

A SLICE Of Talent

SCHOOLS, PAGE 8

South Lakes High School ESOL teachers Connie Rojas and Marty Van Opdorp make an appearance in the school's Around the World Fashion Show, part of Friday's International Talent Show presented by the South Lakes International Club for Education and Entertainment (SLICE).

The 'GEMS'
Shine
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Commission
Hears Lake
Anne Plan

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NEWS

PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION



The density of future development in the area that is now the parking lot at Lake Anne Village Center was a topic of debate at last week's Planning Commission public hearing.

Commission Hears Lake Anne Plan

Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors to vote on proposal later this month.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

Kathy Kaplan doesn't live in Lake Anne Village Center, but she said she had been waiting for years to see some changes to the development, where the once-flourishing business community has been dying off. However, she told the Planning Commission at a Wednesday, March 11 public hearing that she thought the plan being proposed to revitalize Lake Anne was doomed.

Currently, the proposed amendment to the county's Comprehensive Plan suggests that the Millennium Bank at the main entrance to Washington Plaza be moved in order to open up the view to Lake Anne. However, many have opposed the idea, and it is likely to be revised.

If that happens, Kaplan said, passersby would not know the plaza is there. "People will drive right past it," she said. She was also concerned that not enough parking was included in the proposal to accommodate all of the new residents and employees that would accompany the additional development being proposed. Kaplan called for less density than is being recommended, noting that the county's Architectural Review Board had expressed concerns about the level of density. "They do not want it turned into an urban town center," she said.

RESTON FOUNDER Bob Simon, though, was among those who wanted more density on the site than the proposed amendment calls for. Revitalization, he said,

"means people who can use the plaza and support our merchants." Simon had contemplated writing his own plan amendment for consideration but said he ultimately decided to work within the parameters of the amendment being proposed by the county and to accept the cut in density.

Simon advised against too much concern for traffic studies. "This is, of course, the first club that a NIMBY [not-in-my-backyard] will reach for," he said of traffic concerns, noting that there was little congestion on North Shore Drive and Baron Cameron Avenue. He also advised against moving the bank. "There's a psychology of going through a restraint and then opening up," he said.

Either way, he called for speedy, decisive action, noting that the proposal has been in the work for years. "Lake Anne Plaza is in serious trouble," he said.

The plan amendment would allow 994 to 1,334 additional residential units and 151,000 to 177,000 square feet of additional office and retail space in the village center, depending whether the three northern parcels are consolidated and developed in coordination. None of the additional development is to be added to the Washington Plaza area.

Overall, the Reston Association supported the proposal, association President Robin Smyers told the Planning Commission. "You're not going to please everybody, but I do think we've reached a strong consensus," she said.

SEE LAKE ANNE, PAGE 7



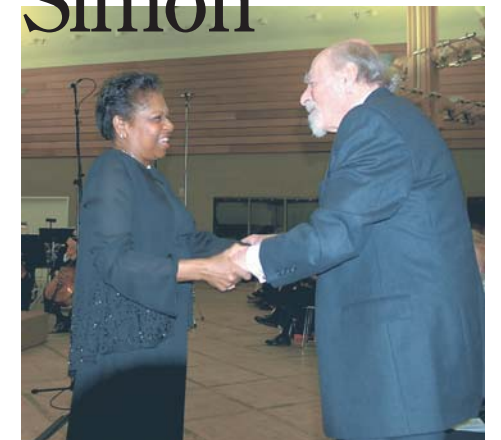
PHOTOS BY MIKE MCKEE

Last Sunday, Reston Community Orchestra (RCO) and Reston Chorale presented their first ever joint performance in honor of the Reston founder Robert E. Simon, Jr. The Orchestra president Michael McKee and its music director, Maestro Dingwall Fleary, presented Simon with a cake, congratulating him his upcoming 95th birthday.



Ted Thayer, Principal Horn Emeritus with the NSO, performs at the Bob Simon Tribute Concert, under the direction of Maestro Fleary.

Musical Tribute to Simon



Beverly Cosham receives thanks from Simon following her performance.



Cheryl Terio Simon and Robert Simon, with Laura Miller Fleary in the background, listen admiringly as the RCO performs.

Chamber of Commerce Monthly Meeting

The Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce has its monthly members' meeting Thursday, March 26, 7-10:30 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency Reston, 1800 Presidents St.

Enjoy a breakfast while taking a virtual tour of all commercial properties either on the market or coming onto the market in the Dulles Business Corridor and beyond.

E-mail restonbiz@restonchamber.org or visit www.restonchamber.org to register.

Chamber Hosts Mike Bradshaw

Mike Bradshaw, Google's Reston Team Leader, will appear Thursday, March 19, 12-1:30 p.m. in the Hyatt Regency Reston, 1800 Presidents St., to discuss why Google is in Reston. In addition to managing the Reston Team and marketing Google's Enterprise solutions, Bradshaw is responsible for the Google Earth Enterprise business for North America. Register for the meeting at 703-707-9045.

Sharing the Road

Officers from the Reston District Station will conduct a pedestrian enforcement campaign March 21-29 in order to prevent injuries and deaths due to pedestrian and bicycle crashes.

The highest concentration of crashes has occurred along Reston Parkway between Sunrise Valley Drive and Wiehle Avenue, and Centreville Road between Coppermine Drive and Parcher Avenue. Throughout the campaign, message boards will be placed in high visibility locations near the trails' intersecting with major roadways.

For information about the Fairfax County Pedestrian Task Force, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/pedestrian.htm>.

Pedestrian and Bicycling Summit

The Annual Hunter Mill District Pedestrian and Bicycling Summit will be held Tuesday, March 24, 7-9 p.m., at the North County Governmental Center, 12000 Bowman Towne Drive, in Reston. The Summit will focus on progress made on priority sidewalk and trail connections and suggestions from the community and is held in conjunction with the Reston Station of Fairfax County Police stations' Crosswalk Safety Week, March 21-28. Contact the Hunter Mill Office at 703-478-0283.

Dolores Traylor, 80, Dies

Dolores Taylor, 80, of Chicago, Ill. died on Feb. 28.

Loving mother of Jesse and Cheryl Jones of Ashburn, Denise Taylor of Chicago, Ill.; Adrian Taylor and April Taylor of Dallas, Texas; and Gentle Taylor of Chicago, Ill., she was preceded in death by her son Hiram Jones. She is also survived by seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren and a host of other relatives and friends.

The viewing and funeral services were March 5 at the Heritage Fellowship Church in Herndon and Chestnut Grove Cemetery in Herndon.

New Public Lecture Series Kicks Off

Dr. John Jones will be the first speaker in the U.S. Geological Survey's speaker series, giving a lecture entitled "Knee-high to Bird's Eye: Multi-scale Remote Sensing of Vegetation Dynamics" Wednesday, April 1, 7 p.m., in the U.S.G.S. Dallas Peck Auditorium, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Combining collaborative field and modeling with various airborne and satellite sensing technologies, Dr. Jones measures how land cover and terrain varies across space and through time.

Jones will provide an introduction to these technologies and a sampler of his work to illustrate how this research helps address resource management issues related to climate change, water flow, and habitat condition.

NEWS

Debating Ethics Dilemmas

West Point cadets lead 108 area juniors' discussion.

BY JACQUELINE LEEKER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS INTERN,
FORT BELVOIR

A recent survey on high school ethics found that within the preceding year, 30 percent of students had stolen from a store and 64 percent had cheated on a test. To confront this problem, 11 West Point cadets lead 108 juniors, chosen for their leadership qualities, from 33 area high schools in the second annual Leadership and Ethics Conference at George Mason University.

In the keynote speech, Lt. Gen. Dave Palmer presented the history of George Washington and Benedict Arnold.

"For two people so similar, why were their legacies so different? One was a traitor, and the other the father of our nation. The answer is character. Your destiny is determined by the strength of your character," said Palmer.

The students then broke off into eight groups, each led by a cadet. "I liked that the cadets led the discussion. They were very engaging, nice, and we could really relate to them because of their age," said



PHOTO BY JACQUELINE LEEKER

Juniors from Northern Virginia high schools practice skits based on ethical dilemmas.

Corinthia Evans from Mount Vernon High School.

Each group discussed four vignettes taken from recent news events or everyday school life. Should you turn in a friend who cheated on a test? "Is someone really your friend if they ask you to jeopardize your morals?" asked Steve Hojnicky, a senior at West Point.

With no "approved solutions," only principles, each group presented a skit based on the vi-

gnettes, showing how to apply what they had learned to make ethical decisions every day.

"Today, I learned sometimes ethical issues go beyond just right and wrong. It's OK to disagree," said Ashley Brigham, of West Springfield High School.

The West Point class of 1979 hosts the event annually. "We want to send seeds out to the schools. These students will be able lead by example," said Carl Cecil, co-chairman of the conference.

VIEWPOINTS

What is the ethical issue of the day, what have you learned today?

— DANIELLE LANDAU & MERRILL ROTH

Elena Bedoya, South Lakes High School

"The economy is a huge issue. There are a lot of people in the area, so it affects the students who have jobs. Companies want more experience, so they fire younger employees."

"I learned how to break down an issue through ethical codes."



Austin Moore, Herndon High School

"Stealing is really important in our area right now because of the recession. People are cutting corners sometimes where they shouldn't. Their morals are looser because of the economic crisis. I have learned that people have totally different views on morals. It is all about making the right choices."

Caroline Beury, 16, Oakton High School

"The current drinking laws are a big issue for people in our area. Teenagers are having trouble deciding when to step into difficult situations. Many kids are comfortable going to a party where there is drinking but drinking and driving then becomes an issue. Today's program forced me to question my morals and re-think what I would do in pressure-centered circumstances."



Andrew Bako, 17, Chantilly High School

"The most relevant ethics issue right now is cheating. A lot of kids feel pressured to cheat due to the competitive college process and parental pressures. Today, I have learned that there are tons of kids out there with ideals similar to mine. When people say everyone is doing something, think for yourself because it is not always true."

Maryi Melendez, a Dogwood student, shows off her creation from the "Gumdrop Challenge."



PHOTOS BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/ THE CONNECTION

The 'GEMS' Shine

The GEMS Conference attracts local talent of all ages.

By JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

In one room, gumdrop buildings are being constructed. Down the hall, strawberries are being smashed into a clumpy juice and being analyzed. Next door, miniature pencil helicopters are flying across the room. Each room boasted a different theme, but every room contained something more important: the world's next scientists, engineers, doctors and mathematicians.

The Girls Excelling in Math and Science Conference, better known as the GEMS Conference, offered more than 200 area fifth and sixth-grade girls the chance to explore the myriad career opportunities available to them in the Math and Science fields.

"Girls tend to have a high interest [in Math and Science] through fourth and fifth grades and then it starts to decline," Linda Martin, event coordinator said. "We're trying to inspire them to continue in those fields."

THE 8TH INSTALLMENT of the Conference, which was held at Dogwood Elementary School in Reston, drew girls from the 16 GEMS clubs across Fairfax County. With the support of the Lockheed Martin Corporation and the American Association of University Women, the Conference offered their inspiration in the form of guest speakers and hands-on workshops.

Maj. Suzanne Schultz, member of the D.C. Air National Guard and veteran of the GEMS Conference in 2000, kicked off the day by motivating the girls with her key-

note address. Shultz discussed her background and her journey from growing up in North Dakota to flying senators and congressmen across the world. She also offered life advice and insight, which she boiled down to what she refers to as her "five points."

The first point is to find a mentor, which Schulz said will help girls develop a plan for the future, or what she calls a flight plan. The second point is that life is not fair, and that failures should not prevent the attainment of goals. Point three is to "not let anybody tell you 'no,'" or to pursue dreams even when told that it is impossible. Point four is to embrace one's diversity. Schulz said that it is important to not be like everyone else and to have pride in the things that



Hannah Grudi smashes strawberries so she can analyze its DNA.

make a person different. The fifth and final point is to "take care of each other," and to avoid cattiness or what she calls the "mean girls" scenario.

"It warms my heart that these

SEE CONFERENCE, PAGE 14



Keisha Shepherd follows the students' directions in the "Microprocessor: Peanut Butter and Jelly" workshop.

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OPINION

Fair Market Value?

Many concerns about assessing properties in Northern Virginia this year.

Less than a month ago, Fairfax, Arlington and Loudoun counties, and the City of Alexandria, like other local governments, mailed each property owner a new assessment of the fair market value of the property.

What is your home's fair market value?

Most homeowners probably believe that the fair market value of their home is what they could sell it for in a reasonable period of time right now — say putting it on the market this week and allowing 30-60 days. How much would that be?

It's a tough question this year, with values dropping by more than 12 percent on average in Fairfax, nearly 15 percent in Loudoun, less than 5 percent in Alexandria and about 2 percent in Arlington.

The tax assessors base their decisions on the sales of "comparable" properties that sold in 2008, sometimes earlier. But with the number of sales down dramatically, there are sometimes very few "comparable" sales. In Fairfax County, the majority of sales are foreclosures.

But the assessors have decided that foreclosures should not be taken into consideration

as a comparable sale.

This is questionable, and the exclusion of foreclosure sales likely inflates the value of many, if not most, properties. If houses in your neighborhood have sold in foreclosure for dramatically reduced prices, does that affect the value of your house? You know it does.

The value on the piece of paper sent to your house will determine the amount of property tax you owe this year, based on the tax rate which in most places will not be precisely set until April.

Local governments' budgets, the amount of money they have to fund schools, public safety, libraries and many other services, depend directly on how much the homes in each jurisdiction are worth, based on the tax rate. This is more so in Virginia than in many other states where localities have more leeway in choosing sources of revenue. Localities in Virginia are more dependent on property taxes because the General Assembly has strictly limited their access to other taxes. In Virginia, because it is a "Dillon Rule" state, localities only have exactly the power that the General Assembly has bestowed on them.

EDITORIAL

Rail to Reston

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

A critical step to bringing rail to Wiehle Avenue by 2013 was taken last week when U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood signed an agreement to provide \$900 million in federal funds for the project. If you have been through Tysons Corner recently, you know that construction has been underway for months in relocating utilities in anticipation of the agreement being reached. The pace of that construction will now accelerate and will be evident throughout the path of the line starting from near the West Falls Church station.

Fortunately, the management of the project's construction is in the able hands of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) that has a self-interest in ensuring that the rail line moves into Tysons Corner and beyond Wiehle Avenue to Dulles Airport as quickly as possible. Negotiations are underway among the commercial landowners west of Wiehle Avenue to form a special tax district to help fund the sec-



COMMENTARY

ond half of the project. Commercial interests in the Tysons Corner area have been paying into a special tax district for several years to help pay for the first phase. Completion of a financial plan in the near future for the second phase of the project will ensure that construction is continuous with the entire system to be completed by 2015. Riders will be able to get on the system in Loudoun County and travel to the Stadium-Armory station in the District of Columbia without transferring.

Further steps to getting the system right and realizing its full potential are in the land use planning around the stations. Fairfax

County has had an excellent group working together in a Task Force to plan a smart Tysons Corner. Its recommendations need to move forward through the approval process in order for development to be coordinated with the coming of the rail line. A similar working group has been looking at mixed-use development for the Wiehle Avenue station areas including negotiations with interested developers. That process likewise needs to be concluded.

The significant approval that the federal funding agreement represents is especially fulfilling for those of us who have worked on the project for decades. When I joined with others to announce the formation of the Dulles Corridor Rail Association nearly 12 years ago to advocate for the project, some of the politicians who took part in the public signing of the federal agreement last week were skeptics at best about it. I am glad they finally came around and could stand together to take credit for the project. Now their assistance is needed to move the project past Reston and to Dulles and Loudoun County.

YOU CAN APPEAL your assessment, but the deadlines are fast approaching and the burden of proof is entirely on the homeowner. You will need to be prepared to cite comparable sales from 2008 that justify your view of your home's fair market value. There are two possible steps to appeal, first to the local department of tax administration, then to each locality's Board of Equalization. The Board of Equalization is independent of the tax assessors office; it is made up of citizens appointed by the governing board.

IN FAIRFAX COUNTY, the deadline to appeal to the Department of Tax Administration is April 3, and appeals to the next level must be postmarked no later than June 1. The second deadline could well roll around before a homeowner gets an answer to the administrative appeal, so it's important to engage in both processes at once.

See <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/> for instructions and information.

We want to hear from you; please share your opinion of your assessment, or any experiences you have in appealing your assessment.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS

RA Presents Facts On HQ Referendum

To the Editor:

Through three community meetings, the Reston Association Board of Directors (Board), staff, and Members have listened to information about the question before the community. It is straightforward: Should the board be authorized to finance and expend an amount not to exceed \$15 million to build or buy commercial office space?

At open meetings and in editorial space such as this, members have debated the issue and we highly encourage the exchange of ideas. However, there are some in the community who are working to lead the discussion off the central question and on to tangential issues such as space needed or whether the plan is to keep the headquarters facility in Reston. There has also been a charge that, unlike the 2005 referendum, the 2009 referendum has been conducted outside the eyes of the members.

In fact, there was a letter to the

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THE CONNECTION

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Lake Anne Plan Moves Forward

FROM PAGE 3

She enumerated the "top 10" of the 22 points in the letter she was submitting to the commission. These ranged from widely agreed-upon positions, such as encouraging pedestrian, bicycle and mass transit access, to the more controversial, like the association's assertion that the level of development being proposed was the bare minimum required to revitalize the area.

Smyers also asked that the Reston Association, its Planning and Zoning Committee, its Design Review Board and its various advisory committees be included in the planning process.

JOHN BURNS, chair of the Architectural Review Board, said the board was concerned that the amount of development proposed for what is now the village center's parking lot could overwhelm the scale of the existing plaza. "The overall character of Lake Anne Village Center is epitomized in the word 'village,'" he said.

The Architectural Review Board weighed in on the proposal because

the existing village center comprises an historic overlay district.

Asked whether he appreciated the need to revitalize the area, Burns said he recognized that an increase in density was a way to bring more people to the plaza. "But we should respect the character and quality of what's there, what makes it a historic place, what makes it a place that people come to see from around the world."

John Thillmann of the Fellowship Square Foundation took issue with the proposed requirement that the foundation retain the existing number of affordable dwelling units on the site of its existing Fellowship House, which provides affordable living to senior citizens of limited means. "You're penalizing the Fellowship Foundation for its social conscience and for stepping up to the plate when the county wouldn't," Thillmann said, noting that the plan was calling for a much higher percentage of affordable dwelling units on that site than in any other part of the development.

HUNTER MILL planning Com-

missioner Frank de la Fe asked whether it might help if the foundation did not have to keep all those units on the land bay that it currently occupies.

"I think it's a good start. I still think it's going to be a problem," Thillmann said.

County planner Heidi Merkel said the county was looking into ways to handle affordable housing "in a more collective way" at Lake Anne.

County staff is reviewing all of the comments it has received since the latest draft plan was introduced on Feb. 10 and will take them into account when making its final recommendation to the Planning Commission March 18, county planner Loren Bruce said in a later interview. He said some changes, such as recommending that the bank be left where it is, seemed to have overwhelming support and were likely to be made. "But on some of this, you're just never going to get 100 percent consensus."

The Planning Commission will vote on the plan March 18, and the Board of Supervisors will vote on it Monday, March 30.



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BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to **reston/herndon@connectionnewspapers.com** or call 703-917-6437 with questions. Deadline is Friday.

THURSDAY/MARCH 19

AARP Dulles Chapter. 7 p.m., Lake Anne Professional Building, Suite 140, 1184 Washington Plaza W., Reston. The Dulles Chapter of AARP will meet with special guest speaker author Stephen Miller. Miller will discuss how to get your life story in writing by discussing various approaches to writing your memoirs. Visit www.AARPdulles.org.

Reston Association Newcomers Night. 7-9 p.m., Reston Association, 1930 Isaac Newton Square, Reston. Get to know the Reston Association. Whether you just moved to Reston or you have been here for some time, this is an opportunity to find out about the amenities, services and programs that are available to you through RA. RSVP to Ha Brock, RA

Volunteer Coordinator at 703-435-7986 or e-mail habrock@reston.org.
GSA Schedule Contracting. 7:30-9:30 a.m., The Ritz-Carlton, 1700 Tysons Blvd., Plaza Room, McLean. Learn from the General Services Administration about recent trends, contractor challenges and best practices to mitigate compliance risk in this interactive discussion. \$45/non-members, free/NVTC members. Visit www.nvtc.org/events/geteventinfo.php?event=COUNSEL-10.

MONDAY/MARCH 23

NVHC Speaker Series. 8 p.m., Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, 1441 Wiehle Ave., Reston. The NVHC speaker series continues with guest speaker Dr. Michael Makovsky, author of the award-winning 2007 book, "Churchill's Promised Land: Zionism and Statecraft." Makovsky will speak on Churchill, Roosevelt and the Jews. Free. Call 703-437-7733.

SCHOOLS

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.

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/TerrasetES. Contact principal Ellen Cury at 703-390-5600 or ellen.cury@fcps.edu or news liaison Heather Dix at heather.dix@fcps.edu.

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SCHOOLS

Anything But Elementary

Hunters Woods students design 125-square-foot mosaic.

Hunters Woods Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences is teaming up with local artist Bonnie Fitzgerald in an effort to “wow” the community with a 125-square-foot mosaic. Every year, the sixth graders at Hunters Woods participate in a joint art project.

The type of art this year is a rare mosaic form. Fitzgerald, owner of Maverick Mosaics in Vienna, began creating mosaics as a hobby nearly 30 years ago. She began to focus on mosaics 10 years ago, and jumpstarted her business. “Hunters Woods came to me with a bee in their bonnet,” joked Fitzgerald, about the school’s excitement and determination to begin the project. “The PTA really made this happen. They raised the money to fund this expensive but rewarding mission,” said Fitzgerald.



PHOTO BY DANIELLE LANDAU/THE CONNECTION

The design by sixth grade student Lucas Lin is a colorful declaration of the school’s four pillars: respect, compassion, honesty and responsibility.

The design, sketched by sixth grade student Lucas Lin, is a colorful declaration of the school’s four pillars: respect, compassion, honesty and responsibility. Each sixth-grade class will work on the

mosaic until the puzzle pieces fit, allowing for creativity and originality to shine through. The mosaic is set to debut in April.

— DANIELLE LANDAU

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Sunrise Valley Elementary students open the talent show with a performance featuring African drums, guitar, xylophones, recorders and various percussion. From left are ESOL teacher Kathleen Leatherwood and fifth-graders Vela McBride, Sarah Delcoco and Sophie Howle.



Senior Mayu Neuendorf represents Japan in the Around the World Fashion Show. Behind her, senior Jimmie Gutierrez wears an outfit from the Philippines.

A SLICE of Talent

South Lakes International Club for Education and Entertainment presents this year's talent show.

The show began with an African drumming, guitar, xylophone and recorder performance by Sunrise Valley Elementary students and ended with a blistering rock guitar set by South Lakes Principal Bruce Butler.

South Lakes High School students — and a few teachers — commanded the stage for almost two hours, singing, dancing and reading poetry. The International Talent Show, presented by the South Lakes International Club for Education and Entertainment (SLICE)

on Friday night, March 13 also included an Around the World Fashion Show, featuring traditional attire from about 30 countries and regions.

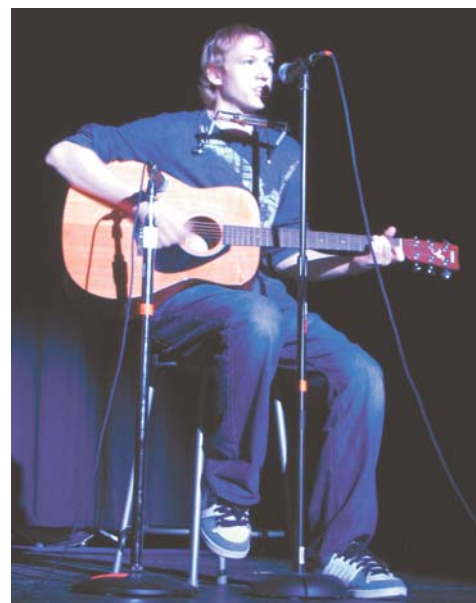
The audience in the school's theater was standing-room-only. — MIKE DICICCO



Sophomore Tibyan Mohamed models traditional Sudanese attire.



The band Something Simple performs a medley of popular tunes. From left are sophomore Marcos Perez, sophomore Mark Linsangan, junior Ashley Jones and senior Jimmie Gutierrez.



Stephen Bailey performs 'Heart of Gold' just as Neil Young does — with an acoustic guitar and his harmonica on a neck rack.

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.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 18

Project Natalie. 2-3 p.m., Fryling Pan Farm Park, 2739 W. Ox Road, Herndon. Enjoy a jazz infusion of funk, rock and R&B. Free. Call 703-437-9101.

Badminton. 9-10:15 p.m., Langston Hughes Middle School, 11401 Ridge Heights Road, Reston. Play badminton every Wednesday. All levels welcome. \$2/session. Call 703-481-5711.

FRIDAY/MARCH 20

Reston Republicans. 7:30 p.m., Reston Community Center at Lake Anne, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston. Del. Tom Rust (R-86) will be the guest speaker at the Reston Republicans' open meeting. Guests are asked to contribute an hors d'oeuvres or dessert. Liquid refreshment provided. All are welcome. Call 703-406-9740.

Falsettos. 8 p.m., Industrial Strength Theater, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. The Elden Street Players will perform the Tony Award-winning musical "Falsettos." Visit www.EldenStreetPlayers.com or call 703-481-5930 for tickets.

SATURDAY/MARCH 21

Saturday Samplings. 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Lake Anne Florist, 11426 Washington Plaza W., Reston. The Lake Anne Florist will offer free samples of gourmet treats and hand made chocolates in honor of the first day of spring. Call 703-437-8686.

Yoga ad Qi Gong. 12:30-2:30 p.m., Qi Elements, 280 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. A two-hour health and wellness event for healthy women and for women affected by breast cancer. \$30/person. Call 1888-580-6253, visit www.tigerlilyfoundation.org or e-mail info@tigerlilyfoundation.org.

Homeless Outreach. 2:30 p.m., Dranesville Church of the Brethren, 11500 Leesburg Pike, Herndon. Join the church as they prepare food to take to Washington D.C. for the Salvation Army's Grate Patrol. The Grate Patrol Homeless Outreach Program brings an evening meal, fellowship and the opportunity for professional help to the homeless. Call 703-430-7822.

Falsettos. 8 p.m., Industrial Strength Theater, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. The Elden Street Players will perform the Tony Award-winning musical "Falsettos." Visit www.EldenStreetPlayers.com or call 703-481-5930 for tickets.

Something Different 2009. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., Industrial Strength Theater, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. The Elden Street Players will perform the show "Something Different." Visit www.EldenStreetPlayers.com or call 703-481-5930 for tickets.

Dancin' to the Oldies class starts at the Reston Community Center the Hunters Woods or the Lake Anne facility. This new fitness class for men and women is taught by an original "boomer." The class will improve endurance and muscle tone through aerobic dance movements. Groove to the music of the '60s, '70s, '80s in this low impact class, scheduled to last until June 6.

SUNDAY/MARCH 22

Society of Art Rock Concert. 7 p.m., Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Todeskonden, Ephemeral Sun and Origin Theory will perform live. \$10/person. Visit www.jamminjava.com.

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Singer/songwriter Wil Maring, pictured, will team with Robert Bowlin to perform original bluegrass material live Friday, March 20, 8 p.m., at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. Tickets: \$12/person. Call 703-435-8377 for tickets.

Falsettos. 3 p.m., Industrial Strength Theater, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. The Elden Street Players will perform the Tony Award-winning musical "Falsettos." Visit www.EldenStreetPlayers.com or call 703-481-5930 for tickets.

Something Different 2009. 12 p.m., Industrial Strength Theater, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. The

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Elden Street Players will perform the show "Something Different." Visit www.EldenStreetPlayers.com or call 703-481-5930 for tickets.

MONDAY/MARCH 23

Cut and Taste Dinner. 6 p.m., Morton's Steakhouse, 11956 Market St., Reston. Enjoy a luxurious cigar dinner complete with four courses of Morton's signature cuisine paired with fine wines and premium Davidoff Cigars. \$189/person. Call Kate Tourville at 703-796-0611 or visit www.mortons.com to RSVP.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 25

Anatomical Illustration. 7-10 p.m., Sunset Hills Montessori, 11180 Ridge Heights Road, Reston. The Chez Nous Reston Evening Salon Series continues with a presentation entitled "Anatomical Illustration: from DaVinci to PC" by Marie Dauenheimer, medical illustrator and art professor. \$30/person; includes buffet. E-mail Najwa@NMSEnterprises.com or call 571-235-3556.

THURSDAY/MARCH 26

International Children's Festival Auditions. 5-9 p.m., CenterStage, Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The International Children's Festival and the Reston Multicultural Festival will jointly host auditions for local performing arts groups of all ages and cultures. In order to secure an audition time, interested groups must complete and return the "Local Performing Group Application" form which can be obtained from Arts Council by calling 703-642-0862 x3 or e-mailing fridy@artsfairfax.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 27

Campfire Fun. 4:50-5:30 p.m., Campfire Ring on Soapstone Drive between Glade Drive and Lawyers Road,

Reston. Join Reston Association for an afternoon around the campfire, singing old time favorites, roasting weenies and making s'mores. For adults 55 and older. Call 703-435-6577 or e-mail ashleigh@reston.org for directions and to register.

Falsettos. 8 p.m., Industrial Strength Theater, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. The Elden Street Players will perform the Tony Award-winning musical "Falsettos." Visit www.EldenStreetPlayers.com or call 703-481-5930 for tickets.

SATURDAY/MARCH 28

Spaghetti Dinner. 5:30-7:30 p.m., St. Thomas à Becket Catholic Church, 1421 Wiehle Ave., Reston. The church's 15th annual Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction will be held. The proceeds will benefit the Senior High School WorkCamps on their weeklong mission this summer to repair homes for the poor, elderly and handicapped residents of Winchester. Tickets: \$10/adults, \$5/children 4-12, free for ages 3 and under.

Watershed Clean-Up. 9-11:30 a.m., Fryling Pan Farm Park, 2709 W. Ox Road, Herndon. Join individuals, students, families, scouts and other community groups to collect tires, bedspings, bottles, cans and other debris from local waterways. Wear boots and old clothes and bring gloves. Trash bags and appreciation will be provided. Call 703-324-8702.

Falsettos. 8 p.m., Industrial Strength Theater, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. The Elden Street Players will perform the Tony Award-winning musical "Falsettos." Visit www.EldenStreetPlayers.com or call 703-481-5930 for tickets.

Something Different 2009. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., Industrial Strength Theater, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. The Elden Street Players will perform the show "Something Different." Visit www.EldenStreetPlayers.com or call 703-481-5930 for tickets.

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A joint presentation of the Dulles Regional Chamber and the Fairfax County Area Agency on Aging

Let Budget Games Begin ...

BY JACK KENNY
PAST PRESIDENT, REPUBLICAN CLUB
OF GREATER RESTON

A DIFFERING POINT OF VIEW



April is fast approaching and the annual debate over the Fairfax County 2010 Budget has already begun. With past releases of news that the 2010 Budget has a deficit of \$650 million, it became a major focal point of the recent whisker win of the current Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chairman. The challenger, Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), predicted a train wreck and so far, we have not seen any plans to deal with the 19 percent or so shortfall. It should not take a rocket scientist to wonder how Fairfax County arrived at this juncture. The recent whisker win of another supervisor does not bode well for the progressives and many more questions and alternative proposals will be submitted.

In a recent e-Blast reporting on Board of Supervisor matters to Hunter Mill constituents, Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D) outlined six new initiatives for social welfare spending, including one where

county employees would be assigned to perform minor repairs to the homes of disabled persons. This in direct competition with the hundreds of hard working, taxpaying, small businessmen of Fairfax County running around in their pick-up trucks and vans busily doing the same thing.

In another, more recent e-Blast, Hudgins reported over eight fee (read tax) increases, an real estate property tax increase, several parking fine increases, the car tax decal and three "community development grants." Even more dangerous is the proposed formation of a Stormwater Service District covering Fairfax County. This "district" would have rate setting powers and be added to our water/sewer monthly bills. Here again, another smoke and mirrors move to shift what has been a General Fund obligation to another source of taxation.

In reviewing the 2009 Budget,

Fairfax County core government services of the police, fire and public safety spent about \$441 million. Education received \$1.7 billion and transportation was not even mentioned. As Supervisor Pat Herrity stated "The \$650 million shortfall is greater than the core public safety needs."

Now the games begin. What do we hear? To meet the 2010 budget shortfall, we need to cut the [core government] services. Education takes a hit with fewer teachers needed; i.e., an increase in the average size of classes. The public safety core services also take a hit with fewer police, fire and emergency medical services available.

This is the usual progressive ploy: When faced with a budget shortfall, cut the bone and muscle. Fairfax County taxpayers should be well tuned into this argument. It is a favorite of the progressives. Scare the taxpayers with a threat and they will be more amenable to accepting tax increases. This ploy serves to protect the obesity in the budget: social welfare.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

editor in this space on March 4, 2009 that said, "The 2005 referendum was thoughtfully prepared with open community discussions."

A second claim in that same letter said, "Space plan studies conducted by RA administration determined a new 20,000 foot facility with a more practical design would allow for more community meeting space without the need for a larger facility."

Rather than trust our response to memory, we present you with facts from the minutes of the meetings of the Reston Association Board of Directors.

According to those from the Nov. 18, 2004 Board of Directors Meeting, the only public hearing on the issue was held during that meeting. Three people spoke. At that same meeting, the Board approved the question by a vote of 7 to 1. A motion to send it to the Members for a vote was approved.

Ballots were mailed to homes on Dec. 10, 2005 and the voting was concluded by Jan. 7, 2005.

According to the records, there were no other public hearings, no community meetings, no meetings

for cluster and condo officers and no TV coverage dedicated to the referendum. All that has occurred in the 2009 referendum.

To the second point that in 2005, a space analysis was conducted by the RA Administration, there is no record of any formal or public meeting or documents to support that claim.

In the 2009 referendum, the Board discussed the Headquarters Facility during three regular meetings then held two meetings (public hearing and special meeting) to receive member comments — all prior to the Board's approval of the question. Since then, there have been five community meetings, constant news coverage as well as information regularly updated on the RA Web site.

We encourage your debate. We encourage your active support. We encourage your taking the time and effort to care about the future of Reston. We also encourage you to keep the fundamental question on the referendum at the heart of your discussions. It's whether to own our space or continue to lease it in an unpredictable market at a time when Reston and the immediate area are poised for another

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 19

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When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com, click the Real Estate links on the right side.

Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

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1373 Butter Churn Dr.....	\$449,900.....	Sun 1-4.....	Shirley Buford.....	Long & Foster.....	571-238-7800
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12713 Ox Meadow Dr.....	\$1,145,000.....	Sun 12-5.....	Thanh Luong.....	Jobin Realty.....	703-365-9090
2490 Quick St. #304.....	\$239,900.....	Sat 1-3.....	Joseph Holbrook.....	Jobin Realty.....	703-437-1717

Reston

1389 Cameron Heath Dr.....	\$1,049,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Missy Edmundson.....	Long & Foster.....	703-435-4900
11573 Greenwich Point Rd.....	\$1,072,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Holly Weatherwax.....	Momentum Realty.....	571-643-4902
11250 Handlebar Rd.....	\$509,000.....	Sun 1-3.....	Karen Close.....	Long and Foster.....	703-903-8656
10891 Hunter Gate Way.....	\$795,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Laura Fall.....	Fall Properties.....	703-536-7001
11447 Washington Plz W.....	\$590,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Elena Pehrkon.....	McEanearney Assoc.....	703-738-9560

Loudoun County

Ashburn

22749 Courtland Park Dr.....	\$534,900.....	Sat 1-4.....	Heather Gosman.....	Weichert.....	703-201-1891
20242 Hidden Creek Ct.....	\$675,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Jill Knoll.....	RE/MAX.....	703-624-0785
21279 Irongate Way.....	\$427,500.....	Sun 1-4.....	Kuljeet Chabbewal.....	Weichert.....	703-314-3632
21109 Stonecrop Pl.....	\$550,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Margie MacDonald.....	RE/MAX.....	703-289-6764

Broadlands

42856 Vestals Gap Dr.....	\$665,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Annette Brennan.....	Long & Foster.....	703-304-2305
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Leesburg

350 Deer Path Ave., SW.....	\$389,900.....	Sun 1-4.....	Chakib Rifae.....	Samson.....	703-869-7705
19409 Emerald Park Dr.....	\$949,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Antonio Feijoo.....	Weichert.....	703-264-0000
505 Wolfe Ct., SW.....	\$549,900.....	Sun 1-4.....	Deborah Melia.....	RE/MAX.....	703-547-1444

Lovettsville

41362 Common House Ln.....	\$424,990.....	Sun 1-4.....	Jeffrey Pearl.....	RE/MAX.....	703-648-1870
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Sterling

17 Brookmeade Ct.....	\$378,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Stephen Bradley.....	Keller Williams.....	703-330-7683
107 Nalls Ct.....	\$374,95.....	Sun 1-4.....	Kathleen Quintarelli.....	Weichert.....	703-569-7870

Stone Ridge

24689 Clock Tower Sq.....	\$398,765.....	Sat 1-4.....	Thomas Merical.....	Keller Williams.....	703-585-8240
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COMMUNITY

Lions Club Hears Stories 'Behind Enemy Lines'

Retired Lt. Gen. Phillip Shutler of the U.S. Marine Corps spoke to the Reston Lions Club at its meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 18 at the China Star Restaurant in Reston. He discussed how the Korean and Vietnam wars helped stop the spread of communism in that part of the world. Additionally, he shared with the members some of his experiences behind enemy lines during the Korean War.

The Northern Virginia Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association, of which Washburn and Shutler are members, sponsored Shutler's visit. Reagan was a U.S. Navy pilot in World War II and the Korean War.



Front row, from left, are Dr. Lynn Healey, Alina Alvarado and Sue Beffel. Back row, from left, are Anne Ryan, Shutler and Club Director Emmett Reagan. Healey, Alvarado, Beffel and Ryan are new members of the club.

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.

A "Retreat Day" will be held Saturday, **March 21** at St. John Neumann Parish, 11900 Lawyers Road, Reston. The day will focus on the theme of "Jesus, Gentle Strength, and Me - Strong, Loving, and Wise." Oblates will offer retreat presentations on gentleness, gratitude and clear Pauline themes will be explored as well. Visit www.oblates.org for times and registration.

Trinity Presbyterian Church, 651 Dranesville Road, Herndon, offers several worship opportunities this Easter season:

April 5: Palm Sunday services, 8:15

and 11 a.m.

April 9: Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion, 7:30 p.m.

April 10: Good Friday Vigil, 12-3: p.m.

April 12: Easter Sunday Worship Services with Holy Communion, 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.; Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m.;

Service of the Draping of the Cross, 7:30 p.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:

April 21: Steven Gross, The Holocaust in Hungary

May 19: Speaker from Embassy of

Israel

June 16: Year-end Luncheon

Citizenship classes meet Thursdays, **through March 26** at St. Anne's Episcopal Church, 1700 Wainwright Drive, Reston. The goal is to prepare qualified adult students to pass the USCIS interview and exam for naturalization to become U.S. citizens. Book fee of \$15.00. Call 703-437-6530.

Dranesville Church of the Brethren, 11500 Leesburg Pike, Herndon, offers an 11 a.m. traditional service and a 5 p.m. contemporary service every Sunday. On **March 14** at 2:30 p.m., the Church will meet in the Fellowship Hall to prepare sandwiches, soup and other food to take to the homeless in Washington, DC. Bring winter socks, scarves, hats and coats. Visit www.dranesvillebrethren.org.

Conference Promotes Math and Science

FROM PAGE 5

opportunities are available for girls," Schulz said. "Girls need flight plans, not fairytales."

AFTER LISTENING to the speech, the girls split up into groups, where they took part in three 45-minute workshops that involved math and science experiments and activities that they chose beforehand. The workshops, which were all run by Dogwood teachers, Lockheed Martin engineers and other local professionals, all explored an area of math or science, using fun and educational activities to help teach the girls about a specific topic and to pique their interest in the fields.

One workshop, run by Eboni Cotton, a systems engineer with Lockheed Martin, introduced architecture and engineering, and the girls were required to construct a structure using gumdrops and toothpicks. Another workshop, run by Dr. Michell Vitulli, a veterinarian, taught the girls about

the different types of care given to animals and how they rehabilitate and treat them. This station was a big hit, as each girl had a hand wrapped in a colorful bandage and exchanged stories about their dogs and cats.

Yet another station, this one moderated by Keisha Shepherd, a project engineer at Lockheed, taught the girls the principles of microprocessing. Shepherd taught the girls how important giving comprehensive directions is by having the girls split into groups and draft a set of directions on how to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Shepherd then made the sandwich following the directions literally, which lead to many laughs.

"The main point is to give them a hands-on experience," Martin said. "That way they are really involved and engaged instead of sitting and listening to a lecture."

THE 100 PARENTS that joined their daughters were treated with a workshop of their own, which

may have not been as much fun as the "Gumdrop Challenge" up in room 253, but it was just as informative. In four different rooms, they learned about the many academic opportunities available to the girls in the Fairfax County Public School system. The selection of advanced classes was discussed, along with the language immersion programs and technological offerings. A question and answer session featuring South Lakes High School and Langston Hughes Middle School and their respective principals was held as well.

After the final bell to signify the end of the conference, a steady stream of girls filed out of the classrooms, not only equipped with armfuls of all the things they made in each workshop, but also the knowledge that their love of math and science does not have to begin and end with the classroom.

"We're really here to inspire girls to consider these opportunities," Martin said. "We are about opening doors and opening minds. We are all about inspiring."

Higher Tax Rate, Car Fee on Table

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors set an upper limit for the residential real estate tax rate March 9 that leaves the door open for an average property tax increase on homeowners of approximately \$60 this year.

The supervisors have also put an annual vehicle registration fee back on the table after abolishing it three years ago. For the average car, the old fee was \$25, though the county board has given itself the leeway charge as much as \$33 in the next fiscal cycle. The supervisors will finalize the tax rate and vote on the car fee next month as part of the county budget.

The current property tax rate is 92 cents per \$100 of assessed property value. With this vote, the supervisors have given themselves the ability to raise it to a higher rate of \$1.05 per \$100 of assessed property value. They would also consider an additional 1.5 cent rate increase per \$100 of assessed value that would go directly to storm water management. The owner of a median-priced home at \$459,228 would pay property taxes of \$4,776 under this proposal.

Fairfax County executive Tony Griffin, who presented his budget proposal earlier this month, recommended the supervisors raise the property tax rate to \$1.04 per \$100 of assessed property value, plus the 1.5 cent increase for storm water management. He has also suggested adding a \$20 vehicle registration fee to help close the gap in next year's budget of approximately \$650 million.

Supervisors chose to advertise a higher tax rate to give themselves flexibility. Griffin had suggested the board advertise a rate that was even higher, \$1.07 per \$100 of assessed property value.

"Between the time we advertised the tax rate and the budget mark up last year, we saw a \$40 million drop in the county. ... The economy is very volatile right now," said Fairfax County chairman Sharon Bulova (D.).

The board's two Republicans, supervisors Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield) and Mike Frey (R-Sully), opposed both measures.

In an interview, Herrity said he would have been supportive of setting the tax rate at a level that would ensure the average real estate tax bill would not go up this year.

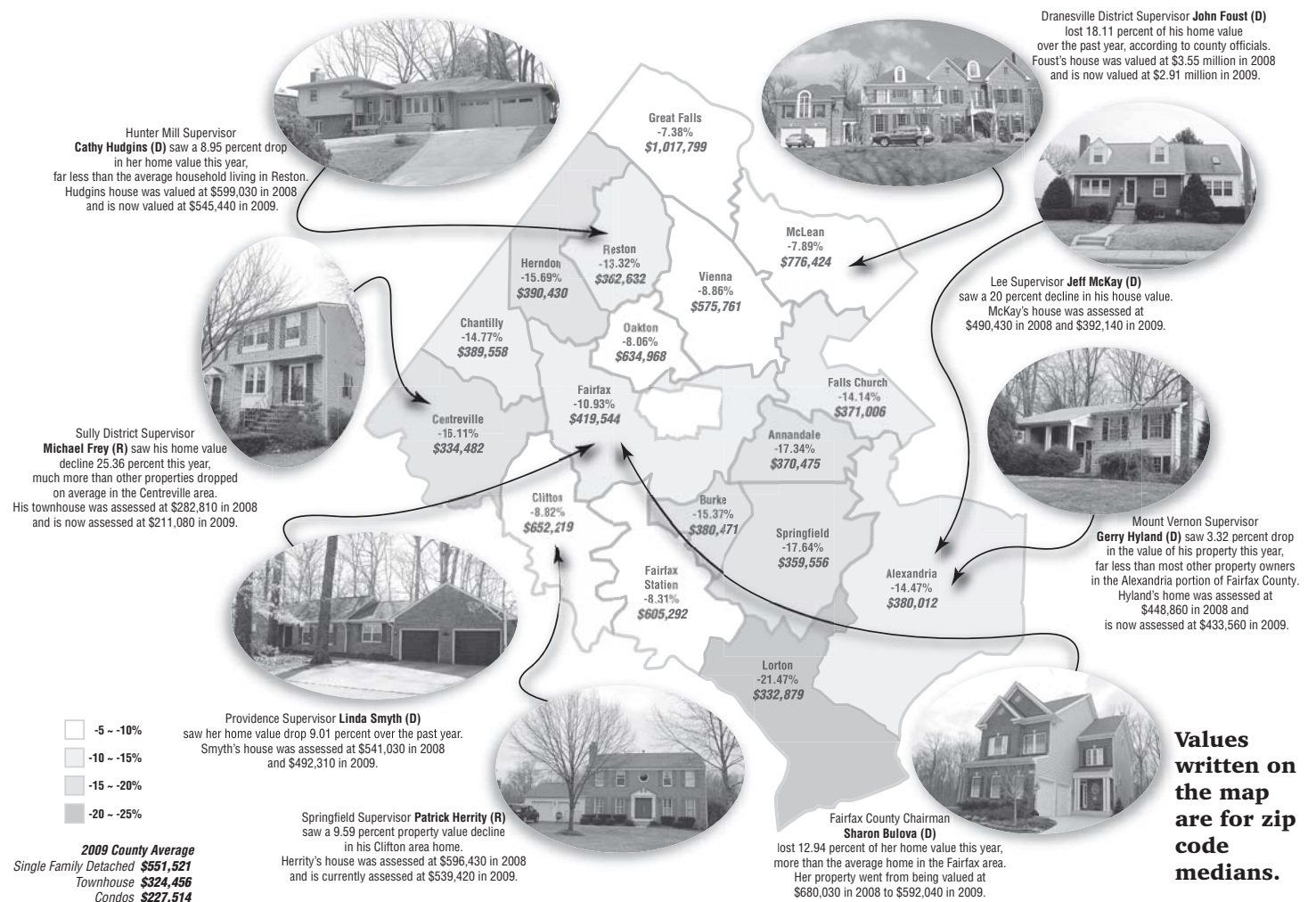
"We are in a critical time with our economy," said Herrity.

The Springfield supervisor added that many of the "revenue enhancements" Griffin has already proposed in his budget come in the form of increased fees, such as a higher price to participate in youth athletics.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

THE COUNTY LINE

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How Much Is It Worth?

Assessments in question as fewer home sales offer fewer properties for comparison.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Jeff McKay is very familiar with Groveton, his neighborhood off Richmond Highway near Huntley Meadows Park.

McKay's grandparents moved into his home when it was newly constructed in the 1940s and a member of the Lee District supervisor's extended family has always lived in the house. McKay bought the property himself 12 years ago after graduating from college.

So it came as a surprise to McKay when he looked up his real estate property assessment online and found many of the home sales used to determine his house's property value this year were located on unfamiliar streets.

Typically, Fairfax County tries to use home sales from a property's immediate neighborhood or subdivision to determine its value. In the case of McKay's home this year, they were factoring in home sales from Burgundy Village, a community several miles away in a different zip code, he said.

"Something different was done this year than we have done in the past," said McKay, a Democrat.

In 2009, 30 percent of Fairfax County's real estate assessments were calculated us-

ing home sales from "sister neighborhoods" as well as immediate communities, said Janet Coldsmith, director of the real estate division in Fairfax County's Department of Tax Administration.

County staff have always brought in home sales from other comparable neighborhoods to determine some property values but the practice was much more widespread this year, due to the downturn in the housing market, she said.

"We looked at similar neighborhoods and have looked at similar neighborhoods throughout the years but it has become more important this year. While there are still enough sales to value property, they are not as evenly distributed," said Coldsmith.

Fairfax County only incorporates "fair market" home sales into real estate property assessments. Foreclosures and other distressed sales are not supposed to factor into calculating property value for tax purposes. It can be difficult to determine home assessments in neighborhoods that have been hit hard by the foreclosure crisis and where few or no non-distressed sales have taken place, she said.

"It is standard appraisal practice to choose the best comparable properties that you have. If you don't have them in your immediate neighborhood, then you widen your search," said Coldsmith.

"When you start including other neighborhoods that are miles away in a different zip code, it becomes more difficult to try and figure out whether the properties included were fair or not," McKay said.

According to Coldsmith, the county does take geography into account when coming up with "sister neighborhoods" for assessment purposes. When looking for a comparison, they look for two neighborhoods of a similar price level and age as well as those with a similar housing stock, she said.

"We would be looking at what somebody going out to buy a house would be looking at. Someone looking to buy a house might be searching in two neighborhoods in same price range with the same type of housing," said Coldsmith. "Appraisal is a lot of judgment. It is not an exact science. There is a lot of judgment in there," she added.

But McKay differed. "There are not many homeowners who go out and say they want a rambler built in the 1950s. They go out and look for a house that is in a certain school district or on a certain transportation route. ... Is it better to base an assessment on a small number of sales or to really stretch and include properties that are a far distance away?" asked McKay.

The county has fielded fewer calls from angry property owners upset about their assessments, probably because most people saw a drop in their property value.

"So far, the call volume is down. We have gotten a few calls from some people who think their property value has fallen too far," said Coldsmith.

South Lakes Baseball Season Opens This Week

Morris' squad set to play games against both Herndon and Woodson.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

South Lakes High baseball coach Galvin Morris has a positive outlook about this spring season. And why not? The Seahawks have a solid nucleus of talented players that could make the team quite competitive in the always tough Liberty District.

"We always look at the season that you want to do better than the year before," said Morris, whose team won a modest seven games last year. "We lost some [key] guys from a year ago, but hopefully we have players who can



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL
THE CONNECTION

South Lakes baseball coach Galvin Morris.

fill their shoes."

The Seahawks are set to open the new season this week with a cross-town rival game at Herndon on Wednesday. On Friday night, South Lakes will play a game at district opponent W.T. Woodson.

"He gets people out and his ball moves a little bit. He won't overpower you or anything, but he knows when to throw a pitch at the right time."

— South Lakes Baseball Coach Galvin Morris, on pitcher Will Sweet

One of South Lakes' top returning players this season is senior second baseman Jon Baamonde, who earned Honorable Mention All-District accolades last year.

"He's a diehard baseball guy and is working on something every day to get better," said Morris. "The kids feed off his work ethic."

Baamonde, who will likely hit in the Seahawks' No. 3 spot of the batting order, was among the Seahawks' statistical leaders at the plate last year.

Another key player for South Lakes is sophomore Will Sweet, a right-handed pitcher who will play the hot corner position at third when he is not on the mound.

Morris said Sweet had to adjust to the varsity game as a freshmen last year, but was impressive in that initial season.

"I want to see him improve on last year," said Morris. "He gets people out and his ball moves a little bit. He won't overpower you or anything, but he knows when to throw a pitch at the right time. He can locate [his pitches] real well."

One player who could see time at a number of different positions is junior Kevin Ball, a right-handed pitcher who can also play both in the infield or outfield as needed.

South Lakes also has two solid sophomore outfielders in Wilfredo Corps-Ortiz and Wesley Casson,

both of whom started last year as freshmen.

Bringing some experience to the line-up will be senior first baseman/designated hitter Tyler Siqueiros, a left-handed swinger.

South Lakes lost standout players Scott Reed (catcher) and Noah Sweet, Will's older brother, to graduation. So the Seahawk players who received their first varsity playing experience last year will have to take their game up another level if South Lakes is to make some noise in a talent-laden district that includes defending district champion Stone Bridge, perennial power Madison and an on-the-rise McLean.

South Lakes will be competing at the McLean/Great Falls Babe Ruth Invitational tournament in a few weeks. Both McLean and Langley are co-hosting the 12-team spring break event. Teams competing in the tournament will include Chantilly, Robinson, Oakton and Yorktown. Games will be played at both McLean and Langley.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

The Reston Masters Swim Team will be hosting an Open Water Swim Clinic, along with 1- and 2-mile swims, at Lake Audubon in Reston. The clinic will be Saturday, May 23 at 9 a.m. Check-in for the 1- and 2-mile races is Sunday, May 24, at 6 a.m. The 1-mile race will start at 8 a.m., and the 2-mile race will begin at 9:30 a.m. The entry closing dates are May 1 for both races, and May 23 for the clinic. To obtain registration information, visit www.restonmasters.org, or e-mail the registrar at lynhzlwd@usms.org.

The Cardinal Girls Lacrosse league offers a year-round program for girls from the fifth through eighth grades. Northern Virginia girls from areas including Reston, Great Falls and Leesburg, are encouraged to try out. The organization will likely fill two teams per age group. Cardinals Girls Lacrosse, in its fourth year, is a non-profit, travel lacrosse organization. All the league money goes to uniforms, coaches and fields. The senior coach is the women's coach at Georgetown University, while the junior coaches are players or alumni from Catholic University, James Madison University, Virginia Tech or the University of Virginia. Practices are held at Our Lady of Good Counsel School in Vienna. The league Web site is:

www.cardinalgirlslacrosseclub.com.

Bluestreaks Athletic SportZ is now forming 2009 Spring AAU Basketball Teams. Boys and girls teams, for players ages 7 to 17, will play in the competitive AAU League. Tryouts run through March 15 at gyms near Merrifield. The season runs through June. Online registration is at www.bluestreaks.org. For more information, go to registrar@bluestreaks.org.

It was apparent from a glance at the benches that the **Herndon Ice Hockey team** was going to have its hands full in its recent Northern Virginia Scholastic Hockey League semifinals playoff game against Prince William County's Forest Park High School.

Junior Ville Rutanen, who led the league in assists and was number two in points, was sidelined with a knee injury, and a handful of other Hornet skaters also were out with injuries. This left Herndon able to dress only 11 players. Even so, the Hornets opened the game strong and took the lead when senior assistant captain Chris O'Brien scored, assisted by freshman Michael Horn and sophomore Matt Ellison.

Herndon was able to hold the lead until midway through the second period when the Bruins scored a goal in the final seconds of a

power play. The score remained tied until late in the third period when Forest Park squeezed the puck between the pads of junior goalie Bryan Kadlec.

Exhausted from being outmanned, the Hornets continued to mount offensive assaults, but a third Forest Park goal in the closing minutes secured the Bruins' victory and denied the Hornets their first chance to play in the NVSHL championship game.

The loss came on the heels of a 4-1 victory over the Westfield Bulldogs in the league's quarterfinals. The Hornets took control of that game midway through the opening period when junior Sam Stone converted an Andrew Norman pass for the first goal of the game. However, they were unable to hang onto that lead and, early in the second period, the Bulldogs took advantage of a power play opportunity and scored. Only minutes later, Westfield again found themselves on the power play and applying pressure when forward Max Kortegast stripped a Westfield player of the puck and headed down ice along with Stone and Norman for a 3-on-1 advantage. After a series of quick passes between Kortegast and Stone, Kortegast ripped the puck past the Bulldog's net-minder, putting the Hornets back in the lead.

Westfield continued to attack the Herndon net, but the Hornet



PHOTO COURTESY/HERNDON HOCKEY

Herndon competed against Loudoun Valley, left, during a regular season contest. The Hornets' successful season recently ended at the league semifinals with a loss to Forest Park High.

defensemen kept most challenges wide, while junior net-minder Bryan Kadlec raked in 17 saves. Herndon's narrow, one-goal lead was most seriously threatened when Westfield's top scorer tried to convert on a breakaway late in the game, but was stonewalled by Kadlec. The Hornets' win was solidified when, in the closing minutes of the final period, freshman Michael Horn took advantage of an empty net and fired the puck into the Westfield goal from center ice. A second empty-netter by Stone in the final seconds secured the win.

Four Herndon players were named to the league's All-Star

team. Team captain, senior Andrew Norman, was selected for the third year in a row, while juniors Ville Rutanen, Sam Stone and Max Kortegast made their first All-Star appearances. The league also announced selections for the All-Academic team, which requires a 3.5 average for the current school year. Norman and Rutanen were members of that team, along with freshman Michael Horn, senior assistant captain Krister Kasulis, and junior goalie Bryan Kadlec.

Herndon finished the year with a 9-1 regular season record, winning the Northern Division and ranking second in the league's overall regular season standings.

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Time Out Of Mind



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

Time Out Of Mind

After my mother's death, it took me over two months to finally write and send thank you notes to the friends who remembered my mother by making charitable donations in her name. And though I'm not particularly proud of the lack of initiative I showed in taking as long as I did to properly respond, I am still most appreciative of the extra effort and thoughtfulness these friends exhibited. As I wrote in the thank yous that I sent, it seemed like the loss of a second parent in two years sort of knocked the initiative right out of me (or maybe that was simply my mother not being around to remind me to do something). I remember experiencing a similar malaise after my father died in Dec., 2006. And though my mother was most definitely alive and well back then, I recall feeling a little unmotivated, a little empty, and not really seeing the point and/or significance in much as I tried to find a new routine now that my father was gone.

Moreover, given the fact that our mother was now widowed, without my father as her companion for the first time in over 65 years, my brother and I knew we still had major responsibilities, not exactly care and feeding since my father's caregiver, Maria, stayed on, but life full-filling nevertheless. And not that we were the least bit put off — or put upon, quite frankly — by the task at hand, it was more that we were fulfilling a role that, unbeknownst to us, we had been preparing for — and prepared for, our whole lives.

And for most of these past two years, we had fun doing it. As difficult as I know it was for my mother to live on without my father alive and in her life, it was really quite remarkable how she adjusted to the loss. Not exactly ambulatory and almost totally hearing impaired, she persevered, and almost always with good humor. Surrounded by pictures of my father as well as pictures of the two of them at various stops in their life, she was never far removed, physically, from reminders of what, for her, had been the most important responsibility in her life: her husband (my father) and her family. Yet, she was rarely morose; sad of course, in tears occasionally, but overall, happy to be alive and not "woeing" at all about her loss or physical limitations.

Mentally, she was as sharp at the end as she had been her entire life (so far as we ever saw) and as concerned about others (my brother and I) even as she lay in the bed in which she would eventually die, as she had ever been; still concerned about my brother's comfort (sitting vs. standing by the side of her bed) and whether or not we had eaten or were hungry. Amazing!

This was the second time that my brother and I have been witness to acts of love and unselfishness by our parents as they lie dying. Whatever lessons they sought to impart to us while they were alive pale in comparison to the lessons they taught us while they were dying.

My parents both died with dignity, class and concern for their family. At a time in their lives when it most assuredly should have been about them, they continued to try and make it about us. No wonder we miss them so much.

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

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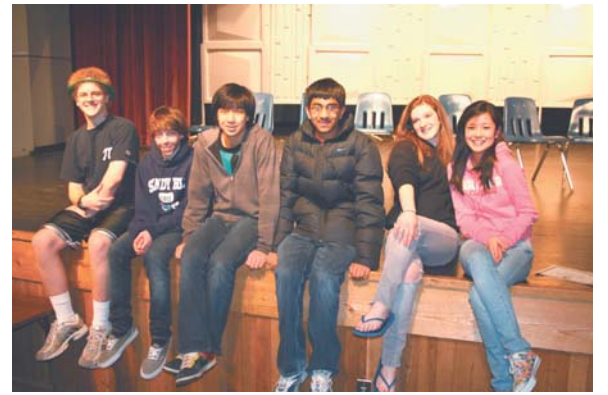
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SCHOOLS



Heading for State Competition

Students from Langston Hughes Middle School and Kilmer Middle School placed first in the Saturday, March 14 Northern Regional Odyssey of the Mind competition at Falls Church High School. They will go on to compete at the Virginia State Competition in Newport News, Va. in April.

Winning team, from left, includes Michael Cooper, Sean McElrath, Michael Chan, Dhruv Bansal, Alexandra Vagonis, Sharon Zhao. Cooper and Bansal attend Kilmer Middle School and the rest of the team attend Langston Hughes Middle.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

extended period of growth.

It's really this. When the Reston Association leaves its current location at 1930 Isaac Newton Square, the organization will have paid over \$9 million to lease the space during a period of 23 plus years. If we continue to lease, our associated costs will only continue to increase and we will simply be further extending the period of which the Association and its Members will be accruing no long-term benefits from these annual expenditures.

The Reston Association and its predecessor organizations have been an integral part of the Reston community since the mid-1960s, and the expectation is that the Association will continue its role for years to come.

Robin Smyers
President

On Behalf of the Reston Association
Board of Directors

in public so members were not totally surprised when the RA plans suddenly saw the light of day, a few weeks ago.

Therefore, I say vote "no" and send a strong message to the RA Board. Fifteen million dollars is very meaningful to members who struggle to live within their means, and we deserve to know what we are approving and why it costs so much. Since apparently RA has done an extensive market survey, looking at a dozen potential buildings there is still time to find the best deal that meets our needs. RA must provide members clarity in plans and costs and, hopefully, members will not be too disgruntled to approve a proper referendum, at a reasonable cost and actually feel good about it.

Michael A. Kogan
President

Newport Cluster Association

Evaluation Needed On Hospital Expansion

To The Editor:

HCA proposed to build a new 164-bed hospital with 400,000 square feet of office space in the Broadlands area in Loudoun County. It was rejected by the county Board of Supervisors for numerous reasons, one of which was incorrect data on the net tax value of the proposal and the value of the net tax benefits to the county.

Now HCA is focusing on Reston for hospital bed expansion. I don't know whether additional beds are needed, particularly with Inova's new 80-bed proposal in Loudoun County. What I do know is that the most recent statement from HCA on the tax benefits for a hospital expansion in Reston is incorrect and based on the same bloated numbers they used for the Loudoun proposal.

The hospital expansion would provide new construction jobs and new jobs at the hospital. Both are true benefits in any economy. However, the company's statements on overall economic benefit are incorrect and we should demand and get an honest evaluation if public support is required.

S. M. Patz
Reston

Bad Governance In HQ Referendum

To the Editor:

Members overwhelmingly approved the purchase of a new headquarters in the 2005 HQ Referendum. Subsequently, the RA Board dismissed the prior referendum as flawed, failed to sponsor public debate on this issue and developed their own agenda that doubled space requirements and costs. A draft HQ proposition reflecting this change wasn't put forward until Jan. 22, 2009. Members had 10 work days to comment by Feb. 5 and the Board finalized the question and mailed ballots on Feb. 24, with little more justification than "our needs have changed".

Even more troubling, the new HQ plan evolved in non-public Board and staff meetings, guided by an unnamed real estate consultant under non-disclosure. Somehow, the Board asserts the plans and requirements supporting the Board's action are also confidential, obviating member rights to understand and make an informed decision consistent with Virginia "sunshine" statutes designed to promote transparency and protect member rights. Material discussions attempting to justify the huge increase in cost and space plans should have been held

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

3 RE for Rent

101 Computers

TRUSTEE'S SALE

OF VALUABLE

IMPROVED REAL ESTATE

Improved by the premises known as

1237 Summerfield Drive, Herndon, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Manuel Reyes, dated April 15, 2005, and recorded April 19, 2005, in Deed Book 17189 at page 111 among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Judicial Center for Fairfax County, at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on

Monday, March 30, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.

the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:

Lot 50, Section 1, Four Seasons as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 3792 at page 463, among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Commonly known as 1237 Summerfield Drive, Herndon, Virginia 20170.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$35,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 5.75 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

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

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

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

The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Purchaser shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zoning code violations whether of record or not of record, as well as for all unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser also shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the property at his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the risk of loss and shall be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of sale. Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Conveyancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of title, state stamps, and all other costs of conveyance are to be at the expense of purchaser. State and local taxes, public charges, and special or regular assessments, if any, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by the purchaser.

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

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

DAVID N. PRENSKY
Substitute Trustee

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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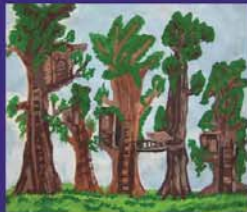
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Egg Hunt



Carnival Games



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