

Koshka Wright, of Ashburn, performs in the last Friday's ReMastered - A Marketier Music Series at ArtSpace Herndon Art Gallery. 'I'm always going to push my voice to reach new levels,' she said.

Chambers Team Up to Advocate For Businesses

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Hutchison Goes Old-School

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NEWS

Chambers Team Up to Advocate for Businesses

Dulles, Reston, Loudoun chambers lobbied General Assembly with unified front.

BY MIKE DiCICCO
THE CONNECTION

This year marked the first time that the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce and the Loudoun Chamber of Commerce teamed up to advocate together for the businesses they represent. The three groups hired a lobbyist to represent their interests to the Virginia General Assembly during its session that ended March 14, and chamber representatives visited Richmond at least three times during the session.

Eileen Curtis, president of the Dulles Chamber, said her group had joined forces with the Loudoun Chamber last year and invited other chambers to join forces with them this year. The Reston Chamber took them up on the invitation.

"We are in that zone that is so hot for growth," Curtis said, noting that the area between Leesburg and Tysons Corner was the second fastest-growing region in the country in terms of commercial expansion. Both the Loudoun and Dulles chambers have fast-growing memberships, she said.

"At a time with money being tight, you really have to fight for your own constituents," Curtis said.

Reston Chamber President Mark Ingrao just took over the presidency in July, coming from a lobbying background. "I've always thought it's very important to be engaged in Richmond, as well as here in Fairfax County," he said, adding that he considered advocacy to be one of the best services a chamber could provide for its members.

Also, he said, the fact that Metrorail would soon unite the three jurisdictions and spur continued growth made the partnership sensible. And, he added, "I



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce President Mark Ingrao

think the timing of us having a new governor and having a fresh new group of people to go down there and represent the business community was a great opportunity."

THE CHAMBERS hired Fairfax-based Access Point Public Affairs, who the Dulles and Loudoun chambers had hired last year, to represent their collective 3,000 member businesses.

Curtis said one of the first issues to come up was the proposed freeze on the local composite index (LCI), which would have meant a loss of about \$120 million in school funding for Fairfax and Loudoun counties. When the General Assembly seemed disinclined to restore the funding to Northern Virginia, the chambers took the matter to Governor Bob McDonnell (R), who sided with them, she said.

"We have an education piece, so we were very concerned about that issue and we weighed in on that," Ingrao said. Northern Virginia frequently touts its school systems as incentive for businesses to move here.

Ingrao said the groups focused on tax and regulatory policy, energy and environmental issues, and economic development.

In the area of economic development, they pushed for an increase in the Governor's Opportunity Fund, which provides cash grants to businesses that create jobs in the state, Curtis said. They also asked for \$5 million for the state's industrial mega-site fund to woo companies to Virginia and lobbied for a bill to bring \$3 mil-



PHOTO BY ANDREW DODSON
THE CONNECTION

Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce President Eileen Curtis

lion in bioscience wet lab facilities, such as the one that the Ignite Institute is planning for its new home in the Herndon-area Center for Innovative Technology (CIT). The laboratory, which is to support institute's personalized medicine program, is planned to be the world's second-largest wet lab, second only to one in Beijing, China, Curtis said.

She said the groups opposed the elimination of the sales tax "dealer discount," which is granted to car dealers when they collect sales taxes, as well as a proposal for accelerated sales tax collections that would have allowed the state to collect the tax a month early.

"We did promote the expansion of Virginia's offshore energy policy," Curtis said.

ALL OF THOSE EFFORTS met with at least some success.

Ingrao said it was the first time the Reston Chamber had teamed with other chambers for the purpose of advocacy, although it had teamed up with the Dulles Chamber to put on International Networking Night and was now working with the Arlington Chamber of Commerce to provide a trip to China in the fall.

"I don't see any reason why we wouldn't continue it," he said, noting that many legislators had been eager to meet with the alliance, which represent about 100,000 jobs. "That says something about the power you have when the three forces come together."

Curtis said her chamber would welcome the chance to continue the arrangement. "And perhaps it will grow," she added.



Jen Williams (above) and Johanna Ramos (below), both of Herndon, helped raise donations for 4Paws at the Ben & Jerry's store at Dulles Town Center.

4Paws Rescue Team Scoops for Felines

More than 30 4Paws Rescue Team volunteers armed with ice-cream scoopers and smiles raised nearly \$800 in donations Tuesday at the Ben & Jerry's store at Dulles Town Center, reported Barbara Lipson, the nonprofit organization's president.

4Paws is a Northern Virginia community-based, all-volunteer nonprofit organization that rescues neglected, abandoned, abused and unwanted cats and kittens. The Ben & Jerry's store at Dulles Town Center selected the organization as its designated charity for Free Cone Day, an annual customer-appreciation and fundraising event organized by the national ice cream company. One day each spring Ben & Jerry patrons receive a free ice cream cone of their favorite flavor and in exchange are asked to donate to the store's selected local charity.

"The 4Paws Rescue Team applauds Ben & Jerry's and its Dulles Town Center store for their commitment to community service and for their efforts to promote philanthropy in communities throughout the United States," Lipson said. "We also greatly appreciate the generosity of the hundreds of

people who participated in the Free Cone Day at Dulles Town Center."

The monies collected by 4Paws volunteers will be used to help underwrite the care and feeding of dozens of felines over the next few months. Ninety-one cents of every dollar donated to 4Paws is used to directly care for cats rescued by the organization, Lipson said.

In 2009 4Paws rescued and found homes for more than 300 cats and kittens, bringing the total number of feline lives saved to almost 6,500 since the nonprofit organization's inception in 1995.

The next 4Paws Adoption Fair will be held April 10 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the PETCO-Fairfax located at 10708 Lee Highway in Fairfax, Va.

4Paws (www.fourpaws.org) is a nonprofit community-based, all-volunteer organization that rescues neglected, abandoned, abused and unwanted cats and kittens. Cats rescued by 4Paws receive vaccines and appropriate veterinary care before being adopted into permanent, loving homes. An animal rescued by 4Paws will never be euthanized, except out of medical necessity.



Poetry in April

April is National Poetry Month according to the Academy of American Poets, and we invite our local poets to send submissions for us to print.

The National Poet Laureate serves as consultant to the Library of Congress and “seeks to raise the national consciousness to a greater appreciation of the reading and writing of poetry.”

Virginia also has a poet laureate, a position established by the General Assembly and appointed by the governor from nominees submitted by the Poetry Society of Virginia. The current poet laureate of Virginia is Claudia Emerson, claudiaemerson.org.

Emerson won the 2006 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry for her collection “Late Wife.” She is a professor of English and Poetry at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg.

But some residents are lucky enough to have local poetry as well.

On April 10, 2007, the Alexandria City Council named Mary McElveen as the city’s poet laureate for a three-year term; her replacement for the next three years is set to be announced shortly.

Arlington sponsors poetry competition, one open to all, one for Arlington public school stu-

Poem a Day for April

Go to www.poets.org to sign up to receive a poem emailed daily.

Moving Words

READ AND RIDE

Launched in 1999 during National Poetry Month, MOVING WORDS makes poetry a part of daily life for commuters in Northern Virginia and promotes the work of local writers. The poems of six local poets selected through an annual competition are displayed on Northern Virginia Metro buses and viewed by approximately 1.3 million Metro bus riders every month. The poems are exhibited in Metro buses that traverse Arlington County, Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax County, and Fairfax City. Read the poems of the six winners and seven finalists at <http://www.arlingtonarts.org/cultural-affairs/moving-words/moving-words-2010.aspx>

MOVING WORDS POETRY READING

Winners of the 2010 Poetry Competition featured at IOTA Club & Cafe’s “Second Sundays Poetry and Art Hang,” Sunday, April 11, 8:15 pm., IOTA Club & Cafe www.iotaclubandcafe.com, 2832 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington.

dents, culminating in the display of winning poems (all limited in length) on Northern Virginia Metro busses.

This is one service local government could expand even in these economic times; Fairfax, Arlington counties, the City of Fairfax, the towns of Herndon and Vienna could consider appointing their own poets laureate.

The Alexandria Poet Laureate will promote an appreciation of poetry as an art form, encourage creative writing and reading of all

forms of literature, and promote literacy through poetry.

Are you a poet? The Connection will print poetry submitted by readers this spring and occasionally throughout the year. We welcome student poetry as well, please list the student’s age, grade and school on the submission.

Send poems to reston@connectionnewspapers.com.

— MARY KIMM.

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

‘Activist’ Attorney

To the Editor:

In light of the quixotic lawsuits Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli has filed in the last few days, I thought your readers would be interested to know what he told a group of Chamber of Commerce members in Richmond on Jan. 27, when I was present.

Cuccinelli gave a speech that morning outlining his approach to the job to which he’d just been elected. He was heartily applauded when he assured us, twice, that “I’m not going to be an activist attorney general, like Eliot Spitzer”. As New York’s attorney general, of course, Spitzer prosecuted companies involved in computer chip price fixing, preda-

tory lending practices, fraud at American International Group, and the 2003 mutual fund scandal. He was undoubtedly a vigorous and controversial figure, but all his prosecutions were grounded in existing law.

By contrast, the lawsuits Cuccinelli has filed call for nullification of laws passed by the U.S. Congress and approved by the courts, sometimes for generations. His positions are, to put it mildly, wacky. He will lose them all, at great cost to Virginia taxpayers.

But at least I know now what Cuccinelli’s definition of an “activist attorney general” is – it’s “any attorney general doing something I don’t happen to like”.

Roy J. Baldwin, Esq.
Oakton

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to herndon@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

MONDAY/APRIL 5

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. truetaichi.com or 703-801-0064.

TUESDAY/APRIL 6

Reston Garden Club Meeting. 1 p.m. at the Walker Nature Education Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Linda Brining from Merrifield Garden Center will do a presentation on trough gardens. www.restongardenclub.org.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 7

Ladies Brunch of Herndon Second Meet the Challengers Forum. 7 p.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 651 Dranesville Road, Herndon. Residents are asked to write down questions they want to ask the candidates and bring them to the forum. The challengers who will be at the forum are Lisa Merkel, Sheila Olem, Grace Wolf, Phil Jones, Carl Silvertsen, Cesar Del Aguila, Daniel Alvarado, and Jasbinder Singh. Stephen J. DeBenedittis is running unopposed for Mayor. VRobertson@cbmove.com.

THURSDAY/APRIL 8

Transportation Exhibit Opening Reception. 5:30 p.m. at the Reston Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza, Reston. The first of a new series of revolving exhibits at Reston Museum, featuring transportation of the past, present and future in Reston, on display through May 2010. 703-709-7700 or www.restonmuseum.org.

Lupus Support Group. 12 p.m. at Reston Hospital Center, The West Wing, 1850 Town Center Parkway, Reston. lh@ascendcomm.com or www.lupusgw.org.

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.
Hunter Mill Democratic Committee Lasagna Dinner. 5 p.m. at the Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. \$40 advance ticket, \$20 students, \$50 at the door. Music, live and silent auctions. 703-716-2339 or 703-242-1652.

MONDAY/APRIL 12

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. truetaichi.com or 703-801-0064.

TUESDAY/APRIL 13

Reston Association 2010 Annual Members’ Meeting. Come learn who won the election for three seats on the Reston Association Board of Directors, hear the State of the Association address and meet your neighbors. Refreshments will be served. 9 p.m. at the Sheraton Reston Hotel 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive. RSVP to Luciano Mijares at 703-435-2035 or e-mail Luciano@reston.org. Deadline to register: Monday April 5.
Public Hearing on Proposed Herndon Budget. 7 p.m. Mary Ingram Council Chambers, 765 Lynn St., Herndon. 703-435-6805 or www.herndonva.gov.

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Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

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

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St.
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Call: 703-778-9410.

By e-mail: info@connectionnewspapers.com



Arif Khan, Joey Aungsupaisal, Kimberly Duong and Emily Orellana-Ferruffino show off their colonial candle-making work. PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Hutchison Goes Old-School

Students learn 18th century crafts during fourth-grade Colonial Day.

Hutchison fourth-graders did everything the old-fashioned way on Friday, March 12. Each fourth-grader donned a colonial hat and visited eight stations in the school. Crafts included candle making, tin punching, making a clothespin doll, stenciling, making marbles and dice, broom making, making marbled paper, weaving and printmaking.

Midday, all of the fourth-graders participated in a Virginia Reel in the gym. Lunch consisted of Brunswick stew, cornbread, applesauce and pudding.

Katura Brown and Wafae Said learn the art of printmaking.



From left, Davistyn Estrada, Diane Cruz Alvarado and Katia Salmeron learn how to make straw brooms.



Natalie Quijada, Vanessa Sorto, Sahib Dua and Suhail Royeen show off the prints they made at Hutchison Elementary School's Colonial Day.

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CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/APRIL 1

Open Mic for Bands Night. 9 p.m. at Jimmy's Tavern, 697 Spring St., Old Town Herndon (on the Corner of Elden and Spring Streets). Bands will receive 30 minutes to play, and must pre-sign with Andre' Love at soulcraftmusic@yahoo.com or 703-984-9114. Walk-ins will only be accepted if time permits. All types of music welcomed. 703-435-5467.

The Holmes Brothers. 8 p.m. At Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Roots, R&B, gospel and country influenced music. \$22. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 2

The Elden Street Players in 'Metamorphoses.' 8 p.m. at the Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. A modern adaptation of Ovid's Roman mythological stories. Mature themes and brief male nudity. Patrons in the front row may be splashed with water during the show; towels provided.. \$19, \$16 seniors and students. Reserve at 703-481-5930. www.eldenstreetplayers.org.

Christine Lavin. 8 p.m. At Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Folk artist. \$20. www.wolftrap.org.

Reston V.I.P. 2 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Support group for people with vision loss. Adults. 703-689-2700.

SATURDAY/APRIL 3

Herndon Rotary Club Tango Gala Fundraiser. At the Reston Center Hyatt, Reston, 1800 Presidents St., Reston. Live music by an orchestra from Argentina, floor show by professional tango dancers, dinner and dancing. \$100 per person; black tie optional. Proceeds benefit local charities supported by Herndon Rotary Club. Contact Rudy Tassar, 703-478-2800. www.herndonrotary-tango.com.

Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association. At Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. Line dance lessons at 7:30 p.m., couples specialty dance at 8 p.m. Open dancing 8:30-11 p.m. Members \$10, non-members \$12. Under age 18 \$5, PSDC members \$10. www.nvcwda.org or 703-860-4941.

The Elden Street Players in 'Metamorphoses.' 8 p.m. at the Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. A modern adaptation of Ovid's Roman mythological stories. Mature themes and brief male nudity. Patrons in the front row may be splashed with water during the show; towels provided. \$19, \$16 seniors and students. Reserve at 703-481-5930. www.eldenstreetplayers.org.

13th Annual Easter Party for Kids. 12:30-3:30 p.m. at Jimmy's Old Town Tavern, 697 Spring St., Herndon. Magic Mountain Puppeteer, coloring, arts and crafts and TeGee's Bunny Hop Dance Party. \$12.95 per child. Space is limited, reservations suggested. All children must bring a grown-up. 703-435-5100.

Jonathan Edwards. 7:30 p.m. At Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Folk music. \$24. www.wolftrap.org.

SUNDAY/APRIL 4

Vinifera Wine Bar & Bistro Petting Zoo, provided by the Leesburg

Animal Park. At the Westin Reston Heights, 11750 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Lambs, ducks, bunnies, goats, and a long haired llama will be on the lawn from 12-3 p.m., and Easter egg hunts for ages 12 and under at 12 p.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. The Easter Bunny will visit. Three-course prix fixe brunch menu, \$40 adults and \$18 for ages 12 and under. www.viniferabistro.com.

MONDAY/APRIL 5

ESL Beginners. 11 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. ESL conversation group. Adults. 703-689-2700.

TUESDAY/APRIL 6

Preschool Storytime. 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-689-2700.

ESL Advanced. 11 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Practice English in a group with a volunteer facilitator. Adults. 703-689-2700.

Reston Garden Club Meeting. 1 p.m. at the Walker Nature Education Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Linda Brining from Merrifield Garden Center will do a presentation on trough gardens. www.restongardenclub.org.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 7

Wandering Wildlife: Tracking movement, migrations and mileage, from wolves to wading birds. 7 p.m. at the U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. USGS researchers L. David Mech and Robert Gill will talk about the use of the latest state-of-the-art technology in tracking wildlife. Federal Facility: Photo Id Required. 703-648-4333 or www.usgs.gov/public/lecture/series.

Drop-In Story Hour. 11 a.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Storytime with a focus on books. 703-437-8855.

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

What's All That Jazz About? 6:45 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Saxophonist Shenole Latimer combines classic recordings and live performance to provide new insights on how to follow along with jazz tunes. Adults. 703-689-2700.

THURSDAY/APRIL 8

Swing Dance with Natty Beaux. 7:30 at The Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. 703-424-1745 or www.headoverheelsdance.com.

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

Baby Steps Storytime. 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Interactive storytime for parent and child. Age 13-23 months with adult. 703-689-2700.

Friends' Book Discussion. 7:30 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. "The Bridge of San Luis Rey" by Thornton Wilder. Adults. 703-689-2700.

FRIDAY/APRIL 9

Romeo & Juliet/Slashed. 7:30 p.m. at Herndon High School, 700 Bennett Street, Herndon. Edited and updated by Director Zoe Dillard, followed by the Creative Coffee House II. Tickets \$5. www.herndonadrama.org.



Isaac Dinkins, originally from New York, and Koshka Wright, have been dreaming of starting ReMastered - A Marketier Music Series for years.



Josh Ashburn, of Fairfax, played both remixed covers and self-written songs as the first ever to perform in a new music series.

ArtSpace Gallery Features Music Series

New nightlife spot opens in Herndon.

Herndon has taken a new step towards nightlife with the creation of the ReMastered - A Marketier Music Series. The series takes place every Friday night at ArtSpace Herndon Art Gallery at 8 p.m. The series features a variety of guest performers who put their own spin on their favorite artists. The performers change weekly. The last week's show featured Josh Ashburn, from Fairfax, Yorrelle Paul from Columbia, Md., and Koshka Wright from Ashburn. Next week's show is scheduled to feature jazz artist James Dempsey. The series has been a long-time dream of host and president of Marketier Inc. Isaac Dinkins along with his partner Koshka Wright. "This is a wonderful start to a music series that has been a long time dream of mine and Koshka's," Dinkins stated. "I want this to be a platform for musicians and artists."

"I thought it was great. I was pleasantly surprised," Sterling resident Lisa Phillips said. ReMastered - A Marketier Music Series will take place every Friday at ArtSpace Herndon Art Gallery. Doors open at 7:30 p.m.

— STEPHANIE KNAPP

Empty Bowls Benefit Supper for Hunger Relief. 5:30 p.m. at St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 11900 Lawyers Road, Reston. Guests choose a handmade pottery bowl and receive a simple supper of soup, bread, beverage and dessert. The bowl is theirs to keep as a reminder that there are "empty bowls" in the community. \$20. All proceeds go to Food for Others. givingcircle@hotmail.com or 703-648-0222.

SATURDAY/APRIL 10

Founder's Day. 12 p.m. at the Reston Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza, Reston. In honor of the 96th birthday of Reston founder, Robert E. Simon, Jr., a celebration and commemorative brick dedication on Lake Anne plaza presented by Reston Historic Trust, followed by a reception at Reston Museum. Alex Garvin, urban planner, will speak about Lake Anne and revitalization. 703-709-7700 or www.restonmuseum.org.

22nd Annual Potomac Watershed Cleanup. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Join volunteers in a multi-state effort to clean the Potomac Watershed. Free pizza lunch. 703-435-79867 or habrock@reston.org.

Garth Fagan Dance. 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. A blend of ballet, contemporary dance and Afro-Caribbean movement by the Tony Award-winning choreographer of "The Lion King." Pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins at 7:15 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$22-\$44, available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Tom Minda and the Patuxent Partners. 7:30 p.m. at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. Bluegrass. \$12. 703-435-8377.

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VIEWPOINTS



Sandra Blake, Herndon
"I loved it. Great music and a great venue for showcasing up and coming talent."



Shelia Olem, Herndon
"I'm blown away. I'm very impressed. This so exciting, that we're going to have something here on Friday nights."



Tiwana McKoy, Waldorf, Md.
"I thought it was wonderful. Koshka and I went to high school together and it's great to see her back out there. She hadn't been singing for a couple years."

Andy Hill Ready to Lead South Lakes High Football

Led Park View football to four playoff appearances in recent years.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Andy Hill, the new South Lakes High football coach, led the Park View Patriots to a 35-21 record over the past five years.

Andy Hill, who in February was named the new head football coach at South Lakes High School, said several factors, including an overall good feel for the Reston school and local community, went into his decision in accepting the position.

"The local middle school [Langston Hughes] is close by and South Lakes is the only high school in Reston," said Hill, naming a couple of reasons he was attracted to the Seahawks' head coaching vacancy. "They've recently completed renovation [on the campus] and have an increased enrollment. There were a lot of factors I thought were very positive. Plus, the challenge of going up to a triple-A school (larger schools classification) is intriguing."

Triple-A schools, as classified by the Virginia High School League, the governing body of high school sports in Virginia, are generally the larger enrollment schools. Double-A schools, meanwhile, have mid-level enrollments and single-A schools are smaller in student population.

Hill was the Park View head coach the past five years. The Patriots are part of the Dulles District, made up of double-A schools.

Hill, the eighth football coach in South Lakes' football history, had a good impression of the South Lakes players after meeting them as a group and one-on-one during the week after being hired.

"My overall impression is this is a group that is hungry [to win] and help the program grow," said Hill. "I'm challenging them to what they want their [football] legacy to be. The seniors we have are a talented group and could have success right away."

South Lakes, under former coach John Ellenberger, went 5-6 in 2009. The season was an up and down one for the Seahawks, who began 5-1 before losing their final

four regular season games and then seeing their season end with a first round Div. 5 Northern Region playoff loss to eventual region champion Stone Bridge.

South Lakes is part of the Liberty District that has been dominated by Northern Region power Stone Bridge in recent years. Hill sees it as a challenge for the Seahawks to become a more formidable foe in the Liberty.

"Stone Bridge has pretty much owned the district the last four or five years," said Hill. "Our job is going to be to build a program that can compete for that top spot year-in and year-out."

HILL LED PARK VIEW to a 10-2 record in 2007. That Patriots' team started off 9-0 before losing to district rival Broad Run in the final week of the regular season with the district title on the line. However, Park View avenged that setback the following week with a 16-12 win at Broad Run in a Region II, Div. 4 playoff game. That sent the Patriots into the region finals where their season ended with a 38-0 title game loss at Sherando High (Stephens City).

Park View slipped to 3-7 in 2008. But this past fall the Patriots came back strong with an 8-4 record and another region playoff berth. In the postseason, Hill's Patriots defeated Western Albemarle, 35-0, in a region semifinals home playoff game before falling to Winchester's Handley High, 33-7, in the region title game.

Hill was thrilled with his team's success in 2009, especially following the three-win season the year before.

"It was an incredible job by everybody," said Hill, of the '09 season. "All of these kids played [in the 3-7 season in 2008] and re-

ally put in their minds that we weren't going to be that team this year. 8-4 was a real step up."

Over his five seasons at Park View, Hill led the Patriots to two district titles and four playoff appearances. Overall, Park View was 35-21 during his tenure at the school.

HE IS KNOWN for opening up the playbook on offense. Hill's teams at Park View were especially effective throwing the football.

"[In the passing game] you can throw the ball to as many as five kids," he said. "It allows you to spread it out. If a player has the ability to make a play we like to give him a chance to do that."

Hill, in an e-mail to the Park View community on Jan. 15, announced his resignation as the Patriots' head coach.

"This was not an easy decision, but it was one that was made after a lot of thought and consideration," Hill explained in the letter. "I have had a great time here at Park View over the last five years, and while I have matured and grown professionally in this experience, the most difficult part of the decision was leaving the student-athletes that make up our program. My decision came down to my personal desire to seek a new challenge."

Hill grew up in Minnesota and earned two varsity letters as a college football player at the University of St. Thomas (St. Paul, Minn.). At St. Thomas, he earned a degree in social sciences for secondary education. Following college, he remained in Minnesota where he had coaching stints at Hill-Murray School, Apple Valley High and Woodbury High before ultimately coming to Northern Virginia.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

The under-12 Reston Raiders' AA ice hockey team will be representing Virginia at the upcoming 2010 USA Hockey Pee Wee (U-12, Tier II) National Championships, set to take place April 7-11. The Reston Raiders' organization is hosting this year's nationals showcase event.

Recently, the U-12 Raiders proved their worth by winning the Capital Beltway Hockey League championship.

Reston, part of the 23-team, Capital Beltway Hockey League, peaked near the end of their 18-game schedule by winning seven of their last nine games to capture a playoff spot. In the playoffs, they stunned the top-seeded Ashburn Xtreme, 4-3, in a shootout in the semifinals. Reston goalie Andrew Herrmann had 39 saves in that victory. Then in the finals, the Raiders defeated the Richmond Royals, 7-4.

At nationals, Reston will face teams from Alaska, Texas and Missouri in first round action. The Raiders will also compete against two local teams - the Xtreme and the Metro Maple Leafs.

Reston's first game at nationals will be against the Alliance Bulldogs (Dallas) on Wednesday afternoon, April 7 at 2:30 at SkateQuest Reston. Tournament games will take place at both SkateQuest Reston and Ashburn Ice House. Tickets can be purchased at both rinks on any day of the event. Tournament passes are \$35 for adults and \$25 for individuals under age 18. Single day passes are \$15 and \$7, respectively. Children 4-and-younger will get in free. For more information, please visit <http://www.usahockey.com/Tournament>.

The Langley High boys' tennis team won a Liberty District match at Madison, 6-3, last Thursday, March 25. The Saxons, under coach Jack Porter, improved to 3-0 on the young season. Langley singles winners in the match versus the Warhawks were: junior Vincent Ning (No. 2 singles), senior Evan Berner (No. 3), junior Josh Cooper (No. 4), sophomore Jimmy Fang (No. 5) and sophomore Jeff Small (No. 6). Langley's No. 2 doubles team of Ning and Cooper was victorious. The Saxons will travel to Marshall next Monday afternoon, April 5 for a district match versus the Statesmen at 3.

Two Chantilly High track athletes earned all-American honors at the Nike Indoor National Championships, held on March 12-13 at the Reggie Lewis Center in Boston. Chantilly senior Chris Foley, who is headed to the University of Virginia next year, took fourth place in the two-mile run event. His time of 9:09.75 broke the Chantilly school record, set in 1997 by Chargers' alum Eric Post, who now serves as a Chantilly assistant cross country coach. Foley's time at the Nike event was the best two-mile time by any Virginia high school runner this year.

Meanwhile, Chantilly freshman Sean McGorty took fifth place in the Freshman Mile event in Boston, running a personal-best time of 4:35.61.

Annandale United FC is among some of the outstanding elite U-17 boys' soccer teams competing at this week's Challenge for the Tiffany Trophy Cup, an international amateur tournament set to run through April 2. Other participating top tier teams include West Ham United FC Academy of England, the U17 National Team of Georgia, and D.C. United Academy. The world class tournament is drawing teams from four continents - Europe, Asia, Africa, and North America. Games were taking place at such venues as the Maryland Soccerplex and the Bretton Woods Center, both in Montgomery County. Tickets are \$8 each and available at the field before matches. The championship match will be held on April 2. For more information visit www.InternationalAmateurSports.com.

The Oakcrest School (McLean) varsity girls' basketball team, on Saturday, Feb. 20, met Covenant Life School in the Potomac Valley Athletic Conference (PVAC) tournament finals. The title game, which was won by Covenant Life, 49-46, took place in the Bender Arena at American University.

Oakcrest senior co-captain Eileen Kuzma led all scorers with 21 points, five steals, and four rebounds. Senior teammate and co-captain Therese Franco also had a great game with 11 points, six rebounds, four steals, and two assists. Also for Oakcrest, juniors Alessandra Christiani and Elise McNall were big contributors with five points each and Elise grabbed 10 rebounds. Senior Tori Jensen had four points and eight rebounds.

Oakcrest finished first place in the South Division regular season standings with a record of 14-2. Overall, the team was 15-6.

NEWS

Patrick Hammes Advances to States

Clearview sixth-grader will compete in State Geography Bee.

Clearview sixth-grader Patrick Hammes has qualified to compete for the state level of the National Geography Bee. Patrick will represent Clearview at Shenandoah University in Winchester on April 9 against students from all over Virginia for a chance to advance to the national level of the Geography Bee.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Patrick Hammes will represent Clearview Elementary in the State Geography Bee.

Oak Hill, Herndon Residents Nominated for Volunteer Service Awards

Volunteer Fairfax and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will honor the spirit of service at the 18th annual Fairfax County Friday, April 23, at the Fairview Park Marriott in Falls Church.

One hundred and forty-eight individuals and groups nominated will be honored for their work supporting such causes as mentoring children, the arts, environmental programs, job training, helping young mothers, animal rescue, homelessness and hunger. In Oak Hill and Herndon, the following residents have been nominated for a Fairfax County Volunteer Service Award:

- ❖ Frank Saylor volunteered at Reston Interfaith, Inc., and is nominated for the Benchmark 250 award.
- ❖ Grace Wolf volunteered at the Council for the Arts of Herndon, and is nominated for the Benchmark 500 award.
- ❖ Digital TV Volunteer Team volunteered at Volunteer Solutions-Area Agency on Aging, and are nominated for the Adult Volunteer Group award.
- ❖ Jennifer Peng volunteered at Pathway Homes, Inc., and is nominated for the Youth Volunteer award.
- ❖ Heritage Fellowship Church volunteered at Reston Interfaith, and are nominated for the Adult Volunteer Group award.

SCHOOL NOTES

John Candler Brooks of Reston has been awarded a bachelor of science in engineering degree from Miami University of Oxford Ohio.

Seven Reston residents received degrees from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg at the Dec. 2009 graduation: **Renee Maisel**, bachelor of science in business in marketing management; **Haley Rardon**, bachelor of science in business in management; **Andrew Alter**, bachelor of science in geosciences; **Emily Brennan**, bachelor of science in business in accounting and information systems; **Elizabeth Papile**, bachelor of architecture; **Maryann Raimo**, bachelor of arts in philosophy; and **Andrew Holland**, bachelor of science in business in finance.

Navy Seaman Recruit **Joseph A. Lartey** of Reston, a 2004 graduate of South Lakes High

was nominated for the Adult Volunteer Group award.

- ❖ Karen Stacy volunteered at the Council for the Arts of Herndon, and is nominated for the Benchmark 250 award.
- ❖ Lisa Xander volunteered at the Herndon RECenter, and is nominated for the Benchmark 250 award.
- ❖ Luan Ngo volunteered at the Herndon Adult Day Health Care Center, and is nominated for the Senior Volunteer award.
- ❖ Michele Bevington volunteered at the Cub Run RECenter, and is nominated for the Adult Volunteer 250 Hours & Under award.
- ❖ Peg Menzel volunteered at Reston Interfaith, Inc., and is nominated for the Benchmark 250 award.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors serve as honorary chairs for the program and will present awards to Community Champions from every district along with other volunteer winners during the breakfast ceremony. Earl Stafford, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Stafford Foundation, will serve as the ceremony's keynote speaker, and ABC7/WJLA-TV Anchor Cynné Simpson will emcee the program. Volunteer Fairfax will welcome more than 500 guests to the event. For more information about the nominees or to purchase tickets, visit www.volunteerfairfax.org.

School, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. During the program, Lartey completed training in naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety.

Conor Keefe of Reston has been named to the fall 2009 dean's list at St. Bonaventure University. Keefe is a senior management sciences/ general business major, and the son of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Keefe.

Nicole Ehrhardt of Reston was named to the fall 2009 dean's list at Chestnut Hill College of Philadelphia, and was inducted into the Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society. Ehrhardt is an elementary education major.

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Make Mine A Double



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Wow! My oncologist sure sobered me up the other day and I hadn't even been drinking. But I sure felt like grabbing a stiff one – or three – after we spoke. What he said wasn't anything he hadn't said previously, but it was something I hadn't heard in a long time, 11 months to be exact. It was cancer related. It was responsible – and perhaps even considerate, of him to tell me. It was my future as the statistical averages see it. It was straight forward (as my doctor knows I prefer to hear it). It was, if nothing else, a reminder, and an advisory to boot (not really a kick at all, though).

What he suggested was, since my appointments with him are now scheduled to be every three months instead of every three weeks (as they have been for the past year), that I try to make those appointments after I've completed my quarterly scans (MRI, CT and Bone) and to bring along a family member as well, in case there's bad news. (WHAT?!) Then, in response to my usual life expectancy/prognosis question, he reiterated that cancer patients with my diagnosis live, on average (and he was careful to explain what average really meant, using a cliff reference) 13 months to two years (this appointment occurring around the 12-month anniversary – some anniversary!). We then proceeded with my physical exam, which I passed with flying colors. After which, we exchanged our final pleasantries ending with the doctor saying casually: he "hopes to see me in three months." "HOPES?!" I knee-jerked out loud. "What do you mean, 'hopes?' You're not supposed to say 'hopes,' you're supposed to say you'll see me in three months or something like that." Unsettled didn't begin to describe my emotional state (state of panic, state of anxiety, state of fear cumulatively, might have though).

In fairness, none of this was/is new information. In fact, it's old news. News my wife, my brother and I were given on March 5, 2009, the date of our initial Team-Lourie meeting with my oncologist. And it wasn't given then, any more then it was given now, for shock value or effect even. It was provided then as now, as useful and timely information, crucial information, for a stage IV lung cancer patient to have. However, it was a conversation we hadn't had in almost a year. And not that I forgot much from that first life-changing doctor-patient exchange, but after the last year of treatment, scans, medical appointments, lab work, and all, it's not all that I have to remember, so its place, its dominance in my brain/life has become less intense. I have learned to live with my diagnosis and all the cancer-related activities, as previous columns have indicated.

Still, there's nothing quite like a metaphorical 2x4 to the head to shake out the mental cobwebs. Not that I thought I was getting – or had become complacent in my coexistence with cancer, but given my mental state after this thwack, perhaps I had. I mean, the light's always been on, definitely, but maybe I haven't been home as often as I think/though.

But that's how I've coped – and hoped; by focusing less on the negative and more on the positive. I haven't obsessed about cancer and as a result, I don't believe I've regressed because of it. Life has gone on (thank God!) and I'm grateful that it has. The uncertainty of the future (heck, the present, too) remains a constant and disturbing companion, however. The doctor's courtesy/responsibility in reviewing my timetable the other day struck directly at the heart of that day-to-day existence which scares the living daylights out of me (if you want to know the truth). I know exactly why I wanted that drink, to forget.

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

SCHOOLS



Herndon High NJROTC Fifth Overall in Virginia Beach

The HHS NJROTC varsity team ended the season with a fifth place overall finish in the All-Area Five Drill, Academic and Athletic meet in Virginia Beach, on March 11 and 12. The top two teams from the All-Area Five competition will continue to the NJROTC National competition. Herndon placed first in team pushups and in the 16x100, second place in the 8x200, and third place in curlups. Herndon was first in overall in athletics, fifth in academics, sixth in drill, and eighth in inspection. Cadet Lowry earned a first place overall in female pushups and Cadet Pinillos earned the top Herndon academic team score.

SCHOOL NOTES

Herndon High Class of 1975 Reunion will be held Oct. 22 and 23, 2010. Contact Lisa Arbelaez at 410-730-5648. There will be a happy hour on the Oct. 22, and the HHS Homecoming Game, dinner and dancing at the Crowne Plaza on Oct. 23.

Two hundred fifty students from Hutchison Elementary School in Herndon have been invited to the White House Easter Egg Roll on Monday, April 5. Zeina Hamad's third grade class has written letters to the president each week to tell him about what they are learning in class. In return, they have received several notes and photos from him. This year's Easter Egg Roll is based on the theme Ready, Set, Go! And promotes health and wellness. Activities are designed to follow first lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! initiative, encouraging all children to lead healthy, active lives.

Jacob Merlin of Oak Hill was named to the fall 2009 dean's list at Emory College of Emory University in Atlanta, Ga. Merlin is the son of Charles Merlin and Mary Jean Merlin.

The following Oak Hill residents have been named to the fall 2009 dean's list at Virginia Tech at Blacksburg: **Julie A. Aurora, Erin E. Banks, Lauren E. Binford, Lauren A. Burbach, Brittany A. Burton, Derek M. Cassells, Brian A. Covington, Theresa E. Cutler, Emily K. Dougherty, Daniel S. Drew, Jessica N. Fuller, Katherine T. Gilbertson, Colin M. Harrell, Kayla A. Hofer, Cara L. Holmes, Lauren C. Howard, Thomas C. Ivey, Monica L. Judkins, Benjamin A. Katz, Laura C. Klene** and **John T. Krulick**.

The following Oak Hill residents have

been named to the fall 2009 dean's list at Virginia Tech at Blacksburg: **Zach W. Landau, Daniel R. Logan, Christopher M. Lowery, Thomas P. Mahaffey, Aubrey N. Marshall, Kevin T. May, Devon H. Medlin, Daniel G. Metcalf, Stephanie H. Mitchell, Kathryn G. Murphy, Caitlin C. O'Brien, Kristen A. Palmisano, George A. Perry, Katherine D. Rediger, Corey T. Robbins, Adam N. Rupert, Michael D. Sorensen, Christine Terminello, Emily L. Thomas** and **Chelsea J. Wright**.

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

Kevin Wright of Oak Hill was named to the fall 2009 dean's list at Frostburg State University of Frostburg, Md.

Five Herndon residents received degrees from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg at the Dec. 2009 graduation: **Varun Gupta**, bachelor of science in business in finance; **John Slye**, bachelor of science in business in marketing management; **Kenneth Fadul**, bachelor of science in computer science; **Cha Li**, bachelor of science cum laude in computer science; and **Enoch Polk**, bachelor of science in electrical engineering.

Five Oak Hill residents received degrees from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg at the Dec. 2009 graduation: **Philip Goldberg**, bachelor of arts in economics; **Timothy Lee**, bachelor of science in business in economics; **Rafaelle Rivera**, bachelor of science in psychology; **Zohair Tahir**, bachelor of arts degree in political science; and **Jason Weiskopf**, bachelor of science in engineering science and mechanics magna cum laude.

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Herndon Student Wins Jr. Duck Stamp Art Competition

BY WINDY MASON

Xiao Xiao Zhang of Herndon was the Best of Show winner for the Jr. Duck Stamp Art Competition held at the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge on Friday, March 19. Xiao studies art through Xing Art Studio.

Runners up, all of which took first place, are Elizabeth Kim from Vienna, schooled by Erae Art Studio; Anne-Sophie Kim from Chantilly, schooled by Erae Art Studio; Sally Zhou from Fairfax, schooled by Xing Art Studio; and Amy Ann from Fairfax, schooled by Erae Art Studio.

Winners were chosen by age group.

For K-3, first place winners were Wen Ip from Herndon, schooled by Xing Art Studio; Rachel Eom from Burke, schooled by Erae Art Studio; and Jane Wang from Fairfax, schooled by Xing Art Studio.

For grades 4-6, first place winners were Vivian Aeyang from Oak Hill, schooled by Xing Art Studio and Nathan Luong from Burke, schooled by Xing Art Studio.

In second place were Janis Chen from Herndon, schooled by Xing Art Studio; Cynthia Zhuang from Herndon, schooled by Lu Wei's Art Studio; and Beth Zhao from Fairfax, schooled by Xing Art Studio.

Grade 7-9 first place winner was Julia Yang from Oak Hill, schooled by Xing Art Studio.

In grades 10-12, the first place winner was Ray Zhang from Fairfax, schooled by Xing Art Studio.



The winning entry in the Jr. Duck Stamp Art Competition.

There were 229 entries from around the state. The competition was run by Jr. Duck Stamp Coordinator, Aubrey Hall, a member of the refuge staff. The judges were representatives from a variety of areas and backgrounds.

The Best of Show winner will go on to the national competition. The winning artwork in the national competition will be made into an actual stamp and sold to raise money which will be applied towards environmental education and to support the Jr. Duck Stamp Program. The Jr. Duck Stamp is sold for \$5 by the U.S. Postal Service as well as the Amplex Corporation.

Windy Mason is general manager of www.wildponytales.info

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