

Helping Build Houses

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Market Presents Affordable Opportunities

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Anna Dykhoff and Anne Oti nail down hurricane straps to a Habitat house. During the week of June 22, the Herndon Girl Scouts helped build affordable homes for families in need in Florida.

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COUNTY LINES

Toll Increase Supports Metrorail Extension

Toll revenue will be used to finance 52 percent of Metrorail Extension.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Reston resident Brian D'Silva said fee increases are unlikely to affect his use of the Dulles Toll Road, which stretches 12 miles from the northwestern edge of Fairfax County to the Capital Beltway.

The federal government employee receives a subsidy that already helps offset the cost of his commute to downtown Washington, D.C. Usually, he takes the toll road's express bus service to and from the West Falls Church Metro station in any case so he doesn't pay the toll to get to work every day.

For all of his other toll road trips, D'Silva is supportive of a higher fee if it helps in getting the 22-mile Metrorail extension to Dulles International Airport and beyond in Loudoun County.

"If that is what it takes to get Metro out here, that is what it takes. We want to be sure Metro actually comes out here in the next three years," said D'Silva, who thinks the subway extension would help with local traffic congestion.

OVER THE NEXT three years, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority appears likely to raise rates on the Dulles Toll Road from 75 cents to \$1.50 at the main gate and 50 cents to 75 cents at the ramp gates.

At the main gate, the fees are likely to go up incrementally, increasing 25 cents each year in 2010, 2011 and 2012. The 25-cent price jump at the ramp gates is likely to be implemented in 2010, said airport authority officials.

The airports authority board of directors will take a vote on the new tolls in November but is leaning heavily toward this short-term fee structure, which the authority officials shared with the Dulles Corridor Advisory Committee June 23.

The organization will seek public comment on the new rates during hearings scheduled for later this summer. Residents will also be able to comment on the toll increase vote through the airports authority's Web site and other means through the end of October.



PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

Drivers on the toll road are likely to see a 75 cent increase at the main gate and 25 cent increase at the ramp gates on the Dulles Toll Road over the next three years.

Who Is Paying For What?

The following is a break down of where Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority is getting the money to finance the construction of the Metrorail extension to Dulles International Airport and Loudoun County. The airports authority provided the information for a June 23 meeting with the Dulles Corridor Advisory Committee.

Source	Amount of Money Contributed	Percentage of Total Cost Covered
Dulles Toll Road Users	\$2.77 billion	52.6
Federal Government	\$900 million	17.1
Fairfax County*	\$848 million	16.1
Commonwealth of Virginia	\$275 million	5.2
Loudoun County	\$252 million	4.8
Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority	\$215 million	4.1
TOTAL	\$5.26 billion	100

* Nearly all of the money provided by Fairfax County for the Metrorail extension came from a special tax exacted on landowners who own property around the proposed rail line and stand to benefit financially from the extension.

"The tolls will make some people unhappy. Some people are already unhappy."

— Doug Koelemay, Common

THE PROPOSED RATES would increase the average toll for a vehicle from 60 cents in 2009 to \$1.10 in 2012 and provide more money to help finance the Metrorail extension to Dulles International Airport and Loudoun County, according to Jim Taylor, the airports authority's financial consultant.

Overall, toll road revenue is expected to pay for 52.6 percent of the \$5.26 billion rail project. In

order to produce enough revenue to support the Metrorail construction debt, toll roads rates will have to increase no matter what.

According to an airports authority presentation, the gross toll road revenue will have to rise from \$65 million in 2008 to \$87 million in 2010 and \$220 million in 2020 to support the Dulles Metrorail project.

"The tolls will make some people unhappy. Some people are

already unhappy but we have to keep our eye on the prize," said Douglas Koelemay, a member of the Commonwealth Transportation Board, which oversees some of Virginia's transportation spending. Koelemay is also a member of the Dulles Corridor Advisory Committee.

Over the next three years, the toll increases are not significant enough that the airports authority expects people to look for alternative routes into the city center, said Taylor.

"It is below a level where you would start to see riders drop away," he said.

But toll road revenue has already declined slightly since 2006, in part because of a previous rate increase, according to the airports authority presentation.

Despite the initial drop off, the toll road revenue has stayed stable over the past three years, even in the midst of national economic downturn and an increase in gas prices. Taylor said this speaks to the strength of the toll road's revenue capacity because it indicates that several people will continue to use the road during financially tough times.

STILL, the two elected officials on the Dulles Corridor Advisory Committee appeared uncomfortable with the level of funding Dulles Toll Road users were being asked to provide for the Metrorail extension.

"Fairfax and Loudoun County will continue to press for more federal funding. I think the state needs to help out more too. Virginia stands to gain a lot from the economic development this project will generate," said Scott York (I), Loudoun County Board of Supervisors chairman.

Under the current payment structure for the rail extension, the federal government has provided \$900 million, approximately 17.1 percent of the project's funding, and Virginia has provided \$275 million, approximately 5.2 percent of the project's funding.

"There is federal funding for phase 1 [which extends to Reston] but for phase 2 [which extends to Loudoun], there is no federal funding," said Sharon Bulova (D-At-large), Fairfax County chairman.

Should the project receive more federal funding, Bulova would want to revisit the toll increases and see if they could be tempered, she said.

By taxing the landowners who stand to benefit from the rail extension, Fairfax County has raised \$848 million, covering about 16.1 percent of the Dulles rail cost.

Loudoun County has chipped in \$252 million, about 4.8 percent of the cost.

Phase 1 of the project, which terminates in Reston and runs through Tysons Corner, costs \$2.75 billion. Phase 2, which extends to the Dulles airport and Loudoun, is estimated to cost \$2.5 billion.

Overall, the toll road is expected to bring in \$2.8 billion for both parts of the project, according to the airports authority.

SOME TOLL ROAD users are upset about bearing the brunt of the Dulles rail construction costs.

"The majority of the toll road revenue will be used for non-toll road purposes. That amounts to a tax that has to be paid with after-taxes money," said Rob Whitfield, a Reston resident who is troubled by the financing of the Metrorail extension.

Whitfield said it is unfair that commuters who will be coming into Tysons Corner from the east or those who would get on the train at Metro stations in McLean and Vienna do not have to pay for the cost of the subway construction. Due to where they live, they do not have to use the toll road regularly but will still benefit from the project, he said.

Landowners in Tysons Corner, who would benefit financially from the four new Metro stations, and the federal government, whose employees and contractors would use the train to get to work, should also contribute more money, he said.

"Can you think of anywhere else in the United States where such a relatively small group of people have to pay such a huge burden for a public project like this?" said Whitfield.

The Fairfax County supervisors are also concerned about the cost overruns that could occur on the Dulles Metrorail project and who would be asked to pay for them. In June, they asked the Fairfax County auditor to keep an eye on project change orders and other aspects of the Dulles Rail project that might increase the cost.

With the federal and state funding contributions currently capped, it is unclear where the extra money would come from should the Metro project go over budget. Some supervisors fear that Fairfax County taxpayers, not just landowners who stand to benefit from the project, would have to provide the extra financial assistance. But Dulles toll road users could also be asked to contribute more as well, should the project's costs escalate.



Children play in the water as families hold cookouts at Lake Fairfax Park on Independence Day.

Fun Fourth on the Field

Area residents celebrate Independence Day.

BY CHRISTIAN EUBANK
THE CONNECTION

Across Reston and Herndon, area residents celebrated America's independence with a full day of family activities and fun.

At 7 a.m., cars descended on Lake Fairfax Park as families began a day of Fourth of July cookouts. Children could enjoy themselves at a play area, complete with moon bounces, or could purchase tickets for the Water Mine, which was open from 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

At Reston Town Center, the Upper East



The audience gathers before the performance at the Fourth of July event held near the Herndon Community Center.

Side Big Band performed as part of the Concerts on the Town Summer series and invited audience members to dance in front of the stage.

In Herndon, the festivities began at 6:30 p.m. with an outside celebration at Bready

PHOTOS BY CHRISTIAN EUBANK/THE CONNECTION

Park. Activities included bingo, crafts, children's rides, a relay and a performance by Javier Mendoza.

The day's celebrations ended spectacularly with late-night firework displays.

—CHRISTIAN EUBANK



The Upper East Side Big Band invites spectators to dance at the front of the stage at the Reston Town Center Pavilion.



Children wait in line for rides at the Fourth of July celebration near the Herndon Community Center.

Bone Marrow Donor Drive In Reston

Herndon-raised Jonathan Haupt, 32, is in urgent need of transplant.

One marrow drives will take place in Reston on Saturday, July 11 and Sunday, July 12 in honor of Jonathan Haupt, 32, a life-long Washington, D.C.-area resident who was recently diagnosed with acute myelogenous leukemia (AML), a rare and aggressive blood cancer that affects only 5 percent of leukemia patients. Haupt is in urgent need of a bone marrow transplant, but no donor matches are available currently in the existing bone marrow registries. His friends and family launched Team Haupt (www.teamhaupt.org) to find a donor and are partnering with DKMS, the world's largest bone marrow donor center, to host drives throughout the country during the month of July. Area residents are invited to attend one of two drives in Reston to help Haupt or another patient like him.

Saturday, July 11 – Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., during the Reston Festival, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Sunday, July 12 – Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, 1441 Wiehle Ave., Reston, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

"We are incredibly hopeful that community turnout for the drives will be tremendous and we will find Jonathan the donor he desperately needs," said Rabbi Robert Nosanchuk of the Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation (NVHC) in Reston.

To register to become a bone marrow donor, you must be in good general health and between the ages of 18 and 55 in order to be eligible. When you register with DKMS, you will be also listed on the national Be The Match registry and can be found as a donor match for any patient in need of a bone marrow transplant.

"We don't have time to wait for a miracle. We have to enable a miracle to happen by getting as many people to register as possible," said Cliff Haupt, Jonathan's father and Oak Hill resident who is organizing the two drives in Reston.

Jonathan Haupt was raised in Herndon and is a 1994 graduate of Oakton High School. An athlete and outdoors lover, he attended Goucher College in Baltimore, Md. where he played varsity lacrosse. He is a member of the Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation and currently resides in Silver Spring, Md. with his wife, Courtney.

As a non-profit organization, DKMS relies on the generosity of individuals to help finance the \$65 cost DKMS pays to tissue type each bone marrow donor who registers. Donations are voluntary. One hundred percent of all donations will be used to register donors and add them on the national Be The Match Registry.

To learn more about how to help Haupt and to find donor drives, visit www.teamhaupt.org. To register online, visit www.dkmsamericas.org.

Bank Robbery in the Herndon Area

Police are investigating a bank robbery at the PNC Bank, located at 13490 Coppermine Road. On Wednesday, July 1, around 2:47 p.m., a man reportedly entered the bank with a handgun, approached two tellers and announced the robbery. The two women complied and gave the suspect an undisclosed amount of money. The suspect fled from the bank in a newer-model, silver or gray-colored Nissan sedan. The victims did not require medical treatment.

The suspect was described as a man, 20 to 30. He was approximately 5 feet 8 inches to 6 feet tall. He was wearing a blue hoodie with light-colored sleeves, dark-colored pants and a camouflage hat. He had a clear, plastic mask over 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

.00message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

Used Bike Collection in Herndon July 19

The Herndon Friends Meeting (Quakers) is sponsoring its 14th annual Used Bike Collection on Sunday, July 19, from 12-3 p.m. at the Friends Meetinghouse on the corner of Spring and Locust streets in Herndon (the old Fortnightly Library building). The collection will take place rain or shine.

Since 1996, Herndon Friends have processed over 2,000 bikes on behalf of Pedals For Progress and its successor, Bikes For The World (BfW), making Herndon Friends one of the largest collection points for BfW in the entire Washington area.

BfW, headed by Arlington-based organizer Keith Oberg, is a project of the non-profit Washington Area Bicyclists Association. BfW's central mission remains to collect unwanted bicycles and related material in the United States and deliver it at low cost to community development programs assisting the poor in developing countries.

BfW is on target to match last year's record-setting bike collections. So far in 2009 BfW has collected nearly 3,000 bikes. Both adult and children's bikes will be accepted on July 19. Mountain and hybrid bikes are especially appreciated. Wheelchairs and sewing machines along with parts, accessories and tools will also be accepted.

Herndon Friends ask for a \$10 financial contribution along with the bikes to defray shipping costs. All material and financial contributions to PFP are tax deductible. Receipts will be available for all contributions.

Northwest FCU Hosts Free Home Buying Seminar

Northwest Federal Credit Union (NWFCU) will host a free home buyers seminar on Saturday, July 18, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at its Herndon Branch, 200 Spring St.

Developed in response to increased interest and inquiries about how to find a Realtor and obtain financing in today's market, this seminar focuses on how to prepare for home ownership, from selecting a real estate professional to understanding contract terms; avoid financial pitfalls; choosing the best financing option; and how to earn a cash rebate on a home purchase.

"In a turbulent market, potential home buyers have so many questions: 'Is this a buyer's market?', 'Is now the right time to buy?', 'What type of financing is best for me?' They are all critical questions," said Erin Krause, NWFCU's mortgage lending manager.

"We'd like to help educate potential homeowners to make their home buying experience a positive one, demystifying misconceptions and hopefully alleviating some of the stress involved."

While this event is free, advance registration is required. For more information, directions or to register, visit www.nwfcu.org and search "Seminars", or call 703-659-0695.

NEWS

Herndon Girl Scouts Help Build Houses in Florida

Ten teens participate in Collegiate Challenge.

Ten teen Girl Scouts and three adult advisors from Herndon's Troop 1884 of the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital traveled to Collier County, Fla. during summer break to build houses with Habitat for Humanity. The youth volunteers were participants of Collegiate Challenge, a Habitat for Humanity program that provides year-round opportunities for youth to use their vacations to help build homes.

During the week of June 22, the Herndon Girl Scouts helped build simple, decent and affordable homes for families in need. They worked in the agricultural community of Immokalee, Fla., where they stayed in a recently completed Habitat home next door to the build site. "The most inspiring part about this trip was living in the same neighborhood as the people we were volunteering for and seeing all the children playing outside their beautiful houses," said troop member Amanda Youmans.

Also participating in the trip were Emily Costigan, Genevieve Dudzinsky, Anna Dykhoff, Sonya Frostad, Lauren Koss, Christine Lee, Anne Oti, Lindsey Tagg and Clair Vogel. Adults accompanying the girls included troop advisors Sharon Dykhoff and Chelle Youmans and troop volunteer Robin Ward Dudzinsky.

THE SCOUTS' TASKS included nailing metal hurricane straps to the frame of a house and painting the interiors of homes undergoing renovation for new occupants. The girls sometimes worked alongside future residents who were fulfilling the "sweat equity" for their homes. "I know when hurricane season comes along, I will be watching to make sure our house stays up and safe," said Oti.

"What I loved the most about the work experience was nailing on the hurricane straps and knowing that the only thing taking flight in that house would be the hopes and dreams of the future inhabitants," said Tagg.

"While many teens head to the pools or shopping malls as soon



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Herndon Girl Scout Troop 1884 members are, back row, from left, Sonya Frostad, Christine Lee, Amanda Youmans, Lindsey Tagg, Emily Costigan, Anne Oti, Genevieve Dudzinsky and Clair Vogel; and, front, Lauren Koss and Anna Dykhoff.



Christine Lee helps to paint a Habitat house under renovation.

as school is out, these young ladies chose to serve needy families in south Florida," said Sharon Dykhoff. "I was so privileged to volunteer with them. They worked in hot weather and strenuous circumstances, but they always had positive attitudes and a great team spirit."

"What I really liked about this trip was that at the same time we were helping people in need, we kind of became a family," said Dudzinsky.

"The heat, fire ants and daily rain showers were without a doubt the hardest things about the experience, but when considering what I'm doing to help a family, I would take those a thousand times over," said Costigan said,

The scouts raised money all year to provide travel funds for their trip, including bake sales, a car wash, a pancake breakfast, a yard sale, scout workshops and, of course, selling Girl Scout cookies. Local organizations and churches supported their efforts, including

Kingston Chase Homeowners Association, Clearview Elementary School, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Herndon United Methodist Church, St. Thomas a Becket Catholic Church, and various local businesses including Safeway, Giant, Shoppers Food Warehouse, and Great Harvest Bread Co.

"We worked together for a year to go to Immokalee," said Frostad, "and that allowed me to get to know everyone. But during the 12 days I spent with Troop 1884, I can say I have grown to love and appreciate their individual talents more. ... I feel proud to participate in the Habitat for Humanity trip and happy I could help people who needed it."

THIS YEAR marks the 20th anniversary of the Collegiate Challenge program, and more than 12,000 students will travel to 200 locations across the United States to build houses through the program. Throughout its 20-year history, more than 166,000 students have participated in Collegiate Challenge, raising more than \$15.5 million. This year alone, Collegiate Challenge participants will contribute \$1.8 million.

"Youth who choose to volunteer and build houses with Habitat for Humanity during their break are making a powerful statement about the role they want to play in helping families move into affordable housing," said Desiree Adaway, Habitat's senior director of Volunteer Mobilization. "We are grateful that for the past 20 years, youth have united to eliminate poverty housing across the United States through the Collegiate Challenge program."

Destination Tanzania

Two local Girl Scouts are planning for their last big trip as scouts.

Adrienne Doebrich and Sarah Burns, who are going to be sophomores at Thomas Jefferson and South Lakes high schools, are members of Girl Scout Troop 4106 and are planning for their last big trip while in Girl Scouts. They are studying philanthropy and substantial travel as they raise money for their trip to Tanzania during the summer of 2010.

These two girls have been in Girl Scouts for 10 years and have earned their Bronze and Silver Awards. This past May, they attended an awards ceremony for their Silver Trefoil Award. This award is unique to the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital. It is given to girls that volunteer 100 hours of service for Girl Scouts, the government, service to and direct

experience with an international group that benefits the local community.

During the 10 years, while in scouts, the girls raised money to fund their trips to the Baltimore aquarium and spent the night on a submarine and flew to Savannah, Ga. to visit Juliet Low's birthplace. Last summer, they went to Mexico and stayed at Our Cabana, one of the World Wide Girl Scout Centers. Their next and last trip is planned for Africa.

Doebrich and Burns are working closely with Thomson Safaris located in Massachusetts. This travel group supports sustainable and responsible tourism that helps Tanzania. Thomson Safaris have received the Tanzania Tourist Board Humanitarian Award. This award was created to acknowledge tour operators who consistently support community-based projects and humanitarian efforts within Tanzania.

Along with their regular studies and life as high school students, these girls are learning about Tanzania and earning money for their trip. Residents of the Herndon/



CONTRIBUTED

Adrienne Doebrich and Sarah Burns, rising sophomores at Thomas Jefferson and South Lakes high schools, are planning for their trip to Tanzania.

Reston community should look for them helping out at local festivals, face painting, selling baked goods or selling Girl Scout cookies. To help to support their efforts, send all correspondence to Sharon Gleason, director of develop-

ment, Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital, Van Ness Center, 4301 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Suite M-2, Washington, D.C. 20008. Contact: Carol Burns, GS Leader, 703-715-8532, bikerburns@cox.net.

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OPINION

No Texting While Driving

Virginia's new law banning drivers from texting while driving went into effect on July 1, and no one can argue that anyone should be behind the wheel of a moving car while they type or read information on a cell phone.

It's clear, given the state of transportation funding in Virginia (there is none) that we can all expect to be spending more time in traffic.

My new commute into Old Town Alexandria includes traversing almost the entire length of the George Washington Memorial Parkway. (Alternatively, I can traverse nearly the entire length of the Beltway between the American Legion and Woodrow Wilson bridges.)

The GW Parkway is a beautiful drive, with views of the Potomac River; the road is still lined with forests, and a variety of birds sail overhead.

Over the course of a week, the trip invariably includes some time at a standstill, usually for one of several road improvement sites, at the "hump-back" bridge, and at Spout Run,

to name two.

Most commutes via auto in Northern Virginia probably include periods of standing still each week.

For the sake of productivity, it might make sense to amend Virginia's new anti-texting-while-driving law slightly for drivers actually stopped in traffic. Drivers over 21 who are in cars that are actually standing still (and in "park") should be allowed to use their phones

EDITORIALS

for texting or checking email or even looking up traffic cameras to see what the hold up is.

New Law on Drunk Driving

Also beginning on July 1, 2009, drivers who have been convicted of driving under the influence in Virginia twice within a 10-year period are required to use ignition interlock devices for a minimum of six months.

This is an improvement over current Virginia law that mandates the same for drivers

twice convicted of driving drunk within five years.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving identifies ignition locks as an effective tool in the battle against drunk driving, with studies showing that they reduce repeat drunk driving offenses by 64 percent. The interlock device requires that a driver blow into the equivalent of a breathalyzer before the car will start.

The Washington Regional Alcohol Program cites statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: Drunk drivers killed in traffic crashes are eight times as likely to have a prior conviction than fatally injured sober drivers. People whom have been arrested for drunk driving are at greater risk for a future traffic fatality, and the risk increases with the number of drunk driving arrests.

In 2007, 378 people died in alcohol-related crashes in Virginia's roadways. Virginia recorded 28,787 convictions for driving under the influence in 2007.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

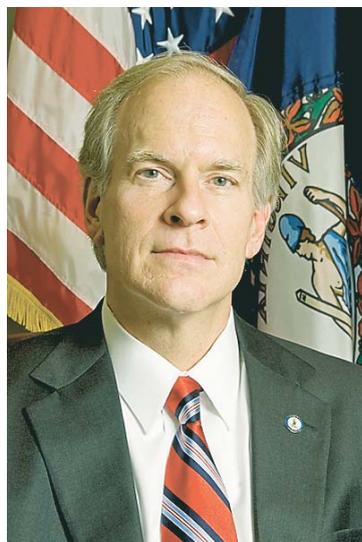
Fighting Foreclosures

BY BILL MIMS
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Our office is awarding \$50,000 for foreclosure relief counseling for Virginia families that are in danger of losing their homes to foreclosure. These grant funds are from a settlement in January 2009 with Countrywide Financial Corporation that addressed alleged deceptive acts and practices with Countrywide's mortgage activities in Virginia.

Under the court-approved settlement, \$50,000 was set aside for foreclosure education. This contribution will fund grants to non-profit counseling agencies, and is projected to benefit about 200 Virginia families facing foreclosure.

In this difficult economic climate, an unprecedented number



ALERT OF THE MONTH

of families are struggling to make ends meet. I am pleased that these funds from the Countrywide

settlement will provide a real benefit to Virginia families in danger of losing their homes to foreclosure.

The donation will supplement funds allocated by the Virginia Housing Development Authority and the Department of Housing and Community Development. VHDA will administer the grant program.

Our office advises Virginians to stay observant and cautious in order to avoid potential foreclosure relief scams. For example, recently some families have lost homes due to a false belief that the mortgage counselors they are working with are connected to the government, when in fact, that is not the case. It is recommended to work only with a certified housing counselor. To search for a certified housing counselor, and learn more about

laws and homeowners' rights, visit the Governor's foreclosure prevention Web site, www.virginiaforeclosureprevention.com.

Preventing foreclosure isn't achieved solely by the mortgage lenders or the counselors, but also by Virginians who decide to take control of their finances and reconcile potential issues, particularly staying in communication with lenders and managing spending responsibly.

Foreclosures can best be prevented when homeowners and lenders are aware of the problems and jointly seek solutions.

Consumer protection is an important statutory duty of the Office of the Attorney General, and our staff can help. In an age of increased consumer issues, we all must continue to be educated and vigilant.

LETTERS

Lower Assessments, Higher Tax Rates

To the Editor:

Earlier in the year, like many homeowners in Northern Virginia, I assumed that this year's real estate taxes for my home would be less than last year's. I read in the papers that assessments would be lowered. However, upon inquiry, I learnt from the Fairfax County Department of Taxation that although as-

sessments would be lower the tax rate would go up and I must wait for a notice in mail to know exactly how much I would have to pay in July and December.

July is upon us and I have not received the notice. I still do not know

my real estate tax liability or the tax rate for this year. I presume it would be significant, even

higher than last year because of the increase in the tax rate. More importantly, for many homeowners in the county whose homes are appraised at or above the median level, coming up with \$2,500 to \$3,000 as half yearly taxes in July will be a sudden financial hardship in these tough economic times. Several among them are out of jobs or reduced to

one family income, or seniors living on limited income. I wonder why they have not sent notices early in May or June enabling them to prepare for this payment thereby easing their financial burden.

Couldn't the county do at least this much for its law-abiding citizens?

Vijay Alsi
Vienna

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NEWS

Herndon Man Killed in Crash

Charges pending in Chantilly-area accident.

Robin Adnamateros, 51, of Picket Lane in Herndon, was killed in a single-vehicle crash on Lees Corner Road in Chantilly on Monday, June 29.

Around 4:30 p.m., the driver, a 56-year-old Chantilly man, was driving east near Centreville Road when he allegedly became distracted while looking at directions. The car, a 2007 Ford Taurus, drifted off the road and hit a tree

head-on.

Adnamateros was not wearing a seatbelt. Both men were taken to Inova Fairfax Hospital, and Adnamateros was pronounced dead shortly thereafter.

Police spokesman Shelley Broderick said her understanding was that the driver, who has not been identified, was wearing a seatbelt. His injuries were not life-threatening.

The crash is still under investigation, and police said charges were pending, although neither speed nor alcohol is thought to be a factor.

— MIKE DiCICCO

Herndon Man Charged With Embezzlement

CFO of government IT contractor arrested.

Richard Marksberry, 52, who lives north of the Town of Herndon on Bandy Run Road, was arrested on June 30 on charges of embezzlement and conducting an unlawful financial transaction.

According to court documents, Marksberry was hired as the chief financial officer of iGov, a systems integrator contracted by the federal government, in September 2007. During his employment there, he hired a company referred to in court documents as C.A. Home Services to do "some light construction and painting" in the iGov offices.

He then had iGov's accounts manager write checks to the home services company totaling \$32,300, but the checks were deposited into Marksberry's personal bank accounts at the United Bank of Virginia in Chantilly, the arresting officer wrote in his affidavit for a warrant to search the accounts.

When the owner of C.A. services asked to be paid, iGov showed him copies of the checks that had been written, but the owner had not received them. They had been marked for deposit into Marksberry's accounts, court documents say.

According to court records, Marksberry was charged with felony embezzlement and felony conducting of an unlawful transaction.

He was released on a bail of \$20,000 and is scheduled for a preliminary hearing on Aug. 5.

— MIKE DiCICCO

PROGRAM FOR KIDS

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CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/JULY 9

Glemania - Who Let the Dogs Out? 11 a.m. Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. www.lakeanneplaza.com.

DPT Cajun & Zydeco. 7 p.m. Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. www.lakeanneplaza.com.

Raptor Conservancy of Virginia. 2:30 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. See birds of prey and learn about their place in the wild. Age 6-12. 703-757-8560.

Artsplay. 2:30 p.m. at the Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Kofi Dennis leads through music, movement and fun. All ages. 703-437-8855.

Farmers' Market at Reston Town Center Pavilion. 3:30 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Discover locally grown fruits and vegetables, locally raised meats and poultry, and local foods from bread and cheese to salsa and sausage. 703-689-4699.

Putt Putt for Pink Tournament. 3 p.m. at Woody's Perils of the Lost Jungle, 11801 Leesburg Pike, Herndon. \$20 per person, includes golf, beer, prizes and more. Contact Sammi Shoemaker at biker4bcwalks@aol.com.

FRIDAY/JULY 10

Volunteer Orientation for Reston Festival, 6-7 p.m. at the Pavilion at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Pizza will be served. Volunteers needed 6:30 a.m.-8 p.m., July 11-12. Contact Ha Brock, RA, Volunteer coordinator at 703-435-7986 or habrock@reston.org.

SATURDAY/JULY 11

Reston Festival, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. at the Reston Town Center, 11921 Freedom Drive, Reston. The Grandsons will perform, plus fun, food, games, arts and crafts to celebrate Reston's 45th birthday. 703-435-7989 or www.restonfestival.com.

Reston Author Richard T. Stillson will be at Reston's Used Book Shop, 1623 Washington Plaza, Reston, 5-6 p.m. to sign and read from "Spreading the Word: A History of Information in the California Gold Rush." 703-435-9772.

Friends of Homeless Animals Canine Class Reunion, 3-9 p.m. at M&S Grill, Reston Town Center. All proceeds benefit the 120+ dogs and 50+ cats residing at FOHA. www.foha.org.

Friends of the RCC Bingo at the Reston Festival. 3:15 p.m. at the Reston Town Center, 11921 Freedom Drive, Reston. Proceeds benefit the Reston Community Center.

SCHOOL NOTES

Amanda Courtney of Herndon was named as a recipient of the Veritas Award at Oakcrest School in McLean. The Veritas Award is the school's merit award for current students and applying students entering the ninth grade at Oakcrest.

Zachary Bradt of Herndon was named to the spring 2009 dean's list at the State University of New York College at Plattsburgh, N.Y.

Miranda Smith of Herndon has been named to the spring 2009 dean's list at Roger Williams University in

Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 10 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association gives tips and strategies. 703-242-4020.

St. Timothy's Church Yard Sale, to benefit the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's Strides for MS. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 432 Van Buren Street, Herndon. 703-437-3790 or www.saint-timothys.org.

Vinifera's World Tour. 6-10 p.m. in the Westin Reston Heights, 11750 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. A monthly dinner series, to include regions such as Germany, Greece, Asia Pacific and Latin America. Reserve at 703-234-3550 or www.viniferabistro.com.

SUNDAY/JULY 12

Reston Festival, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. at the Reston Town Center, 11921 Freedom Drive, Reston. Chuck Brown will perform, plus fun, food, games, arts and crafts to celebrate Reston's 45th birthday. 703-435-7989 or www.restonfestival.com.

Artists' Reception. 2-4 p.m. at the Reston Art Gallery and Studios. 703-481-8156.

Friends of the RCC Bingo at the Reston Festival. 1:30 p.m. at the Reston Town Center, 11921 Freedom Drive, Reston. Proceeds benefit the Reston Community Center.

MONDAY/JULY 13

Monday Flicks. 11 a.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Bring a snack and enjoy a children's book on DVD. Call for titles. Age 3-5 w/adult. 703-757-8560.

Kaydee Puppets Presents. 2:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Family fun with the "Princess and the Pea" and the "Little Red Hen's Wacky Week." All ages. 703-242-4020.

TUESDAY/JULY 14

Flute Sweets & Tickletoons in Little Kids Little Songs. 11 a.m. Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. www.lakeanneplaza.com.

Kaydee Puppets Presents. 10:30 a.m. at the Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Family fun with the "Princess and the Pea" and the "Little Red Hen's Wacky Week." All ages. 703-437-8855.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 15

The One-Man Band. 2:30 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Clap and sing along as Peter McCarty plays all your favorite instruments. All ages. 703-757-8560.

Book Discussion. 7 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call for title. Adults. 703-757-8560.

English Conversation Group. 10 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. English

Bristol, R.I.

Eileen D. Foley of Herndon is participating in a summer research project at Bucknell University of Lewisburg, Pa. Foley's research, "The impact of gap junctions on synchronization capabilities in networks of neurons," is being conducted with Bucknell biomedical engineering professor Joseph Tranquillo. Foley is the daughter of Thomas and Linda Foley of Herndon, and a graduate of Chantilly H.S.

George David Zeile of Herndon was awarded a bachelor of arts in phi-

losophy from Denison University of Granville, Ohio. Zeile received the Heritage Scholarship and a Young Summer Scholar fellowship.

Oak Hill residents Amelia Van Vlack and Elizabeth Bodi have been named to the spring 2009 president's list at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg.

THURSDAY/JULY 16

Dragonfly Class: An Introduction. 7:30 p.m. RA Central Services Facility, 12250 Sunset Hills Road. Guest naturalist Kevin Munroe of the Fairfax County Park Authority will focus on basic identification, natural history and conservation of local dragonflies.

Through a combination of handouts, lecture and a slide show of photos taken in Virginia, learn how to identify Reston's common dragonflies, and get a basic introduction to their behavior and natural history. Free to participants in the Reston Dragonfly Count on Saturday/July 19. 703-435-7986 or habrock@reston.org.

Turley the Magician. 11 a.m. Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. www.lakeanneplaza.com.

Sol Y Rumba Hot Latin Sounds. 7 p.m. Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. www.lakeanneplaza.com.

Friends' Market at Reston Town Center Pavilion. 3:30 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Locally grown fruits and vegetables, locally raised meats and poultry, bread and cheese, salsa and sausage. 703-689-4699.

FRIDAY/JULY 17

Family Date Night at Lake Anne. 6:30-9 p.m. at Lake Anne Plaza. Live entertainment, chaperoned games, prizes, free hot dogs and drinks for children.

SATURDAY/JULY 18

Lake Anne Regatta. 10 a.m. Radio controlled model yacht races throughout the day. www.asburnmymc.info/Ashburn_Model_Yachting/Welcome.html

Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 10 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association gives tips and strategies. 703-242-4020.

SUNDAY/JULY 19

Dragonfly Count. 9:45 a.m.-3:45 p.m. at the RA Central Services Facility, 12250 Sunset Hills Road. Annual dragonfly count throughout Reston's natural areas. Meet local dragonfly experts, learn tips on identification and help obtain important information on dragonflies. 703-435-7986 or habrock@reston.org.

MONDAY/JULY 20

Fun on the Farm Storytime. 11 a.m. at the Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Stories and songs celebrating farm animals. Age

FAITH NOTES

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

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church Community Vacation Bible School, from 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. from July 13-17. For ages 2 to rising 6th graders. \$25 per child, with a maximum cost of \$65 per family. Registration forms available at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 432 Van Buren Street in Herndon. Liz Griffith at 703-318-6777 or lizgriff@yahoo.com, or Lydia Gough at 703-318-0109 or goughsva@verizon.net

Trinity Presbyterian Church 'Discovery Canyon' Vacation Bible Camp, 8:45 a.m.-12 p.m. from July 27-

31. For ages 4 through rising fifth graders. \$15/child. 651 Dranesville Rd., Herndon. www.trinityherndon.org or 703-444-2246.

TUESDAY/JULY 21

Outback Jack. 11 a.m. Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. www.lakeanneplaza.com.

Book Discussion. 10:30 a.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call branch for title. Adults. 703-757-8560.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 22

Read Yourself Silly With Flow Circus. 7 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Juggling, magic and more. Age 6-12. 703-757-8560.

The Wright Stuff. 2:30 p.m. at the Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Discover the mystery of flight with the Maryland Science Center. Age 6-12. 703-437-8855.

English Conversation Group. 10 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. English practice for non-native speakers. Adults. 703-242-4020.

THURSDAY/JULY 23

Mizz Nemeec's Pretend Stories. 11 a.m. Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. www.lakeanneplaza.com.

Oasis Calypso & Reggae. 7 p.m. Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. www.lakeanneplaza.com.

Farmers' Market at Reston Town Center Pavilion. 3:30 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Locally grown fruits and vegetables, locally raised meats and poultry, bread and cheese, salsa and sausage. 703-689-4699.

FRIDAY/JULY 24

Team is offering a Dance Camp for students entering grades 1-9. Camp will be held July 28-30 at Oakton High School. www.oaktonathletics.org

SATURDAY, JULY 11

STRIDES for MS will host a Yard Sale on Saturday, July 11, 8 a.m. to 12 noon at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 432 Van Buren Street, Herndon, to benefit the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. "STRIDES" stands for "Steps Taken in Devotion Ending Suffering." Refreshments will be available for purchase. Contact Hollis Colie at 703-499-7936.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 19

Filipino American Republicans of Virginia Awards Gala. 6:30 p.m. at the McLean Hilton, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. 703-786-3999 or NorthernVirginiaGOP.com.

ONGOING

The Oakton High School Dance

FAITH NOTES

The Convocation of Anglicans in North America has announced Dr. Steve Garber of the Washington Institute for Faith, Vocation, and Culture and the Most Rev'd Emmanuel Egbunu, Archbishop of Lokoja, Nigeria, are the keynote speakers for the annual CANA Council meeting at the Church of the Epiphany in Herndon, from July 30-Aug. 1. This year's council meeting will have a special focus on teens and youth. Dr. Garber has taught with the Lilly Endowment and the American Studies Program on Capitol Hill. Before becoming archbishop of Lokoja, Archbishop Egbunu served as the bishop of Lokoja, suffragan

bishop of Abuja, and a priest in northern Nigeria. CANA Council is open to all CANA clergy and will include delegates from each member congregation. To attend, contact Kelly Oliver (ext. 140) or Megan Franko (ext. 148) at 703-683-5004, or go to www.canaconvocation.org.

Florist United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon, is looking for people to sing in a choir. Florist UMC has a season of music including concerts featuring Schubert's "Mass in G Major", Handel's "Messiah" and more. Rehearsal on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. and singing most Sunday mornings at the 11 a.m. service. Scott Glysson at sglysson@floristumc.org or 703-793-0026.

Trinity Presbyterian Church 'Discovery Canyon' Vacation Bible Camp, 8:45 a.m.-12 p.m. from July 27-



Connie Slack, In Search of Resolution, acrylic on paper, 40" x 32"
'Faraway Nearby,' an all-media, juried exhibition featuring 16 artists selected by Dale Lanzone, president of International Public Art Marlborough, will be on display through July 31 at the Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market St., Suite 103, Reston.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

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Trinity Presbyterian Church 'Discovery Canyon' Vacation Bible Camp, 8:45 a.m.-12 p.m. from July 27-

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C-55

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REAL ESTATE



PHOTOS BY CHRISTIAN EUBANK/ THE CONNECTION

Most activity in the housing market includes properties priced around \$400,000 and below.



First-time buyers are providing much of the momentum for recent housing market growth in Herndon and Reston.

Market Presents Affordable Opportunities

First-time buyers support growth in the post-bubble housing market.

BY CHRISTIAN EUBANK
THE CONNECTION

With the bubble burst and the days of rapid growth in the past, consumers face a housing market focused on recovery. First-time buyers purchasing properties below \$400,000 are providing most of the market activity, Linda Sonnhalter, a Realtor with Weichert, said. Sonnhalter added that the stimulus tax credit, worth up to \$8,000, and current interest rates have encouraged first-time purchases. "There is definitely competition for properties in those low ranges," she said.

Since the glut of housing inventory has diminished, competition among buyers is gradually driving up housing prices in all ranges. Sonnhalter said that properties are typically selling within two or three months. Most single-family homes in the area now

cost between \$400,000 and \$900,000, while townhouses and condominiums are between \$200,000 and \$300,000.

Of course, each community is experiencing separate growth rates and price ranges. According to data from Metropolitan Regional Information Systems, properties in Herndon tend to be less expensive than those in Reston. In May, prices in Herndon ranged from \$79,000 to \$739,000, while prices in Reston spanned from \$85,000 to \$1,250,000.

DESPITE A GROWTH in sales across the market, activity primarily remains in the lower ranges due to financial constraints. During the housing boom, which peaked in 2006, a climate of speculative lending and risky purchases led to buyers purchasing properties outside their means. When housing prices plummeted and credit tightened, many of these property owners were unable to pay their mortgages. Homeowners faced the threats of negative equity and, in the case of many subprime borrowers, defaulted mortgages.

"There is definitely competition for properties in those low ranges."

— Linda Sonnhalter

"A lot of these sellers are either short sales or foreclosures. Those people cannot buy up," Anita Lasansky said. In a short sale, homeowners will avoid foreclosure by selling a property for less than the mortgage value at the lender's loss. Lenders sometimes allow short sales to incur a smaller one-time loss rather than try to sell a foreclosed property. Lasansky, managing broker for the Herndon and Reston North Hills offices of Long & Foster, explained that foreclosed

properties are significantly more common since the beginning of the subprime mortgage crisis.

Although foreclosure is a reality across Northern Virginia, percentages vary from neighborhood to neighborhood. Lasansky said that North Reston has maintained one of the lowest rates of foreclosure in the region.

Generally, properties in the lower price ranges have had the highest rate of foreclosure, but homeowners in the upper price ranges also felt the pressures of costly and risky mortgages. Herndon currently has

more foreclosed properties on the market than Reston.

"People who wait to buy are going to miss out," said Barry Allbright, a broker with Keller Williams. Allbright emphasized that the current low interest rates, around 6 percent, should also be factored in with price. By contrast, interest rates peaked at more than 20 percent during the 1970s and 1980s.

"Don't get in with the idea that housing is a short term investment," Allbright said. He warned that buyers might try to wait for the rates to continue to fall before purchasing a house. In the long run, when interest rates climb, customers' purchasing power will decrease, forcing some first-time buyers out of the market.

The Standard and Poor's/Case-Shiller Home Price Indices indicate that prices have generally returned to 2002 and 2003 pre-bubble levels. Although falling prices means lost investments and negative equities for some, consumers can now take advantage of low costs to explore the market. However, a low price for a house does not necessarily indicate that the property is a "best value."

"What appears to be a best deal isn't all
SEE REALTORS, PAGE 11

Serving Community

Long and Foster employees participated in their 11th annual community service day. On June 3, the Herndon/Reston and North Hills Reston sales offices along with MBH Settlement Group, L.C. of Reston participated in the company's most inclusive day of volunteering during the company-wide Community Service Day. The offices organized a Book Drive in partnership with Reston Interfaith and other non-profit organizations in the community. More than 800 books were collected and will be distributed to local youth groups, elementary school summer reading programs, and

community centers in the area as well as the ESL programs supported by Reston Interfaith.

CONTRIBUTED

More than 800 books were collected during the community service day. Pictured, back row, from left, are Maryanne Brown, Marjorie Thomas, Carolyn Murray and Karen Kidwell; front row, Ana Keswani from MBH Settlement Group, L.C.; Amey Rasmeloungon and Marnie Schaar.





The eighth grade class hand over the check in the amount of \$350 to Sherri Longhill, executive director.

Nysmith School Students Support FISH

Recently, the students at Nysmith School in Herndon donated funds to Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc. The funds were raised through a community service project performed by eighth graders at the school. Every year, the students sell pink carnations to the kindergarten through eighth grade students to present to their mothers or grand-

mothers for Mother's Day. Each year, the students decide which organization to donate the funds to. In years past, some of the money has gone to support a young South African teen so that he could attend a private school in his country. He had shown so much leadership potential that the students wanted to provide for him the best possible education. Last

year, the funds were sent to help feed AIDS orphans in South Africa. Due to the tough economic troubles in their own neighborhoods, the eighth graders decided this year to help their own neighbors. After reading about the FISH organization in The Connection newspapers, the students chose to donate \$350 to FISH (Friendly, Instant, Sympathetic, Help).

Realtors See 'Seller's Market'

FROM PAGE 10
ways a best deal," Sonnhalter said, urging buyers to research and compare different properties.

PRICE is a significant part in the home selection, but location and the state of the property can be just as relevant as the price tag. Similarly, crime statistics and school reviews can provide newcomers with information about a particular area, Lasansky said.

Foreclosed properties usually are initially cheaper, but the nec-

essary repairs to restore them to a sellable or livable condition can cost tens of thousands of dollars, Allbright said. "If you're going to buy a fixer-upper, know what it will cost to fix it. Hire a professional."

The type of financing can also aid a buyer, with conventional financing being generally more desirable, Lasansky said. "It is still a seller's market," she said, urging buyers to present reasonable offers to remain competitive in a sale.

At the peak of the housing

bubble, with the small inventory and higher demand for appreciating properties, many buyers would purchase homes without proper inspections. With a slower market, buyers have a greater ability to examine the condition and prices of comparable properties to gauge the value of a particular house.

The speculative days of the housing bubble brought investors quick returns, but today's low prices enable first-time buyers to find affordable housing without the pressure of soaring prices.

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SPORTS



Julie Luo, a student at Rachel Carson Middle School, finished second in 12-14-year-old girls' division of the Herndon Centennial Classic on Monday, July 6.



Patrick Miller, 15, will play on the Herndon golf team this fall. On Monday, July 6 for the Herndon Centennial Classic, he finished 10th in the 14-15 boys' division.



Richard Shapiro, 13, a rising freshman at Herndon High School, held his first golf club before he was even 3.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MICHAEL K. BOHN

Locals Defend Home Track

“Our junior tour is one of the biggest in the country.”

— Bob Heinz,

PGA Mid-Atlantic's director of junior golf

Julie Luo, 12, grabs second in popular event for local golfers.

BY MICHAEL K. BOHN
THE CONNECTION

Although Bethesda hosted Tiger Woods' grand PGA Tour event last week — the AT&T National — Herndon welcomed a smaller golf extravaganza on Monday, July 6. The Mid-Atlantic PGA Junior Tour rolled onto Herndon Centennial Golf Course for a one-day, 18-hole tournament. It was one of 24 events the PGA has scheduled in Virginia and Maryland this year.

The Herndon Centennial Classic featured 89 young players, which organizers divided

into four age groups for boys and three for girls. Three Herndon residents entered and each played well. The youngest, Julie Luo, placed second in the 12-14-year-old girls' division with a score of 87.

“I wish that I had done a little better,” she said afterward. The 12-year-old attends Rachel Carson Middle School and only started playing golf recently.

“I only have been playing for three years,” she said.

But Luo has won two of the three events she has entered this year on the PGA Junior Tour. Last year, Luo was the PGA Junior Tour Player of the Year in the 10-12 girls'

division. She also plays on the Plantations Junior Golf Tour and has had four top-five finishes in four events since last August.

Richard Shapiro, 13, finished eighth in the 12-13 boys' division. Shapiro will be a freshman this fall at Herndon High School.

“My dad gave me a sand wedge when I was 2 1/2,” he said over hot dogs after his round. “Later, he gave me a putter and a driver. He also taught me golf etiquette.”

Patrick Miller, 15, will be a sophomore at Herndon this fall. He shot an 84 and placed 10th in the 14-15 boys' division.

“Patrick is a good young player,” said Steve Clary, Herndon Centennial head PGA

pro. “I expect him to play well this fall at Herndon.”

Centreville High School's Han Joe Kim posted the top score of the tournament, a 1-over-par 72 to win the 16-18 boys' division.

“Our junior tour is one of the biggest in the country,” said Bob Heinz, director of junior golf at the PGA Middle Atlantic section. “We have over 500 players signed up for the tour this year. Young players of any skill level can join.”

For further information on the Tour's tournament schedule and player handbook, visit www.mapga.com. On the left-hand side, click “Junior Golf” and then “MAPGA Junior Tour.”

WEEK IN SPORTS

Reston Swim Rundown

In Reston Swim Team Association action on Friday, July 3, the Lake Newport Lightning handed the Lake Anne Stingrays a 565-511 loss. Triple-event winners for Lake Newport included Amy Edgmond, Casey Storch, Katie Storch and Sally Storch, while Kevin Baldwin, Jessica Keys, Christian Matthews, Anna Redican, Matthew Schmitt, Andrew Shedlock, Matthew Schmitt, Andrew Shedlock, Matthew Williams, Ryan Williams and Amy Zhao all won two events.

For Lake Anne, triple-event winners were Joanne Fu and Greg Mayo. Double-event winners were Ramzi Assir, Winston Evans, Victoria Gonzales, Brian Marquet, Allyson Paiewonsky, Mark Rodakowski and Hannah Ziiai.

The Ridge Heights Sharks, behind triple-event winners Maya Becker and Ryan Ferzoco, blew past the Newbridge Dolphins, 540-504. Double-event winners for Ridge Heights were Nicholas Diewald, Mackenzie Hughes, Andrew McClellan, Aaron Miller, Ed Reed,

Emily Sennett, Mac Sogandares and Paige Sogandares.

Celia Compton and Emma Phelps won three events apiece for Newbridge, while John Baldwin, Shannon Burke, Zac Carey, Andy Carro, Annie Carro, Eric Compton, Charleen O'Brien, Ameila Sugianto and Steven Swayne each won twice. Baldwin set a record in the 15-18-year-old freestyle with a time of 25.29 seconds.

By the score of 670-466, the Lake Audubon Barracudas topped the North Hills Hurricanes. Triple-event winners for Lake Audubon included Alissa Avilov, Ausin Chute, Sabrina Groves and John Hughes. Double-event winners were Zachary Bell, Kasey Corey, Katie Kroll, Garrison O'Donnell, Bryce Onozuka, Max Onozuka, Will Sickenberger and Sarah Timreck.

For North Hills, triple-event winners were Courtner Clark, Cyrus Crevits and Rachel Swarts. Double-event winners were Taylor Bentley, Marlee Czarny, Zachary Decker, Maria Liu, Grace Tierney, Christina Mazziotta and Jonathan Kent.



COURTESY PHOTO

Lauren Satyshur, a rising senior at Herndon High School, has been swimming with Lake Anne of the Reston Swim Team Association since she was 6.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Breaking ground at Lake Fairfax are, from left, Fairfax County Park Authority Board Chairman Bill Bouie, Hammerhead Construction Vice President Tom Nicholson, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large), Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), Park Authority Board Representative Winnie Shapiro (Braddock), Park Authority Director John Dargle Jr., Ed Climo of Studio 3 Architects and Park Services Division Director Barbara Nugent.

Progress Made at Lake Fairfax

Core redevelopment complete, picnic shelters underway.

Members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors gathered with members of the county Park Authority Board, contractors and park staff on Saturday, June 13 to cut the ribbon and mark the completion of Phase II improvements at Lake Fairfax Park.

In 1998, bond funding was provided to begin redevelopment of the core area of the park. Due to budget constraints, the project was phased. Phase I consisted of a handicapped-accessible marina, completed in 2007. The recently completed Phase II consisted of a new administration, kiosk and restroom building along with the

creation of 11 rain gardens and a new paved parking lot.

A groundbreaking ceremony to mark the start of Phase III, which consists of two 88-person picnic pavilions, grills, a catering station, two 60-person picnic shelters and related walkways, followed the ribbon cutting. Once completed, the pavilions would provide a scenic location for families, organizations and corporations to rent for picnic events. The pavilions will be built on the former site of the park's administrative building.



From left, Fairfax County Park Authority Director John Dargle Jr., Fairfax County Park Authority Board Chairman Bill Bouie, Lake Fairfax Park staff members Lauren Nelson and Rachel Binsky, Park Authority Board Representative Winnie Shapiro (Braddock), Lake Fairfax Park Assistant Manager Brandi Ramsey, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large), Ed Climo of Studio 3 Architects, Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), picnic coordinator Dianne Gregg and Park Services Division Director Barbara Nugent cut the ribbon on the new administration, kiosk and restroom building at Lake Fairfax Park.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers of all ages are needed for **Reston Festival 2009**, Saturday, July 11 and Sunday, July 12. Volunteer Orientation will be held Friday, July 10, 6 - 7 p.m. at the Pavilion at Reston Town Center (pizza will be served). Volunteer Hours: 6:30 a.m. - 8 p.m. Reston Town Center - 11900 Market Street, Reston, VA 20190. The Reston Festival is seeking volunteers for a variety of positions throughout the weekend. Volunteers will receive a Reston Festival t-shirt and meal ticket for your volunteer time. For more information on the festival go www.restonfestival.com

Contact Person Information: Ha Brock, RA Volunteer coordinator at 703-435-7986 or email habrock@reston.org.

To show gratitude for all volunteer work, **Reston Association** invites volunteers to the 2009 Volunteer Appreciation Luau! Food, music, games, give-a-ways are provided. Friday, July 31 (Rain date: Friday, Aug. 7), 6 - 8 p.m. at Hunters Woods Pool - 2501 Reston Parkway, Reston. The pool has a children's splash area, diving board and large spa. So bring your family and enjoy a relaxing evening at the pool. RSVP by July 24 to Ha Brock, Volunteer Coordinator at 703-435-7986 or via e-mail habrock@reston.org.

Dragonfly Class: An Introduction, for all ages. Reserve by July 13, Date: Thursday, July 16, 7 - 8:30 p.m. Location: 12250 Sunset Hills Road, next to the YMCA. Free to dragonfly count participants. Learn about the fast, colorful and fascinating lives of Reston's "flying dragons." Join guest naturalist Kevin Munroe of the Fairfax County Park Authority as he focuses on basic identification, natural history and conservation of our local dragonflies. Through a combination of handouts, lecture and a slide show of photos taken in Virginia, learn how to identify Reston's common dragonflies, and get a basic introduction to their behavior and complex natural history. The class is a way to prepare for the Reston Dragonfly Count the following Saturday. Contact Person: Ha Brock, RA Specialist II at 703-435-7986 or email habrock@reston.org.

Dragonfly Count: Annual dragonfly count throughout Reston's natural areas. Meet local dragonfly experts, learn tips on identification and have fun while helping us obtain important information to help our fast-flying friends. Date: Sunday, July 19, 9:45 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Location: RA Central Services Facil-

ity - 12250 Sunset Hills Road (Next to the YMCA). Free to all ages. Contact: Ha Brock, RA Volunteer Specialist II at 703-435-7986 or email habrock@reston.org.

Stream Monitoring: Become a volunteer stream monitor and help RA assess the health of our streams. RA is in need of volunteers to assist with stream monitoring at several locations throughout Reston during all seasons. If you are willing to learn, can work with a partner, enjoy data collection, wildlife identification, and are interested in the health of Reston's streams, this is the job for you. Volunteering consists of four monitoring sessions of 3-4 hours each for a total of 12-16 hours per year. Date: Wednesday, July 29 (sign up by July 22). Time: 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Location: RA Main Conference Room - 1930 Isaac Newton Square, Reston.

Date: Aug. 1. Location: Twin Branches Nature Trail near W&O Trail on Buckthorn Lane. Contact: Ha Brock, RA Volunteer Specialist II at 703-435-7986 or email habrock@reston.org.

Volunteer Solutions Fair in Reston: Find your niche in creating a caring community for all ages at the Volunteer Solutions Fair on Thursday, Aug. 6, 2 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston. Participants will learn about volunteer opportunities that help older adults and adults with disabilities. The first five people to register and start volunteering will receive a free gift. Contact retha.lockhart@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-5406 for more information.

Volunteer Solutions is a program of the Department of Family Services' Division of Adult and Aging Services/Fairfax Area Agency on Aging. Go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/aaa. Call 703-324-5406 (TTY 703-449-1186) for reasonable ADA accommodations.

Help Nursing Home Residents: Help residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities advocate for their rights, resolve conflicts and improve their quality of life. The Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteers who can commit a minimum of four hours a week for one year. Volunteers set their own schedules between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. on weekdays and receive training and support. Call 703-324-5861 or 703-324-5422; TTY 703-449-1186 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ltombudsman. Register now to attend our three-day training in September.

Northwest FCU, Herndon High Create Night of Magic

The Northwest Federal Credit Union Foundation (NWFCU Foundation) hosted a Night of Magic ball for the patients at the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C. The ball coincided with prom season so that patients who missed their typical proms and father-daughter dances had the opportunity to dress up and experience a special evening. Patients were able to select party attire, jewelry and accessories donated by credit union and community members.

The research atrium at Children's National Medical Center was transformed into a ballroom where more than 100 patients danced, ate, made arts and craft projects and watched professional hip hop and swing dance performances while forgetting their illnesses and worries if only for one night.

"This night has been one of the most rewarding evenings for me," said Gerrienne Burks, NWFCU president/CEO and NWFCU Foundation chairman. "NWFCU employees and members gave from their hearts and truly made a difference in many young kid's lives tonight."

Herndon High School helped NWFCU Foundation plan the ball. Students collected clothing, made boutonnières, corsages and jewelry and helped patients select their ball attire.

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Nature? Nurture? Not Sure



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Now I don't exactly know what to make of the following observation, but I am going to make it nonetheless. Our two cats, brothers Biscuit and Cappuccino - 3 years old come this September, rescued May 12, 2007 at approximately 7 months old - seem to be hanging around me (the one with cancer), touching me, maintaining body contact with me, staying in close proximity to me, more than they do with my wife, Dina. Not that they ignore her, either. Hardly. But they do seem to find me.

"The Buff Boys" are uniquely affectionate and attentive; in fact, at this very moment, Biscuit is lying on the dining room table, not two feet away from me as I write, back to me of course, but still within meowing distance. And not that I don't have a certain amount of animal magnetism, but the kind of attention I'm receiving from the cats who, as a breed are generally speaking not so instinctively inclined (certainly not in the same manner as dogs are), is somewhat unsettling. Unsettling, with respect to the alleged/presumed animal instinct to want to comfort the sick and dying. We noticed this behavior twice before: once with our previous cat, Smokey, who tended to our first rabbit, Pirate (who was sick at the time) by laying around her cage, making contact with it even, and currently with our two "newer" cats who likewise have tended to our current rabbit, Chester (again, by laying around his cage, literally) while he's had some health issues of late. Heck, for all I know, this is how animals communicate; perhaps they understand more than we do.

So what I occasionally take from this uncharacteristic attention and body contact is a sort of cross-species aid and comfort; an instinctive, centuries-old, attempt at healing the sick. And being that I'm sick, I am getting their attention, deservedly so, I may add (and I'll take as much as I can get, by the way). But how much attention is my concern, and is their attention, varying as it may be, reflective of something that either my oncologist doesn't know or hasn't told me, or something only the animal kingdom is privy to? And if it is the latter, then what am I doing writing this column? I should be under medical observation somewhere with doctors attempting to discern the cause of our cats' peculiar interest in my whereabouts.

But perhaps I'm overreacting. Perhaps the cats are simply exceptional in some intuitive, non-verbal method of connecting emotionally with people they see on a regular basis (who feed and water them, no doubt)? Or maybe the cats are merely expressing their gratitude and appreciation for our having "rescued" them and in turn providing them a permanent home (ours) where they can live in cozy comfort for the next 15 years or so? Or maybe they do know more than we give them credit for? Maybe I am sicker than either my doctor or I have admitted; I'd hate to believe that.

No, I choose to believe that our cats are loving and affectionate and they want to be around me as much as is "catly" possible. Thinking anything else would be unhelpful, and right now, given my rather precarious health situation, I can use all the help I can get; however, and from whomever.

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

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I believe the future is only the past again, entered through another gate.
-Arthur Wing Pinero

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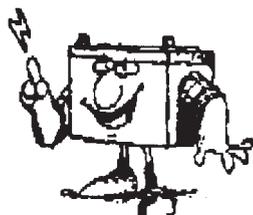
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