of planning and meeting with residents and consultants, county staff had a proposed Comprehensive Plan amendment for Lake Anne Village Center ready to submit to the Planning Commission.

Lovaas lauded the plan language that called for the retention of the existing number of affordable dwelling units in the areas of Fellowship Square and Crescent



PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

County planner Loren Bruce looks on as Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) addresses residents gathered for a public meeting on the Lake Anne Comprehensive Plan amendment last week.

Apartments but added, with regard to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, “You made a slip when you went back from gold to silver.”

The county had considered “strongly en-

couraging” gold certification for all new development.

Also, Lovaas said he thought the proposal to allow up to 175 dwelling units — more units than currently exist in the entire vil-

lage — on the three acres that now make up the village center’s parking lot was too much and would overwhelm the Washington Plaza entry and block the view of the lake from Baron Cameron Avenue.

FRED SELDEN, director of the county’s Planning Division, pointed out that 175 units would only be allowed under the “consolidated” option, in which the parking lot parcel and the plots on either side, where the Fellowship House and Crescent Apartments sit, would be brought under the same ownership and developed in a unified fashion. If the properties are not consolidated, 125 units would be allowed.

Selden said there had been much discussion about pushing for gold LEED certification, but the certifications had been developed for office and high-rise buildings and did not apply as neatly to residential and mid-rise structures. However, he said work was underway to create residential standards, and the plan language would not preclude residents and the county from pushing for higher standards once a developer came along with a proposal.

The county had distributed a draft plan in November and solicited public input.

SEE LAKE ANNE, PAGE 14

Solomon Sentenced To Five Years in Prison

He robbed Chantilly man last spring.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Nearly a year has passed since a Chantilly man was robbed outside his apartment. But now, the man responsible for it — Abel Solomon, 21, of 2410 Southgate Square in Reston — has been sentenced to five years in prison.

Solomon stood trial, Nov. 3-4, 2008, in Fairfax County Circuit Court, and the victim, 34, testified first. The incident occurred March 11, 2008 and, the night before, he’d invited friends from work to his home in the Shenandoah Crossing Apartments. Around 10 or 11 p.m., another friend, Carolyn Kelly, called to see if she could come over, too, and bring someone named Abel. But the victim didn’t know him, so he said no.

She brought Solomon, anyway, but another friend of the victim’s, Carolina Miyake, turned him away at the door. He and the victim never saw each other.

The next night, Miyake and a friend named Casey were in the parking lot on

their way to the victim’s apartment when they noticed the dome lights on in his car. When he went outside to turn them off, he said, “I noticed three guys walking, all dressed in black. I’d lived there four years and they just didn’t fit.”

He turned out the dome lights and started walking back to his apartment when the men approached him. “Three guys came up to me,” said the victim. “One guy had a bat in my face, and a guy to my right had a gun, but kept it down. The guy with the bat kept cocking it back, cursing and saying, ‘Give me your money, give me your keys; we’re gonna rob you.’”

THE VICTIM said the bat-wielder had a 5-o’clock shadow, curly hair and “almost like a ponytail coming out the bottom of his mask.” Since the victim was standing beneath a street light and the man with the bat was just a foot away, the victim got a good look at him. He then pointed out Solomon in court as his assailant.

Furthermore, the victim said it wasn’t a random encounter — he’d been targeted. “I remember one of the other guys saying, ‘Is this him?’” he testified. Then,

SEE FIVE YEARS, PAGE 14



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Reston Community Center Diva Central.

Donate Prom Attire

From now through Saturday, March 28, Reston Community Center is sponsoring its annual Diva Central Prom Dress Drive for local teens who cannot afford to buy prom attire. Donations of new or gently worn formal dresses, handbags, shoes, jewelry, shawls and other accessories can be dropped off at Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Monday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Dresses of all sizes, styles and colors are welcome. The community center requests

that clothes be dry cleaned and if this is not possible, that personnel be informed upon drop-off.

On the weekend of April 25 and 26, high-school teens will be able to select dresses and accessories free of charge at Reston Community Center Lake Anne. Participants’ names will also be entered in a raffle for chances to win prizes donated by local business sponsors. For more information or to become a sponsor, e-mail Nakish Jordan, director of teen programs, at nakish.jordan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Preventing Hypothermia

Thousands of volunteers in Fairfax County are coming together this winter to help protect those in the community who are homeless and could be at risk of hypothermia. For the fifth consecutive year, local faith communities, businesses nonprofit organizations are partnering with Fairfax County government to prevent hypothermia deaths. This community-based effort supplements the year-round shelter and additional winter capacity offered by the county's homeless shelters.

Last winter, more than 2,300 volunteers from 57 faith communities and 13 nonprofit and business organizations partnered with the county in this effort that served 724 homeless individuals.

This winter, even more hypothermia prevention shelter sites are available, thanks to the commitment and support of the community. Shelter sites are open every night through March 15 in four regions of the county.

In addition to the extra winter capacity available at the county's year-round homeless shelters, Reston Interfaith, a local faith-based organization, is operating a hypothermia prevention shelter site using office space owned by the county government and coordinating volunteers from faith communities and businesses who provide dinner and breakfast. The shelter serves up to 25 people.

With more than a month to go, county staff estimates that the numbers of people served by this year's hypothermia prevention effort has already surpassed the number served last year.

Spring Trout Fishing

Cast your line and reel in your daily limit of rainbow trout during the Fairfax County Park Authority's annual Spring Trout Fishing program. The waters of Lake Accotink and Lake Fairfax will be churning with farm-raised fish through April.

Weekly stocking will alternate between the two parks and fishing begins the same day. Both parks allow fishing from 7 a.m. until dusk. Stocking began the first week in February at Lake Accotink in Springfield. Approaching stocking dates at Lake Accotink Park include Feb. 20, March 6, March 20 and April 3. Lake Fairfax Park will be stocked again Feb. 27, March 13, March 27 and April 10.

Participants ages 16-59 can purchase a season pass for \$35 or a one-day pass for \$12 at either park for use at both locations. Discounted rates apply to participants outside of this age group. A current Virginia fishing license is also required for anglers 16 years and older; however, a state-issued trout stamp is not. Pass holders are limited to one pole per person and six fish per day. Netting and snagging are prohibited.

For information about the fishing program, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/trout2008.htm.

Fishing Line Recycling Program

The Fairfax County Park Authority is launching a monofilament fishing line recycling program at local waterfront parks. Lake Fairfax is among the sites planning line recycling bins. This recycling effort is part of a statewide program started by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) and Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC).

The agency plans to install PVC pipe recycling containers at areas that draw anglers, such as boat launches, docks or marinas.

Anglers and boaters are encouraged to deposit used monofilament fishing line into the PVC containers. Monofilament line can entangle aquatic animals and birds, causing severe injury or even death. Discarded line also can wrap around propellers and damage boat motors. Recycling the line is a simple step anglers can take toward stewardship of natural resources.

Volunteers will help monitor and empty the recycling containers.

For more information contact the Park Authority Resource Management Division at 703-324-8674 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/ or visit the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries web site at www.dgif.virginia.gov/news/release.asp?id=204.

NEWS

HCA to Expand Reston Hospital

Following Loudoun's denial of Broadlands medical center, hospital company applies for Reston expansion.

Hospital Corporation of America announced Friday that the company is going to pursue an expansion of its Reston Hospital Center, adding 152 beds to the 187-bed facility. The same day, HCA submitted a rezoning request for the property to the Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning.

The decision to expand the Reston hospital, located on a 15-acre campus adjacent to Reston Town Center, comes after the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors again denied HCA's request for a special exception to build a 164-bed Broadlands Regional Medical Center in eastern Loudoun. HCA spokesman Mark Foust said the Reston hospital expansion would "fill the current void in health-care delivery in both Fairfax and eastern Loudoun County," serving patients who otherwise would have gone to the Broadlands hospital.

THE EXPANSION would add 345,000 square feet of hospital space to the 600,000-square-foot facility. A new six-story medical office building would be added to the three existing patient towers, the surgical suite and emergency department would be expanded and 650 parking spaces would be added. Depending on approvals from the state and county, the project could be underway in three to five years.

Foust said hospital resources across Northern Virginia and particularly in Loudoun, are inadequate, with Loudoun residents served by about half a hospital bed per 1,000 people. The national average, he said, is about three beds per 1,000 residents. Loudoun currently has only one hospital, the 183-bed Inova Loudoun Hospital.

HCA's fight to build the Broadlands Regional Medical Center has been long and costly. The idea was first discussed in 2002 and the state granted HCA a certificate of public need (COPN) in 2004. The COPN was challenged by Inova, on the grounds that the site of the proposed medical cen-

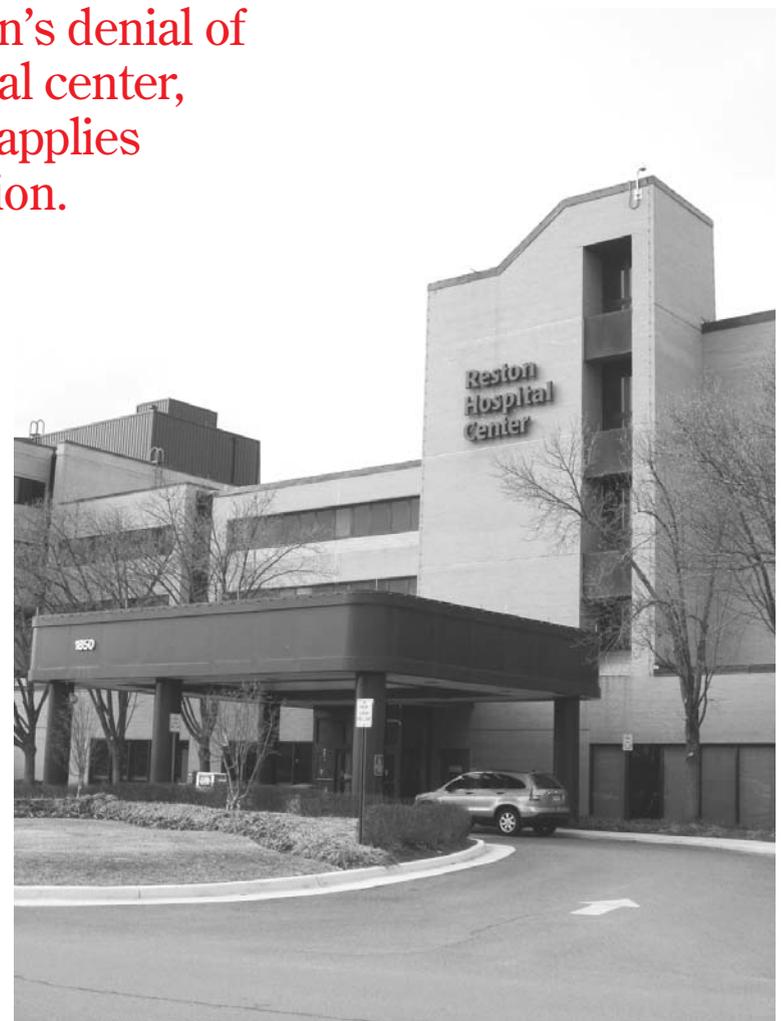


PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

Hospital Corporation of America has submitted plans to add 152 beds to Reston Hospital Center.

ter was only five miles from Inova Loudoun Hospital.

In 2005, Loudoun's Board of Supervisors denied HCA's request for a special exception and zoning modification to build the hospital, with the principal objection being that the hospital would be incon-

"We have been meeting with neighborhoods that about the hospital and their feedback has been positive."

— Mark Foust, HCA spokesman

gruous with the surrounding residential neighborhoods. HCA responded by suing the county, saying the board had acted "arbitrarily and capriciously" in denying the special exception after the supervisors had approved every other special exception that had come before them in the previous three years. The company dropped the suit in early 2008, when the new Board of Supervisors, consisting of four new members, decided to revisit the application. On Feb. 3, the board again denied the application.

MEANWHILE, Foust said, plans to expand Reston Hospital Center have been underway for about two years, although HCA had not planned to submit any applications for the expansion for another 10 years or so. Although HCA had not discussed the expansion with the Reston Town Center Association, Foust said, "We have been meeting with neighborhoods that about the hospital and their feedback has been positive."

He said outreach efforts would continue now that the plans were being accelerated.

The Broadlands hospital would have brought 600 jobs and \$4 million in tax revenue to Loudoun County and Foust said the Reston hospital expansion would bring similar benefits to Fairfax County, although the exact numbers had not yet been calculated.

Foust said HCA had not yet decided whether the company would try to transfer the current COPN to the Reston hospital or apply for a new certificate. The COPN must be renewed every year and it expires again in March.

— MIKE DICICCO

PEOPLE

Benefit for Reston Interfaith Raises \$39,000

The last weekend's benefit for Reston Interfaith was a sellout: Restonians turned out to see and hear the brand new Capitol Steps production of political satire at the Reston Hyatt Regency. Some \$39,000 was raised as a result of the event.

Pictured in conversation are the founder of Reston, Robert E. Simon Jr. and the music director of the Reston Community Orchestra, maestro Dingwall Fleary.

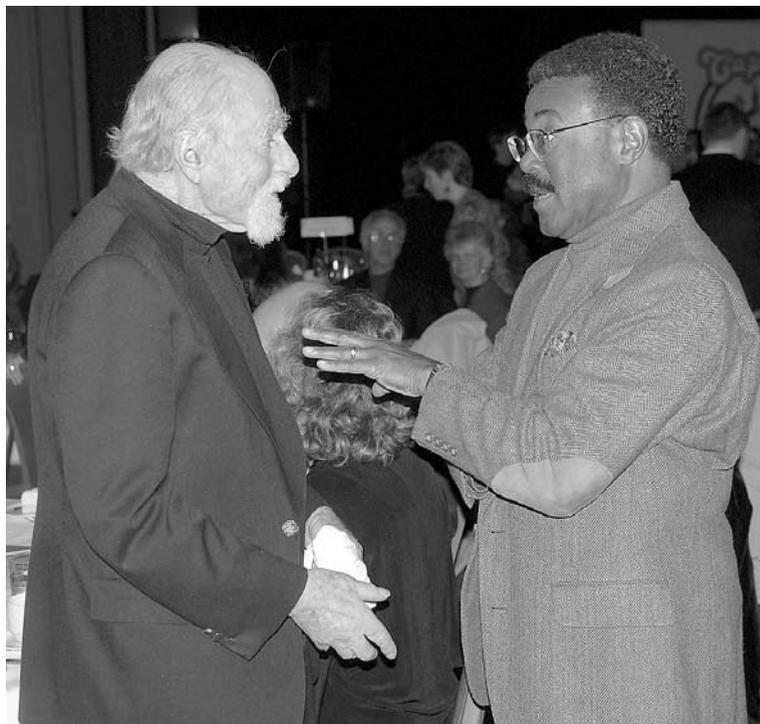


PHOTO BY MIKE MCKEE

Valentine Pops Gala at McLean Hilton



The Fairfax Symphony held its annual Valentine Pops Gala fund-raiser Friday evening, Feb. 6, at the McLean Hilton. Diana Sierra of Reston and Richard Ryan of Ashburn.



Dr. Michael and Kathleen McKee of Reston.

PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/
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THE COUNTY LINE

Schools Float Second HQ Building Proposal

Supervisors will discuss project at Feb. 23 meeting.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Public Schools has revived a proposal to purchase a second building for its central office staff after initial efforts to acquire the property stalled last fall.

According to school staff, the new office building would allow the school system to consolidate many of its central administration functions on one Merrifield campus and could result in cost savings.

But following a closed door meeting in September, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors rejected the school system's first plan for building acquisition. Several said they were skeptical that the \$110 million purchase was fiscally prudent, particularly in the current economic downturn and as the county faced a projected \$650 million budget deficit.

"The deal that was presented before I felt very strongly was something we should not do. I thought they were paying too much for the building," said Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville).

On Feb. 23, school officials will return to the supervisors with a new, cheaper plan to purchase the property at 8111 Gatehouse Road. In a matter of months, the cost of the project has gone from \$110.1 million to \$94.5 million and the savings estimate associated with the project has grown from \$22.2 million to \$62.2 million over the next 30 years, they said.

ACCORDING to the school system, these additional savings were realized primarily because the owner agreed to drop the price of the building from \$52 million to \$45 million. Officials have also agreed to scale back their renovation plans for the building from \$58.1 million to \$49.5 million by eliminating plans to acquire new furniture, add parking and improve traffic flow on the site at this time.

The school system had also identified one more leased building, the Instructional Center Support Systems warehouse, which could be vacated if the school system moved into the new Gatehouse property. The rent on the warehouse is currently about \$502,000 annually and could go toward covering the cost of the building purchase instead, said officials.

Since school officials brought forward the proposal this fall, the number of positions that would be eliminated as a result of the move has also increased from 18 to 28. By



PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

The school system is coming back with a proposal to purchase this building for administrative purposes.

cutting 10 more jobs, the school system would gain an extra \$2 million annually in cost savings, according to documents explaining the merits of the building purchase.

YET SEVERAL PEOPLE, including at least two supervisors, are still skeptical of the plan. They question the merits of the school system's business case and wonder whether purchasing administrative offices during the county's worst financial crisis in history is politically palpable.

Many argued that too much of the discussion about the building's purchase has taken place out of the public eye in "back rooms." Some critics said that the school board should have conducted more outreach to the public on the project.

"I would think spending \$100 million would be something that they would want the community to respond to. I don't see why they can't take this out to the community before making a decision on it," said Michelle Menapace, president of the Fairfax County Council of PTAs.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D) said she is attempting to make the dialogue over the building purchase more transparent. Instead of having conversations about the project behind closed doors, the supervisors and school officials will discuss the new building acquisition proposal in public Feb. 23.

"I think it is appropriate and long overdue for us to have that discussion out front," said Bulova, who added that holding a public hearing on the project did not seem necessary.

The supervisors are unlikely to vote on the proposal directly after hearing the school system's presentation next week and would probably make a final decision about the building at a later meeting. In the mean-

time, Bulova said the school system has set up meetings with community stakeholders to brief them on the revised building purchase plan.

"I encouraged presentations to be made to as many community organizations and groups as possible," said Bulova.

FCPS Chief Operating Officer Dean Tistadt added that many major county organizations, including the local federation of civic associations and chamber of commerce, had endorsed the previous plan.

"These are not groups that were going to support anything we put in front of them," he said.

STILL, THERE are some groups and supervisors who said it is not likely that they will be talked into supporting the purchase of a building for central administrators under any circumstances.

"I don't understand why anybody would think it was a good thing to do," said Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield).

Herrity questions much of the school system's analysis of the cost savings the project would achieve.

Some of the cost savings show up because the building purchase has only been compared to one other option — the construction of a new administrative building, said Herrity. According to the Springfield supervisor, the financial picture, and savings, could change drastically if the building purchase was compared to other scenarios — such as maintaining the status quo.

The school officials' numbers also assume that the school system would have to continue leasing office space for the same price it currently does if officials did not have the opportunity to move into the newly purchased building. But many of the school system's leases are up for renewal next year and it is likely officials could negotiate better rates at that time, said Herrity.

And though the price of the building has come down, Herrity added that it is still too high. The property's present owners paid \$45 million for the building in 2006 and the school system should not be paying the

exact same price in 2009, when the commercial real estate market is in decline, he said.

"Their financial model is off. They are making the numbers work to justify what they want to do," said Herrity of the current proposal.

Scott Chronister, who helps lead the Fairfax Coalition of Advocates for Public Schools (Fairfax CAPS), agrees with Herrity. He is concerned that many of the cuts to bring the project's cost down will reappear in future years.

Chronister said he anticipates the traffic changes that were originally planned as part of the project will be completed at a future date and that the school system will eventually purchase new furniture for building, even if they took out those expenses in their recent proposal.

"We are going to pay for those traffic changes as a result of [the project.] They are just taking it off the books and not reflecting it in the project right now so they can show some additional savings," said Chronister.

THE SCHOOL SYSTEM had predicted its first administrative building, Gatehouse I, would save them over \$20 million. Instead, the building ended up reducing costs by \$10 million, in part because they were unable to eliminate as many positions as they had originally planned.

"The first cost savings weren't what they said they were going to be," said Herrity.

Tistadt said the school system is likely to "realize" most of the costs savings that they had originally slated for the first administrative building project when they purchase the second office building.

At the request of Herrity and other supervisors, the school system will also present "status quo" and "lease" options along with the building purchase and building construction scenarios next week, he said.

But the school system also has pressing facility needs that would make the purchase of second administrative building advantageous, said Tistadt. The school system intends to convert many of the smaller office buildings where central office workers are currently housed into schools sites to deal with the county's growing student population, he said.

Some of the supervisors still think the administrative building purchase will be a tough sell to the public in a year when county residents are being asked to make large sacrifices in other areas of the budget.

"I think [the project] is a concept that has come at the completely wrong time. The perception of this matters. When you are increasing class sizes and cutting police services, I don't see how you can agree to purchase a new office building for administrators," said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee).

"I just don't know that this is the right time to invest \$100 million in an administrative building. It definitely sends a wrong signal," said Foust.

OPINION

A Matter of Priorities

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



RICHMOND
REPORT

Everyone knew that this was going to be an ugly year for the state budget. State revenues are way down reflecting the economic recession. An already reduced budget needed to be cut even further. The House completed work on its version of the budget last week. The Senate decided to wait until this week to vote on its budget after it got the January revenue report and after the Congress acted on the stimulus package. What they learned in the interim is that January revenue was less than projected requiring further downward adjustments in spending. The federal stimulus package passed in Congress will bring less to the state than the amount of revenue lost due to the recession and much of the stimulus money is earmarked and cannot be used for the general operation of government.

The amount of cuts in the House budget was no surprise. The extent of the revenue shortfall has been known for months and many

of the reductions in the budget had been proposed by Governor Kaine in December. Surprising and disappointing to me was the degree to which the budget has become a vehicle for some of the ideologues in the House to press their social agenda. Language to restrict abortions and stem-cell research could be found in at least three different places in the budget. A program to institute vouchers for private schools was also included as was language to provide sectarian religious services in correctional institutions.

Funding was dropped for drug courts although the programs have demonstrated that they are effective in reducing recidivism. A plan proposed by the governor to reduce prison costs and the need for additional prisons by freeing non-violent offenders as much as three months early was rejected. Fund-

ing for public schools was handled in such a way that I believe will jeopardize future funding and the existence of programs like preschool and alternative education.

A proposal by the governor to double the tax on cigarettes that would have brought the Virginia tax to about half the national average was rejected even though it would have produced almost enough revenue to pay for the estimated share of Medicaid costs from the illnesses brought on by smoking. The revenue lost by not accepting the governor's plan was covered by taking money from the Water Quality Improvement Program that goes to clean up the Chesapeake Bay. The water quality money was taken even though it was documented in debate by me and others that the money had already been committed to projects to clean up the bay.

I voted against the House budget. Not because it reduced spending. We had to make cuts to meet our Constitutional obligation to balance the budget. I just think that in the process we made some really bad priority choices.



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No to Gatehouse II

Almost \$100 million for second school HQ building is pre-meltdown thinking.

Superintendent of Schools Jack Dale and other Fairfax County Public school administrators persist in pressing for the purchase of a new, additional building next to its current headquarters.

School Board members and Board of Supervisors members should push back against this proposal.

So far, proponents of buying the 275,000-square-foot building next door to the 210,000 square foot existing headquarters say that this is the only way they can vacate 15 properties.

Vacating those buildings will save millions of dollars they say by terminating leases and avoiding renovations; plus some are needed for new schools. These savings lead proponents to call this program "self funded."

But now that we are in a different economy, local government will have to learn to think differently about such problems.

Leaders will have to find a way to vacate 15 buildings without spending nearly \$100 million, thereby reaping the savings without going into debt for part two of a school Taj Mahal.

There are some 600 employees in Gatehouse I, and plans to move some 700 more to

Gatehouse II. That's nearly half a million square feet of top quality office space for administration. There will be no teachers or students in these buildings.

We should note that this proposal comes from good intentions. We hear that camaraderie, synergy and communication have all improved from having a critical mass of administration and services located in a single place. It's a benefit Dale, Dean Tisdadt and others rightly would like to expand.

But administrators of the Fairfax County Public School system do not need office space fit for a top-flight law firm. Space inside Gatehouse I could be reconfigured so that almost all employees had their own cubicles — not offices. A few small conference rooms could make room for private conversations and phone calls as needed.

Many employees already telecommute, or could, on some days, and others spend most of their time in a variety of schools. These employees should share space; a cart for their files and a laptop should enable them to use modular space, greatly increasing the number of workers who could be accommodated in-

side the existing building.

FCPS also purchased three acres next to Gatehouse I where the original proposal was to build Gatehouse II. Now the proposal is to purchase an adjacent existing building.

Instead, the schools should install modulars (trailers) on the three acres to accommodate any employees who need to vacate the 15 buildings but don't fit inside a reconfigured Gatehouse I.

There are also problems with the process being used in this decision. There have been no public hearings on the subject. And the Board of Supervisors is scheduled to consider this next week. When we modernize or build schools here, voters get to weigh in by means of a referendum, and Fairfax voters have overwhelming supported school projects. Why don't voters have a say on this, which has been in the works for years?

This way, the schools can save \$100 million twice.

Don't just take our word for it, read the school system's arguments in favor of buying Gatehouse II at <http://www.fcps.edu/news/office.htm>.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An Open Letter To Chairman Bulova

Dear Chairman Bulova:

I thought this cat was dead. Why do we have to continually consider, especially in secret this very bad idea called Gatehouse II?

Citizens are becoming fed up. The big elephant in the room over the last several months has been exotic Wall Street conglomerates who turned out to be not so exotic and not so good at management decisions. Among those bad decisions were mortgage schemes in which no early-year interest payments were required of some subprime borrowers. Subsequently, as we now know, these not so exotic organizations have required a bailout. Then as the "bailout money" was distributed, we discovered some of that bailout money was being used to award management ludicrous bonuses.

Not to be outdone by Wall Street, it now it appears Fairfax County is attempting to bailout some real estate speculators who made a bad business decision in late 2006. You may remember, mid-year 2006 was at the height of the real estate market and ex-

actly the wrong time to make a buy decision, especially of the building at 8111 Gate House Road and unbelievably for \$43,545,000. In an effort to put some lipstick on this bovine, Fairfax County is calling it Gatehouse II and trying to bond out and then obligate somewhere around \$100 million capitol expense to acquire and upgrade this building. Despite the School Board's assertion to the contrary, this is the same money that could be used to accomplish critically needed refurbishment of existing school facilities.

To make matters worse, for some reason, the first three years of interest is not being paid. Apparently it is being added back into the capitalization of the mortgage so even more interest will be due in the future. Does this interest delayed strategy ring a bell? The other costs, to include future interest payments, are additional tens of millions of dollars not being shown nor discussed.

To add insult to injury, I have just learned Fairfax County Public Schools has an organization called the "Department of Statistical Responsibility." What exactly is this all about? Sounds like a "spin" group to me. What this school administration needs is a Department of Fiscal Responsibility, not

a department that appears to be devoted to manipulating numbers to advertise how great our schools are."

Bruce Bennett
Vienna

Dale is Wrong On Gatehouse II

To the Editor:

Just when you thought that you have heard enough about bailouts, wait until you hear about this one On Feb. 12, 2009, Superintendent Jack Dale sent his marketing message to the Parent Advisory Council (PTA) to drum up support for spending \$94.5 million dollars on his pet project of acquiring another administration building for his staff. The public is expected to believe that purchasing this building will generate cost savings of \$62 million — up \$40 million from just a few months ago. Wow — imagine that — \$40 million in savings appeared out of no where. With that kind of magic, we could solve our economic crisis instantly.

Dale's message to the PTA, "No money will be taken away from schools or students, the project will be fully self-funded through savings and efficiencies and no payments will need to be made

until fiscal year 2013."

No payments until fiscal year 2013 — yes, and the law of economics says that if you are borrowing money and not repaying the principal, guess what? The debt balance goes up. This is part of the reason for the mortgage mess. Putting off payment for three years is not a savings nor is it efficient.

Dale is wrong. Spending \$94.5 million of scarce funds to buy and renovate another administration building does take money away from students, teachers and our schools. If South County High School can be paid for by EDA bonds, so can other schools renovations.

So here are three novel ideas for Dale, School Board members and the Board of Supervisors who will go behind closed doors to discuss and vote on this proposal on Feb. 23. First, the \$94.5 million generated by selling EDA bond should be used to renovate those schools that have been sitting in the queue for decades. The parents of West Springfield High School should be appalled that this is not the plan.

Second, under the leadership of the new board chair, Sharon

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15

RA Puts Headquarters to Vote

Ballot will ask whether to spend up to \$15 million.

With its current lease expiring in March of 2010, the Reston Association is preparing to find a new headquarters quickly. Ballots to be sent out beginning Feb. 23, at the same time ballots are being circulated for an uncontested election of the association's board of directors, will ask members for permission to spend up to \$15 million to buy space for a new headquarters.

Association president Robin Smyers said she hoped the concurrent voting would draw more attention to both issues, particularly since the RA has had trouble during uncontested elections with getting the required 10 percent return rate. The referendum on the headquarters will need a 30 percent return rate and two-thirds of voters will have to approve of the project in order for it to go forward. "We're hopeful that this will

Verbatim

The question, as it will appear on the ballot:

"Should the Reston Association Board of Directors be authorized to finance and expend, as determined by the Board of Directors, an amount not to exceed \$15,000,000 to purchase a commercial office building or condominium space, or interest therein, or, in the alternative, to purchase property and to construct a building thereon for future use as the Association's headquarters?"

To learn more: Visit the Reston Association Web site at www.reston.org and click on the "Headquarters Referendum" link.

give highlight to both activities and get our members involved," Smyers said.

IN 2005, a referendum was passed authorizing the RA leadership to spend \$5 million on a new headquarters, including accelerators that would bring that sum to about \$6.4 million today. Smyers said the amount was increased to \$15 million in order to include the cost of retrofitting the new space and because more space was being sought, and it was looking unlikely that the association would be able to build the headquarters on its own property.

"This is not to say we would be spending all of that," Smyers said. "We just don't want to hamstring this board or a future board."

The 2005 board had been seeking a space about the size of the current 20,000-square-foot headquarters, but the board is now looking for about 35,000 square feet. Smyers said the current location is inadequate for staff and public meetings often spill out of the board room and into the waiting area. Also, she said, with low-rent or no-rent space hard to find in Reston, the board hopes to provide some meeting rooms for other groups.

Alliance of Reston Clusters and Homeowners (ARCH) president and former Reston CEO Gerry Volloy said he understood the association's need for a new headquarters, but he and the residents he represent still had some questions they wanted answered. Volloy submitted a set of statements and questions on behalf of ARCH.

He said he knew the RA did not have room to meet some of its re

SEE HEADQUARTERS, PAGE 13



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— Geoff Tracy, Chef, Owner of Chef Geoff's and Lia's restaurants





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SCHOOLS



Students performed at The Hunters Woods Elementary School Chorus Concert on Jan. 15.

U.S. Post Office inspector Jonathan Bame will give an Internet safety presentation Thursday, **Feb. 19**, 7 p.m. at Lake Anne Elementary, 11510 N. Shore Drive, Reston. Bame will offer a brief summary of the group's investigation of child exploitation cases as well as an overview of the type of social networking sites available on the Internet and ways to protect children from predators. Contact principal Linda Hajj at 703-326-3500 or linda.hajj@fcps.edu.

Good Beginnings School, 11501 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, is holding a Kindergarten Open House Saturday, Feb. 21, 12-2 p.m. Meet the teachers, see the classroom, receive a brief overview of the curriculum, learn about the Character education program and more.

Learn about post-secondary education options at a workshop entitled **"What Am I Going To Do After High School?"** Wednesday, **Feb. 25**, 7-8:30 p.m. at South Lakes High School, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston. Free. E-mail Natashi.Anthony@fcps.edu or call 571-423-4150 to register.

The **League of Reston Artists (LRA)** announced the opening of their 2009 scholarship program. The scholarships are open to aspiring artists who are seniors at any Fairfax County high school. Applicants must be an art/photography student at his/her high school and must have applied to, or been accepted at, an art school or program at a college or university, for the summer or fall 2009 term. Completed applications must be received by the LRA at P.O. Box 2513, Reston, VA 20195-2513 by **Feb. 28**. Visit www.leagueofrestonartists.org for details.

Learn about **secondary school options** at a free seminar Wednesday, **Feb. 25**, 7-8:30 p.m. at South Lakes High School, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston.

Students from Carson, Herndon and Hughes Middle Schools and Herndon and South Lakes High Schools won regional awards in the Scholastic Art Awards competition sponsored by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers. Their work will be on display at Northern Virginia Community College's Ernst Community Cultural Center in Annandale Friday, Feb. 13-Thursday, Feb. 26. An awards ceremony for Gold and Silver Key winners is planned for Tuesday, Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m.

The **Sunrise Valley Elementary Green Team** has received a Johnnie Forte, Jr., Memorial Grant to support the school's butterfly garden. The Green Team, a sixth grade leadership team, will use the funds to purchase a composter to recycle leaves and grass clippings gathered at the school. Once it is ready, the compost produced by the recycling will enrich the soil of the butterfly garden. The garden is available to all Sunrise Valley classes as they study science and stewardship of the environment. Contact principal Elizabeth English at 703-715-3800 or elizabeth.english@fcps.edu.

Students at Terraset Elementary are collaborating to create tutorials for other students to use. Working in pairs, the students select a topic, create a storyboard and a script, and use the SMART Board™ recorder to capture their actions and their voices. Teachers post the tutorials on their FCPS 24-7 Learning sites to use for unit or Standards of Learning (SOL) test review. Students also work with teachers from other grade levels so that the older students make videos for the younger ones. Videos can be seen at www.fcps.edu/TerrasetsES. Contact principal Ellen Cury at 703-390-5600 or ellen.cury@fcps.edu or news liaison Heather Dix at heather.dix@fcps.edu.

ART

An exhibition of **contemporary landscape paintings and sculpture** will be on display at ArtsSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon, **through March 9**. The reception will be held Feb. 21, 5-7 p.m. Large paintings by Jo Fleming of Great Falls and bronze sculptures by Bill Moore of Silver Spring, MD will be shown.

An exhibition of art by students from Herndon High School entitled "Emerging Visions: ROOTS" will be on display **Feb. 26-April 14** at the Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market St., Suite 103, Reston.

The **Elden Street Players** received 13 nominations for outstanding performance in three productions during calendar year 2008. The Washington Area Community Theatre Honors program announced the nominations at The Birchmere in Alexandria. WATCH is an organization of thirty area community theater companies founded for the adjudication and presentation of annual awards recognizing artistic and technical excellence in community theatre throughout the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area. The awards ceremony will be held March 1, 7 p.m., at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria.

Mandarin Oriental, Washington D.C., in association with Galerie Brigitte of Reston, presents an exhibit of modern lacquer, Vietnamese paintings, **"Blending Traditions: Contemporary Lacquer"** by Duong Sen. The gallery, located on the ballroom mezzanine level of Mandarin Oriental, Washington, D.C., will run the exhibit **now through February**. The artwork is available for purchase through Galerie Brigitte.

COMMUNITY NOTES

Send announcements to reston@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-917-6437. Deadline is Thursday.

The **American Legion**, Wayne M. Kidwell, Post voted to donate a total of \$7,000 dollars to the following Veteran organizations: VA Veterans Care Center, DC VA Medical Center, Angel of Mercy, Marine Semper Fi Fund and Fisher House Foundations. These funds were raised during the Memorial Day Poppy Campaign and Snow Cone sales at the Herndon Festival last year. In addition to the organizations above, a donation will also be made to the Herndon High School Naval Junior ROTC in appreciation for all the help they provide the Post throughout the year.

Partial scholarships are available for new English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. Northern Virginia Community College and The Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce are now enrolling qualified participants for new ESL for Employment classes that start in February. To qualify for the matching scholarship, applicants need to be from moderate-income households, complete NOVA's ESL screening test and present documentation needed to work for U.S. employers. To learn more about any of NOVA's 8 ESL for Employment class locations for the Spring 2009 semester, call 703-764-7779 or e-mail eslemployment@nvcc.edu.

The **Fairfax County Police Department** is seeking residents to attend the upcoming Spring Citizens Police Academy, held Thursday evenings March 12-May 16, 6:30-10 p.m. The Citizens Police Academy is a 10-week program



Jane Ross with "Painting Number 3" from the "briar Series" and Karen Danenberger with "Morning Clarity Venice." Both paintings will be on display with other works from the two in the exhibit "Delight" at Jo Ann Rose Gallery, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston through March 1.

Call 703-860-2345 or visit www.galeriebrigitte.com.

Works by **Matthew Best** will be on display **through April 6** at the Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market St., Suite 103, Reston.

The **Reston Museum** will be closed for renovations **through April 17**. A new interior and new exhibits are in the works. Children's Art Workshops will be on hiatus during the renovations, but Pat McIntyre's Art Workshop will continue Saturdays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

and classes are a combination of lecture and interactive activities. Topics include SWAT and special operations, gangs, 911 communications center, patrol, crime prevention, crime scene, identity theft and a tour of the Adult Detention Center. The program is offered free of charge. Applicants must live or work in Fairfax County, be 18 and provide their own transportation. E-mail CPA@fairfaxcounty.gov or call (703) 280-0713 for applications.

Mothers First-Herndon/Reston is a nonprofit support organization helping women transition from careers to at-home motherhood. Meetings are held the **first and second Wednesdays** of each month at 10 a.m., at the Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Contact 703-827-5922 or www.mothersfirst.org.

Ice Skate with Scooby-Doo, Tweety Bird, Cat in the Hat and more **every Saturday in February**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. After, bring your skating tag or sticker to Edibles Incredible Desserts to receive a free hot chocolate with every cupcake purchase.

Live acoustic music will be performed **Mondays and Saturdays**, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. at Uno Chicago Grill at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St.

The **Reston Museum**, 1639 Washington Plaza, is open year round, Tuesdays-Sundays, 12-5 p.m. Call 703-709-7700 or visit www.restonmuseum.org

The **Greater Reston Arts Center**, 12001 Market St., Suite 100, Reston, is open Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Visit www.restonarts.org.



Cloudscape #1 by Kurt Schwarz (left) and Don Giovanni by Maggie Siner and other works by the two artists will be on display at Gallery 222, 222 S. King St., Leesburg through March 31.

CONTRIBUTED

CALENDAR

Send announcements to reston@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-917-6437. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

THURSDAY/FEB. 19

Canines in Reston. 7-8 p.m., Reston Association, 1930 Isaac Newton Square, Reston. Learn about the coyote and how they are changing fox behavior. \$3/RA members; \$5/non-residents. Reservations required by Feb. 17; call 703-435-6530.

SATURDAY/FEB. 21

Norman Wright and the Travelers are performing their bluegrass music at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon, 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$12; call 703-435-8377. **Reston Chorale.** 6 and 8 p.m., Reston

Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Reston Chorale will perform two shows. Visit www.restonchorale.org.

SUNDAY/FEB. 22

Jazz Meets Rock. 2-3 p.m., Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 W. Ox Road, Herndon. Explore the evolution of style during the years when greats like John Coltrane and Grover Washington were kings. Free. Call 703-437-9101. **Capitol Steps.** 7 p.m., Herndon High School Auditorium. The award winning political satire group Capitol Steps will perform to benefit the Class of 2009. Tickets: \$35/person; visit www.fcps.edu/HerndonHS/.

MONDAY/FEB. 23

Ansel Adams: A Documentary. 7 p.m., Lake Anne Community Center,

THEATER

Send announcements to reston@connectionnewspapers.com.

"The Full Monty," Reston Community Players at CenterStage of the Reston Community Center, 8 p.m., Friday, **March 6**; 8 p.m. Saturday, **March 7**; 8 p.m., Friday, **March 13**; 8 p.m., Saturday, **March 14** (sign interpretation); 2:30 p.m., Sunday, **March 15**; 8 p.m., Friday, **March 20**, and 8 p.m., Saturday, **March 21**; 2:30 p.m., Sunday, **March 22**; 8 p.m., Friday, **March 27**, and 8 p.m., Saturday, **March 28**. See www.restonplayers.org.

"Falsettos," Elden Street Players at the Industrial Strength Theatre, **March 13-April 4**. See eldenstreetplayers.org.

"Something Different 2009," Theater for Young Audiences, Elden Street Players at the Industrial Strength Theatre, **March 21-April 5**. See eldenstreetplayers.org.

"Laughing Stock," Reston Community Players at CenterStage of the Reston Community Center, 8 p.m., Friday, **May 1**; 8 p.m. Saturday, **May 2**; 8 p.m., Friday, **May 8**; 8 p.m., Saturday, **May 9** (sign interpretation); 2:30 p.m., Sunday,

1609 N. Washington Plaza, Reston. Join the Great Falls Group of the Sierra Club for this Emmy Award-winning film featuring scenery from the American West and photographer Ansel Adams. Contact Linda Burchfiel at 703-506-4310 or larva@attglobal.net

FRIDAY/FEB. 27

Organic Gardening. 7-8:30 p.m., Reston Association, 1930 Isaac Newton Square, Reston. Join a master gardener for some information on organic gardening. \$5/RA members; \$8/non-residents. Reservations required by Feb. 24; call 703-435-6530. **Audition.** 7:30 p.m., Lindsay C. Petersen Hall, 266 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. The Reston Community Players are holding auditions for their production of "Laughing Stock." There are 9 male roles and 5 female

May 10; 8 p.m., Friday, **May 15**, and 8 p.m., Saturday, **May 16**. See www.restonplayers.org.

"The History Boys," Elden Street Players at the Industrial Strength Theatre, **June 5-27**. See eldenstreetplayers.org.

"Fairytale in Training," Theater for Young Audiences, Elden Street Players at the Industrial Strength Theatre, **June 13-28**. See eldenstreetplayers.org.

"Amour," Elden Street Players at the Industrial Strength Theatre, **July 31-Aug. 22**. See eldenstreetplayers.org.

roles.

SATURDAY/FEB. 28

Audition. 2 p.m., Lindsay C. Petersen Hall, 266 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. The Reston Community Players are holding auditions for their production of "Laughing Stock." There are 9 male roles and 5 female roles.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 18

Trip to Columbia, Md. Begin with a bus tour highlighting Columbia's planning and development history, open space, then preview of redevelopment plans for Columbia Town Center and finish with a walking tour of the Town Center. Bus pick ups: Ledo's Pizza at Hunters Wood Shopping Center, 8:30 a.m.; Thoreau Place, 1951 Sagewood Lane, Reston, 8:45 a.m.; Lake Anne Fellowship House, 11450 North Shore Drive, Reston, 9 a.m. Call 703-435-6577 to register.

CLUBS

The **American Association of University Women of Reston** and Herndon will meet, Saturday, **Feb. 21**, 10 a.m., ArtsSpace of Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. The speaker for the meeting will be Elizabeth Vandenberg of Reston, the AAUW Mid-Atlantic representative to the National Science Foundation's "National Girls Collaborative Project." Vandenberg will discuss the project and findings of AAUW's national research report "Where the Girls Are: The Facts About Gender Equity in Education." Call Carol Van Evera at 703-759-5543.

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BUSINESS

Moving from Tysons to Reston

Clark & Associates relocate to a historical site in Reston.

BY JULIAN LAURENT
THE CONNECTION

As the Tysons Corner area becomes more densely populated by commercial growth and the resulting traffic, at least one business is planning to relocate.

Rick Clark said that by relocating to Reston he hopes that his financial solutions company, Clark & Associates, will find more efficiency in space and overhead costs and that increasing growth along the Dulles corridor will prove beneficial to the company's future growth.

"We are moving from our Tysons location to an historical site in Reston," Kathryn Grant, a principal of the firm, said. The site the company will move to is right near the Manor House on Old Reston Avenue built by Carl Wiehle in 1892.

Though Clark has since come to embrace the move to Reston, he said he was originally reluctant to



PHOTO BY JULIAN LAURENT/THE CONNECTION

Rick Clark and Kathryn Grant cite advantages of relocating from Tysons to Reston.

commit. As most of the current clients who come to Clark & Associates for financial advice possess older money and are looking for secure investments with reasonable returns rather than risky investments with chance for great

returns, the move to Reston will likely mean more clients with newer money who may be less concerned with their long-term financial future.

"We're trying to spread the message that people need to save their money. The hard point to get across to the 30-somethings is that at some point in time in their future, they're going to retire and that they are going to live longer," said Clark. "In 2050, there are going to be over 100,000 people over the age of 100. Today there are a couple hundred. People will be living in their 90s and longer and the social security system will probably have failed."

Clark and Grant expect that in the economic times ahead, people will realize the importance of safe investments, regardless of location.

The firm plans to make its move to the new location in Reston toward the end of March and already Clark said he is absolutely certain of one benefit, "Now all of the employees, including myself, have no excuse not be in the office by 9 o'clock." All principals of the firm live in Reston.

A princess is a delicate thing...



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NEWS

PHOTO BY MIKE DiCICCO/THE CONNECTION



From left, standing, Reston Interfaith CEO Kerrie Wilson, Chamber of Commerce chair Jen Sterling, Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), Kohann Williams, Charles Wight, Reston Links chapter president Brenda Irons-LeCesne, David Eisenman and Bunny Bonnes and Donna Miller Rostant of the Reston Triathlon. Seated are Eve and Rick Thompson.

Reston Reveals Its Best

This year's Best of Reston are will be honored in April.

Last Wednesday, at the "Revealing the Best" reception hosted by Vinifera Wine Bar and Bistro, the 18th set of Best of Reston winners were brought into the spotlight. Best of Reston honors people and companies "who do something really terrific and go above and beyond," while it also raises money for Reston Interfaith, said the interfaith organization's CEO, Kerrie Wilson.

Lynn Gilmore of Northrop Grumman said that with \$175,000 already raised, this year's Best of

Reston, a partnership between Reston Interfaith and the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, was already more than halfway to its goal of \$300,000. The "strategic partner" companies donating \$25,000 were Northrop Grumman, the JBG Companies, Reston Hospital Center/HCA Virginia and the Virginia Spine Institute.

The winners will be honored at the Best of Reston Gala, April 30, at the Hyatt Regency Reston.

— MIKE DiCICCO

And the Winners Are ...

Above and Beyond Employee:

David Eisenman – Reston's Finest Host

Verdia Haywood – Building a Vibrant Community

Corporate/Business Leader:

Helios HR – Sharing Resources, Leading by Example

Civic/Community Organization:

The Reston Triathlon – The Heart and Health of Reston

Reston Chapter of the Links Inc. – Weaving Service into Leadership

Individual Community Member:

Charles Wight – A Quiet Strength for Those in Need

Kohann Williams – Envisioning a Holistic World

Eve and Rick Thompson – Nurturing Reston's Best

RA Headquarters Discussed

FROM PAGE 9

quirements, and regarding the idea of additional community meeting space, he said, "There's no doubt in our minds that more meeting space is required. However, he said, with the space being sought having nearly doubled and the price tag having nearly tripled, "our members start asking questions."

Volley said the RA was also pursuing a joint recreation center with the Reston Community Center and he wondered whether that would include some public meeting space that then wouldn't need to be housed in the RA headquarters. Also, he said, "What members want to know is, 'What's this going to

cost me out of my pocketbook?'"

As the Reston CEO, Volloy had worked on pursuing a new headquarters, and he said he and others had worked diligently to come up with cost estimates for all options, including building, buying and leasing space. He wanted to know why the association now might spend considerably more per square foot.

By taking advantage of the depressed real estate market, Smyers said she expected to get a better price per square foot than the RA would have found four years ago, but retrofitting the building would cost money. Also, she said, the idea of saving money by building on RA-owned land, while still an option, no longer looked likely. Most

RA land is zoned for recreational uses and the impending deadline does not afford much time for the build option.

If the RA does not get approval for the purchase, the association will have to find a new space to lease. "As soon as we get our marching orders, one way or another we will be looking for new space," Smyers said.

Volley and others will have plenty of opportunity to ask questions on the matter, as a series of seven public meetings on the matter is scheduled for February and March at the current headquarters. The first will be at 7 p.m., Feb. 23, the day the ballots are sent out.

— MIKE DiCICCO

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Herndon

2718 West Ox Rd.....\$515,000.....Sun 1-4.....Kimberly Ebel.....ReMax.....703-530-2950

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1989 Logan Manor Dr.....\$694,500.....Sun 1-4.....Eileen Dubose.....National Realty.....703-403-6030

Loudoun County

Ashburn

22071 Auction Barn Dr.....\$689,000 - For Sale.....Sat 1-4.....Penny Traber.....1st Choice.....540-786-0088
20121 Black Diamond Pl.....\$1,389,990.....Sun 1-4.....William Garrett.....MLS Connect.....301-825-9255
21279 Irongate Way.....\$435,000.....Sun 1-4.....Kuljeet Chabbewal.....Weichert.....703-314-3632
43278 Rush Run Ter.....\$309,000.....Sun 12-2:30.....Amy Sikora.....Weichert.....540-338-5020

Broadlands

21575 Awbrey Pl.....\$525,000.....Sun 1-4.....Bonnie Selker.....Keller Williams.....703-728-2292

Chantilly

42695 Rolling Rock Sq.....\$385,000.....Sun 1-4.....Dana DeSarno.....Samson.....571-212-7770

Leesburg

121 Balch Spring Cir., SE.....\$498,000.....Sun 1-4.....Julie Hertel.....Long & Foster.....571-243-5952
21036 Great Woods Dr.....\$650,000.....Sat & Sun 1-5.....Jocelyn Santiago.....Long & Foster.....703-244-1344
249 Mindy Ct., SE.....\$500,000.....Sat 1-4.....Julie Hertel.....Long & Foster.....571-243-5952
19213 Sweig Ter.....\$395,000.....Sun 1-4.....Stephen Adamson.....Weichert.....703-726-3909

Purcellville

36361 Lowell Reed Ln.....\$575,500.....Sun 1-4.....Lindsay Hope.....Prudential Carruthers.....540-454-1160
14079 Mountain Rd.....\$659,000.....Sun 1-4.....Jacqueline Hagenston.....Long & Foster.....540-454-1452
410 Nursery Ave., S.....\$379,755.....Sun 12-3.....Karen Overheu.....RE/MAX.....703-589-3584
37757 Piggott House Pl.....\$750,000.....Sat 12-3.....Suzanne Gaibler.....Weichert.....703-264-0000

South Riding

25844 Turlough Ter.....\$375,500.....Sat 1-4.....Ben Turpin.....RE/MAX.....703-652-5760

Sterling

21083 Rotunda Ter.....\$385,000.....Sun 1-4.....Stephen Adamson.....Weichert.....???-???-????

To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Lauri Swift or Winslow Wacker
703-821-5050 or E-Mail the info to Lauri@connectionnewspapers.com
All listings due by Monday at 3 pm.

For Reston Team, 'The Sky Is the Limit'

Having taken the adage "the sky is the limit" as a challenge, a group of Reston children built a robot and sent it up into space in a high-altitude balloon. More recently, in the FIRST LEGO League (FLL) regional tournaments in Northern Virginia, the group took first-place overall, which allowed them to advance into the state championships where they received a first-place trophy for robot design.

The children as a team form the FLL Team 90 and the launch of a balloon was part of the High Altitude LEGO Extravaganza (H.A.L.E.).

The team, led by coach David Levy, is made up of children from Forest Edge Elementary School, but the team is not an

official school team. The H.A.L.E. launch, which took place on July 29, 2008, in Reno, Nev., was held to commemorate the 10th anniversary of LEGO MINDSTORMS.

The Reston team focused their interests in designing a robot that would allow them to measure indicators of global warming. Together they designed and built a robot with which they could measure ultraviolet radiation as a function of altitude. Having successfully designed a robot capable of taking measurements of the UV index, the team then added a spin wheel controlled by a motor, which would allow them to place various everyday filters over the data collection sensor. This allowed them to record measurements of the UV index at

Pictured, from left, top row, Matthew Huo, 10, Joshua Levy, 10, Stan Yoon, 11, Kenny Chen, 11, and Jeremy Schonfeld, 10; in the middle row, Pooja Rathnashyam, 11, and Isabel Ho, 11; and front row, Gloria Chen, 9, William Chen, 7, and Arianna Chen, 11.



altitudes as high as 100,000 feet under the following filters: a lens from a pair of sunglasses, a strip from a cotton T-shirt and a strip of denim. This "payload," as the robotic device is referred to, sent the readings back to the team on the ground and allowed the students to compile and ana-

lyze the UV readings under the various filters at different altitudes.

While the first launch took place in Nevada, Team 90 has continued to make a name for themselves back home.

— JULIAN LAURENT

Lake Anne Future is Scrutinized

FROM PAGE 3

Planner Loren Bruce said some had suggested that the consolidated option be struck in order to limit density, but planners had decided to retain the option in order to encourage development with a unified pedestrian and road network.

While there had been suggestions for a height limit, Bruce said the department hadn't felt it could determine whether a limit of 12 stories or one of 13 stories would be more appropriate and opted to leave some flexibility for the Architectural Review Board and others to make such determinations.

Planners had scaled back the amount of retail space that would be suggested for new buildings, Bruce said. "The goal is not to take business away from the core of the village center." New development should not have more retail space than supports the other uses in the building.

Staff is also continuing to encourage that buildings be moved to give a direct view of the lake from what is now the parking lot but will become an extension of the plaza.

RESTON FOUNDER Bob Simon said he thought the plan had become too burdened with details to attract a developer and he announced that he was going to try to develop an alternate amendment to bring before the Board of Supervisors. What had begun as a Comprehensive Plan amendment

had turned into a site plan, Simon said, noting that the 35 acres in question, a relatively small development, had been carved into six pieces with different densities and requirements for each, "and it doesn't make any sense at all."

"As far as density is concerned, I'm afraid this is a word that is used to frighten children. Most people don't know what they're talking about," Simon said.

In a letter he handed to planning staff, Simon had written that two different developers had spent time coming up with plans for Lake Anne's redevelopment in 2004 but had put off further efforts until the plan amendment was worked out. Neither developer's plan would fit into the current proposal and Simon felt that one of those plans represented "an ideal solution," the letter said.

Simon noted that the Comprehensive Plan wouldn't make a difference without any developer interest. "For the John Lovaases in the room, it's not as though once this thing is done, a developer can run through it and do what he wants," Simon told the crowd. Once basic parameters are laid out, he said, the details would be worked out once a developer came forward with an idea.

Although he no longer lives in Reston, former Reston planner John Thillman sits on the Fellowship Square Foundation's board of directors, and he said the plan pro-

vided no incentive for the redevelopment of the plot where the Fellowship House sits. "The only way privatizations ever work is if there's incentive to redevelop on the part of the landowners," Thillman said.

With 295 units already allowed on the site, only 25 units would be added to that maximum unless the properties are consolidated. In that case, the buildings would have to be torn down and rebuilt to bring the current 240 units up to 425. And requiring most other properties in the village center to adhere to the minimum number of affordable dwelling units required by the county, while mandating that Fellowship Square retain its 240 units, amounted to a disincentive, Thillman said.

Regarding height limits, resident Guy Rando said most historic cities with height limits dictate that buildings cannot be taller than the city's icon. In the village center, he said, the icon would be the Heron House.

The proposed amendment would allow a total of 1,415 to 1,755 residential units and 221,000 to 247,000 square feet of commercial space in the village center.

However, at its meeting last Thursday, the Architectural Review Board expressed concerns about densities proposed for the area that is now the development's parking lot, although the board has not issued any formal recommendations.

The Planning Commission is scheduled to review the amendment on March 11.

Five Years Prison for Reston Robbery

FROM PAGE 3

he said, "After they took \$20 from my hand, I started backing away toward Stringfellow Road, with my hands up. The guy swung the bat and it struck the street sign, and I ran to Casey and Carolina's car."

Trying to figure out who'd want to rob him, he remembered what had happened the night before. "I asked Carolina if Abel had long hair, and she said he did," said the victim. "She had him on her Facebook account, and I saw him and it was [the guy with the bat]. That was what he looked like, the night of the robbery — exactly."

Robbery-squad Det. Eric Deane testified

that Solomon had shoulder-length, curly hair in a ponytail, plus a few days' beard growth, when he was arrested April 2. He said police seized from Solomon's townhouse a dented aluminum baseball bat, a "gaiter" — a black, stretchy mask that covers the face below the nose, a black knit cap and a black hooded jacket. Deane said the bat, mask, cap and "a black, nylon thing to cover your hair" were all found together by a couch. Defense attorney Martin Mooradian said being refused entry into the victim's home wasn't motive enough for Solomon to commit robbery. But Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Kathy Stott said

young men like Solomon often have "hot tempers" and "don't yet know that it's better to walk away from an injury to your reputation." As for the bat, Solomon's friend, Kenneth Rodriguez, told the court it got dented when he and Solomon demolished a DVD player with it. But neither Stott, nor the jury, bought that explanation.

IN THE END, the jurors found Solomon guilty and recommended he serve five years in prison. On Feb. 6, Judge Gaylord Finch imposed that very sentence, placing Solomon on three years active probation upon his release.

FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community, including special holiday services. Send to reston@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-917-6437. Deadline is Thursday.

Adult Sunday school will be held **every Sunday**, at 9:30 a.m., at the Washington Plaza Baptist Church at Lake Anne Village Center. The group is studying the Gospel of Mark. Services follow every Sunday at 11 a.m.

Congregation Beth Emeth Hazak Chapter, 12523 Lawyers Road, Herndon, hosts prominent speakers and entertainers on the **third Tuesday of each month**, at 1 p.m. Free light refreshments are served. Call 703-860-4515, Ext. 127. The guest list is as follows:

March 17: Dr. Louis Blumen, Jewish Medieval Medicine

April 21: Steven Gross, The Holocaust in Hungary

May 19: Speaker from Embassy of Israel

June 16: Year-end Luncheon

Every Wednesday, at 12:15 p.m., **St. Timothy's Episcopal Church**, 432 Van Buren St., Herndon, offers a lunch-time Healing and Holy Communion service. This half-hour service is offered to all and allows people an opportunity to worship during the work week when they may be away from their regular church. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Sacrament and all who have not been baptized may receive a blessing at the Altar rail. Call the church Mondays-Fridays, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at 703-437-3790 or visit www.saint-timothys.org.

Knitters needed the **first and third Wednesdays** of the month, at 7 p.m., at **St. Timothy's Episcopal Church**, 432 Van Buren St., Herndon.

The church's Shawl Ministry is offering free knitting instruction while providing shawls, blankets and other knitted items for people in need. No cost and yarn can be provided. E-mail shawl@saint-timothys.org or visit the Pastoral Care page at www.saint-timothys.org.

More than 100 area children and their danced to today's music hits, Friday, Nov. 21 at **the Challenger Dance at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church** in Herndon. This biannual event provides area special-needs kids and their families from the Challenger Division of Reston Little League to have fun.

The Challenger Division provides children with disabilities the opportunity to experience baseball in a stress-free environment that builds self-esteem, confidence and good sportsmanship.

OPINION

Breaking Virginia Law

BY JACK KENNY
PAST PRESIDENT,
REPUBLICAN CLUB OF GREATER RESTON



A DIFFERING
POINT OF VIEW

In these days of a catastrophic budget deficit, it behooves our legislators to review the operation of each state agency, commission and activity. We have an anachronism left over from the days of Prohibition and the WCTU — the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Commission. The “ABC Store” is the local “face” for this commission. The initial purpose of the ABC was to control the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages in the commonwealth. Somewhere along the way beer and wine sales were exempted from the ABC umbrella and are now sold in most stores by ABC license.

For years, the ABC was a cost to the taxpayer. Not only a cost, but a convenient source of political patronage jobs. It has come to light that the ABC has now become a source of revenue. In short, it is a state sponsored retail sales operation that is making a profit. While the ABC enjoys a monopoly on the sale of hard liquor, it performs a function that can and should be performed by private enterprise.

There is a Virginia statute that requires a review of each function or action to be taken by the state government be evaluated as to whether that action or activity can be more efficiently performed by private enterprise. It is a no-brainer and a violation of state law that the ABC continues to exist.

The rationale for continuing the ABC operation is now based on its contribution to the state coffers. That issue can be addressed by the imposition of a state sales tax commensurate with the loss of revenue contribution. One might describe it as a “sin tax.” Relate this tax to the cigarette tax — another “sin tax.” Private enterprise can easily calculate a liquor tax within their point of sale systems and would do so in a heartbeat to gain the additional revenue.

One must wonder how many persons are employed by the ABC and what is the liability these employees impose on the state retirement system. Here again, another private enterprise very successful technique can be used — a buyout to satisfy that obligation.

Thus, on one hand the governor and the General Assembly are maintaining a state agency competing with private enterprise while ignoring the very statutes that they have imposed on the commonwealth. Bottom line — it is morally corrupt for the governor and the General Assembly to perpetrate this violation of state law upon us taxpayers.

In times of catastrophic budget deficits, reviewing each and every state activity and measuring it against state core services is required. Let your local senator and delegate now sitting in the 2009 General Assembly session deliberating on the budget and facing a 10-plus percentage cut without imposing new taxes how you view this conflicting state activity.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

Bulova, the discussion between the School Board and supervisors should come out from behind closed doors. There should be public vetting with a public hearing for this proposal.

And finally, return the administrators who were once teachers back into the classroom. Then you won't need another building and our children would be getting a better education. Our kids and teachers deserve better — especially the ones stuffed into trailers and in schools that are falling apart.

Kim Farrell
Vienna

More Arms, Less Crime

To the Editor:

Your Opinion in the Feb. 11, 2009 Connection [“Gun Show Loop Hole Stays Open”] was very misleading. First of all, there was no “affront” to the Virginia Tech victims’ families. The criminal that committed the murders did not purchase any of his arms from gun shows. You also failed to mention

the fact that criminals do not buy guns at gun shows. In fact, it was liberal privacy policies that prevented the shooter from being registered into the instant check system. You also failed to mention this situation was corrected in January 2008 by the passage of HR 2640, which was signed into law by the president. This is evidenced by your inability to identify any violent crime committed with a gun show purchase. This is because criminals buy illegal guns on the black market. Gun shows sell mostly collectible items, which are generally rare, expensive and not of much utility to criminals. You

failed to discuss why the law failed to pass. It is because the law would do nothing. For example, where does the gun show begin and end? If an unscrupulous seller steps outside the building, is the sale no longer at the gun show. What about if the sale is made after the show ends? The State of Virginia is one of the most heavily armed in the union and has one of the lowest crime rates. I challenge this paper to find an area of the country with gun bans that has low-crime rates.

Sam Lowenstein
Vienna

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
7913 Westpark Drive
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By fax: 703-917-0991.

By e-mail: reston@connectionnewspapers.com

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South Lakes Experiences Breakthrough Season

Manurs named Liberty District Player of the Year.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Following a remarkable, breakthrough regular season, the South Lakes High girls basketball team was set to begin postseason play this week as the top seed in the Liberty District tournament.

The Seahawks (20-2), who captured their first regular season district title since 1999, were scheduled to host No. 8 seed Stone Bridge in a first-round district tournament game on Tuesday of this week. A win there would advance the top seed Seahawks to a semifinals game on Thursday against the Madison (No. 4 seed) versus McLean (No. 5) winner. The semifinals game will take place at South Lakes at 5:45 p.m.

Should South Lakes win its first two games of the tournament, it would advance to Friday night's district championship game. There is a good chance South Lakes

will meet No. 2 seed Langley in the finals. The Saxons were the only team to defeat the Seahawks this season, beating them in both regular season meetings.

Both the semifinals and finals of the tournament are set to take place at South Lakes.

"This is our home gym and it means a lot to us," said South Lakes fourth-year head coach Christy Winters Scott, thrilled to be hosting the tournament.

THE SEAHAWKS have become one of the Northern Region's top teams under Winters Scott. In her first season, South Lakes won just three games, followed by four victories the next season. Then last year, South Lakes finished a respectable .500 at 11-11, but failed to make the 16-team regionals as a result of a first-round loss at districts.

But it has all come together for South Lakes this season. The team has been led by tri-captains Kelcyn Manurs, Kacey Liscomb and Jasmine Jones.

"This is a determined group," said Winters Scott, of her team. "What I expect from them is what they expect from themselves — to compete in a poised manner. [In the playoffs] fans will see a determined group of girls who have worked hard. I'm extremely



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

South Lakes girls basketball coach Christy Winters Scott was recently named the Liberty District Coach of the Year.

proud of the people they have all become."

LAST WEEK, the Liberty District coaches gathered and selected this season's all-district teams. Manurs, a senior guard, was

named the District Player of the Year. A point guard with the ability to distribute the ball and score, Manurs emerged into a standout player this winter. Her unselfish play and willingness to get the ball to teammates might have been the most important aspect of her game.

"She trusted her teammates," said Winters Scott. "She'd have games where she'd have triple-doubles with eight or nine assists. She would find her teammates. She believed in them and [that mind-set] trickled down from there."

Liscomb, a senior guard/forward, made Second Team All-District and also was named to the District's All-Defensive Team. And Jones, a junior guard, made All-District Second Team as well.

Another Seahawk, senior frontcourt player Lachelle Wallace, earned All-District Honorable Mention recognition.

On top of all that, Winters Scott was selected by her peers as this season's District Coach of the Year.

The coach credited her three captains with outstanding seasons both on the floor and as team leaders.

"The captains had a tremendous impact on how we did," said Winters Scott.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

Reston Youth Association is sponsoring a **winter cheerleading clinic**. The registration fee is \$35. Practices are Mondays and Thursdays, 6-7:30 p.m., at Langston Hughes Middle School in Reston through May 21. For more information, contact Traci Waller at TraciWaller@aol.com or call 703-391-0206.

The **Reston Nightmares**, a U17 WAGS Division 4 girls soccer team based in Reston, is interested in adding players who are committed to continuous improvement. Contact either manager Andy Gluck at 703-328-2383 or coach Camilo Beltran at 240-277-1514 or at cmlbltrn02@gmail.com.

On Feb. 7-8, Olympic Volleyball came to Northern Virginia. Virginia Elite and NVVA brought 2008 Olympic silver medalist Stacy Sykora, Olympic silver medal-winning assistant coach Tom Hogan and five-time Olympic staffer John Kessel to town for two days of **volleyball training**. Sykora, Hogan and Kessel worked with middle-school and high-school-aged volleyball players, sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm for the game in fun-filled, two-hour training sessions. Sykora also gave a presentation, highlighting some of her favorite Olympic moments. She shared some of her personal insight into being an Olympic player. Kessel answered questions throughout the clinic, offering insight about sports parenting, the competitive world of women's volleyball and life in general. About 160 players and 100 parents attended the two days of clinics in three different locations in Northern Virginia.

The **Herndon Ice Hockey Club** wrapped up regular season play with a 5-4, come-from-behind win over North Stafford. Herndon controlled play during the opening period, but it was not until nearly 12 minutes passed that junior Ville Rutanen scored the Hornets'

first goal. Junior linemate Max Kortegast was credited with the assist. The second period saw the Hornets increase their lead after junior Sam Stone scored twice, with assists going to Rutanen, Kortegast and team captain Andrew Norman. However, North Stafford roared back with two quick goals, cutting the Herndon lead to one by the end of the second period. North Stafford then tied the game in the opening seconds of the third. Just minutes later, North Stafford took the lead on another third-period goal. It was not until the midway point in the period that the Hornets were able to regain a tie when Stone earned himself a hat trick by scoring off a pass from Kortegast. Buoyed by the shift in momentum, Rutanen, moments later, scored his second goal of the night.

The Hornets then turned their attention to defense for the final six minutes and sophomore goalie Robert Goughnour was able to turn away the remainder of North Stafford's shots.

The win comes on the heels of last week's victory over McLean, which clinched the Hornet's first North Division title and earned them a bye in the first round of the upcoming league playoffs. The victory over Stafford earned the Hornets the second seed, overall, behind league-leading Stone Bridge. Herndon will have the home ice advantage in a Feb. 23 quarterfinal playoff game.

Two **Herndon Optimist Youth Cheerleading (HOYC)** squads were recognized at the Maryland Cup Beach Blast competition in Upper Marlboro, Md., on Feb. 1. More than 75 teams from the Washington, D.C.-metropolitan area competed in the event. "HOYC is a recreational league and for our girls to place when competing against teams that practice year-round is very impressive," said Alicia Amico, commissioner of the Herndon Optimist Youth Cheerleading program. "I'm so proud of the hard work



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

The South Lakes High boys basketball team, coached by Darryl Branch, pictured here talking to his team, is the No. 2 seed at this week's Liberty District tournament. The Seahawks were scheduled to host No. 7 McLean in a first-round tournament game earlier this week.

demonstrated by both the teams."

Coached by Amico, Adina Colander and Lori Jacobson, the junior squad walked away with fourth place. The senior squad, coached by Lindsay Hyman, Annette Kelley and Malia Phelps, placed sixth.

In individual competition, Herndon Optimist Youth Cheerleading members competed in the jump and tumble off events. Shannon Kelley placed first and Alexa Bradley placed third in the tumble off. Kelley and Emily Stanley participated in the jump off, where Kelley placed third.

The Herndon Optimist Youth Cheerleading program is a recreational development program for children ages

6 to 15. The cheerleaders support a Herndon Optimist Youth Football team and perform at various community events throughout the season.

Registration for the fall season and August summer camp will begin in June. For more registration or volunteer information, contact HOYC at info@hoycheer.org or visit or visit www.herndonoptimist.org/sports/cheerleading.

The **Herndon Optimist Youth Baseball (HOYB)** spring registration is now open. The program offers baseball for children ages 4-12. The leagues is safe, fun and instructional. For both

experienced and inexperienced players. From T-ball to the Majors to Buddy Ball, there is a league to suit every level. HOYB is in its second year of offering a 50/70 League for players ages 10-12 who are preparing to play ball on the larger diamond. The 50/70 experience helps develop new skills, while giving players a graduated step to the next level. In addition to house league play, the 50/70 League participates in inter-league games, providing players and families additional ball playing opportunities. For more information about HOYB or for registration, visit www.herndonbaseball.com. For additional questions, call 703-481-1132.



In 2008, JP Vinter signs his autograph for Childhelp Fashion Show and Luncheon co-chair, Bootsie Humenansky of Great Falls.



PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION
Runway diva Faith Ann Finch of Reston awaits her cue with her mother, Kim.

Childhelp to Hold Benefit

Childhelp holds benefit fashion show and luncheon.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

The Washington Area Chapter of Childhelp, a nonprofit dedicating its resources to the treatment and prevention of child abuse, holds its 4th Annual Fashion Show and Luncheon Saturday, Feb. 21, at the Reston Hyatt Regency. WJLA TV News anchor, Cynne Simpson, will emcee the fashion show featuring more than 26 models, from moms to teens, "tweens" and children. "Healing the Hearts of Children" is this year's theme.

"This is a party with a purpose," said event co-chair, Bootsie Humenansky of Great Falls. "We did try to make it a lot of fun. It's an opportunity for people to throw off the winter blues, to introduce spring fashions and trends," Humenansky said. "It's a good girls' day out."

For members, sponsors, friends, tennis teams and book clubs, it's a chance to socialize for a good cause, Humenansky said. The luncheon menu features butternut squash soup, spice-rubbed chicken breast on a bed of saffron-herb orzo with broccolini and thyme bordelaise and key lime pie.

Most of the models are from the McLean/Great Falls area and several of the teens and preteens are members of WINGS, a Childhelp mother/daughter service-oriented group.

"This year will be the most fun," Humenansky said. "We're trying to grow every year." Title sponsor, Booz Allen Hamilton, has been "very, very helpful" to the chapter, she said.

Last year, guests said they wished they had more time to mingle and browse the boutique vendors. For 2009, the event opens an hour earlier, at 10 a.m. Jewelry, accessories, beauty products, home fashions, children's books and hand-painted glassware are featured among the 20-plus ven-

Where & When

The Greater Washington Chapter of Childhelp Fashion Show and Luncheon is Saturday, Feb. 21, at the Reston Hyatt Regency, Reston Town Center. Tickets are \$75. Call Bootsie Humenansky at 703-444-3839 or e-mail her at bootsieh@aol.com to buy tickets or to reserve a seat. Payment in advance is by check or cash. The schedule: 10 a.m.-noon, boutique sales and silent auction; noon, lunch served and presentation of award to Kathylee Forrester; 12:30 p.m., one-hour fashion show begins; boutique sales continue until 3 p.m.

dor boutique. There is both a silent and a live auction, as well as a raffle.

Kathylee Forrester, who created therapeutic stuffed bears, will be recognized with a "Champion for Children" award at the luncheon. Forrester is an adult survivor of childhood abuse; her father was the perpetrator. Born of her personal terror, Forrester became an advocate of stronger laws to protect children. She has designed Patches the bear to help children express their emotions. Forrester donated 300 bears to the national organization and to the Childhelp Children's Center of Virginia.

"We're raising money through this luncheon to support the Childhelp programs in the Greater Washington area, including our shelter on Waples Mill Road," said publicity co-chair, Denise Balzano. Last year, the fashion show and luncheon netted the Greater Washington Chapter of Childhelp more than \$35,000 for distribution to the Fairfax shelter and the residential treatment facility outside Culpeper.

EACH DAY IN AMERICA, more than four children die as a result of child abuse in the home.

Childhelp is one of the oldest and largest national nonprofits dedicated to the treatment and prevention of child abuse and neglect. The organization provides a broad continuum of child abuse prevention and treatment programs that directly serve children and their families, including The Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline (1-800-4-A-CHILD), residential treatment villages, children's advocacy centers, abuse prevention training for children and adults, as well as group homes and foster care.

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Money Matters



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

How to get by on one income while really trying? That will not only be the question but the strategy as my wife, Dina, and I, attempt to adjust to the new unemployment paradigm: she's out of work for the first time in our 30-plus years of marriage. Her long-time employer, Tivoli's Restaurant in Rosslyn (the deli and pastry shop remain open, however) closed after nearly 27 years serving the public (25 years during which Dina worked in the second floor lounge as a waitress and bartender).

To say she made friends over all those years would be an understatement of prodigious proportions. To say she networked an entire new family including the owners and their families, employees and their families, and, of course, the thousands of Tivoli customers and their families, together creating a fabric of associations and activities spanning the globe and lasting an entire generation, and then some, would be more accurate.

To characterize Dina's status as out of work is way to simple; disconnected from the only lifestyle she's really ever known and cared about her entire adult life would be more appropriate. And though the loss of Dina's income is significant (and matters more to me since I'm the business end of the relationship; she's the social director), I can certainly appreciate and understand how the loss of a lifestyle can be equally distressing. The joke among our friends has been that Dina doesn't need a new job, she needs a new lifestyle that pays.

Moving forward, the choices we have to make need to be a balance between substance and style, between money and quality of life, between fact and fiction, quite frankly. Having 25 percent fewer dollars to do it with is likely to be a challenge unlike any we, as a couple, have ever endured.

Moreover, given the middle age that we are, with the skill sets we possess, and further considering the inheritances that at present are unknown and unexpected, what we do, how we survive, what money we spend, seem unlikely to be replenished anytime soon by some financial savior riding in on a cash cow. It seems that we will have to make do riding the horse on which we rode in on.

All of which we can manage, I think. It's more that neither one of us expected to be horse-less at our present age, the age at which, accumulating for retirement becomes not only an extremely serious family business but maybe the most important, to the exclusion of all other, family business. And being left to fend for ourselves than we had expected or anticipated was hardly the plan I had intended. Still, it's not over yet. My father made more money between age 55 and 70 than he had ever made previously, enough to fund my parent's retirement for the 15 years or so they had together before retiring for good.

If I am indeed my father's son, then I will succeed just as he did. It may not be easy but if I've inherited anything from my father (aside from his sense of humor), I've inherited his positive attitude. Dina's being out of work presents us with an opportunity. It's up to us to make the most of it.

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

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Kyra Glenn, 9, is a third-grader from Reston.



Marina Bien, 9, a third-grader from Oakton, with her mother Diana.

Hunters Woods Third-Graders Shine

Students at Hunters Woods Elementary team up with the Kennedy Center, "wowing" the community.

Last Wednesday, Hunters Woods Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences opened its Arts Integration Celebration Museum for the community to see. The celebration consisted of many different components and included the artwork of students in every elementary grade. Attendees viewed murals, paintings, sculptures and geometric creations on their way into the gym where the main performance took place.

To illustrate their political, poetic and historical messages, each of the seven third-grade classes at Hunters Woods Elementary School used tableau: a dramatic art form in which people work together to form an image or scene.

Although each grade at Hunters Woods presents a show annually, The Kennedy Center's Changing Education Through the Arts program (CETA) had an important influence on the third-grade performance.

CETA is a school modification program that assists teachers in using arts-integrated activities and techniques to influence student learning. Sean Lane has been the force behind integrating the Kennedy Center's program into the Hunters Woods curriculum.

Concentrating on the students' learning processes, Lane has impacted both the students and teachers. The audience last Wednesday watched as the performance transformed elementary-school students into talented young artists. All in all the presentation was impressive: a success both on the part of the students, who worked diligently to perfect the flow of the presentation, as well as Lane and the Kennedy Center CETA program. To learn more about the Changing Education Through the Arts program visit <http://www.kennedy-center.org/education/ceta>.

— DANIELLE LANDAU



Cheryl Goodwin's class as the Great Wall of China.

PHOTOS BY DANIELLE LANDAU/THE CONNECTION



Reston Community Center



Spring is in the Air! Limited space available. Register now!

<h2>March</h2>	1 Washington Capitals vs. Florida Panthers (all ages • Reg. # 501111-9A)	4 USAF Band Chamber Player Series in the CenterStage (all ages • Drop-in)	12 Zumba (10-14 years • Reg. # 903003-9B) (8, 1-hour sessions) U.S. Citizenship Preparation (18 and older • Reg. # 105005-9B) (9, 2-hour sessions)		16 Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program (55 and older • Reg. # 504898-9B) (16, 55-minute sessions)	
	17 Chess 1 & 2 Combo (8-12 years • Reg. # 901035-9C) (6, 90-minute sessions)		21 NYC Trip (12-18 years • Reg. # 801012-9A) Dancing to the Oldies (18 and older • Reg. # 102142-9B) (8, 1-hour sessions)		24 Beginning Spanish (14 and older • Reg. # 102357-9B) (8, 2-hour sessions) Meditation for Relaxation (18 and older • Reg. # 102115-9C) (8, 1-hour sessions)	25 Intermediate Spanish I (18 and older • Reg. # 104007-9B) (8, 2-hour sessions)
	26 Intermediate Spanish II (16 and older • Reg. # 104004-9B) (8, 2-hour sessions)		28 Tae Robics (14 and older • Reg. # 102333-9C) (8, 1-hour sessions) Chocolate Candy Making for Teens and Tweens (9-17 years • Reg. # 901039-9D)			30 Imagination and Science (5-8 years • Reg. # 903006-9C) (6, 1-hour sessions) Little Signers I (Infant-2 years • Reg. # 902347-9B) (6, 1-hour sessions) Little Signers II (1-3 years • Reg. # 902351-9C) (6, 1-hour sessions)
<h2>April</h2>	1 USAF Band Chamber Player Series in the CenterStage (all ages • Drop-in)	4 Egg-normous Egg Hunt (1-8 years Drop-in event)	7 Intergenerational Nintendo Wii Tournament (All ages • Reg. # 807598-9A) Spring Break Paintball Camp (12-18 • Reg. # 808809-9A)		18 National Acrobats of China (All ages • Reg. # 980010-9A)	

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