

What was a turn lane at Monroe Street and Sunrise Valley Boulevard becomes a through lane for oncoming traffic as part of the road remains buried under snow.

PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION OPINION, PAGE 6 ❖ CALENDAR, PAGE 7 ❖ SPORTS, PAGE 8 ❖ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 9

# Neighbors Air Skate Park Concerns

NEWS, PAGE 3

# Love Story

PEOPLE, PAGE 5

# Snowed In

NEWS, PAGE 3

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## SCHOOLS

Planning has begun for the **Herndon High School Class of 2010 All Night Grad Party**. This event promotes the celebration of high school graduation in a drug and alcohol free environment. It costs \$40 to sponsor a student to attend the party. The goal is 100% Senior Class attendance. If you would like to become a sponsor, donations are being accepted at [www.herndonang.org/](http://www.herndonang.org/) or [HerndonDAFA@gmail.com](mailto:HerndonDAFA@gmail.com). 703-450-4372

**Funny Mind Games Show at Herndon High School** will be Sunday, March 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the Herndon High Auditorium. A Comedic Hypnotist opens the show, followed by teams from HHS and HMS competing in a Family Feud style game show. Tickets are \$8 in advance for students and faculty and \$10 for everyone else and at the door. Go to [www.herndonang.org](http://www.herndonang.org) and click on Fundraisers & Events. 703-450-4372

**Sara Nourian** of Herndon has been named a national outstanding campus leader and included in the 2009 edition of Who's Who among Students in American Universities and Colleges. Nourian is majoring in Business Administration and in the honors program at Marymount University.

**Kristin Leonard** of Herndon, a senior nursing major at York College of Pennsylvania, has been named to the fall 2009 dean's list.

Herndon residents **Kelly Sachs** and **Kevin Wright** have been named to the fall 2009 dean's list at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Ga.



**Kyndall Ashe**

**Eileen D. Foley** of Herndon has been named to the fall 2009 dean's list at Bucknell University of Lewisburg, Pa. Foley is the daughter of Thomas and Linda Foley of Herndon, and a graduate of Chantilly High School.

**Colleen E. Oliver** of Oak Hill has been named to the fall 2009 dean's list at Bucknell University of Lewisburg, Pa. Oliver is the daughter of Brian and Patricia Oliver of Oak Hill, and a graduate of Paul VI High School.

**Jonathan Bernal** of Oak Hill has been named to the fall 2009 dean's list at Lees-McRae College of Banner Elk, N.C.

**Julie Anne Busch** of Oak Hill has been named to the fall 2009 dean's list at McDaniel College of Westminster, Md.

**Zachary Bradt** of Herndon has been named to the fall 2009 dean's list at the State University of New York College at Plattsburgh.

**Spencer Barr**, a 6th grade student at Armstrong Elementary, won the school-level competition of the National Geographic Bee and a chance at a \$25,000 college scholarship. The runners-up were Ben Murdock and Michael Sasseen. The school-level Bee, at which students answered oral questions on geography, was the first round in the 22nd annual National Geographic Bee.

**Ashley M. Jensen** of Herndon has been named to the fall 2009 dean's list at Marist College of Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Jensen is a member of the Class of 2013 and is majoring in fashion design.

**Heather Flager** of Herndon has been awarded a bachelor of science degree in information technology from Kaplan University of Miami, Fla.

**Kristina Arienne Johnson** of Herndon was named to the fall 2009 dean's list at Goshen College of Goshen, Ind. She is a junior studying history and religion, and the daughter of Michael and Barbara Johnson of Herndon.

**Genevieve N. Navin** of Herndon was named to the fall 2009 dean's list at Millsaps College in Jackson, Miss.

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**A plow that was decorated for the Herndon High School Homecoming Parade; it had its fun, now it's time for business.**



PHOTO BY CHARLIE KEMP

## Neighbors Air Skate Park Concerns

**While positive impact is recognized, possible nighttime activities pose worries.**

BY MIKE DICICCO  
THE CONNECTION

**W**hile Herndon skateboarders have been eagerly anticipating the construction of a skate park at Trailside Park, Ill Song said he was concerned about the impact the new park feature could have on his Bluemont Court neighborhood. "It will attract a lot of outsiders," Song said at a public information meeting at the Herndon Police Station on Wednesday, Feb. 3.

"We didn't think a basketball court would attract the wrong people, but over time, it did," he said, referring to the small court that was built next to his neighborhood. Song said trash, loud noise and strangers on the basketball court after dark had become problems on his street. "These are the kinds of issues that my neighborhood is going through," he said.

"You're not familiar with skateboarders. They're some of the most creative people in the world," said Mike Bradley, who was attending the meeting with his son.

**SONG** said he was not necessarily concerned about skateboarders but rather anyone who might loiter at the park at night.

"I don't think anyone here is concerned about skaters," said Pamela Dillard, who also lives on Bluemont Court, noting that she had been a skateboarder when she was younger. But she said she expected the skate park to have the same effect as the basketball court. "We've had a huge problem with tagging," Dillard said, asking Police Capt. Brad Anzengruber to make sure police officers were especially vigilant in the area. "I think it's naïve for anyone to think it won't occur here because I do believe it will," she said.

Anzengruber said he didn't think the skate park would increase the potential for nuisances at the park. "We'll consider that you've put this on the table and it's something we need to be aware of," he said, adding that police frequented the area around the basketball court.

Aside from his concerns about antisocial behavior, Song said the



PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

**Cindy Roeder, Herndon's director of Parks and Recreation, addresses residents at a meeting about the skate park coming to Trailside Park.**

design for the park looked "very nice. I think if it's built it'll be enjoyed by many people in the community."

Town Council member Charlie Waddell asked Bradley's son, Justin, what skateboarders might do if someone were drinking in public or otherwise misbehaving at the park. The young skateboarder said they would most likely band together and ask the person to leave.

"Call the police?" Waddell asked.

"Probably not," Justin Bradley said.

Steve Gurney, a Reston resident, said he had recently taken up skating again after a 20-year hiatus. When he was younger, he said, skateboarders had built ramps in the woods, where they often drank or got into other trouble. Now, he said, parents often sat near skate parks while their children skated. "There were no parents within 100 feet of the ramps where I used to skate," Gurney said.

Waddell said he had observed people of different age groups interacting and looking out for each other at skate parks, an activity that he said was integral to the process of socialization for children and teens.

Cynthia Hoftiezer of the Herndon Parks and Recreation Department noted that about half the skateboarders that had come

SEE SKATE PARK, PAGE 11

## Snowed In

**Emergency personnel work around the clock to respond to large snowfall.**

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Virginia Department of Transportation expected to remove 500,000 tons of snow from Northern Virginia roads this week, and that was before weather teams started calling for a second storm to hit the region this week.

Parts of Fairfax County received as much as 34 inches of snow during the initial storm that started Friday, Feb. 5. A few days later, local emergency responders were bracing for a second wave of winter weather, expected to bring as much as 10 to 20 inches of additional snow on Tuesday, Feb. 9.

A few Fairfax neighborhoods had not recovered from the first storm, let alone been able to prepare for second wave of harsh conditions. Parts of West Springfield, McLean, Great Falls, Clifton and Kings Park West remained totally unplowed and, in some cases, without power four days after first storm and less than 24 hours before the second storm was scheduled to arrive, according to local elected officials.

"If we get [another] 20 inches of snow, that is going to be a huge problem. I think the next couple of days are going to be harder than the last couple of days," said Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), whose neighborhood street in McLean still had not been plowed on Feb. 8.

**DOMINION POWER**, the largest local utility company, expected to restore service to all their Fairfax customers by the 10 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 9. As of Monday afternoon, approximately 100 households in the county served by Dominion still had no electricity, said company spokesperson Daisy Pridgen.

A few of the more isolated parts of Great Falls and some older West Springfield developments were still without electricity on the eve of the second storm, according to local elected officials.

"The people without power are my biggest con-



PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

**From left, Kirti and Arun Jain, Sasha Simanich, and Baiba Tora work to unearth their cars in the Woodland Park apartment neighborhood in Oak Hill Monday afternoon.**

cern. We have seniors without power who are likely at risk," said Supervisor Patrick Herryty (R-Springfield.)

The level of electricity service that had been restored by Feb. 8 was an improvement over the prior two days, when thousands of Fairfax residents were without power, according to Fairfax County spokesperson Merni Fitzgerald.

"It went off all across the district. We had huge patches of Great Falls and McLean without power. Dominion has made very significant progress with getting them back online" said Foust.

In the Springfield and Herndon areas, the highest concentrations of residents were without electricity for long periods of time.

The county opened two emergency shelters at the Robert E. Lee Center in Franconia and Oak Marr

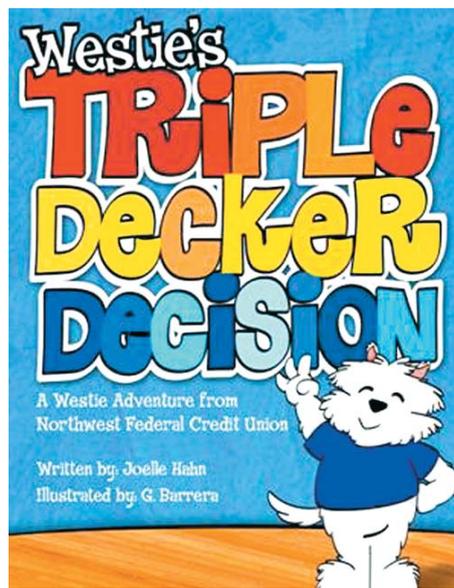
SEE ANOTHER STORM, PAGE 11

# NWFCU Launches Children's Book

**N**orthwest Federal Credit Union (NWFCU) has just published a children's book to help parents educate their children on the importance of saving, spending and sharing money wisely. Titled "Westie's Triple-Decker Decision," the colorful paperback chronicles how Westie, the credit union's West Highland White Terrier mascot, comes to his own conclusions of how to handle his allowance based on his mother's insightful teachings.

NWFCU will be donating copies of "Westie's Triple-Decker Decision" to local libraries and elementary schools. The book will also be available for purchase for \$5 at all NWFCU branches, with all of the proceeds benefiting the NWFCU Foundation, the credit union's 501(c)(3) organization which manages the credit union's charitable and financial education activities.

According to Gerriane Burks, NWFCU President/CEO, "Westie's Triple-Decker Decision" is part of an ongoing effort to reach out to youngsters and help give them a financial head start. "Children learn early concepts about money



through observation," she said. "We're dedicated to giving parents real tools to aid their own teachings on money management and making the act of saving a life-long habit. With this new book, parents will have yet another useful tool to help their kids get money smart."

Author Joelle Hahn developed the story as both a read-to-me book for pre-schoolers and as a learn-to-read book for elementary-aged students. "As a mother of two young boys, I understand the challenges of trying to instill basic money values in children," Hahn said.

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY ROUNDUP

### Many Legislators Support Autism Coverage

Five state senators and eight delegates from Fairfax County signed on to support Sen. Janet Howell's (D-32) bill that would require health insurance companies to provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of Autism spectrum disorder until a child turns 10. The bill was awaiting a vote in the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee Feb. 8.

Howell's proposal does allow some health care plans, such as those that cover individuals or small groups, to sidestep the provision. State health insurance would also not have to offer the benefits until 2015.

A similar bill that covered children until an older age died after being introduced last year. Advocates said they hoped a pared down proposal, with a lower cost, would stand a better chance of passing this year.

In addition to Howell's legislation, Del. Dave Albo (R-42) and Del. Jim LeMunyon (R-67) introduced bills to expand health insurance coverage of Autism spectrum disorder.

Albo's bill specifies that those insurance companies who cover "early intervention" of Autism cannot deny coverage for certain services, including speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, applied behavioral analysis or assistive technology. A house committee voted to table the bill for the 2010 session.

LeMunyon's bill would allow Virginians to purchase insurance plans from other states that covers Autism spectrum disorder diagnosis and treatment. This bill is awaiting a vote in a House of Delegates subcommittee.

### Fairfax Senators Vote against Health Care Protest

Every state senator from Fairfax County voted against a successful bill aimed at protecting Virginia residents from any future federal requirement to purchase health insurance or to pay a fine for opting out of a health care plan.

Eight Democrats joined 15 Republicans to vote in favor of the preemptive move against mandatory health insurance. Seventeen senators, including all 10 Democrats who represent Fairfax, voted against the bill.

The Virginia House of Delegates is likely to approve this bill by a larger margin than the senate and Gov. Bob McDonnell (R) has already indicated he supports such efforts.

### In Divorce, 'Pleading the Fifth' Just Wouldn't Be The Same

In a 49 to 48 vote decision, the House of Delegates has approved a bill that could roll back the protections offered by "pleading the fifth" in divorce and marital separations.

Juries or judges overseeing court proceedings are not supposed to view a person's refusal to answer certain questions while under oath in a negative light, because of a constitutional protection against self-incrimination.

But the legislation that just cleared the House Courts of Justice committee would carve out an exception to that rule for divorce and separation pro-

ceedings that address spousal support, child custody or parental visitation rights.

If a person refuses to answer questions about adultery, sodomy, fornication or buggery outside of marriage on the grounds that he does not want to incriminate himself, the new bill would allow the court to draw a negative conclusion from the person's silence on the matter.

A few legislators who have private law practices said the change would be helpful because adultery can be difficult to prove independently.

When it comes to this legislation, the Fairfax delegation broke its support along political party lines.

Four Republican delegates – Barbara Comstock (R-34), Dave Albo (R-42), Jim LeMunyon (R-67) and Tim Hugo (R-40) — supported the bill. The majority of the delegation – and all Fairfax Democrats – voted against the measure.

Del. Tom Rust (R-86) did not vote on the bill.

### House Kills Stronger Ban on Texting While Driving

Del. David Bulova's (D-37) attempt to make a ban on sending text messages while driving more enforceable has failed in a House of Delegates' Militia, Police and Public Safety subcommittee.

The legislation was killed through a subcommittee voice vote, meaning no official tally was recorded for the public record. No Fairfax County delegate sits on this subcommittee.

Texting while driving is already illegal in Virginia, but police officers are prohibited from using it as the primary reason for pulling over a driver on the road. The driver can only receive a citation for sending texts while driving if the police catch the driver texting while violating another law, like running a stop sign or speeding.

Several legislators argued that leaving the texting ban as a "secondary offense" waters down the law, making it ineffective.

Legislators against a stronger text and driving ban often say they are protecting residents from too much government interference.

Bulova had solid support for the stronger enforcement measure from many other Fairfax legislators, including Dels. Kaye Kory (D-38), Ken Plum (D-36), Jim Scott (D-53), Mark Sickles (D-43) and Vivian Watts (D-39) as well as senators Janet Howell (D-32), George Barker (D-39), Dave Marsden (D-37), Toddy Puller (D-36), Patricia Ticer (D-30) and Mary Margaret Whipple (D-31).

### Police May Soon Track Where Intoxicated Drivers Had Their Final Drink

A bill that could potentially be used to implicate restaurants in drunk driving incidents passed unanimously out of a key subcommittee in the House of Delegates this week.

Among Fairfax County legislators, Del. Dave Albo (R-42) and Del. Vivian Watts (D-39) both sit on the subcommittee and voted for the bill.

Under the legislation, a police officer could inquire where a person he suspects of driving under the influence had his last alcoholic beverage before getting behind the wheel. If the suspect answers, the police officer would have to record the information and supply it to Virginia's Alcohol Beverage Control board.



### Seventh Graders Raise \$2,000 for Haiti

**Seventh graders Wynne Treco, Meg Kirby, Nikki Pope and Kailee Sibley (not pictured) from Kilmer Middle School conducted a bake sale outside of the Giant in Reston to raise money for the victims of the Haiti earthquake. The group of four students raised \$2,000 for the American Red Cross. The girls organized the bake sale on Saturday, Jan 29 at the home of Nikki Pope and baked most of the day to prepare for the sale the following day. On Sunday, the group of seventh graders set up their table outside of Giant and were amazed at the support and encouragement they were given and the generosity shown by everyone.**

# Love Story

Couple reconnects after 50 years.

BY DONNA MANZ  
THE CONNECTION

**M**ary Lee Lincoln and John Parker met at Washington College in Chestertown, Md., in the early 1950s. She was a class ahead of him. After dating for 2 1/2 years, John proposed. Mary accepted. When Mary Lee said yes, “the gods were on my side,” Parker said.

When Lincoln went off to graduate school at the University of Bologna in 1954, she left behind Washington College and her college sweetheart. It was, as both McIntyre and Parker described it, a “tearful parting.”

Lincoln and Parker went their separate ways, each marrying another and raising a family, losing contact with each other. “The last I heard from her, she sent me a letter near the end of my tour of duty, saying she was getting married,” Parker said.

Occasionally, over the years, Mary Lee Lincoln McIntyre and Parker saw each other at college reunions. “We talked, but he was married. I never imagined ...,” McIntyre said, without finishing the sentence.

Their love affair began at Washington College, said Parker, and it continued at Washington College on Jan. 16 of this year.

**ON JAN. 16,** McIntyre and Parker, now in their 70s, got married at Washington College, surrounded by their children, grandchildren and close friends. It was, as Parker described it, a 50-year separation. They lost touch with each other for most of their adult lives.

They played opposite each other at a Washington College production of “The Importance of Being Earnest,” and Parker played lacrosse for the school.

“Mary Lee was famous at Washington College because word got out that she could handle a lacrosse stick,” said Parker.

McIntyre got her M.A. from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and traveled the world with her first husband as part of the foreign service. Her husband was killed in a terrorist bombing at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut in 1983. After he died, McIntyre returned to McLean to heal her own physical wounds from the attack and to find her own way without her husband. She joined the Foreign Service for a short time and, from



**Mary Lee and John played opposite one another in a college production of ‘The Importance of Being Earnest.’ More than 50 years later, a McLean performance of the play brought them together again.**

**“I think life’s lessons help us appreciate each other in the time we have.”**

— Mary Lee McIntyre

1988 to 2000, worked for the Agency for International Development.

Parker graduated, joined the military and became a Washington journalist covering the Pentagon and Capitol Hill.

In the early 1990s, Parker and his wife bought and operated a bed and breakfast inn in Chestertown after he left Washington and lectured on American writers at Washington College and joined a literary press. Then, in 2006, Parker’s wife died of ovarian cancer. He sold the inn after her death and continued working at the college.

**WHEN MCINTYRE’S CLASS** celebrated its 55th reunion last May, only five people showed up. Parker was there as a member of his class. And the couple talked, and talked and talked.

The newlyweds kid each other now about which of them asked whom out last May. “Our lawyers are working on it,” Parker said, as McIntyre laughed and nudged his shoulder. “John always loves to regale people with stories, not necessarily true ones, either,” she said.

The class reunions traditionally take place during Maryland Preakness weekend, and Parker insisted that McIntyre invited him to the school’s Preakness party. “No, no, no,” she said, shaking her head and laughing. As they spoke, McIntyre and Parker sat on the

sofa with his arm around her shoulder, filled Washington College coffee mugs on the table.

They did go to the party together, and, afterward, had dinner together. It was the first time they really sat and talked about their lives.

“I must’ve made a great impression on her because she invited me to come down here and see the local production of ‘The Importance of Being Earnest.’ It was in September and the play was performed at McLean’s Alden Theatre,” he said. They had dinner out with friends and returned to McIntyre’s house for cake and ice cream.

“After 32 years of a good marriage, I had no interest in a new relationship until I met Mary Lee again,” said Parker.

When people asked Parker if he was happy, he always said the same thing. “Happy? You don’t know how happy I am. Just being in her presence again was all I needed.”

“I didn’t know quite what to make of it,” said McIntyre, of their blossoming romance. “I had been alone for a long time.”

By mid-fall, their relationship had taken hold. “Yes, I’m going to say it. I love you,” Parker told McIntyre. “I love you, too,” she said to him.

McIntyre said she took it that he wanted to marry her when he told her that he was awake for two



PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

**Mary Lee Lincoln McIntyre and John Parker each married others, raised families and lost their spouses.**

hours wondering whom to invite to the wedding. “I thought to myself, steady, girl,” she said.

**PARKER NOTED** that it was easy to resume their friendship; they had a history together. McIntyre described her assessment of finding love late in life. “It’s mindblowing,” she said. “I didn’t expect it but I’m very grateful it’s here. We’re both settled. We don’t have parenting issues. We’re both far more mature than we were in our 20s when we got overcome by events that kept us apart.”

At Christmas time, McIntyre sat her children down and gave them a short course on the couple. “After that, they were very enthusiastic,” said McIntyre. “Go, mom, go,” they said.”

Parker, too, brought it up to his children about the same time. “I told them, ‘Your father might be romantically-involved,’” he said.

His older son said that their father reminded him of Michael Corleone, when he met the young woman he fell in love with, struck by a thunderbolt.

“They were enthusiastic from the get-go.”

For their wedding, McIntyre dressed in a red silk brocade two-piece gown. Parker wore a tuxedo. They are honeymooning in Europe this April, making it to McIntyre’s 55th graduate class reunion in Bologna and to London and Amsterdam.

Parker’s two young cats joined McIntyre’s 13-1/2 year-old German Shepherd in the households they are now merging as one, in McIntyre’s house in McLean.

“I think life’s lessons help us appreciate each other in the time we have,” she said. “I was attracted to John because he was witty, good company, good looking, athletic. He still is.”

## BUSINESS NOTES

Send information to [herndon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:herndon@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday. Photos/artwork welcome.

**Herndon-based White+Partners** has been selected as the new agency of the record for the Washington Area New Automobile Dealer Association (WANADA), producer of the Washington Auto Show. White+Partners will handle all advertising, brand marketing and interactive for the Washington Auto Show scheduled for Jan. 27-31, 2010.

**Guident**, a leading integrator of business intelligence, management consulting, and systems engineering services to the government and commercial marketplaces based in Herndon, has been awarded a contract by the Export-Import Bank of the United States to provide operational and enhancement support for the Bank’s business systems. “The contract is for one year with four option years and has a maximum potential value, including all option years and incentive fees, of \$7.33 million for core engineering support.”

## Surviving the Blizzard as a Community

Connected neighbors save the day; time to check contingency plans, emergency supplies.

**M**ore than 48 hours after more than two feet of snow stopped accumulating, after two nights of single digit temperatures in many areas, there are still tens of thousands of households without power.

During this blizzard, random and not-so-random acts of kindness have made all the difference for stranded families in the cold and dark.

A little preparation to “shelter in place” also helped.

**EDITORIAL** In neighborhoods around the region, families with power offered help to those without. Consider a few examples of list-serve messages, all sent with addresses and phone contact information, and instructions to spread the word:

“If any neighborhood residents still need a place to stay, you are welcome to come over. You can hang out for just a while to watch the game or stay overnight. We have lots of room and can accommodate a family with kids and pets — we have a large dog who would love to have a playmate for a while.”

“We have hot coffee, food and beds to sleep in. We also have a 4-wheel drive and if my husband can help with driving please let us know. Happy to help!”

“We have a warm house and food and beds. Anyone in need is most welcome. We are unplowed, so we can’t drive out ourselves.”

Consider one family’s experience: an elderly mother who lives alone in the suburbs while her children live in other states. Stranded by two-feet of snow, and out of power for the second day, her children lost phone contact with her. While friends tried to get to her by 4-wheel drive, an appeal via list-serve brought multiple offers from “strangers” to hike through the snow to check on her, and offers to provide a place to stay. The friend of the family was able to reach her, and found indoor temperatures of 31 degrees before getting her to a warm, safe place. But another 24 hours in that house could have been disastrous.

It’s hard to fathom the combination of no power, bitter temperatures and no way to get

out of the house or the neighborhood.

By the time you read this, written on Monday in the respite between the blizzard and Tuesday’s predicted storm, we may already be dealing with the next round of snow in this record-breaking winter.

It’s a great time to think about emergency contingencies. Do you know who on your block might need some extra thread in the safety net? Elderly, or lives alone, or any other special circumstance? Do you have a way to reach your family members during a power outage? Do you have food and water for a few days without power?

Here are two links to Ready.gov, explaining the basics of an emergency kit and the required elements of an emergency plan.

<http://www.ready.gov/america/getakit/index.html>

<http://www.ready.gov/america/makeaplan/index.html>

We welcome your snow stories, snow tips and snow pictures. Do you know of a random act of kindness to share? Please let us know. Email the editor at [kemal@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kemal@connectionnewspapers.com)

— MARY KIMM,

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Children Need Full-Day School

To the Editor:

Having attended meetings with our county, School Board and elected state officials and reading news reports during recent weeks, I think it’s worth clarifying the real concern about losing full-day kindergarten. It’s not about providing childcare to help parents. It’s about providing children with the superior education that begins with full-day kindergarten and not retreating from Fairfax County’s commitment to provide full-day instruction to all students.

For the past five years, I’ve been a stay-at-home mom after having taught in county elementary schools for five years before that.

I now face the kindergarten conundrum as I get ready to return to teaching and my daughter readies for kindergarten this fall. I empathize with parents facing the logistical and financial uncertainty of childcare next September for their rising kindergartners. School Aged Child Care in many schools already faces waiting lists, even without the influx of additional kindergartners. I’m hopeful, though, that many parents, families and schools will be able to work around this.

What concerns me more is being able to address the academic impact that losing full-day kindergarten would have. My oldest child was part of the first year of full-day kindergarten class at our neighborhood elementary school three years ago. I saw him blossom

from a preschooler to an elementary school student. Full-day kindergarten provided my oldest child and his teachers with time for full blocks of math, science, social studies and language arts. Teachers also used the time for reading remediation, extra reading instruction and foreign language practice to develop their language skills. Full-day kindergarten students also had twice the opportunities for the full breadth of school activities — P.E., music, art, library and computer lab. Even school lunch with peers provides kindergartners with social opportunities they might not otherwise get. Full-day kindergarten gets these kids ready for the demands of first grade, Virginia Standards of Learning assessments, No Child Left Behind Act requirements, and

beyond.

Many Fairfax County schools still do not have full-day kindergarten. Their half-day kindergarten teachers do an excellent job providing instruction during the shortened school day. But I’ve directly experienced how full-day kindergarten benefits children. It would be a shame to cut full-day kindergarten in schools that have already successfully implemented it. Children don’t need another year of pre-school. They’re ready for kindergarten and Fairfax County should not retreat from the important goal of providing full-day kindergarten for all its students.

**Rebecca McNaull**  
Vienna

### BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to [herndon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:herndon@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

#### THURSDAY/FEB. 18

**Update on the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project.** 11:30 a.m. at the Sheraton Reston, 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Sam Carnaggio, P.E., Project Manager, Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, will share details on what’s happening in the construction and the next steps for both Phases 1 and 2. [info@committeefordulles.org](mailto:info@committeefordulles.org).

**Eighth Annual Lincoln-Reagan Dinner.** 6:30 p.m. at the Hidden Creek Country Club, 1711 Clubhouse Road, Reston. Speaker, George Allen, former governor of Virginia. \$55 per person. 703-742-0149 or 703-406-9740.

**Interjurisdictional Meeting with Loudoun and Fairfax Counties and the Town of Herndon.** 1:30 p.m. at Mary Ingram Council Chambers, 765 Lynn St., Herndon. Elected officials from the Town of Herndon and the Counties of Loudoun and Fairfax will meet to discuss future planning efforts in the Route 28/Dulles Toll Road area. 703-435-6804 or [www.herndon-va.gov](http://www.herndon-va.gov).

**Weekly classes in Chen tai chi.** Beginners class every Monday, 6:30 p.m. at the Jow Ga Shaolin Institute, 600-D Carlisle Drive, Herndon. First class free. All levels and ages welcome. [truetaiichi.com](http://truetaiichi.com) or 703-801-0064.

**NARFE Dulles Chapter 1241 Luncheon Meeting.** 11:30 a.m. at Amphora Diner, 1151 Elden St., Herndon. Retirement Options for those who are retired or are still employed will be presented by Karen Carter, Marketing Counselor for The Village at Orchard Ridge, Winchester. 703-435-3523.

Beginners class every Monday, 6:30 p.m. at the Jow Ga Shaolin Institute, 600-D Carlisle Drive, Herndon. First class free. All levels and ages welcome. [truetaiichi.com](http://truetaiichi.com) or 703-801-0064.

#### SATURDAY/APRIL 10

**The Reston Accessibility Committee (RAC)** meets are at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of every other month, at United Bank, 1801 Reston Parkway, Reston. The RAC works improve accessibility for mobility-impaired persons in Reston. Contact Ken Fredgren, 703-391-9019 or [fredgren.k@gmail.com](mailto:fredgren.k@gmail.com).

#### FRIDAY/FEB. 19

Republican Club of Greater Reston

#### MONDAY/FEB. 22

#### MONDAY/MARCH 29

Weekly classes in Chen tai chi.

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# CALENDAR

Send announcements to [herndon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:herndon@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit [www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com).

## THURSDAY/FEB. 11

**Special Twos.** 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Storytime. Age 2 with adult. 703-689-2700.

**Friends of the Library Book Discussion.** 7:30 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder. Adults. 703-689-2700.

**Lupus Support Group.** 12 p.m. at Reston Hospital Center, The West Wing, 1850 Town Center Parkway, Reston. [tinyurl.com/lupusgrps](http://tinyurl.com/lupusgrps) or 1-888-349-1167.

**Shemekia Copeland.** 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$22. 703-938-2404 or [wolftrap.org](http://wolftrap.org).

## FRIDAY/FEB. 12

**'The Violet Hour.'** 8 p.m. at the Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. A mysterious machine is delivered unordered, and within a few minutes begins spewing out pages of information about the future. \$19 adults, \$16 seniors and students. 703-481-5930 or [www.elderstreet.com](http://www.elderstreet.com).

**'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf' by Edward Albee.** 8 p.m. at Taking Flight Theatre Company, Waddell Theater, 1000 Harry Byrd Highway, Sterling. Students and seniors \$10, general admission \$15. [www.cct2ft.com](http://www.cct2ft.com).

**Have a Heart Hop.** At the Dulles Hilton, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon. 8:30-9 p.m. beginner's class, open dancing with Natty Beaux 9-12 a.m. This dance will benefit AFH and the Honor Flights of WWII Vets. [www.aforeverhome.org](http://www.aforeverhome.org).

**The Discovery Series: Berlin Philharmonic Wind Quintet.** 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$35. 703-938-2404 or [wolftrap.org](http://wolftrap.org).

## SATURDAY/FEB. 13

**Moscow State Radio Symphony Orchestra.** 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Under the direction of Alexei Kormienko, with pianist Alexander Sinchuk and cellist Julian Schwarz in a program that includes Rimsky-Korsakov's 'The Tsar's Bride' Overture and 'Scheherazade,' Symphonic Suite for Orchestra, Op. 35, Rachmaninoff's 'Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini,' Op. 43 and 'Variations on a Rococo Theme in A for Cello and Orchestra,' Op. 33. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins at 7:15 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$28-\$56, available at 888-945-2468 or [www.gmu.edu/cfa](http://www.gmu.edu/cfa).

**'Cinderella Wore Combat Boots.'** 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. \$7. 703-481-5930 or [www.elderstreet.com](http://www.elderstreet.com).

**'The Violet Hour.'** 8 p.m. at the Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. \$19 adults, \$16 seniors and students. 703-481-5930 or [www.elderstreet.com](http://www.elderstreet.com).

**Reston Contra Dance.** 8 p.m. at the Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Rd., Reston. Admission \$8, with a free beginners' workshop at 7:15 p.m. 703-476-4500.



PHOTO BY JEFF BOATRICH

**Heather Plank and Adam Downs in 'The Violet Hour,' presented by Elden Street Players at the Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon, Friday and Saturday.**

**'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf' by Edward Albee.** 8 p.m. at Taking Flight Theatre Company, Waddell Theater, 1000 Harry Byrd Highway, Sterling. Students and seniors \$10, general admission \$15. [www.cct2ft.com](http://www.cct2ft.com).

**Gum Art.** 11 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Jamie Marraccini shows how to create art with your chewing gum. Age 12-18. 703-689-2700.

**Book Sorter Training.** 1 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Adults. 703-689-2700.

**Valentine's Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides.** 6-10 p.m. Pick up location in front of Talbots on Market Street, Reston. \$5 per person. Children under 5 ride free with an adult. All proceeds benefit Relay for Life. 703-476-9377.

**The Fabulous Hubcaps.** At Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Doors open at 7 p.m., music and dancing 8-11:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Herndon. B.Y.O.B. No children under 18 years of age. \$35 per person. Proceeds will be donated to local charities, and towards educational opportunity for area youth. 703-443-9398.

**Torch Songs and Poetry: Appetizers for Love.** 7 p.m. at Café Montmartre, Lake Anne Plaza, Reston. Singer Mary Kate Bristow and Reston poet Jeffrey Ritte 703-904-8080.

**A Tribute to Neil Finn/Crowded House.** 7:30 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$25. 703-938-2404 or [wolftrap.org](http://wolftrap.org).

**Tennis for Nature.** 12-8 p.m. at Worldgate Sport and Health Club, 13037 Worldgate Drive, Herndon. Doubles pro sets, round robin and more. \$55 per player. Proceeds benefit the Alaska Wilderness League and Habitat for Humanity. 571-244-7248 or [sportsfornature@thegreenbusiness.com](mailto:sportsfornature@thegreenbusiness.com).

## SUNDAY/FEB. 14

**The Acting Company in Romeo and Juliet.** 4 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4500 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets are \$18-\$36. Charge at 888-945-2468 or [www.gmu.edu/cfa](http://www.gmu.edu/cfa).

**'Cinderella Wore Combat Boots.'** 2 p.m. at the Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. \$7. 703-481-5930 or [www.elderstreet.com](http://www.elderstreet.com).

**'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf' by Edward Albee.** 7 p.m. at Taking

Flight Theatre Company, Waddell Theater, 1000 Harry Byrd Highway, Sterling. Students and seniors \$10, general admission \$15. [www.cct2ft.com](http://www.cct2ft.com).

**Think Pink: Figure Skaters for the Cure Performances.** 7:30-8 p.m. Ice Skating Pavilion, Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. See figure skating performances by local competitive skaters to benefit the Susan G. Komen foundation. Donations accepted at [www.info-komen.org/goto/ThinkPinkIceShow](http://www.info-komen.org/goto/ThinkPinkIceShow).

## MONDAY/FEB. 15

**Initiative for Public Art-Reston and Hunters Woods Elementary School PTA Ice Skating.** 4 p.m. at the Reston Town Center Pavilion. \$10 per person including the skate rental fee. Open to the public. Proceeds from admission, hot chocolate and cookie sales will benefit IPAR's public art project to create a permanent Reston underpass mural involving an artist-in-residence working in collaboration with students from Hunters Woods. 703-467-9797 or [www.publicartreston.org](http://www.publicartreston.org).

**Michael Rosman: Amazing Feats of Comedy.** 10:30 a.m. Phoenix Worldgate Theatre, 13025 Worldgate Drive, Herndon. \$4 in advance, \$5 at the door. 703-787-7300.

## TUESDAY/FEB. 16

**Author Ron Arens.** 1 p.m. at the Hazak Active Retirees Chapter of Congregation Beth Emeth, 12523 Lawyers Road in Herndon. Arens is the author of 'The Jews of Sing Sing,' the true story of Jewish gangsters from the late 1800s through the 1950s, and the Jewish community's response. Free to Hazak members, \$3 for guests. 703-860-4515 ext. 127.

**Testing Tips and Tutoring.** 6:30 p.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Tips on college entrance and SOL exam testing. Age 12 and up. 703-437-8855.

**Book Buddy Reading Reinforcement Program.** 4:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Read to a Big Buddy for 30 minutes once a week. Age 6-8. 703-242-4020.

**Special Twos.** 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Storytime. Age 2 with adult. 703-689-2700.

**ESL Advanced.** 11 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Practice English in a conversation group. 703-689-2700.



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All listings due by Monday at 3 pm.

# SPORTS

## Herndon Holds its Own at District Track Championships

Both Hornet girls' and boys' teams earn high makes at Concorde postseason meet.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

All in all, the Herndon High indoor track and field teams had a solid showing at the recent Concorde District Championship meet. The two-day postseason event, which took place at Prince George's Sports and Learning Center in Landover, Md., began on Jan. 28 with preliminary events. The second and final day of action took place a week later on Feb. 4 with event finals.

The Herndon girls finished third in the team standings with 86 points, behind champion Oakton (109) and second place Robinson (104). The Herndon boys' team, meanwhile, was fourth with 67.66 points. Two boys' teams tied for first place honors — Centreville and Robinson, both with 108 points. Chantilly was third.

Herndon coach Pete Sherry was particularly proud of his girls' team showing.

"The girls really stepped up," said Sherry. "We're pretty happy. We could have scored more points but the people who needed to advance [to regionals] did."

At districts, the top three relay teams automatically advanced to the upcoming Northern Region Championships, which will take place on Feb. 20 at George Mason University. Also, the top six finishers in individual events at districts qualified for regionals.

The good showings by the relay teams on both the girls' and boys' sides were one of the highlights of the district meet for Herndon. Both of the Hornets' 4x800-relay teams earned second place finishes, behind relays from Centreville. In the 4x200 relay, the Herndon boys were second behind Robinson, while the Hornet girls were a strong third behind first place Robinson and second place Oakton.

The Herndon girls' 4x400 relay team finished second behind Robinson.

"We were very happy with all the relays," said Sherry.

**HERNDON'S CAROLYN HENNESSEY**, a junior, won the 1,000-

race and finished second in the mile, behind Robinson's Taylor Crosson, to pace the girls' team.

"She ran smart and very patient," said Sherry, of Hennessey's victory in the 1000.

Of Hennessey's second place finish in the mile, the coach said, "She did everything right, but just got beat."

Another distance runner, sophomore Belle Burgess, was second in the 2-mile race behind Robinson's Crosson. Burgess took a fifth place in the one mile.

"Belle looked great [in the 2-mile]," said Sherry. "She just got beat by a Robinson girl who was just better. Belle was with her through at least a mile. The last six laps [Crosson] probably pulled away. But it was probably Belle's best race this year."

In field events, senior Danielle Theberge won the girls' high jump. In sprints, sophomore Carina Peter took first in the girls' 55 dash and was fourth in the 300.

Other Herndon girls' top six place finishers were: junior Tania Hassan, sixth in both triple jump and pole vault; senior Sarah Roethel, third in high jump; senior Nazuk Kochhar, sixth in high jump; senior Destinee Beckham, sixth in shot put; and senior Mehnaz Haq, fifth in 500.

**THE HERNDON BOYS** had stellar district outings from seniors Kirk Nguyen and Jack Jasper, along with sophomore Josh Schow. Nguyen was the champion in the shot put. Jasper, meanwhile, was third in both the mile and 2-mile races. Schow was third in the 55, sixth in high jump and also anchored the second place 4x800 relay.

"I was happy with Josh's anchor [in the 4x800 relay]," said Sherry. "He looked like he had his leg speed back and that's an indication of good things to come."

Also putting together an exceptional meet for the Herndon boys was senior Shariff Mazlan, who placed in three events - the triple jump (third), long jump (sixth) and 55-hurdles (sixth).

Austin Miller, a sophomore, impressed his coach by placing fourth in pole vault with a mark of 10-feet, 6 inches. He had not cleared 8 feet during the regular season, although the 10th grader had only vaulted in a couple of meets prior to districts.

"He really came through and looked great," said Sherry, of Miller. "That was probably the biggest surprise."

Other place finishers for the Herndon boys were junior Jimmy Luehrs, third in 1,000 and sixth in 1,600; and senior Austin Moore, fifth in shot put.



Herndon High's ROTC track and field team excelled at the Frost Bite meet in January.

### SPORTS ROUNDUPS

**The Herndon High NJROTC** finished first overall at the Frost Bite NJROTC Field Meet held at Patuxent High School in Lusby Md. on Jan. 9. Herndon competed against 10 other high school teams and placed in all team events. It finished first in both the 8x200 and 16x100 relays, as well as in the team pushups event. Also, the locals were second in team curlup competition. Herndon was anchored in the pushup and curlup competitions by cadets Brianna Lowery and Anna Truong, who earned first and second place finishes, respectively, in the female pushup competition; and cadets Terrell Thigpen and Richard Fronczak, who were second and third in the male competition. Cadet Adam Schalk earned third place in the male curl-up competition. Herndon was missing several key members due to illnesses and a scheduling conflict as a result of the Herndon High track team competing elsewhere. NJROTC instructor Commander Richard Cassara was impressed with his team's performance, stating, "In 15 years of coaching PT teams I have never seen a more courageous effort and flawless execution of fundamentals than was shown by our cadets today. They set a new standard for performance that we will talk about for years to come."

**The Tennis For Nature** men's and women's doubles event will take place on Saturday, Feb. 13, at Worldgate Sport & Health Club, 13037 Worldgate Drive, Herndon. All doubles divisions available — men's, women's and mixed (3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0). Cost is \$55 per player. Register online at SportsForNature.com. For more information, call 571-244-7248.

**Steve Lee** has been named the new head coach of the Herndon High boys' soccer program. Lee, a successful club coach in Virginia, served as the Herndon High boys' JV coach last spring.

**The Dulles Airport Rotary Club** will present the 14th annual Opportunities Open Golf Tournament next fall on Sept. 27. Since its inception, the tournament has been an event dedicated to making a positive impact on the lives of local people with disabilities. This year's event will once again be hosted by Hidden Creek Country Club in Reston. Pro-

ceeds will benefit Arc of Northern Virginia, Every Citizen Has Opportunities, Service Source and Arc of Loudoun. For further information on participation, or to become a club sponsor, contact the Dulles Rotary Club Opportunities Open Committee at 703-406-8200, ext. 245.

**Herndon Reston Youth Softball (HRYS)** spring registration is now underway. HRYS is a girls' fastpitch Babe Ruth Softball League serving players ages 6 to 18 in the greater Herndon-Reston area. HRYS offers softball programs to fit the needs and skill levels of all players.

**Registration for tryouts** to the Herndon/Reston 2010 Showcase Glory softball team are now open. This program is designed for high school juniors and seniors in the Herndon/Reston area who are interested in playing on a college showcase softball team.

**Registration** is open for the spring season of Herndon Optimist Youth Baseball (HOYB), a Herndon Optimist Youth Sport. HOYB provides boys and girls between the ages of 4 and 12 an opportunity to play in an organized baseball program. The program is a part of the Cal Ripken division of the Babe Ruth organization. The leagues are safe, fun and instructional. No experience is necessary. Whether a child is new to the sport or a seasoned player, baseball in Herndon has lots to offer. To register, volunteer, or to learn more, go to [www.herndonbaseball.com](http://www.herndonbaseball.com).

**Herndon Optimist NFL Flag Football**, a Herndon Optimist Youth Sport, announced that registration for the spring season is now open. Herndon Optimist NFL Flag Football operates under the umbrella of the NFL Youth Football Organization. The league was started by coaches from the Herndon Optimist Youth Football (tackle) league to provide football experience for younger players in a non-contact program held in the spring. The league goal is to provide boys and girls, ages 5-to-17 of Northern Virginia, an opportunity to play NFL flag football and learn sportsmanship, teamwork, and responsibility while having fun. To register, volunteer, or to learn more, go to [www.honfl.com](http://www.honfl.com).

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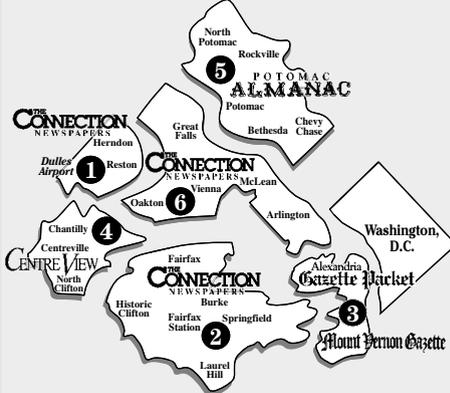
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## Really?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

"No turn on red when pedestrians are present." That's what the sign says; many of them say it (print it, actually) throughout Old Town Alexandria (maybe other jurisdictions, too, but I've not noticed them elsewhere). And it's a good thing that it is said, and said/printed so clearly and placed so prominently (on the right side of the road on which I'm idling, staring at the aforementioned red light while contemplating a right-hand turn) because otherwise, I might not react as carefully to the sight of pedestrians walking directly in front of me and my car.

I have to believe that, given the increasing numbers of licensed (and unlicensed) practical drivers out there, a percentage of whom might not read and write English as their primary language, it never hurts to offer refresher-type signage stating the fairly obvious. I mean, drivers have a lot more going on inside their cars (and perhaps even inside their heads) than maybe they used to just a few short years ago.

Cell phones, leap to mind, especially when they're set on ring, are distracting; more so when there's an ongoing conversation, whether hand-holding or hands free. Either way, there's more information in-car (and in-ear) than drivers have previously ever had to assimilate. And of course, this doesn't even take into consideration the demands/activities of any passengers, who we'll assume (for the sake of this column) are not so much interested in, or demanding of, the driver, given their likely involvement within their own hand-held devices (cell-poning, texting, gaming, video) as in the past.

Speaking of cell phones and distractions, one cannot address the demands on drivers without mentioning the scourge of texting, a silent assassin, if there ever was one. Created presumably to enhance and assure the lines of communication, their use and abuse; anytime, all the time, without regard to time and place, has created an alternative to speaking that unfortunately has led drivers to additional distractions; requiring drivers who decide to reply, something else to do in-car with BOTH HANDS instead of/in addition to HOLDING THE WHEEL AND STEERING.

And lest we not forget the absolute newest distraction to drivers: G.P.S-type navigation systems, the search-and-hopefully-not-destroy-the-driver, computerized rescue devices that will direct drivers to their destination, so long as they manually enter the correct information into the device (most likely also while in the car and driving), and then actually listen to its calm, reassuring voice advising you where to turn, and/or looking at the pop-up navigation screen for further "directionality." A helpful device for sure, but one often strategically placed out of your line of sight for convenient viewing no doubt, but a location which draws the driver's eyes away from watching ahead (or into the rear- or side-view mirrors) to watching down a bit and to the side.

Nevertheless, this is information which has provided countless motorists; verbally, visually, digitally and repeatedly, happy endings to an otherwise potentially harrowing journey. Still, this kind of real-time-type streaming data is imposing itself on drivers in a frequency and duration never before imagined and certainly not one for which there has been any training or driver education.

It's obvious, with so much that is new (technologically speaking, especially), that Alexandria has decided to go old school and offer its local drivers a reminder of one of their basic behind-the-wheel responsibilities: to respect their fellow non-drivers. It sounds/reads simple enough, "No turn on red when pedestrians are present," but considering all the cell-poning, texting, gaming and navigating going on in the car, apparently it made sense to "sign in" while drivers were signing on.

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

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## Another Storm Set To Arrive

FROM PAGE 3

Recreation Center in Oakton after the storm, partly to respond to the needs of those communities without electricity, said Fitzgerald. No one showed up at the Franconia location and only two families went to the Oakton location before the county shut both shelters down Feb. 8.

At the Oakton location, one family took hot showers and left immediately. Another family spent several hours there and went home around midnight once they found out their power had been restored, said Fitzgerald.

"The shelters were very well promoted but people found other ways to deal with the lack of electricity," said Fitzgerald.

Fairfax will consider opening the shelters again if they needed after the second snow storm, she added.

**THOUGH THE POWER** had come back on in most Fairfax houses, dozens of subdivisions scattered throughout the county had yet to see a snowplow less with than 24 hours to go before the second storm was expected to hit.

The commonwealth of Virginia, not Fairfax County, is responsible for plowing the vast majority of local roads. Transportation officials said they aimed to make "at least one pass" with a snow plow on every street in Fairfax by Tuesday night, Feb. 9, though the flakes were expected to start falling again in the middle of that afternoon.

"We are trying to get the plows to every street — it's a major challenge," said Joan Morris, Virginia transportation spokesperson.

Virginia's Transportation department does not have adequate snow removal equipment for a storm of this size. Hundreds of smaller four-wheel drive trucks that the transportation department typically relies on for plowing have been all but useless in response to this storm.

The smaller plows are built to handle a four-to-six inch snowfall but are not effective at removing the two feet of snow that piled onto Fairfax streets after last week's storm. In some cases the snowdrifts on local streets were higher than the smaller plows themselves.

Approximately 1,900 larger trucks from other parts of the commonwealth have been transferred to Virginia to respond to the shortage of appropriate plows. But simply putting larger, industrial plows on local community roads is not always practical.

**GOV. BOB McDONNELL (R)** has deployed 62 members of the National Guard to Fairfax County to help with both snowstorms. The guardsmen arrived Feb. 7, sleeping on cots set up in the Fairfax County Government Center and a few fire stations around the county.

The Virginia National Guard is able to provide back up to emergency responders overwhelmed with hundreds of requests for assistance. For example, on Monday, Feb. 8, the guard transported an 88 year-old dialysis patient who was snowed in to a medical appointment.

"Our mission here is medical transports, employee transports, helping out police and fire squads, and medical assistance," said Specialist Jeremy Anderson, who was stationed at the National Guard's emergency operations center, set up in the McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center in Fairfax.

Fairfax officials also said regular citizens have been of great assistance in the storm. Some county residents have been volunteering their four-wheel drive vehicles to transport other people to medical centers and doctor appointments.

In a few cases, regular citizens have also picked up and driven county employees — such a fire and rescue workers — to a job site, said Fitzgerald.

"A lot of the people staffing the shelters were picked up by volunteers and brought here," she said.

**INOVA HOSPITALS** have seen fewer snow-related injuries during this storm than the mid-December storm, said Tony Raker, the health system's spokesperson.

"We believe the reason is the difference between a 6-inch and 26-inch storm. The larger amount of snow has had a paralyzing effect on activity while the smaller amount has a tendency to generate a bit of over confidence, causing folks not to exercise as much caution in the elements as they should," said Raker.

The second storm may have posed a new set of problems.

Virginia could have run out of the salt before the end of the second snow fall.

"Salt could be a challenge during the next storm — we've been replenishing but the domes aren't full," said Morris.

A few county officials also wonder where all the plowed snow will go once it is cleared, as the shoulders of major roads and large parking lots run out of space.

Reporter Mike DiCicco contributed to this article.



PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

The team members line up in front of their plane.

## Heroes Return from Haiti

### Virginia Task Force saves 16 lives.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI  
THE CONNECTION

For most people, the devastation of the Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti was realized only through television news reports or horrifying images in the newspaper and their only means of assistance lied in Red Cross donations. The members of Virginia Task Force 1, however, got a more hands-on experience.

The task force, comprising members of the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue Team, returned home Thursday, Jan. 28 after spending two weeks in Haiti digging through rubble and saving lives. The multi-hour rescue missions, combined with 20-hour work days, left most of the 114 team members thrilled to be home and a bit more thankful for the things they used to take for granted.

"I've been in many earthquakes and was at the Pentagon on 9/11 and I'd never seen destruction like that," Rescue Specialist Wayne Reedy said. "Nothing prepares you for what you see at first, but you have to adapt and overcome."

**THE TASK FORCE**, one of only three teams in the country approved by the federal government to perform overseas search-and-rescue missions, was activated by the United States Agency for International Development the day after the earthquake but was deployed in two separate units. A team of 72 personnel, six search and rescue canines, search and technical rescue personnel, physicians, paramedics, structural engineers and other support personnel was deployed Jan. 13, but after seeing the extent of the destruction, quickly realized that more task force members were

needed. So, 42 more personnel were sent Jan. 15.

"We hit the ground running," Task Force Leader Capt. Joe Kaleda said. "From there, it was 24/7 rescue operations for three days straight. It was heartwrenching, but we were there to do the best we could for as long as we could."

Throughout the two weeks, the team managed to find and rescue 16 survivors that were all buried under the rubble of destroyed buildings across the city. Because much of the country's communication infrastructure was destroyed, Reedy said that the team relied heavily on locals who had a family member or friend missing to let them know where to search. One such tip, Reedy said, led to one of the deployment's most harrowing and challenging rescues at the up-

scale Hotel Montana, where the team tunneled under the building and up into the rubble to retrieve a buried survivor. That

particular rescue took 30 hours, he said.

"When you're out there working, you think of the people just like they are your own family," Reedy said. "Some rescues were difficult because some of the people were so entombed. Some only had an inch of space for 10 days."

**THE TEAM** arrived at Dulles Airport to a hero's welcome, complete with a water arch made by two fire trucks and members of the Board of Supervisors and dozens of members of the county fire and rescue department waiting on the tarmac. "This was my husband's first mission, so I'm very happy to have him back home," said Diane Fernandez of her husband Mark. "I'm just so proud of him and all his team members that went down there to save lives."

With the deployment completed, the 114 task force members will return to their day jobs at the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and other places of employment.

"I've been in many earthquakes and I'd never seen destruction like that."

— Rescue Specialist Wayne Reedy

## Skate Park Discussed

FROM PAGE 3

to design meetings for the park had been adults.

**DIRECTOR** of Parks and Recreation Cindy Roeder said the site plan for the 4,200-square-foot skate park would go before the town Architectural Review Board this

month, and the project should be put out to bid sometime in the second half of March. She said her department hoped to have secured a contract in April and have the skate park completed by the end of summer.

"Thank you, town of Herndon, for a skate park. Finally," said skateboarder Sean Warsing.

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