

Reston founder Bob Simon, right, presents Joe Ritchey with Best of Reston's first Robert E. Simon Lifetime Achievement award at last week's Best of Reston award banquet.

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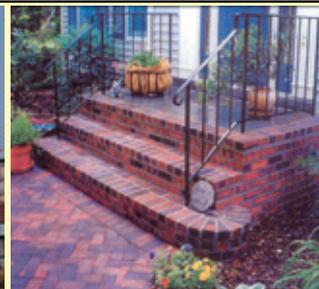
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Honoring Reston's Best

FISHing for Donations

Best of Reston banquet incorporates some new awards.

BY MIKE DiCICCO
THE CONNECTION

When Kathy Albarado was a child, her family found itself in need of transitional housing and other human services. Now that she is president and CEO of Reston-based Helios HR, Albarado said, "I believe very strongly that, as leaders in the community, it is our obligation and our privilege to give back."

Albarado said all of this in a prerecorded video that was played at the Best of Reston awards banquet Thursday evening, April 30, just before Helios HR was given this year's corporate business leader award. Each award winner spoke in video segments, as did members of the community testifying on their behalf.

It was the 18th time that Reston Interfaith and the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce had staged the event, which recognizes Reston businesses, organizations and individuals for outstanding community service.

Jen Cortner of EFX Media said in the video that Albarado had demonstrated that big corporations weren't the only ones that could give to the community. "When you create a wave of giving, small businesses can provide for those in need," she said.

Helios and its employees have supported Reston Interfaith, made sandwiches at the Embury Rucker Community Shelter, donated thousands of coats to the Hunter Mill District Coat Drive, participated in the local Walk for the Homeless, given backpacks to Reston Interfaith's school supply drive and supported a number of other nonprofit organizations.

ACCEPTING one of this year's civic and community organization awards on behalf of the Reston Triathlon, board member Bunny Bonnes said that while children play naturally, the triathlon provided an avenue for adult play. "Being a director has been a wonderful experience," she said. "It's done completely for the community and it's strictly a community event."

A small nonprofit group has kept the annual race going since 1984.

Joan Waggoner, who wrote a history of the triathlon, said what has made the event so meaningful is that it brings together hundreds of local volunteers.

More than 500 volunteers, including Boy Scout troops and the South Lakes High School track team, stage the event, said Abbie Edwards, also a triathlon board member. "These groups love to do it. They come back every year."



PHOTO BY MIKE DiCICCO/THE CONNECTION

From left, Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) and Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) pose with fire department officers of the year Michael Eddy, Scott Pifer and Michael Frames, as well as Fire Chief Ronald Mastin and Reston District Police Capt. Deborah Burnett.

"We do what we love, and that's provide service."

— Brenda Irons-LeCesne, president, Reston chapter of Links Inc.

One of the "Above and Beyond Employee" awards went to David Eisenman, general manager of the Hyatt Regency Reston, where the banquet took place. Eisenman regularly donates hotel space for community projects and hotel room nights for charity auctions. He also started a daily training program for South Lakes High School students with disabilities at the hotel and an annual Camp Hyatt Career Day for fifth-graders at Armstrong Elementary, and he participates in the JumpStart Read for the Record Campaign.

Eisenman said reaching out to the community benefited not only the community but also the company. Receiving the award was humbling for Eisenman. "I feel I'm running a business the way it should be run and being a part of the community the way people should be part of the community," he said.

Eve Thompson of Lake Anne Village Center said she felt local events were important to communities. "It's a way for people to interact and feel connected," she said. To that end, she and her husband Rick, founders of the nonprofit Friends of Lake Anne, have created the Saturday Open Air Market, the Radio Controlled Yacht Regatta, the Lake Anne Jazz and Blues Festival, Friday Night Jazz at Lake Anne, Market Music and Light up Lake Anne.

Both Thompsons sit on both the Washington Plaza Cluster Association and the Lake Anne of Reston Condominium Association, with Rick Thompson currently serv-

ing as president of the latter.

He said he valued the plaza at Lake Anne as a place where everyone from all income levels could come and share a sense of community.

The couple jointly received an individual community member award.

ANOTHER SUCH AWARD went to former Fairfax County School Board member and chair Kohann Williams.

Reston Community Center Executive Director Leila Gordon said Williams brought high ambitions, tremendous organizational skills and professional knowledge, and "a sense of humor and unbridled passion" to all of her work.

When she worked as director of communications for Northrop Grumman Mission Systems, Williams helped to connect the company with various community organizations. She has served as a volunteer board member in many such organizations, including her recent involvement with the Reston-based Global Camps Africa and the Initiative for Public Art Reston.

Williams said she liked variety in her volunteer work, which she found both fun and intellectually stimulating. She described her recent trip to Sparrow Village in South Africa, where people dying of AIDS come with their children. "Children everywhere ... deserve the best chance that they can get in life, and it's the responsibility of adults to see to it that they get that chance," she said.

"We do what we love, and that's provide service," said Brenda Irons-LeCesne, president of the Reston chapter of Links Inc., as she accepted an award on behalf of the chapter. Links Inc. is an organization of African American women dedicated to help-

Herndon-Reston FISH celebrates 40th anniversary amid increased demands.

As Herndon-Reston FISH (Friendly, Instant, Sympathetic Help) Inc. celebrates its 40th anniversary, the organization is ramping up its annual fund raiser this weekend. The 2009 FISH Fling Gala and Fund Raiser will include a seated dinner, dancing to the Alan Baylock Jazz Orchestra, auctions, games, raffles and a cash bar.

The event will be Saturday, May 9, from 6-10 p.m., at the Crowne Plaza Dulles Airport Hotel in Herndon. Sherri Longhill-Dolby, who manages The Bargain Loft for FISH, said she expected as many as 175 attendees.

It's too late to buy tickets to the gala, but opportunities to sponsor it are still open. Donations made at www.herndonrestonfish.org or by calling the Bargain Loft at 703-437-0600 and asking for Sherri.

Herndon-Reston FISH is a nearly all-volunteer, nonsectarian, nonprofit organization that provides emergency assistance to people in need in the Herndon-Reston area. FISH's paid staff consists of only two people. The organization provides emergency assistance to people who are out of a job, incapacitated by illness, unable to pay their rent, or in similarly dire situations, Longhill-Dolby said. FISH also provides transportation for those in need of it, helps to pay for medications and runs the Bargain Loft thrift store.

Corporate and individual donations, along with grants from organizations like United Way and any proceeds from the thrift store, sustain the organization.

Like other service organizations, Herndon-Reston FISH has seen a significant increase in demand over the last year. In the last nine months, the group has given 9 percent more in financial assistance for utility, rent and mortgage payments than during the same time period in fiscal year 2008. The number of households receiving this assistance is up 8 percent from the previous year.

Families asking for assistance include many who have suddenly lost their jobs due to the economy or health issues, Herndon-Reston FISH President Marcia Di Trapani said in an e-mail. One young, divorced mother of three had to leave the job where she had worked for 10 years due to a severe health problem, Di Trapani wrote. FISH helped pay her rent, and the county helped her with food stamps and affordable housing.

SEE RESTON HONORS, PAGE 8

— MIKE DiCICCO

Taxi Driver Robbed

A 56-year-old Harpers Ferry, West Va. Man driving a taxi was robbed by his passengers on Wednesday, April 29 around 9 p.m. The driver was dropping off two men in a shopping center parking lot at 12024 North Shore Drive in the Reston area. One man produced a gun and demanded money. The victim handed over an undisclosed amount of cash and the victims fled. There were no injuries.

The suspects are described as black males and around 20-years-old. Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

Store Employees Robbed in Reston Area

Two employees of a 7-Eleven store were robbed Monday, May 4 around 3 a.m. The two men, 31 and 37-years-old, were stocking shelves when the two suspects entered the store, located at 11714 Sunset Hills Road. One suspect brandished a handgun and demanded money. The victims were forced behind the register and they complied with the suspects' demands. The suspects took cash and fled from the store on foot. The victims did not require medical treatment.

The suspects were both described as black, in their 20s. The first suspect was about 6 feet 4 inches tall and 165 pounds. He was wearing a red hoodie, blue jeans, a black bandana that covered part of his face and a black jacket. The second suspect was wearing a green hoodie, blue jeans and a black bandana that covered part of his face.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

Farmers Market Opens on Saturday

The Reston Farmers Market will open its 12th season at Lake Anne Village Center Saturday, May 9. Last season, it was named the Best Farmers Market in Northern Virginia by Northern Virginia Magazine and the 2009 market promises to be even better.

The Market boasts several bakers along with vendors offering fresh fruits and vegetables, fresh meats (including beef, buffalo, lamb, pork, goat, chicken and turkey), cheese from cows and from goats, jellies, honey, flowering plants and bushes, cut flowers, kettle corn and homemade ice cream.

The market operates every Saturday, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. through Oct. 31, except Sept. 21. For more information, go to www.restonfarmersmarket.com or call 703-318-9628.

Marvelous Market Opens in Town Center

Marvelous Market will open in the Reston Town Center to the public Monday, May 11. Often referred to as a "mini-Whole Foods," Marvelous Market is a gourmet convenience store offering a one-stop selection of self-serve items and barista service. Carryout is the main advantage, but seating will also be available at the counter, and at outdoor tables. The shop specializes in artisan breads, salads, soups, sandwiches, spreads, gourmet entrees, pastries and desserts created fresh, from scratch, every day, and also carries cheeses, olives, fine roasted coffee, plus beer and wine. The 18-year-old company is now owned by the renowned Thompson Hospitality, based in Herndon, which also owns two restaurants at Reston Town Center, The American Tap Room and Obi Sushi. On opening day, Marvelous Market will be offering a variety of food samplings and product demonstrations.

Restonian's Novel Makes the Cut

Book set in Reston now in final 1 percent of Amazon contest entrants.

Check It Out

An excerpt from "Monkeys in My Trees" is available at www.amazon.com/dp/b001ug3csk.

Reston resident Karen Cantwell was one of about 10,000 would-be authors who entered the international Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award Contest in early February. As of April 15, she is one of the final 100 contestants still being considered for the prize — a \$25,000 publishing contract.

"I've written some short stories and stuff and some plays, but this is the first book I've ever written," Cantwell said.

The book, a comical mystery titled "Monkeys in My Trees," is set in Reston, and Cantwell used a true story as her starting point. At a picnic, a neighbor had told her about an incident that happened shortly after the woman had moved into the first house on the street around 1970. The woman's children had been playing outside when they ran into the house shouting that there were monkeys in the trees. Indeed, there were monkeys climbing in the trees on what would later become Cantwell's lot.

CANTWELL said the monkeys' origins were never verified, but the general assumption is that they were escapees from the animal-testing lab that was then located in Reston.

"It just piqued my interest," Cantwell said. "I wanted to write a funny story."

However, that's where the book, which begins with a newly single mother waking up one morning to find monkeys swinging through

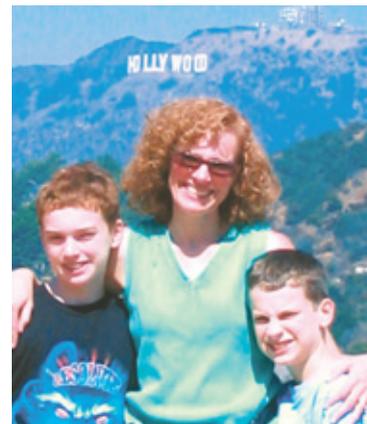


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Karen Cantwell with her sons Ethan and Patrick.

"It's set in Reston because I love Reston and I think it's just a quirky, loveable place to live."

— Karen Cantwell

her trees, departs from reality. The story is set in the Reston of the present and involves a suspicious abandoned house and a conspiracy between the mafia, animal testing laboratories and pharmaceutical company executives, Cantwell said.

"It's set in Reston because I love Reston and I think it's just a quirky, loveable place to live," she said, adding that the community almost functions as a character in the story. She does not name actual

streets or neighborhoods — in fact, all streets in the book are named for trees — but community traits like the Reston Association and the prohibition on cutting down trees without permission figure into the tale. Local readers would recognize other locations as well. For example, Cantwell said, "She ends up held captive by the mafia at a house in Fairfax Station."

She wrote the book over the course of about seven months, beginning in the summer of 2007, and has been trying to get it published since then.

THE BOOK is also being considered in the statewide James River Writers Best Unpublished Novel Contest, whose winners will be announced in May or June. The Amazon contest, on the other hand, took many entries from England, Canada, Australia and other countries.

"There are a lot of good writers in this contest, I've got to tell you," Cantwell said. She noted that in last year's contest, not only the winner but also several other authors who finished in the top 10 got publishing contracts. But if she is not among those chosen, Cantwell plans to continue seeking a publisher.

In a few weeks, the top three entries in the Breakthrough Novel Contest will be announced, and the final winner, to be declared on May 22, will be up to online voters.

— MIKE DICICCO

RA Elects New Directors



Results of the election for the Board of Directors of the Reston Association that took place earlier this month were announced at the Annual Meeting of the RA. The three Directors were introduced Tuesday evening, April 14, at the Sheraton Hotel. One director, Kathleen Driscoll McKee, was reelected; the other two were newly elected. McKee was also elected to be vice president of the Board. Shown are Paul Thomas, McKee and Tom Vis, with the current RA president, Robin Smyers.

PHOTO BY MIKE MCKEE

COMMENTARY

Money on the Table

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

About two weeks ago, I journeyed back to Page County in the Shenandoah Valley where I grew up as a child. The Democratic Committee for the County invited me as House Democratic Caucus Chairman to speak at their annual fried chicken supper. They needed a little cheering up as the news had just been announced that their unemployment rate had reached nearly 18 percent, second highest in the state. In contrast to rural Page, the highest rate was held by the City of Williamsburg at about 20 percent. The two localities had the common characteristic that they both rely on outside sources for much of their employment support: Williamsburg relies on tourists to support their workforce; Page sends many of its residents to other communities including Northern Virginia to work. While the news was bad for the two localities, it reflected the fact that the economy is bad all over.

The rising unemployment level in the state makes it even more puzzling that the House of Delegates last month by a nearly party-line vote rejected \$125 million in federal stimulus money that was to be used for the unemployed until they could find a job. The vote in which all Republicans except two in the General Assembly voted against accepting the money and all Democrats except one voted to accept it has raised concern throughout the Commonwealth.



The arguments against accepting the money do not hold up to close consideration. The notion that accepting the stimulus money would somehow cost jobs because of its expense to employers ignores the fact that Virginia has the 49th lowest unemployment insurance rate in the country, and its \$98 per employee per year rate is a fraction of the nearly \$250 average among the other states. Estimates are that accepting the terms of the stimulus money to include benefits for laid off part-time workers and persons in training programs may

have added as much as \$4 to the unemployment insurance premium rate if the legislature decided to keep the additional benefits beyond the time of the stimulus package. That is hardly an amount that would result in lost jobs.

An additional \$125 million into the state would have given a modest but important boost to localities that need it most. The resulting economic expansion would have been felt beyond the localities as tourists returned to Williamsburg and Page County workers found jobs they could travel to. The real shame is that Virginia taxpayers would have helped pay for the stimulus dollars for the unemployed, but residents of other states that will now take the money would reap the benefits.

If you would like to support the current petition drive to get the legislature to reconsider its action, go to www.standupforva.com. As always, I invite your comments at kenplum@aol.com.

Many Walk MS participants, like the members of We AHR Family, form teams for the event. More than 1,000 people participated in Walk MS in Reston on Sunday, April 26.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

More Than 1,000 Walk against MS

On Sunday, April 26, more than 1,000 walkers and volunteers met in Isaac Newton Square to participate in Walk MS presented by Booz Allen Hamilton, which is expected to raise \$1.5 million to support the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, National Capital Chapter. "For me, doing the walk is a family affair and our friends come out and support us," said Fairfax Station resident Cathy Onufrychuk, whose Walk MS team, Onos, has already raised more than \$30,000 this year. "It's the most amazing thing to see everyone out there - families, kids, people with MS." Virginia Dels. Ken Plum (D-36) and Tom Rust (R-

86) stopped by Walk MS to cheer on walkers and thank participants for their commitment to finding a cure for MS.

"It's extremely moving to see so many Walk MS participants walking and volunteering to support their loved ones and the MS cause," said Chapter President Chris Broullire. "It's inspirational. Their commitment is moving us closer to a world free of MS."

Walk MS events took place at five other locations throughout the D.C. area on Saturday and Sunday. Broullire said that the event costs were kept low thanks to the support of sponsors and donors. In addition to serving as the Walk MS

presenting sponsor, Booz Allen Hamilton also participated at Reston as a walk team.

Clyde's of Reston provided lunch for participants at the Reston walk. Reston Sport & Health hosted a VIP breakfast and led stretches before walkers started on the route. As part of their nationwide "I Walk Because" campaign, Acorda Therapeutics hosted a tent in which participants could videotape their stories and decorate t-shirts with their reasons for walking.

To learn more about multiple sclerosis or Walk MS, contact the National MS Society at 202-296-5363 or www.MSandYOU.org.

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OPINION

Hopeful Home Sales

First time homebuyers get shot at affordable homeownership; domino effect helps all homeowners.

A look at the records of more than 1,000 homes that sold in March, 2009 in our area offers a glimpse of a sales at the top and bottom of the market.

In March in Northern Virginia, hundreds of homes, mostly condos and townhouses, sold for less than \$250,000.

About half or more of these were likely foreclosures or distressed properties, but all movement in the real estate market is a good sign, clearing out inventory. Many of the families whose homes sold and closed in March are now able to move up in the market; there are unusually good prices available on homes at all entry points right now.

In the City of Alexandria, at least five townhouses sold for under \$250,000, with more than two dozen condominiums selling for under \$200,000. At the other end, five homes sold for more than \$1 million.

In Arlington, 14 sales closed for under \$200,000, and 14 more between \$200,000 and \$250,000. There was movement at the high end too, with the sale of one condominium for \$5.65 million, plus eight more homes selling for more \$1 million in March alone.

Looking for a single family home under \$200,000? Among the nearly 50 March sales

under \$200,000 in Sterling were a dozen single family detached homes, with many more under \$300,000.

More than 20 townhouses sold in Herndon for under \$200,000.

In Mount Vernon, the top home sold for \$2.65 million, while nearby a variety of bargains sold for remarkably low prices in the Route 1 corridor, including 29 condos and townhouses for under \$100,000. Twenty more condos, townhouses and duplexes sold in March in the area for between \$100,000 and \$200,000.

In Reston, one condo sold for \$1.1 million, while there were 13 sales of condos and townhouses for under \$200,000.

In Burke, 15 homes sold for under \$250,000 in March, mostly townhouses.

In Centreville in March, 22 townhouses sold for under \$200,000.

In Springfield in March, there were 31 sales of condos and townhouses for under \$250,000.

In Fairfax Station and Clifton, 22 homes sold for more than \$500,000, with two sales over \$1 million in March. In Lorton in March, 10 townhouses sold for under \$200,000.

In Great Falls, only one home in March sold for less than \$500,000, but there were five homes sold for more than \$1 million.

In McLean, one home sold for \$3.4 million, with eight more homes selling in March for more than \$1 million. A handful of condos sold in McLean for under \$250,000.

In Vienna, eight homes sold in March for more than \$1 million, while nine condos and townhouses sold for under \$300,000.

For specific addresses and home sales by town for March, see <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=%20328003&paper=%2059&cat=228>. April home sales will be posted after May 20.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

In the Interests of Public Health

While it's a huge topic for discussion, no one really has any idea what the future holds for us and the so-called swine flu. It's reasonable to predict that in the next few weeks, it will turn up in Northern Virginia.

With the Centers for Disease Control calling for the closing of schools where cases are confirmed, we might well be facing one or more schools that are unexpectedly closed.

But we question whether such a policy is considering all aspects of public health. When an elementary school, for example, is closed, how do families that depend on two incomes

or single parent families cope? In any less affluent area, what percentage of children might be home alone because parents have no sick leave or vacation time?

In middle school, students are nominally more able to be home alone for some period of time, but we know there are consequences to unsupervised adolescents in terms of risky behavior.

Let's take the actions necessary to stem a crisis, but let's not lose sight of other risks in the process.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Rec Center Worth Discussing

BY JOHN LOVAAS
CIVIC LEADER AND RESTON
IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST



INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

I am a bit disheartened by the recent flap ["Rec Center Alarm," Reston Connection, April 14-20, 2009] over a possible new indoor recreation facility that would serve the entire community. What seems to be missing is a sense of community. Before the discussion can even get underway, some neighbors are already blasting away at the very idea of a facility within sight of their homes. Some of them are the same ones who blocked evening baseball for children in their neighborhood. Just saying no is not good enough.

Reston Association and the Reston Community Center are the villains in the neighbors' view. In fact, RA and RCC have been openly studying the concept of combining resources for an indoor facility for

several months, although they apparently did not specifically invite neighboring home-owners to join the study—something they should have done. But, it is by no means too late to broaden the community conversation about the concept to include not only these neighbors but a much wider cross-section of the community as well. Putting forth such concepts for potential new recreation services is in fact central to the mandate of both RA and RCC.

While the two organizations are to be commended for doing what we pay them to do, that does not mean that the first cut of the concept is the best one to provide indoor recreation. For those interested in becoming involved constructively in a community discussion, you might begin by visiting the spacious Brown's Chapel Recreation Area site and reviewing the extensive background material available at RA's Web site, www.reston.org.

Walking the site and reading the material led me to preliminary conclusions: 1) the site is excellent for a rec center; and, 2) the initial concept is too grand, with too large a footprint, and more facility — e.g., eight indoor tennis courts — than needed. But, I am convinced that with a willingness to work together and to compromise, a good result for the "community" is possible.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Preserving Green Spaces

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my disappointment with the current management of Reston's natural resources. Our open spaces and parkland are limited. Once they are developed with buildings and parking decks, cement and asphalt, they are gone for good.

Brown's Chapel is a beautiful park that currently provides a variety of recreational amenities to a wide range of users. As such, I do not support any plan for a building or additional parking that will reduce the open space at Brown's Chapel that many community members currently enjoy.

Reducing the open space at Brown's Chapel is in opposition to the RA's own strategic plan "to provide well-maintained parklands."

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 19

THE CONNECTION

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns,
Call: 703-917-6444
Fax: 703-917-0991
e-mail:
reston@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-917-6428
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Justin Fanizzi
Editorial Assistant
703-917-6437
jfanizzi@connectionnewspapers.com

Mike DiCicco
Community Reporter
703-917-6448
mdicicco@connectionnewspapers.com

Julia O'Donoghue
Education & Politics
703-917-6433
jodonoghue@connectionnewspapers.com

Ken Moore
Courts & Projects ♦ 703-917-6417
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Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
703-917-6416
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editors
Steve Hibbard, Michael O'Connell,
Kemal Kurspahic
Photography:
Robbie Hammer, Louise Krafft,
Craig Sterbutzel
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Wayne Shipp
Production Manager:
Jean Card

CIRCULATION: 703-917-6480
Circulation Manager:
Linda Pecquex
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS, L.L.C.
Peter Labovitz
President/CEO
Mary Kimm
Publisher/Chief Operating Officer
703-917-6416
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Jerry Vernon
Executive Vice President
703-917-6404
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Wesley DeBrosse
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Happy 30th Birthday RCC!

May Board of Governors' Meetings	PROGRAM POLICY COMMITTEE RCC HUNTERS WOODS MAY 11 • 6:00 P.M.	FINANCE COMMITTEE RCC LAKE ANNE MAY 18 • 6:00 P.M.	RA/RCC JOINT TASK FORCE RCC LAKE ANNE MAY 18 • 7:30 P.M.
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Reston Honors the Best

FROM PAGE 3

ing everyone of African descent.

The Reston chapter runs a mentoring program at South Lakes High School and has given away more than \$350,000 in scholarships to South Lakes and Herndon high school students. As a collection of 58 fortunate professional women, Irons-LeCesne said, "We really feel that it's so important that we help our young ladies have the same opportunities." The chapter also contributes more than 3,000 volunteer hours annually.

Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes of United Christian Parish said Charlie Wight, recipient of an individual award, was "always at the forefront of seeing people in need and helping them," in Reston and beyond.

Among his other volunteer activities, Wight visits and mentors occupants of nursing homes, hospitals, senior housing and jails. Of his work with inmates, he said, "They're people like you and me who have made mistakes and are paying the price for it." He also participates in the local Hypothermia Prevention Program, often as the chief cook. As part of United Christian Parish's Works Sunday, he repairs local group homes.

Wight also coordinates RPJ Housing's Rebuilding Together program, fixing old houses for disabled homeowners, and volunteers in various capacities at his church. "I'm much gratified to receive this honor. It surprised me a lot," he said.

"We don't need to have people living in the woods," said Verdia Haywood, who has worked as the deputy county executive for almost 30 years. "I'm just not going to stop until I see that change."

Haywood was recognized as an "Above and Beyond Employee" for his long work as the architect of much of the county's human services system. Among his accomplishments is the creation of the Consolidated Community Funding Pool, which unified the county's investments in nonprofit organizations. He also established the Community Interfaith Liaison office to help the county collaborate with interfaith groups, helped with community-driven efforts like the Long Term Care Task Force and guided programs that support at-risk and neglected children.

"I really, really believe every child in Fairfax County should be able to go to school ready to learn," he said. To accomplish that, Haywood said, would require what he called "wrap-around support," helping children and their families on various fronts.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, Best of Reston included a

Robert E. Simon Lifetime Achievement award, named for Reston's founder. The award went to Joe Ritchey, a past Best of Reston honoree who has been active in Reston Interfaith, the Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE), the Initiative for Public Art Reston, Habitat for Humanity, Kids R First, the Nature House and numerous other programs. He has also been a leader in the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce and other area chambers and has championed Metrorail funding.

"I can't imagine Reston without him," Reston Chamber President Jen Sterling said. He called Ritchey "a bit of a Renaissance philanthropist."

"Nobody has the passion that this guy does when he's doing something he believes in," said Reston Town Center developer Jim Cleveland.

Since his identity was not revealed in the video, Ritchey had to give his acceptance speech live. "I cannot tell you how many people in this room have motivated me," he said. "Thank you so much for this tremendous honor."

The police officer and fire department officer-of-the-year awards were also new to Best of Reston this year.

The Police Officer of the Year award went to Pfc. John Asper, supplemental crime scene officer at the Reston District station. In his 10 years on the force, Asper has received the Fairfax County Outstanding Performance award, the Departmental Honors Team Excellence award, two separate Department Meritorious Award commendations and a Departmental Proficiency award for safe driving.

"His tenacity in crime scene processing and evidence collection has been a tremendous resource for the detectives and officers at the Reston Station," wrote colleague Lt. James Bradshaw.

Three fire department technicians — Michael Eddy, Michael Frames and Scott Pifer — were named Fire Department Officers of the Year for a nighttime boat rescue on a flooded roadway last May.

A car had driven through a barricade and into the flood. With large logs and other debris floating downstream, the three men launched a boat to rescue the car's two occupants. However, the occupants were uncooperative.

Frames and Pifer finally ferried back to the fire truck with the female passenger while Eddy stayed with the male driver. Frames returned to the vehicle and Eddy had to forcefully put the driver into the boat.

Without the weight of the passengers, the car immediately spun out of control.



Dr. Thomas Schuler of the Virginia Spine Institute presents Abbie Edwards and Bunny Bonnes with a Best of Reston award for Reston Triathlon. Emcee Phil Tobey of Smith Group looks on.

PHOTOS BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION



Kurt Seiberlich of Northrop Grumman, left, and emcee Phil Tobey of Smith Group, right, present Charlie Wight with a Best of Reston award 'for being a quiet strength for those in need.'

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

a.m.-8 p.m., Appalachian Spring, 11877 Market St., Reston. Mother's Day gift wrapping will be presented by and will benefit Kids R First. Call 703-478-2218.

FRIDAY/MAY 8

Mother's Day Gift Wrapping. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 4-7 p.m., Appalachian Spring, 11877 Market St., Reston. Mother's Day gift wrapping will be presented by and will benefit Kids R First. Call 703-478-2218.

SATURDAY/MAY 9

Mother's Day Gift Wrapping. 10

WEDNESDAY/MAY 13

Hunter Mill Outdoor Lighting Task Force. 7-9 p.m., North County Government Center, 12000 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. The task force will meet to discuss expansion of the LED pilot in the Reston Demonstration Project area and other lighting issues with residents and representatives from DPWES and the Reston Association. Call 703-478-0283.



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MOTHER'S DAY PHOTOS

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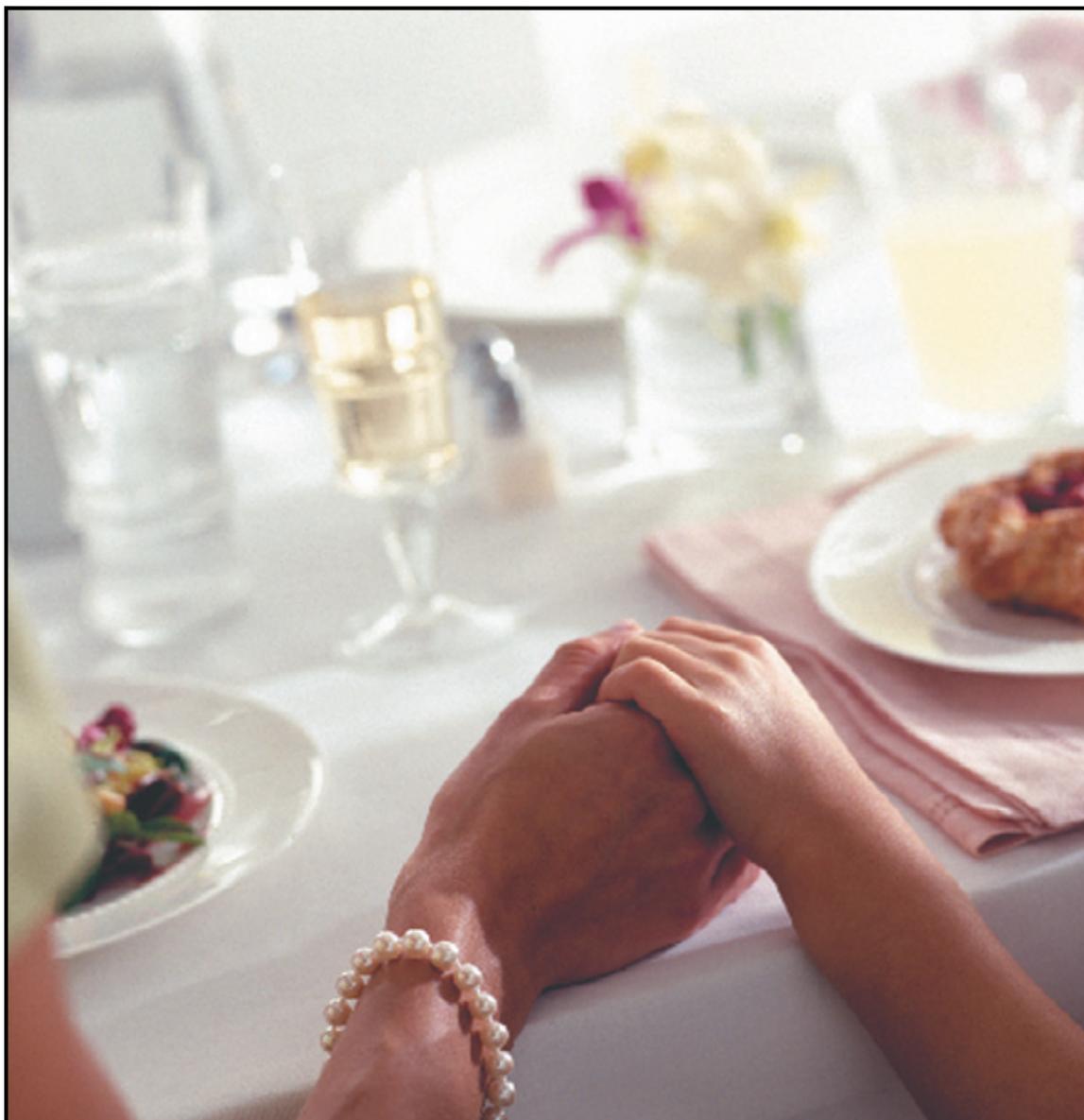
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Katy Rutledge Curran with her children, Briana, Maureen, Kerry, and Hugh.

One day my daughter Lauren, 3 1/2, and I went to school and work respectively not seeing what we both were wearing. In the evening when I picked her up from school I had to laugh that we both had on the same pattern clothing. Had to get a picture of that by Daddy. — Melissa Roehr of Reston



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MOTHER'S DAY PHOTOS



Aphrodite Hero of Stratford House in Reston and her grandson, Keenan Hero, 9, of Great Falls, at a piano recital in Reston.



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Month	Date	Event
May	1	2U (U2 tribute band) + Road Soda
	8	Lost in Paris
	15	Laura Lea & Tripp Fabulous
	22	Black Sheep
	29	No Friday Night Live! (Herndon Festival!)
June	5	Burnt Sienna
	12	Monster Band
	19	Dr.FU
	26	Love Seed Mama Jump
July	3	Crowded Streets + 8 Track Jones
	10	Flip Like Wilson
	17	Kristin & the Noise
	24	B2B (Jimmy Buffett Beach Band)
	31	JunkFood + Fools & Horses
August	7	Hyjinx + Rise & Fall
	14	Gonzo's Nose
	21	Drop Dead Sexy
	28	Go Go Gadget

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Governor's Primary: The Fight Over Money

How much does McAuliffe's prolific fundraising matter?

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Many young adults join political campaigns after graduating from college. Few end up where Terry McAuliffe, a Virginia gubernatorial candidate, found himself during the 1980 re-election bid of President Jimmy Carter.

At the age of 22, McAuliffe rose through the ranks to become national finance director of the Carter campaign, launching a career as one of the Democratic Party's most successful national fundraisers over the next three decades.

During the rest of the 1980s, McAuliffe served as deputy treasurer and director of finance for the Democratic National Committee, and other leadership positions. He was fundraiser for and advisor to President Bill Clinton during the 1990s. In 2000, McAuliffe headed up the Democratic National Convention. He was chair of the Democratic National Committee from 2001 to 2005; he raised money for 2008 Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton and President Barack Obama's campaign.

"Without question, he is a formidable fundraiser. Terry McAuliffe would be on any list of the top 10 Democratic Party fundraisers," said Dan Keyserling, deputy director of communications at the University of Virginia's Center for Politics.

McAULIFFE was the third Democrat and the fourth candidate overall to jump into the 2009 Virginia Governor's race.

Former Alexandria Del. Brian Moran (D), Central Virginia state Sen. Creigh Deeds (D) and former Attorney General Robert McDonnell (R) have been traveling around the commonwealth raising money in anticipation of their gubernatorial runs for the better part of four years. McAuliffe only emerged as a potential candidate in August and started seriously campaigning in November.

Yet McAuliffe raised more money for his campaign in five months than the other two Democrats, who face McAuliffe in a June 9 primary, were able to garner in three years. McAuliffe also collected slightly more money than McDonnell, who does not face an opponent for the Republican Party's nomination.

According to the Virginia Public Access Project, McAuliffe had raised a total of \$5.16 million for his campaign as of March 31. Moran had collected \$2.95 million and Deeds had garnered \$2.15 million for their respective campaigns by the same deadline.

Top Fairfax County Donors In Governor's Democratic Primary

The information listed below covers fundraising in 2008 and 2009 and is provided by the Virginia Public Access Project, www.vpap.org.



Name	Hometown	Work/Job	Donation
DEEDS			
Edward Hart Rice	Vienna	Stockbroker/ Financial Advisor	\$100,000
Sen. Dick Saslaw (D-35)	Springfield	Virginia Senate Majority Leader	\$15,000
Thomas Greeson	Herndon	Attorney	\$12,500
MORAN			
George Pedersen	McLean	Defense Industry	\$75,000
John Andrew Braun	Falls Church	Defense Industry	\$57,930
Dario Marquez Jr.	Vienna	Homeland Security	\$35,000
MCAULIFFE			
Hani Masri	McLean	Private Equity/Investors	\$100,000
A. Huda Farouki	McLean	Import-Export/Finance	\$50,000
Premium Distribution of Virginia	Alexandria	Alcohol Distributors	\$50,000

McDonnell had raised \$5.14 million by the end of March.

McAULIFFE may need all that money if he wants to win the primary against two well-established candidates, according to some political scientists.

Moran represented Alexandria in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1996 to 2008. During the 2007 state election cycle, he served as the Democratic house caucus chair, traveling around the state to help several of the Democratic Party's current delegates win or retain their seats.

Deeds, who is from Bath County and represents the Charlottesville area, has served in the General Assembly since 1982. In 2005, he ran for attorney general and lost to McDonnell by fewer than 500 votes, the closest statewide election in Virginia's history.

McAuliffe has never run for an elected office.

"For a candidate like Terry McAuliffe, with such a thin resume in Virginia, money means a good deal. ... Terry McAuliffe needs all the money that he has because the two other [primary] candidates already have a base in this state," said Cordel Faulk, director of communications at the University of Virginia's Center for Politics.

McAuliffe has never run for an elected office.

FAULK and others are quick to say that McAuliffe's fundraising does not mean that he has more voter support than the other candidates.

In 2006, Sen. Jim Webb (D-Va.) won a Democratic primary against lobbyist Harris Miller, despite Miller outspending Webb.

"The person with the most money does

not always win. ...It is harder to buy a primary because the electorate is so small. You just don't know who is going to show up," said Faulk.

Moran and Deeds have also pointed out that much of McAuliffe's campaign money has come from outside Virginia.

The McAuliffe campaign states that 17 percent of their candidate's donations come from Virginia, while the bulk of Moran and Deed's donations — over 90 percent according to those respective campaigns — have come from inside the commonwealth. According to the Virginia Public Access Project, McAuliffe's top two individual donors Haim Saban (\$276,064) and Stephen Bing (\$250,000) live in Los Angeles.

"Terry has raised more money. Fortunately for us, the people who have given him money can't vote for him," said Jesse Ferguson, a spokesperson for the Moran campaign. The Moran campaign also boasts the largest number of contributions, with 3,867 people and organizations giving money to the campaign so far, according to the Virginia Public Access Project.

"We built a tremendous network of individual donors and small-dollar donors. They are the ones that are going to fuel this campaign," said Ferguson.

McAuliffe has had 2,530 individuals contribute to his campaign and Deeds has had 3,437 individuals contribute to his campaign.

EVEN IF McAuliffe has received most of his money from outside Virginia, the political consultant is still showing significant

fundraising strengths inside the commonwealth.

"I think it is important to note that he outraised both of the other Democratic candidates in Virginia," said Elisabeth Smith, a spokesperson for the McAuliffe campaign.

Of the three Democrats, Moran has raised the most money in Arlington County (\$225,538), Loudoun County (\$51,869) and the City of Alexandria (\$1.1 million) since the beginning of 2008.

But McAuliffe has raised more money during that time period in Fairfax County, Virginia's most populous locality.

According to the Virginia Public Access Project, McAuliffe garnered \$828,117; Moran received \$502,329; and Deeds raised \$217,001 from Fairfax County residents and businesses during 2008 and 2009.

While most of Moran and Deeds larger Northern Virginia donors are already active in local political campaigns, McAuliffe has also been able to attract local donors who have previously not given to state campaigns in the commonwealth.

McLean resident Hani Masri, who has ties to Bill Clinton, contributed \$100,000 to McAuliffe's campaign, and does not appear to have given money to statewide candidates in the past.

Oak Hill resident Jack Xi Deng, who contributed \$25,000 to McAuliffe, also does not appear to be a regular donor in other Virginia races.

Arlington resident Thomas DePasquale, who has contributed to many Virginia Democrats over the years, gave \$35,000 to

the Moran campaign and \$10,000 to McAuliffe. Alexandria resident Frank Connor gave \$2,500 to Deeds before contributing \$20,100 to the McAuliffe campaign.

REGARDLESS of where McAuliffe's donations come from, his campaign said its ability to attract more money will make McAuliffe the strongest candidate to

take on McDonnell in the fall.

"The national Republican Party has kept its promise to throw the kitchen sink into this gubernatorial race. They are bringing in national Republicans like John McCain and Sarah Palin to raise money for Bob McDonnell. Terry is the only one who can compete with that," said Smith.

McAuliffe will not only be able to raise money for himself but also contribute to other Democrats, she added.

"I would look at the amount of support we were able to give Sharon Bulova and Ilyong Moon in recent Fairfax County elections," said Smith. He contributed more than \$16,000 to Bulova.

"All this focus on money, there has been a lot of overkill on it. All three of these candidates have raised a decent amount of money and showed that they can fundraise," said Scott Surovell, chair of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee.

"Terry McAuliffe would be on any list of the top 10 Democratic Party fundraisers."

— Dan Keyserling,
University of Virginia
Center for Politics

"The person with the most money does not always win."

— Cordel Faulk,
University of Virginia
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SPORTS

Commanders Compete At Junior Swim Olympics

The Herndon Commanders Swim Team had 24 of its swimmers participate at the March 19-22 Junior Olympics at the Prince Georges Sport and Learning Complex in Landover, Md. The team placed 11th overall, with the boys placing sixth and the girls 15th.

Herndon set 12 team records at the meet and placed in the top eight in 12 events. Herndon's Christian Ginieczki was the high point winner for the 10-under boys by placing first in four events: 50-yard butterfly (new team record 29.77), 100 butterfly, 50 backstroke (new team record 31.84) and 100 backstroke. He also placed second in

the 100 individual medley (new team record 1:09.46) and third in the 200 individual medley.

Conor Cudahy (13-14 boys) placed fifth in the 500 freestyle (new team record 5:01.81) and eighth in the 200 backstroke (new team record 2:05.49).

Other good outings for Herndon came from Karly Ginieczki (11-12 girls), Samantha Kenis (11-12 girls), Blair Mason (13-14 boys), Jonathan Nguyen (13-14 boys) and Devin McNulty (9-10 boys), who was fifth in the 50 breaststroke with a new team record 36.87.

Commanders swimmers also participated in the Potomac Valley Swim Senior Championships March 12-15 at the

George Mason University Aquatic and Fitness Center in Fairfax. The team placed 13th overall with the girls placing ninth and the boys placing 14th. Team records at that meet were set by Sarah Kenis (15-18 girls) in the 100 breaststroke and the 200 individual medley, and Mark Rodakowski (15-18 boys) in the 200 breaststroke.

The Commanders Swim Team is a part of the Town of Herndon Parks and Recreation Department. The Department is nationally accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies and is a three-time National Gold Medal Award winner for excellence in park and recreation management.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS



PHOTO COURTESY/RBYBL

The Reston Youth Basketball League (RYBL) 10U Boys All-Star basketball team won the annual Turnpike Invitational Tournament on March 29. Coached by James Byrne and Jimmy Byrne, the boys defeated teams from the Chantilly Youth Association (CYA) and South County Youth Association to reach the finals. In the title game, Reston defeated the Chantilly No. 2 team, 38-36. Pictured are, bottom row, from left, are: Max Kid, Sam Kid, Marvin Grant, Friseur SIMMs and Tie Bailer. In the back row, from left, are: Robert Harris, John Hughes, Coach Byrne, Kent Morrison, Luca Marisa, Coach Byrne and Jordan Taylor.



Kyra Glenn of the Herndon Reston Youth Lacrosse U9 red team fires a shot on goal in the local team's recent game against Algonkian. Check out the HRYL weekly report at connectionnewspapers.com and go to Reston or Herndon sports.

Longtime **Herndon High baseball coach Al McCullock**, following 30 years with the Hornets, has decided to step down at the conclusion of the current spring season. To help commemorate coach McCullock's last season at the school, the Herndon High Baseball Parents Club is organizing a picnic and alumni game to be played on Saturday, May 9 at 1 p.m. at the Herndon High ball field. It's an open invitation to all former players to come and play (or just watch) and make contact with old teammates. McCullock would love to see all his former players on-hand to celebrate this memorable occasion. Lunch will be served and T-Shirts honoring McCullock will be on sale for \$10. Make checks out to the HHS Parent Baseball Club. Payment will be collected on game day. RSVP to Jon Simpson at jonansimpson@aol.com with the following infor-

mation: name and e-mail address; T-shirt size (adult small, medium, large, X-large, XX-large); choice of sub sandwich (turkey, Italian cold cut, veggie, mozzarella cheese and red peppers); orders for any additional box lunches (\$7 per lunch).

Also, a tribute book is being put together for the coach. Any memories, quotes, copies of candid photos, etc., that can be contributed will be appreciated. Send a note to McCullock for the book to Jonansimpson@aol.com.

To make this alumni game a success, help is needed. The current parents club has contact information for only a few former players. Please reach out to former Herndon High baseball players and let them know of this upcoming event.

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 on Saturday, May 23 at 9 a.m. Check-in for the 1- and 2-mile races will begin on 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, please visit www.restonmasters.org, or e-mail the registrar at lynhzlwd@usms.org.

Reston Youth Association is sponsoring a winter cheerleading clinic. The registration fee is \$35. Practices are through May 21, Monday and Thursday, 6-7:30 p.m. at Langston Hughes Middle School in Reston. Invite a friend and learn new skills while getting in shape for the fall season. For more information, contact Traci Waller at TraciWaller@aol.com, or call 703-391-0206.

The Herndon High School Dance Team is hosting tryouts for all interested rising ninth graders (current eighth graders) through rising seniors on May 13, 14, 15, 18 and 19 from 3-5 p.m. at Herndon High School. An interest meeting takes place April 30 at 2:45 p.m., in the Herndon High Lecture Hall, near the Main Office. The team performs dance routines for home football games, basketball games and competitions in the categories of pom and hip hop. Dance team begins practice during the summer to prepare for camp and continues through February. Physicals (dated after May 1, 2009) are required. Find forms online at www.fcps.edu/HerndonHS. For more information, contact head coach Rachele Aiken at rachnjas@yahoo.com or call 703-582-5960.

South Lakes is looking to

fill the following coaching vacancies: varsity field hockey coach and dance team coach. All interested applicants may send their resumes to Linda.Jones@fcps.edu or fax them to her at 703-715-4688.

The 2009 South Lakes High School Summer Camp program will offer the following camps: All Sports Camps (session 1 - June 29-July 2; session 2 - July 27-31); Virginia Tech Volleyball Camp (June 26-27); Girl's Basketball Camps (session 1 - July 6-10; session 2 - July 13-17); Boy's Basketball Camps (session 1 - June 22-26; session 2 - June 29-July 2; session 3 - July 20-24); Girl's and Boy's Volleyball Camp (July 20-24). All camps are sponsored by the South Lakes High Athletic Booster Club. For more information on the camps or to register, go to www.SouthLakesAthletics.org.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE II

together. Tickets range from \$15-\$18 and can be purchased by calling 703-476-4500, visiting www.rcp-tix.com or by stopping by the box office.

SUNDAY/MAY 10

Handbell Concert. 3 p.m., Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. The Virginia Handbell Consort, a group comprised of musicians performing on more than five octaves of handbells, will perform. \$15/adults, \$10/students, free/children under 9. Call 703-437-1883 to purchase tickets.

Great Falls/Topaz Spring Equestrian Vaulting Fest. 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 W. Ox Road, Herndon. Enjoy Mother's Day weekend watching equestrian vaulting. Free. Call 301-317-7964 or visit www.greatfallsvaulters.weebly.com.

"Laughing Stock." 2:30 p.m., CenterStage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Reston Community Players present "Laughing Stock," an affectionate behind-the-scenes look at what holds a theatre company together. Tickets range from \$15-\$18 and can be purchased by calling 703-476-4500, visiting www.rcp-tix.com or by stopping by the box office.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 13

Live Improv. 9:30 p.m., Paolo's Ristorante, Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Interactive improv games with audience suggestions and participation in the style of the television show "Who's Line is it Anyway?" will be played. Free. Call 703-318-8920 or visit www.paolos.com.

"Annie Jr." 7 p.m., Terraset Elementary School, 11411 Ridge Heights Road, Reston. The Terraset Elementary School Chorus will present "Annie Jr." Free; good will donations accepted. Call 703-390-5600.

Book Discussion. 10:30 a.m., Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Call 703-689-2700 for the title.

Spanish Chats. 7 p.m., Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. An informal refresher for adults who want to practice Spanish. Free. Call 703-689-2700.

FRIDAY/MAY 15

"Silver Ring Thing." 7-9 p.m., Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon. The "Silver Ring Thing" is a high-tech, high-energy performance that educates teens about the benefits of remaining sexually abstinent until marriage. Event is open to junior and senior high students. Go to www.florisumc.org or contact Tim Ward at 703-793-0026 or tward@florisumc.org to register.

Swing Dance. 8:30 p.m.-12 a.m., Hilton Washington Dulles Airport Hotel, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon. Join six-time Virginia State Open Champions Tom Koerner and Debra Sternberg for a night of swing dancing to Western Bop. A beginner swing lesson will be offered from 8:30-9 p.m. and the dance will run 9 p.m.-12 a.m. \$15/person. Call 703-359-9882 or visit www.gottaswing.com.

"Laughing Stock." 8 p.m., CenterStage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Reston Community Players present "Laughing Stock," an affectionate behind-the-scenes look at what holds a theatre company together. Tickets range from \$15-\$18 and can be purchased by calling 703-476-4500, visiting www.rcp-tix.com or by stopping by the box office.



Pictured with author Valerie Tripp are Author's Tea guests with their American Girl dolls, from the left, Lauren Ciccone, Holly Wikiera, Grace Cutsinger, Valerie Tripp, Rebecca Cutsinger, Caroline Ciccone and Amy Wikiera.

Author's Tea Supports Literacy Drive

The Assistance League of Northern Virginia hosted an Author's Tea featuring Valerie Tripp, author of more than 30 American Girl books, on April 19 in Reston. Funds raised by the Tea will support the Assistance League's local Operation School Bell programs. Operation School Bell aims to improve literacy

skills for local, underachieving elementary students through volunteer services in Northern Virginia.

To learn about Assistance League of Northern Virginia visit the chapter Web site, www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org, or contact the chapter at ALNorthernVA@yahoo.com.

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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-Werner Heisenberg

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

The value of our enjoyment of life, the property values of our homes, what makes Reston a special place is the preservation of our open green spaces. I call upon the RA to fulfill its obligations and protect the open green spaces that still remain.

Angie Loving, Reston

Brown's Chapel is simply not an appropriate location for a rec center. The RA and RCC need to find a better location to handle the building, parking, and traffic associated with a rec center than a beautiful park in a residential neighborhood.

Not a Good Time For Rec Center

To the Editor:

Fairfax County would like to build another recreation center. Because of budget short-fall issues, Fairfax County is making tough cuts in all aspects of community services (school, police etc). Obviously it is not a good time to look at using county land and county funds to build a recreation center.

This is where the Reston Association (RA) and the Reston Community Center (RCC) come in. Residents of Reston have asked for indoor tennis and indoor swimming for years. Rather than address those needs with a facility right-sized for Reston, our RA Board of Directors has planned a \$65 million dollar (before land costs and debt service) health club and they are giving away a beautiful 22-acre park to do it.

Last year, RCC and RA appointed a task force who hired Brailsford and Dunlavey, a big league consulting company, and land planners to draw the concept plans and advise them on how to meet the opposition that a project of this size would certainly create, and they did all this without the community input. They even named the building last march and discussed the programs offered (all the synchronized swim-

ming fans in Reston will be happy to know you are included) and fees structures in details (RCC's April meeting minutes). And they did all of this without our knowledge and consent. If it wasn't so outrageous and egregious, it would be laughable.

This is a "rocket docket" approach where the study has been completed before the concept is presented to the community. It is also a set-up to push it through Reston Association and get it to Fairfax County who will rubber stamp it through and why wouldn't they? They are getting the land (Brown's Chapel park land, reasonable estimate for its commercial value would be \$40 million, but its economic value is priceless because it's irreplaceable) for free from RA, the building (\$65 million) of their dreams paid for by Small Tax District 5 (primarily Reston residents) and are even covered on their operating losses (already projected at \$1 million per year) courtesy of Small Tax District 5.

Reston, wake up. You are being taken to the cleaners and paying the cab fare.

Fairfax County can't afford to build a county recreation center at this time but Reston can?

Edy Greenberg, Reston

Citizens Need Planning Tools

To the Editor:

With regard to updating Reston's Master Plan and Comprehensive Plan, Fairfax County promised Reston a "Land Use College" in early spring 2009. By attending the Land Use College, citizens could familiarize themselves with the concepts and terminology of land use planning, to participate in the update activities. April came and went. Now June is supposed to be the date. How many postponements before people lose interest? And how good is June, when families go on vacation? We understand that county staff, who will present the Land Use College, may be overworked. But Reston has legitimate needs, which should not be postponed again and again.

Compare the Town of Herndon, which has its own Planning Commission and a master planning process. Herndon held a Planning

Seminar on April 17 and 18 to educate its elected and appointed officials, citizens and business owners about upcoming planning needs. In addition, one Herndon councilman provides a public service called the Cyber Advisory Committee whose Web site offers up-to-date planning information with titles like "Land Use Master Planning" and "General Development History." Perhaps Fairfax County should ask to borrow Herndon's materials?

We hope that Supervisor Catherine Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) will move now to set a date for either a seminar or Land Use College as promised, and will set the date/time so as to ensure the broadest citizen participation possible.

Marion Stillson

President, Reston Citizens Association

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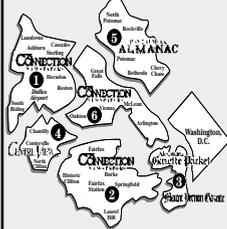
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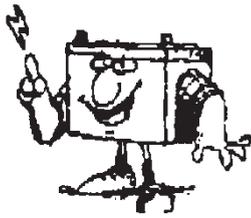
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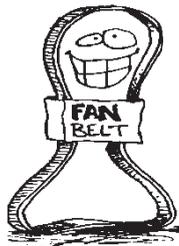
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