

Oak Hill ❖ Herndon CONNECTION



Orzala Barakzey was one of the 250 students from Hutchison Elementary School who attended the White House Easter Egg Roll on April 5.

Council Candidates Introduced To Public

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THE COUNTY LINE

Citizens Sound Off on Schools, Parks and Taxes

Supervisors listen to residents' advice on Fairfax's budget for next year.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors held three days of public hearings on the locality's 2011 budget and spending April 6, 7 and 8. More than 300 people signed up to speak about cuts to county programs and potential tax and fee increases for the next fiscal year, which starts July 1.

The supervisors must close a projected financial shortfall of \$257.2 million in Fairfax's \$3.3 billion general fund next year. They are scheduled to formally adopt the county's 2011 budget on April 27.

To fill the funding gap, Fairfax County executive Anthony Griffin proposed raising the real estate property tax rate, though to a level where most homeowners would actually be paying about \$50 less in property taxes than they did last year. Real estate property values in Fairfax continued to fall in 2010, which means that the local real

estate property tax rate could be raised without homeowners having to pay higher taxes.

Under Griffin's proposal, the Fairfax County real estate property tax rate would go from \$1.04 to \$1.09 per \$100 of assessed value. The supervisors have the option of raising the tax rate as high as \$1.12 per \$100 of assessed value, though any increase over \$1.09 would result in a higher tax bill for the average Fairfax homeowner in 2011.

In addition to raising the tax rate, supervisors will also consider three new annual fees. The Fairfax County board may raise the average citizens sewage bill by \$60, charge a vehicle registration fee that would cost most people \$33 per car, and add a \$2 courthouse fee for people involved in a civil lawsuit.

Griffin has recommended the new fees as an alternative way of closing the county budget gap that would not add to the tax burden of homeowners. The money raised would help pay for services like Fairfax County Public Schools, which accounts for 53 percent of the county's overall budget annually.

But even if the supervisors vote to implement a higher real estate tax rate and the new fees, Fairfax will still have to make many cuts to services like the Fairfax Connector bus, public libraries, community po-

licing and drop-in centers for people with mental illness.

The Fairfax County School Board would also have to consider measures like increasing the county's average public school class size.

The following is what some residents had to say about changes to the Fairfax County Budget next year:



Stuart Mendelsohn, Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce chairman and McLean resident

Former Supervisor Stuart Mendelsohn (R-Dranesville) called the Fairfax County executive Anthony Griffin's budget recommendations "responsible" when speaking on behalf of the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce. Mendelsohn is chairman of the business organization.

The county executive's proposed hike in real estate property tax rate — from \$1.04 to \$1.09 per \$100 of assessed property value — was reasonable, according to Mendelsohn.

The chamber also agreed with Griffin's proposal for a slight reduction in Fairfax

County Public Schools funding this year, despite the fact that the local school board had asked for an increase in their transfer from the county.

But there was one of Griffin's recommendations — the reinstatement of an annual vehicle registration fee — that the Fairfax chamber does not support. Mendelsohn said a new fee, at \$33 per car and higher for large trucks, would hurt those county businesses that have large fleets.

The chamber might be willing to reconsider its stance on the vehicle fee, if the Fairfax supervisors agreed to dedicate the revenue generated from it entirely to local transportation projects, he said.

Arthur Purves said out-of-control benefit packages for Fairfax County government employees, including teachers, are to blame for a lack of funding for many services.

Purves, a Vienna resident, is a founding member of the Fairfax County Taxpayers Alli-



Arthur Purves, Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance and Vienna resident

SEE CITIZENS, PAGE 14

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PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION



The candidates take their seats for the forum. From left are Carl Sivertsen, Grace Wolf, Philip Jones, Connie Hutchinson, Lisa Merkel, Charlie Waddell, Jasbinder Singh, Daniel Alvarado, Sheila Olem, David Kirby, Cesar del Aguila and Mayor Steve DeBenedittis. Not pictured is Bill Tirrell, who was recovering from surgery and participated in the forum by speakerphone.

Council Candidates Introduced to Public

Twelve candidates running for six Town Council seats participate in public forum.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

Candidates for May's Herndon Town Council election gathered before members of the public in the council chambers on Sunday night, April 11 for a forum sponsored by the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce and Herndon Community Television (HCTV). Twelve candidates, including four incumbents, are running for the six council seats, and Mayor Steve DeBenedittis is running unopposed for reelection.

AT THE START of the forum, each candidate was given three minutes to make an introduction.

Participating by speakerphone because he was home recovering from knee surgery, incumbent Bill Tirrell introduced himself as a candidate with experience in the military and nonprofit agencies, as well as the town government. He has served seven non-consecutive terms on the Town Council and two on the town's Planning Commission. "I have no agenda I bring to the table. I never have," said Tirrell, adding that he would only act based on the hopes and wishes of residents. The two dominant issues facing the town, he said, were transportation, including preparations for the arrival of Metrorail, and housing.

Carl Sivertsen said he had a background in the Army and in public health before he began working professionally on planning and zoning issues. In 1984, he said, he was offered the opportunity to serve on the town's Board of Zoning Appeals, and he ended up being the board's chair. He later moved on to the Planning Commission, of which he is currently the chairman. "If it happened in the last 25 years, I was involved," Sivertsen said. He said he wanted to make the town a sought-after area and was pleased that the Planning Commission had recently recommended a master plan for the redevelopment of the downtown "so we can make the downtown a destination for our town folk and the region."

Grace Wolf said she had become involved in the town's civic life through her work with nonprofit organizations and as a business owner. Wolf is president of the Herndon Council for the Arts. She said she wanted to improve real estate values, control spending, create a business-friendly environment, encourage civic involvement and use the arrival of Metrorail and the downtown redevelopment master plan to revitalize the town. "I believe the biggest issues facing Herndon are economic," she said. Wolf said she would use her professional relationships and background in streamlining business operations to create economic activity and public-private partnerships.

Philip Jones said he had served in the Navy for eight years, worked in intelligence for 22 years and was now a senior engineer for the defense contractor Raytheon. A single father of two children, he said he knew the issues involved in raising children in the town. Jones said he was a strong proponent of public

SEE CANDIDATES, PAGE 10



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Ashley Rodriguez, Edward Urbina and Kevin Chamul

Guests of Honor

Two hundred fifty students from Hutchison Elementary School attended the White House Easter Egg Roll on Monday, April 5. The school was chosen because of its continued success and increasing test scores. Students from first and third grades were invited to attend the annual celebration. Students enjoyed the beautiful day and were happy to bring home yellow eggs

signed by the President and First Lady.

The Hutchison students have been writing to President Barack Obama throughout the school year. 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.



Jennifer Lopez, Stephanie Alvarenga, Breceida Salmeron, Jocelyn Cruz, Kevin Chamul and Shreeva Gautaum participate in the White House Easter Egg Roll on April 5.



Brandon Cadima, Hugo Roldan, Edward Ratana, Aram Mohammed and Al-Hussein Quais

Taste of Town Returns April 22

The Council for the Arts of Herndon Virginia will be hosting the 19th Annual Taste of the Town on Thursday, April 22, 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Worldgate Centre on Worldgate Drive in Herndon. More than 25 local restaurants, including Jimmy's Old Town Tavern, JJ Deli, TGIFridays, Macaroni Grill, Tortilla Factory, Red Hot and Blue, TurCuisine, Vie France, Glory Days and Macaroni Grill, will be serving samplings of their culinary delights. There will be a live auction and more than 20 Raffle Packages worth from \$150-\$600 including wine tours, golf, theater, sports outings and much more. A celebrity bar will be manned by town, county, state and federal elected officials.

Price is \$15 for Council for the Arts Member, \$20 for non-members. Children under 12 accompanied by an adult are free.

Herndon Students Wins Sigma Xi Recognition

Six Virginia Tech student research projects, ranging from bacteria-propelled microbots to TB in banded mongoose, have been selected by Sigma Xi for recognition and support. The awards were presented in a ceremony on April 6.

The undergraduate winner Siddharth Venkat of Herndon, a junior in physics in the College of Science, is doing research on "Mobility Effects in Systems Composed of Cyclically Competing Species." Evolutionary game theory has led in the past to novel and interesting insights into the complex behavior that can emerge in a multispecies ecological system. In his study, Venkat investigates species coexistence in systems composed of cyclically competing species, such as competing bacterial strains, thereby providing a necessary and important step for the future modeling of real-world systems. His advisor is Michel Pleimling, associate professor of physics.

Excessive Occupancy Investigations Continue

During the third quarter of FY 2010 (Jan. 1-March 31, 2010) 31 new complaints regarding excessive occupancy of residences were received by the Town of Herndon's zoning inspections team, compared to 39 new complaints received during the third quarter of FY 2009.

Thirty-nine cases were closed during the quarter, with violations abated in 21 cases and no violations found in the remaining cases. The average number of cases under investigation during the three-month period was 24. The length of time between receipt of a complaint and an initial visit by the zoning inspections team has remained consistently low, at less than one day.

During the third quarter of FY 2010, one individual was successfully prosecuted for overcrowding violations, bringing the town's total number of successful prosecutions to 51.

For more information on excessive occupancy enforcement or to file a complaint, contact the Department of Community Development, Zoning Inspections, at 703-707-2666 or community.violations@herndon-va.gov. Information is also available on the enforcement page under Planning/Zoning at www.herndon-va.gov.

Video System Assists Gang Task Force

A video conferencing system acquired by the Herndon Police Department (HPD) to facilitate communications between members of the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force is proving efficient and effective in serving another function as well by linking electronically to the Fairfax County Magistrate Office.

The system, installed in January and paid for entirely through grant funding received by the gang task force, enables Herndon police officers as well as citizens (with officers' assistance) to obtain arrest warrants without having to drive the 34-mile roundtrip to the magistrate's office at the Fairfax Adult Detention Center in Fairfax. To date, more than 50 arrest warrants have been obtained through the system.



This year's 'star fish' are honored with sashes. From left are Lisa Groves, Wendell Driggers, Larry Stine, Bob Santoro, presenter and FISH Executive Director Sherri Longhill, Jim O'Donnell, Don Owens and Tony Di Trapani. Not pictured is Robin Kampf.



Incoming FISH President Mary Drum, left, announces that the Herndon Rotary Club has named current President Marcia Di Trapani, right, its Citizen of the Year.

FISH Volunteers, President Honored

At FISH Fling, 'star fish' are recognized and Di Trapani is announced as Rotary Citizen of the Year.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

Herndon-Reston FISH President Marcia Di Trapani said her organization had not expected to top last year's FISH Fling attendance of about 200, as the group was celebrating its 40th anniversary last year. However, as the event got underway last Saturday night, April 10, only seven of the 210 seats in the Dulles Crowne Plaza Hotel banquet hall were still available for walk-in guests.

The annual gala is the biggest fund-raiser for the organization, which provides emergency assistance for area residents and runs the Bargain Loft thrift store in Herndon. Guests were treated to a sit-down dinner with wine, dancing, games, and silent and live auctions.

During dinner, FISH (Friendly, Instant, Sympathetic Help) Executive Director Sherri Longhill called attention to the eight volunteers being recognized as this year's "star fish."

ONE OF THEM, Wendell Driggers, had been driving people to medical appointments for 10 years. He said he had met a FISH volunteer at Lake Anne Plaza who suggested he volunteer as a driver after his retirement. "I thought it sounded like fun, and it was," Driggers said. He encouraged the younger people in attendance to consider driving for the organization. "It is extremely rewarding and you can help people by driv-

ing," he said.

Don Owens developed a financial workshop that had taught financial management skills to about 500 FISH clients over the last two years. He said some of the clients might not surprise people, but others may have been making six-figure salaries before falling on hard times. "They just need that hand. It's a hand-up, not a hand-out, and they take it that way," Owens said.

Larry Stine did all the pick-ups for the Bargain Loft and also performed other tasks around the thrift store and drove people to appointments. He recalled delivering a bookcase to a young girl who loved to read. "She was just so happy to get that bookcase. It reminded me so much of myself," he said.

"When you're the husband of the president, you've got to help," Anthony Di Trapani said, adding that he did enjoy the work and encouraged others to volunteer. He was being honored for his grant-writing work, as well as helping to get electrical wiring installed in the thrift store and negotiating its new lease.

Jim O'Donnell had volunteered at the Bargain Loft for five years, doing electronics testing and other work. He said one reason he started working there, aside from the fact that his wife was a manager at the shop, was that "the folks who worked there were so warm and friendly and I just felt comfortable there."

"What volunteering is to me is giving back to the community which we serve and it's internaliz-

ing those feelings," said Bob Santoro, who also worked at the Bargain Loft and had volunteered with FISH for 12 years.

Lisa Groves handled FISH marketing and communications and had coordinated the evening's event. She said she most enjoyed getting to know individuals and businesses in the community.

Robyn Kampf was unable to attend the dinner, but Longhill said Kampf had volunteered with the organization for the last 20 years and had gotten the rest of her family involved as well. She ran the food and gift basket program.

JUST BEFORE the live auction began, it was announced that outgoing FISH president Marcia Di Trapani was also going to be recognized. The Herndon Rotary Club had named her Citizen of the Year and would hold a banquet in her honor on May 19. Marcia Di Trapani has been president of the organization for the last five years.

"I'm totally bowled over by this. Thank you so much to the Herndon Rotary," Marcia Di Trapani said.

"A wise person once said, 'To whom much is given, much is expected,'" said board member Ellen Graves. "You have given much as president of FISH. You have exceeded all expectations."

Marcia Di Trapani said her service to the organization had begun when, as a former public health nurse, she had been asked a neighbor to attend a FISH board meeting. "I've enjoyed the ride. I'll be very sad to step down," she said.

NEWS

Wolf Hosts Federal Grant Work Shop

U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) will host a conference for organizations who may be interested in applying for federal grants April 23 at Northern Virginia Community College's Loudoun County campus. The event will take place from 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Federal officials from the departments of education, justice, health and human services, and agriculture will be on hand to discuss different grant offerings and successful strategies for applying.

The conference is free but space is limited. Those attending must also be a local non-profit or local government in the 10th Congressional District.

Groups can register by clicking on the grants icon at <http://wolf.house.gov/>.

Grandparent Respite Day May 15

Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax will host a respite day for grandparents and other relatives raising children ages 3 to 12 on May 15.

Caregivers can drop off the children from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at two locations, Gum Springs Community Center (8100 Fordson Road in Mount Vernon) and Mott Community Center (12111 Braddock Road in Fairfax). The county will provide snacks and organized activities for the children at no charge. Please register by calling 703-324-3517 before May 11.



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OPINION

Minds Wide Open: Virginia Celebrates Women in the Arts

BY ELIZABETH MURPHY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FAIRFAX SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

Three years ago the arts and cultural community of Virginia embarked on a great adventure. The Virginia Council on the Arts convened the heads of the major arts organizations of the Commonwealth to encourage us to take more leadership on behalf of the entire cultural sector. Despite the many challenges facing our individual agencies, we all agreed that we needed a high visibility project to demonstrate the breadth, diversity, and intrinsic value of the arts to state decision-makers in Virginia.

The 23 major arts organizations of Virginia selected a theme, picked a time period, and invited all artists and cultural agencies of the state to create programs on the common theme during a defined time period with a statewide and regional marketing campaign. Thus was born our first endeavor: MINDS WIDE OPEN: *Virginia Celebrates Women in the Arts*, with planning underway three years ago. The celebration began March 1, 2010 continues through June 30, 2010.

Through the regional meetings, local gatherings, email listserves, and speeches and presentations at every possible opportunity, we invited every artist in the state, every arts or-

ganization, history museum, library, college, and university to join the statewide celebration of women in the arts. As of this writing, we have listed more than 2,000 events on our website www.vamindswideopen.com. (Altria, Dominion Power, SunTrust Bank, the Norfolk Southern Foundation, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, and the Virginia Tourism office have all made significant financial contributions to the statewide marketing campaign.)

The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra is pleased to participate in this initiative, with a special program planned for May 1, 2010. The FSO wanted to explore the theme of Women in the Arts within the somewhat narrow confines of symphonic repertoire, and to bring attention to the different ways in which women contribute currently to our art form. The guest artist for this concert is a woman (Julie Albers, cello), playing Elgar's Cello Concerto. Additionally, the orchestra will perform a piece (blue cathedral) by a popular, living female composer and 2010 Grammy winner, Jennifer Higdon.

What will MINDS WIDE OPEN accomplish? First and foremost, we hope to raise the visibility of the arts industry in our state. Of equal importance is building more collaboration within the Virginia arts and cultural community. We hope that MINDS WIDE OPEN: Virginia Celebrates Women in the Arts will lead to many more partnerships and alliances within

GUEST EDITORIAL

came to Herndon to sign a bill designed to help job creation in the state.

A group in town has tried to attribute the problems with foreclosures, etc, on this council. That problem has occurred country-wide and is definitely a result of letting people buy houses when they obviously could not afford them. They have also stated on their web site that Herndon is not friendly to different ethnic groups. You only have to go to the store, visit our schools or read who is buying homes in Herndon to know that is not true. Again, it is those who are undocumented and in this country illegally that many of us in Herndon have opposed and will continue to oppose.

There are many challenges facing our town, but it is especially important to have knowledgeable people on our Council to deal with plans for, hopefully, the soon development of our downtown. Connie Hutchinson, Dave Kirby, Bill Tirrell and Charlie Waddell, all incumbents, and Carl Sivertsen who has been on the Planning Commission for many years, are those able to meet those challenges and deserve your vote. Please be informed and vote for

what is best for our great little town.

Betty Valley
Herndon

McDonnell Backpedals Again

To the Editor:

Three months into Gov. McDonnell's (R) term, he put himself in a position where he had to apologize for a proclamation honoring April as Confederate History Month without mentioning the pain of slavery. This recent flap and subsequent apology is frustrating for several reasons.

First is the obvious. He should have known better. To explain himself, McDonnell gave the all too familiar reason. The purpose of the proclamation was to "honor history" and boost tourism. Honor history? The Civil War is unquestionably an important part of American history and the history of the state of Virginia. However, McDonnell could have declared April to be "Civil War History Month" and achieved the same purpose. It is offensive to honor a

Events in Our Area

Northern Virginia arts organizations hold many local events for statewide celebration. See www.vamindswideopen.com for more:

Lucy Kaplansky, April 23, 2010, The Barns at Wolf Trap, Vienna, www.wolftrap.org
The Bobs, April 28, 2010, The Barns at Wolf Trap, Vienna, www.wolftrap.org
Exhibition: Beautiful - Virginia Women Artists and the Body, April 29, 2010, Greater Reston Arts Center, Reston, www.restonarts.org
Bonnie Rideout, April 30, 2010, The Barns at Wolf Trap, Vienna, www.wolftrap.org
Fairfax Symphony Orchestra Celebrates Women in the Arts, May 1, 2010, Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, Fairfax, www.fairfaxsymphony.org
Greater Reston Arts Center & Hub Theatre Mini-Festival, May 6, 2010, Greater Reston Arts Center & Hub Theatre, Reston, www.restonarts.org
Sheryl Crow with Special Guest: Colbie Caillat, June 17, 2010, The Filene Center at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, Vienna, www.wolftrap.org
Natalie Cole, June 24, 2010, The Filene Center at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, Vienna, www.wolftrap.org
The Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess", Apr 23-25, 2010, Virginia Opera, Fairfax, www.vaopera.org
Cats, Jun 18-20, 2010, The Filene Center at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, Vienna, www.wolftrap.org
Riverdance: Farewell Tour, Jun 2-6, 2010, The Filene Center at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, Vienna, www.wolftrap.org

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Decision Time

To the Editor:

In less than three weeks, we will be going to the polls to decide the direction our town will take for the next two years. These have been difficult times for the Town Council. They have had to deal with problems with the economy, planning for Metro coming to our area, the weather, overcrowding, problems of workers soliciting work on street corners, and planning for downtown development, etc. etc. In my mind, they have done a great job.

Mayor DeBenedittis is running unopposed, which indicates to me that there wasn't anyone who thought they could replace him. Our mayor has personally gone to Richmond several times to lobby for bills that were in Herndon's best interest. As a result, with the support of Del. Tom Rust (R-86), bills were passed that will give stiffer penalties for those driving without a license, and will help stop those soliciting workers from their cars. He is a businessman and has made every effort to encourage businesses to come to Herndon, which is difficult to do in these economic times. It was encouraging that Gov. McDonnell

FAITH

Chabad of Reston-Herndon to Launch Holocaust Studies Series

The Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) will reach its widest audience yet when it launches its new course, "Beyond Never Again: How the Holocaust Speaks to Us Today," this spring. Program coordinators anticipate that some 10,000 students will take the six-lesson course in their 200 affiliate sites around the world, including the Chabad Aleph Center, 718 Lynn St., Herndon.

Though the course is timed to coincide with Yom Hashoah-Holocaust Remembrance Day, it does not focus on the history of the Holocaust but rather its other aspects, so that there's little overlap with Holocaust courses traditionally offered at universities and Jewish community centers. "Beyond Never Again" addresses how the Holocaust matters to Jewish people personally, theologically,

More Information

Beyond Never Again: How the Holocaust Speaks to Us Today, six Tuesdays, April 27—June 1, 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m. at the Chabad Aleph Center, 718 Lynn St., Herndon. Fee: \$75 per person | \$135 per couple. Register at www.chabadrh.org. Or call 703-476-1829.

psychologically, and how it challenges today's generation to re-

think its ethical values.

The JLI course will tackle big questions like why evil people prosper, and why good people suffer. Rabbi Fajnland, instructor for the course here in Reston-Herndon, called this paradox the "energizing Jewish question" that is a central thread through Jewish history from the patriarch Abraham and on. Later sessions include the Jewish approach to

martyrdom, faith after tragedy, and preventing further suffering.

Because the courses are offered in lockstep pace at all JLI affiliate sites, student can move from one of the Institute's 200 sites to another, without missing a beat. Every student that signs up for the course is also given access to a special JLI Web site where the discussions continue on a broader platform.

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CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/APRIL 15

**Musical Memories: Spring
Community Concert and Open
House.** 12:45 p.m. at The Herndon
Senior Center, 873 Grace St.,
Herndon. Door prizes will be awarded
prior to the free concert. 'Just
Friends', a Great Falls-based five piece
combo, performs at 1 p.m. with
American popular music from the
1920's-1960's. Free. 703-464-6200.

Great Falls Optimist Club

Oratorical Contest. 7 p.m. at the
Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown
Pike, Great Falls. This year's topic is
Cyber Communication: Progress or
Problem? Students from Great Falls,
Reston and McLean, under age 16
compete to win scholarships.
sandjcoolidge@verizon.net or
www.greatfallsoptimist.org.

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.

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

**Fairfax Antique Arts Association:
Herend China.** 10:15 a.m. at the
City of Fairfax Senior Center, Green
Acres Center, 4401 Sideburn Road,
Room 111, Fairfax. Seymour
Lazerowitz will display and speak
about pieces from his collection. Free;
annual membership fee required to
attend subsequent meetings. 703-359-
2487.

**Singer/songwriter Livingston
Taylor.** 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation
for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap
Road, Vienna. \$22.
www.wolfrap.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 16

Pianist Edvinas Minkstimas. 7:30
p.m. at Saint Luke Catholic Church,
7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean.
Music by Schumann, Liszt, Debussy
and Piazzolla. Tickets \$25, seniors and
students \$15. 703-356-0670,
www.minkstimas.com or
www.saintlukemclean.org.

Moscow Festival Ballet: 'Giselle.' 8
p.m. at George Mason University
Center for the Arts, 4400 University
Drive, Fairfax. The tragic tale of the
heartbroken peasant girl. A pre-
performance discussion, free to ticket
holders, begins at 7:15 p.m. on the
Center's Grand Tier III. \$27-\$54,
available at 888-945-2468 or
cfa.gmu.edu. Youth through grade 12
half price.

**Singer/songwriter Livingston
Taylor.** 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation
for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap
Road, Vienna. \$22.
www.wolfrap.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 17

Moscow Festival Ballet: 'Coppelia.'
8 p.m. at George Mason University
Center for the Arts, 4400 University
Drive, Fairfax. A young villager falls
in love with a life-size dancing doll. A
pre-performance discussion, free to
ticket holders, begins at 7:15 p.m. on
the Center's Grand Tier III. \$27-\$54,
available at 888-945-2468 or
cfa.gmu.edu. Youth through grade 12
half price.

National Library Week Craft Time.
11 a.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library,
768 Center St., Herndon. Listen to
stories and make bookmarks. All
Ages. 703-437-8855.

Author Steve Clapp. 2 p.m. Reston
Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza,

Reston. 'Africa Remembered,
Adventures in Post Colonial Nigeria
and Beyond.' 703-709-7700 or
www.restonmuseum.org.

**Reston Community Orchestra
Annual Benefit Orchestra Night.**
7:30 p.m. at Sunset Hills Montessori
School, 11180 Ridge Heights Road,
Reston. Black and White: Putting' on
the Ritiz. With singer Beverly Cosham
of Reston. \$75 per person, \$400 for 6.
Tickets available at
www.restoncommunityorchestra.org.
Farm Baby Day. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at
Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 West Ox
Road, Herndon. Greet new farm
babies. Free. 703-437-9101.

SUNDAY/APRIL 18

**Academy of St. Martin in the
Fields.** 4 p.m. at George Mason
University Center for the Arts, 4400
University Drive, Fairfax. Led by viola
and violin soloist Julian Rachlin.
Edvard Grieg, Beethoven, Schubert
and more. A pre-performance
discussion, free to ticket holders,
begins at 3:15 p.m. on the Center's
Grand Tier III. \$30-\$60, available at
888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

**Splash of Color Reception and
Gallery Talk.** 3-5 p.m. at ArtSpace
Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon.
Watercolors by Betty Ganley and
pottery by Marianne Cordyack.
Exhibit continues through May 2.
www.artspaceherndon.com or
www.herndonartscenter.org.

MONDAY/APRIL 19

Mother Goose Time. 11 a.m. Herndon
Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St.,
Herndon. Songs, stories and action
rhymes. Birth-23 months with adult.
703-437-8855.

**Walker's Rangers: Spring
Sensations.** 2:30 p.m. at Walker
Nature Education Center, 11450
Glade Drive, Reston. A hands-on
nature club for ages 5-8. \$40 per child
RA members, \$64 per child non-
members. Register at 703-476-9689
ext. 6540 or naturalist@reston.org.

TUESDAY/APRIL 20

Testing Tips and Tutoring. 7 p.m.
Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768
Center St., Herndon. A guest speaker
offers tips on taking college entrance
and SOL exams. Age 12 and up. 703-
437-8855.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 21

**Live from Gran Teatre Del Liceu,
Barcelona: Mozart's Die
Entführung aus dem Serail** (The
Abduction from the Seraglio).
Transmitted live at 12 p.m., with a
delayed broadcast at 7:30 p.m. At the
Worldgate 9 Theatres, 13025
Worldgate Drive, Herndon.
Conducted by Ivor Bolton, directed by
Christof Loy and starring Diana
Damrau. \$25. 703-318-9290 or
www.operaincinema.com.

**Harpichord music by Vera
Kochanowsky.** 1 p.m. at Saint Luke
Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown
Pike, McLean. Free, all are welcome.
703-356-0670 or
www.musicinmclean.org.

Pre-Earth Day Celebration. 10 a.m.
at Center for Education at Wolf Trap,
1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Young
children experience and learn about
the 4 R's through puppetry and music
from Junkyard Pirates and The Wolf
Trap Jazz Trio. www.wolfrap.org.

**Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Benefit:
Dining 4 the Cure.** 5 p.m. and 6
p.m. at Herndon United Methodist
Church, 701 Bennett St., Herndon. A
complete spaghetti dinner will be
served. Hosted by the Herndon High
School Key Club, Keyettes, and SGA.
\$10 per person. [www.fcps.edu/
HerndonHS/pdf/0910/
CysticFibrosis.pdf](http://www.fcps.edu/HerndonHS/pdf/0910/CysticFibrosis.pdf)



Carlotta and Horace McCormack and
Burt Lamkin



Robert and Cheryl Terio Simon and Rudy Tassara

Tango Gala Attracts Hundreds

Herndon Rotary celebrates an evening of dance, charity.

On April 3, the Rotary Club of Herndon sponsored
its first Tango Gala at the Reston Hyatt Regency
Hotel. The roots of the tango go back to the late
1800s, but its popularity in the United States can be traced
to the early 1920s movies starring Rudolph Valentino. There-
after, the tango was forever linked to sophisticated and el-
egant couples.

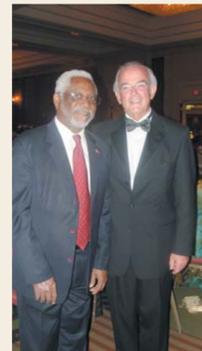
The Rotary Club of Herndon is fortunate to have an Ar-
gentine-born member who grew up with a passion for tango.
Because of his love for the dance, Rodolfo Tassara, better
known as Rudy, proposed the concept of the Tango Gala last
fall. Tassara, with the support of his committee, planned
the details of this event, bringing a little bit of Argentina to
Reston. To make the event even more authentic, Tassara
located an Argentine winery that donated 200 bottles of
Rotini Wines.

The 325 guests enjoyed the dinner before being serenaded
by a 20-piece professional tango orchestra and four profes-
sional tango dancers who came from New York to give a 1
1/2 hour show. Preceding dinner, guests bid on jewelry and
sports memorabilia during a silent auction. After the auc-
tion, sponsored by Adeler Jewelers, guests were then in-

ited to participate in tango
dancing and lessons by instruc-
tor, Adam King, for the rest of
the evening.

This event would not have
been possible without the sup-
port of the Herndon Rotary
sponsors and partners, includ-
ing the Argentine Embassy in
Washington, D.C. The Rotary
Club also received sponsor-
ships from the business com-
munity as well as attendance
of some special invited guests,
including the Ambassador of
Haiti Raymond Joseph, Brig.
Gen. Gero L. K. Schachthoefner
from Germany, District Gov.
Horace McCormack and his wife
Carlotta and the founder of
Reston, Robert Simon and his
wife, Cheryl Terio Simon.

The Rotary Club of Herndon is one of the community's
oldest and largest service clubs. Since 1939, the club sup-
ports scholarship and community service in the greater
Herndon area. Proceeds from this evening will go to im-
proving schools and helping the people of Haiti, areas of
need in Argentina, and funding scholarship programs for
Herndon students.



Haitian Ambassador
Raymond Joseph
with Rudy Tassara

THURSDAY/APRIL 22

**Author Jeffrey Siger: Assassins of
Athens.** 7 p.m. at Barnes & Noble
Booksellers, 1851 Fountain Drive,
Reston. 703-437-9490.
Semi-Annual Book Sale. 10 a.m.
Reston Regional Library, 11925
Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Used
Book Sale. All Ages. 703-689-2700.

FRIDAY/APRIL 23

**The Fairfax County Volunteer
Service Awards.** 8 p.m. at Fairview
Park Marriott, 3111 Fairview Park
Drive, Falls Church. Volunteer Fairfax
and more than 500 community
members will honor 176 volunteer
individuals and organizations. \$35 for
individuals or nonprofits, \$50 for
corporate guests. Tickets available at
www.volunteerfairfax.org. Contact
Samantha Watson at
swatson@volunteerfairfax.org or 703-
246-3826.

**The Virginia Opera presents The
Gershwin's Porgy and Bess.** 8
p.m. at George Mason University
Center For The Arts Concert Hall,
4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$48-
\$98. 888-945-2468 or
www.tickets.com.

Semi-Annual Book Sale. 10 a.m.
Reston Regional Library, 11925

Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Used Book Sale.
All Ages. 703-689-2700.

Guy Zollar Opening Reception. 6 p.m. Reston
Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza, Reston. A
show and sale of works by Reston potter and
sculptor Guy Zollar. Through May 28. 703-709-
7700 or www.restonmuseum.org.

Endless Cup Coffee House. 8-10 p.m. at
Unitarian Universalist Church Reston, 1625

Wiehle Ave., Reston. With JC Reigns and the
West Market Trio. \$5. RosePromotions@aol.com.

SATURDAY/APRIL 24

Virginia Hunters Horse Show Series. 9 a.m. at
Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 West Ox Road,
Herndon. Classes include hunters, ponies,
equitation and more. Free. 703-437-9101.

Fox Mill Woods Swim & Tennis Club



Membership OPEN HOUSE

Saturday,
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Follow ¼ mile to a right at The Reserve at Stone Hill.
12630 Winter Wren Court, Oak Hill VA 20171

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

Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

Reston

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 1519 NORTH POINT DR #303...\$319,900...Sun. 1-4...Paul Bedewi.....RE/Max.....(703) 318-0067
 10999 THRUSS RIDGE RD...\$375,000...Thurs. Noon...Deb Pestronk.....Coldwell Banker.....(703) 471-7220
 2361 OLD TRAIL DR.....\$449,000...Sat. 1-4...Carina Slepian.....Weichert.....(703) 759-6300
 1310 Sundial Dr.....\$605,000...1-4...Jean Scheib.....Long and Foster.....703-862-2337
 11613 BROMLEY VILLAGE LN...\$699,453...Sun. 1-4...Christopher Pezzana...Weichert.....(703) 264-0000

Sterling

46725 LYNNHAVEN SQ.....\$385,000...Sun. 1-4...Kevin LaRue.....Century 21.....703-217-6665
 46554 CEDARHURST DR...\$419,900...Sun. 1-4...Bernice Maddox.....Long & Foster.....(703) 904-3700
 20451 STONE SKIP WAY...\$649,900...Sun. 1-4...Bettina Dee.....Premiere.....(703) 748-0001

Ashburn

42537 ROCKROSE SQ #301...\$160,000...Sun. 1-4...Pat Samson.....Century21.....703-380-7025

Leesburg

41050 Indigo Place.....\$749,000...Sun. 1-4...Lyons & McGuire Team...Weichert.....703-856-4766

McLean

1444 Spring Vale Ave.....\$895,000...Sun 1-4...Rene Simpson.....Keller Williams.....703-403-2902
 1527 Brookhaven Dr.....\$1,599,000...Sun 1-4...Mark McFadden.....Washington Fine Properties...703-216-1333

Great Falls

639 Nalls Farm Way.....\$1,895,000...Sun. 1-4...Carol Ellickson.....Weichert.....(703) 862-2135

Oakton

10126 BLAKE LN.....\$549,900...Sun 1-4...Matthew Cockerham...Re/Max.....703-849-1313
 10864 WEISIGER LN.....\$800,000...Sun 1-4...Keith Harris.....Samson Properties...703-395-6601
 3037 FOX DEN LN.....\$839,900...Sun 1-4...Pat Stack.....Weichert.....703-597-9373
 11317 LAPHAM DR.....\$1,150,000...Sun 1-4...Pat Stack.....Weichert.....703-597-9373

Vienna

102 WINDOVER AVE NW...\$849,900...Sun 1-4...Lisa DeCarlo.....Coldwell Banker.....571-239-8690

Arlington

936 N. Danville Street...\$1,299,000...Sat. 2-4...Ruth Boyer O'Dea.....American Realty Group...703-338-2277
 1044 N. Edgewood St...\$1,647,500...Sun. 12-4...Ruth Boyer O'Dea/Agnes Davis...American Realty Group...703-338-2277
 1504 N. Hancock Street...\$1,850,000...Sat. 2-4...Agnes Davis.....American Realty Group...703-508-3235
 1131 N. Taylor Street...\$650,000...Sun. 2-4...Kevin O'Neill.....American Realty Group...571-243-9485
 2500 24th Street N.....\$1,650,000...Sun. 1-4...Kevin Love.....Re/Max Allegiance...703-807-1986
 1020 S. Dinwiddie Street...\$429,000...Sun. 1-4...Sue Goodhart.....McEneaney.....703-263-8321
 2047 S. Glebe Road...\$494,000...Sun. 1-4...Dave Sanasack.....McEneaney.....703-380-1838
 742 S. Granada Street...\$529,900...Sun. 1-4...Dave Lloyd & Associates...Weichert Realtors...703-593-3204
 43 S. Edison Street...\$529,900...Sun. 1-4...Dave Lloyd & Associates...Weichert Realtors...703-593-3204
 5225 S. 7th Street...\$547,000...Sun. 1-4...Garnet Robins-Baughman...Keller Williams...703-534-0997
 1743 N. Quincy...\$575,000...Sun. 1-4...Susan Shepard-Siple...Keller Williams...703-598-5352
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 1700 S. 23rd Street...\$775,000...Sun. 1-4...Ron Cathell.....Keller Williams...703-975-2500
 2512 Washington Blvd...\$835,000...Sun. 1-4...Ron Cathell.....Keller Williams...703-975-2500
 4864 33rd Road...\$929,000...Sun. 1-4...Stacey Romm.....Long and Foster...703-298-8197
 7039 Williamsburg Blvd...Low \$600's...Sun. 1-4...Michelle Sagatov.....Fall Properties...703-402-9361

To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Winslow Wacker at 703-821-5050 or E-Mail the info to winslow@connectionnewspapers.com All listings due by Monday at 3 pm.

NEWS

Candidates Present Credentials

FROM PAGE 3

Watch the Forum

safety and had helped to create an agreement between the town and Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in order to remove “undesirable” elements from the town. “It was important to have neighborhoods that were safe,” he said. He added that he opposed the downtown master plan as recommended by the Planning Commission, saying it was a high-density option that would place apartment complexes in the downtown area.

Incumbent council member and Vice Mayor Connie Hutchinson said she had been born and raised in Herndon, where she had been publicly active for most of her adult life. Hutchinson is serving her fifth term on the council, is a town representative on the inter-jurisdictional committee that is weighing in on developments being planned north of the future Route 28 Metro Station, and is a member of the Dulles Area Transportation Association board, the board of the Herndon Dulles Visitor's Center, the Virginia Municipal League, the Herndon Historical Society, the Friends of Runnymede Park and other groups and also is a co-chair of the Holiday Homes Tour. She said the downtown master plan and preparations for the coming of Metro would require careful planning on the part of the town.

Lisa Merkel said economic development, the coming of the Metro and downtown redevelopment were the town's most pressing issues. “Metrorail is our ticket to the 21st century,” she said, adding that a “vibrant, viable, mixed-use community” in the downtown area with transportation connections to the future Metro stations would raise real estate values and attract homeowners. Merkel said she had a background in elementary school teaching and staff development and had been involved in the Holiday Homes Tour and planning for the Diamond Hotel. She was also appointed to the special study task force that made recommendations regarding the developments being proposed near the Route 28 Metro station.

Incumbent Charlie Waddell pointed out that the current council had kept the real estate tax rate level, resulting in a tax break for most homeowners, by controlling spending and leveraging tax dollars with proffers and state and federal grants. Meanwhile, he said, the town had funded public improvements on Van Buren and Elden streets and had a skate park on the way. “We've done this without sacrificing the quality of life our citizens expect and deserve,” he said. Waddell also said the council's policies had reduced the number of overcrowded houses in town from 120 to 20 and its ICE partnership had removed 225 people — “bad guys” — from the streets.

Jasbinder Singh said he wanted to ensure that no new taxes or tax rate increases were instituted. Instead, he said, the town should balance its budget by streamlining its government and dipping into the rainy day fund. “If we do not use the rainy day fund now, when do we use it?” he asked. Before any further moves were made to adopt a downtown master plan, he said, there needed to be a debate as to whether assumptions that the plan was economically feasible and that there was a market for it were well founded. And he said discussions about loitering at the intersection of Alabama Drive and Elden Street needed to begin immediately, while approvals for “dense, architecturally questionable townhouse developments” needed to stop.

“I will be focusing on increasing our property values,” said Daniel Alvarado, adding that another of

his priorities was to “integrate the community into one strong community.” Alvarado introduced himself as an economist, a political analyst and a freelance writer for various Hispanic newspapers. He said he had also been involved in Herndon sports as a soccer coach.

He stressed the importance of preparing for the arrival of Metro, redeveloping the downtown and connecting the downtown area to the future stations. Other issues facing the town, he said, were empty houses, crowded houses and people loitering on the streets. He noted that next month, day laborers waiting for work would be relocated onto private property without the use of any public money, due in part to his efforts.

Sheila Olem said her civic involvement began with parent-teacher associations before she was drawn into land use issues affecting properties near her home. Subsequently, county supervisors and the Town Council had appointed her to various bodies, including two terms on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Olem said she had recently worked to get two bills passed by the General Assembly and also volunteered with her son's school, various nonprofit organizations, the Herndon Festival and the Friday Night Live concert series. “The number-one opportunity I see for the town of Herndon is a Metro stop,” she said, adding that her background in land use would be a valuable asset in planning for the stop. She also said she didn't mind paying enough taxes to retain basic services like the fall cleanup.

Dave Kirby is running for his third term on the council, and he said he wanted to see a vibrant, redeveloped downtown and that he planned to make hard decisions in order to balance the town's budget without raising taxes. “We can't continue to do more with less,” he said, noting that town staff was already stretched thin. Kirby said he supported the town's partnership with ICE, the closing of the day labor center and aggressive approaches to addressing the problem of overcrowded houses. He also noted that the town recently had successfully lobbied for the passage of three bills by the General Assembly, regulating solicitation in the streets, ensuring that any transient occupancy tax imposed by the county would not affect the town and increasing penalties for those repeatedly caught driving without a license.

Cesar del Aguila said he came from a large family and had 51 first cousins. “We don't see eye-to-eye, but we're family. That's how I want to govern,” he said. In 1986, he started work with Electronic Data Systems Corporation, where he got to meet Ross Perot, he said. Since then, he has worked for a number of companies, the last two of which started small and multiplied in size. What he had learned, he said, was that “organizations that grow and thrive stay focused.” He said he had developed an ability to identify the root causes of problems and solve them dispassionately, always sleeping on them. Del Aguila said the factor that would most affect the town in the immediate future was its proximity to Dulles Airport and all the changes that would entail.

FOLLOWING introductions were question-and-answer sessions with the press and the public, including television viewers who called in from home. To see the forum in its entirety, check the HCTV Web site, <http://hctv.org>, and find out times it will be rerun.

Spoiler: one question all the candidates agreed upon was the value of the Friday Night Live concert series.

Herndon Baseball Winning under New Coach

Pitching prowess has coach Greg Miller's Hornets off to 6-1 start.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Came in and game out, the Herndon High baseball team has, for the most part this season, received exceptional starting pitching. That has been perhaps the biggest factor to the Hornets' success over the first half of the 2010 campaign.

Herndon, following a 9-7 win at cross-town rival South Lakes Monday night, April 12, carried an impressive 6-1 record.

"The big thing so far has been our pitching," said Greg Miller, Herndon's first year head coach who over the past six years served as an assistant under former Hornets' skipper Al McCulloch.

Herndon starters Nick Impellizzeri, Paul Hvozdovic and Daniel Shill have each put together terrific seasons thus far.

"They've been great for us," said Miller, a former

"I want to get [the program] back to the point where people look at Herndon and say we can get to regionals every single year."

— Greg Miller, Herndon's coach

Herndon star player and a 1997 graduate of the school. "Any big game I would feel confident putting any one of them on the mound. They're all kind of No. 1's [on the staff] right now. We've been riding their arms, getting timely hits [at the plate] and playing pretty good defense."

Impellizzeri, a senior right hander and the Hornets' best pitcher last year when the team went 13-8 in long time coach McCulloch's final season at the helm, earned the



PHOTO COURTESY/HERNDON BASEBALL

The Herndon players did things the Ripken way during their recent spring break trip to Myrtle Beach.

save out of the bullpen in Monday's win over South Lakes.

Shill, also a senior right hander, is the hardest thrower of the starting trio with a fastball in the mid 80s. He also has a good curve ball. When he has good command of the strike zone, Shill can be one of the better pitchers around.

Hvozdovic, meanwhile, is a senior left hander who has been terrific.

"He throws the fastball around 80 and has a real good curve ball," said Miller, of the south-

paw. "He throws a changeup. The biggest thing is he throws strikes.

"All three of those guys have just been competitors," said Miller. "As a coach, that's all you can ask for."

Miller, a former professional player in the Atlanta Braves' organization and James Madison University's all-time hitting leader, credited pitching coach Dan Coghlan with doing an excellent job with the entire Herndon pitching staff this season.

"Pitching has been the strength of our team," said Miller.

HERNDON IS ALSO receiving

solid seasons from a number of its field position players. The team's top hitter thus far has been senior third baseman JJ McMann, who was batting at a .667 clip going into this week. McMann, a backup second baseman last year, began this season batting in the No. 8 position of the batting order. But he has moved up over the weeks and is currently the Hornets' No. 2 hitter in the order.

"He's doing a great job for us," said Miller.

Impellizzeri, who a year ago earned All-Concorde District honors as a utility player, is hitting .438 from the No. 3 spot of the line-up. In his first three seasons with the Herndon varsity, Impellizzeri was the team's lead-off hitter.

Shill, meanwhile, was batting .357 with six RBIs and senior first baseman Alex Clark was hitting .375 with seven RBIs. Clark played for Herndon in both his freshmen and sophomore years, but did not play a year ago. Miller is glad to have him back this spring.

Herndon spent the recent spring break week in Myrtle Beach, S.C. at the Ripken Experience baseball complex facility. There, the Hornets spent most of their time practicing and fine-tuning their game in the good weather. They also

played a couple of games, winning meetings over John Carroll and Kenston High Schools, 7-5 and 17-1, respectively.

Impellizzeri had three hits and scored three runs in the win over John Carroll, a Catholic school from Bel Air, Md. Shill and McMann had two hits apiece and sophomore Matt Smith knocked in three runs. The game was played on a replica field of the old Polo Grounds in New York.

In the win over Kenston (Ohio), McMann paced the Herndon offense with four hits while Smith and Clark both had three safeties, and Shill two. Kenston had beaten Robinson Secondary, Herndon's Concorde District rival, earlier over spring break week.

Herndon's other wins this season have come over Heritage (Leesburg), Park View, Broad Run (Ashburn) and South Lakes.

Miller said he is enjoying his first season as the Herndon head coach. He said he learned a lot about the game from McCulloch, who coached at Herndon for 30 years.

"I coached under Al for six years and played under him," said Miller. "It's really an honor to coach here. Over the course of his career I really think Al is one of the best coaches in this region over the last 25 years."

Miller said a primary goal for his team this season is to make the 16-team Northern Region playoffs. The Hornets missed out on regionals last year, despite their good record. They have not made regionals in three years.

"We have lots of goals and that's the very first one," said Miller. "It's been three years since we were in the region tournament. I want to get [the program] back to the point where people look at Herndon and say we can get to regionals every single year."

IN MONDAY'S WIN over the Seahawks, junior Dylan Garten earned the win in relief. At the plate, Garten plated the go-ahead run with an RBI double in the sixth inning that broke a 6-6 tie. Jamie Kinney, who led the inning off with a walk, scored on the base hit. Kinney, a senior, also had a double and a single in the game.

The game with South Lakes actually began last Thursday, April 8 before thunderstorms forced the game to be suspended with the Hornets leading 6-1. The contest was continued and completed on Monday. Herndon was scheduled to play two more games this week, versus Oakton on Tuesday, April 13 and against visiting Centreville this Friday, April 16, at 6:30 p.m.

ArtSpace Presents 'Splash of Color'

Work of Betty Ganley,
Marianne Cordyack
on exhibit.

Herndon's downtown art center ArtSpace is opening of a new exhibition, "Splash of Color," featuring watercolor paintings by Betty Ganley and pottery by Marianne Cordyack. The exhibit runs through May 2. Reception and Gallery Talk is Sunday, April 18, 3-5 p.m.

The gallery will be filled with artwork of flowers, fountains, boats and other garden themes. ArtSpace's regular hours are: Tuesday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, 12-5 p.m. For more information, call ArtSpace at 703-956-6590 or visit www.artspaceherndon.com.

Ganley is an award winning artist and a resident of Great Falls. She has won over 70 awards for her watercolors and has paintings featured in six major art books, highlighting the art of the current top watercolorists.

As a result of an invitation by the editors of International Artist Publications to author and illustrate a book on painting gardens, her first book, "10 Secret Gardens in Watercolor," was published in 2005. Since then she has been a guest lecturer, demonstrator and judge.

Cordyack, a resident of Reston, is a professional potter and pottery teacher. She has a master's degree with a concentration in ceramics from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, and a B.A. degree in art from Hood College, Frederick, Md. She has also studied ceramics at Penland School of Crafts in North Carolina and Haystack Mountain School of Crafts in Maine.

She is currently teaching wheel-thrown pottery at the Lake Anne Reston Community Center. She also teaches firing workshops at her kiln in West Virginia. Cordyack taught art at Langston Hughes Middle School in Reston for eight years before she resigned in 1996 to begin her own art school. She taught ceramics classes from her studio to adults and children until 2004 when she began to focus more on her own work.

She produces functional and sculptural pottery inspired by natural forms and colors.

She sells her work locally at craft festivals, galleries and studio sales. She and her husband, John, have been living in Reston for 38 years. They have two grown children and three grandchildren.

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Surprised To See Me



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As a stage IV lung cancer patient, I was told by my oncologist on March 5, 2009 that he couldn't "cure me;" he could "treat me," a distinction I've been able to live with ever since (thank God!). At that initial Team Lourie meeting, my doctor clearly recited and reviewed the results from the various scans, and a subsequent biopsy, that I had completed, and then presented his recommendations/my options and reasons for them. We listened intently. Asked a few questions (incredulous as it was even asking them), received straightforward answers, and acted accordingly, meaning: I started chemotherapy six days later. (When an oncologist speaks, it's hard not to listen.)

To say I have a terminal condition is a bit too scary for me to admit; to say I have a serious health problem (my being asymptomatic notwithstanding) is a bit easier for me to accept. However, how other people (friends, family members, co-workers and other health care professionals) perceive you can be quite telling and perhaps indicative of the real severity of the underlying diagnosis (not that I need any convincing, but neither do I need make-believe). Nevertheless, after witnessing multiple people's reactions to seeing me/speaking to me – after not having done so for varying intervals of time (pre-diagnosis to be sure), has led me to a conclusion: you can judge the seriousness of your sickness/disease/affliction by the level of surprise of people when they next see you/hear your voice, etc. (post diagnosis) after not having done so for a while.

I remember the first time I experienced this "oh-you're-still-alive" moment. I had been referred to a nephrologist (kidney specialist) due to a recurring abnormal level of something in my blood. At this first meeting, very little was medically apparent – and discussed – other than the effects of the chemotherapy, which was likely the cause of the elevated level. Since my chemotherapy was ongoing and not likely to be stopped, the doctor recommended that I begin taking a magnesium supplement, and to return in three months for a follow up. My meeting with the nephrologist was cordial, professional, not particularly social and fairly brief. When I left, I still wasn't sure how to pronounce the doctor's name and I expect I was nearly as forgettable. I was grateful the evaluation yielded so little of concern and off I went with the rest of my day.

Three months later I returned as instructed to see the same nephrologist. After being called in from the waiting room, I was led by a female nurse to an examining room and asked to take a seat. She blood-pressure cuffed me, took my vital signs and told me that the doctor would be in shortly. A few minutes passed before the doctor walked in holding my chart. She sees me, smiles, greets me by name and in a more animated manner than I previously remember says: "Hello, Mr. Lourie. It's great to see you!" To which I reacted/replied instinctively to her obvious (to me, anyway) surprise at seeing me (even though I had a scheduled appointment and presumably the doctor reviews her daily schedule of patients in advance to know who's going to be who) and said: "Hello. It's great to be seen," and laughed uneasily.

Then I thought: Was I not supposed to be seen? I had an appointment. Did she not know who I was? Ah, no. She had my chart. Was she not expecting to see me again? Why would she not be expecting to see me again? Oh. The stage IV lung cancer. Maybe she wasn't expecting to see me because, well, you know, the terminal disease. I didn't ask. She didn't offer. But I presume. Reading people's reactions to health news is almost like talking to children; you often receive the unfiltered, unvarnished truth verbally or non-verbally, whether you expect it or not. That's my interpretation of this doctor's reaction anyway. And of course, she didn't mean anything by it, it was an honest reaction (given what she knew). Nor was I offended by it. I was amused by it, sort of.

Still, this cancer thing is a bitch. Sometimes, your prognosis can be seen and heard in the eyes, and from the mouth, of the beholder.

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

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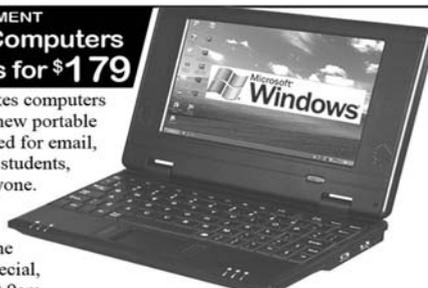
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THE COUNTY LINE

Citizens Sound Off on Schools, Parks and Taxes

FROM PAGE 2

ance and has been advocating for lower taxes in the county for the past 20 years.

If local real estate property taxes had grown at the same rate as inflation, the average Fairfax homeowner would be paying \$1,500 less annually than they are currently, said Purves.

Taxes have been going up at a faster rate, in part, because Fairfax County is paying for its employees generous retirement packages and health care benefits, Purves said. Over the past 10 years, Fairfax County Public Schools has increased the amount of money it spends on employee benefits by \$1 billion.

"That is why class size has gone up," said Purves.



William Bowie, Fairfax County Park Authority Board chairman and Reston resident

In 1977, the Fairfax County Park Authority Board oversaw 90 parks with 140 staff members. Last year, the same park board oversaw 417 parks with 131 staff members.

Fairfax County Park Authority board members said the county is already doing more with less and the proposed cuts to the park system for next year go too far.

"We would like to reconsider the maintenance cuts. These are simply too large a burden to carry," said William Bowie, Fairfax County Park Authority board chairman.

Bowie is particularly concerned about budget cuts that would eliminate seeding and aeration of athletic field, both those at county park and the ones located at elementary and middle school campuses.

He also said the drop in financial support would cause the park authority to close restrooms at many of its facilities, saving the county about \$250,000.

John Niemic, president of the local fire fighters and paramedics union, said his members are prepared to "share their burden" of county budget cuts, given the tough economic situation Fairfax County faces.

The fire fighters and paramedics are willing to forego a pay increase but Niemic said cuts to the department staff proposed by the county executive would result in delayed responses by emergency medical service teams and would impact the Hazard-



John Niemic, president of the Fairfax County Professional Fire Fighters and Paramedics and Fairfax resident

ous Materials unit.

"If the HazMat Support Unit is cut from the budget, the department's ability to mitigate a chemical spill or prevent the threat of a weapon of mass destruction will be hampered considerably," said Niemic.

The union supports implementing a vehicle registration fee and raising the tax rate to its highest allowed value, \$1.12 for every \$100 of assessed property, which would result in a tax increase for the average homeowner in Fairfax.

John Johnson, as a parent, is asking the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to increase its monetary transfer to the local public school system. If the public schools do not receive more money, the local school board is likely to make cuts that would disproportionately impact low-income and minority students, he said.



John Johnson, Herndon resident

Johnson, who is head of the Fairfax schools Minority Student Achievement Oversight Committee, said many of the previous program cuts the school system had sustained in the last few years have come at the expense of minority and low income students.

The programs that are eliminated are often those that are meant to help these at-risk groups of students, he said.

"Where would Fairfax rate if we were measured by our lowest performing students?" he asked.

Sandra Stilt objects to the total elimination of Fairfax Connector bus service in the Herndon and Reston area on Sundays. Stilt, a Herndon resident, does not own a car and had to take a taxi cab home from the Fairfax County Government Center after testifying at the supervisors' public hearing.



Sandra Stilt, Herndon resident

"This is a total disregard to the people who rely solely on public transit," she said.

Stilt said the Sunday bus route that she uses now runs every 30 minutes for most of the day.

If it is eliminated entirely, she will be "stranded" on Sundays, unable to shop or run most of her errands.

"The bus is pretty crowded. There are many people like myself that don't drive," said Stilt.

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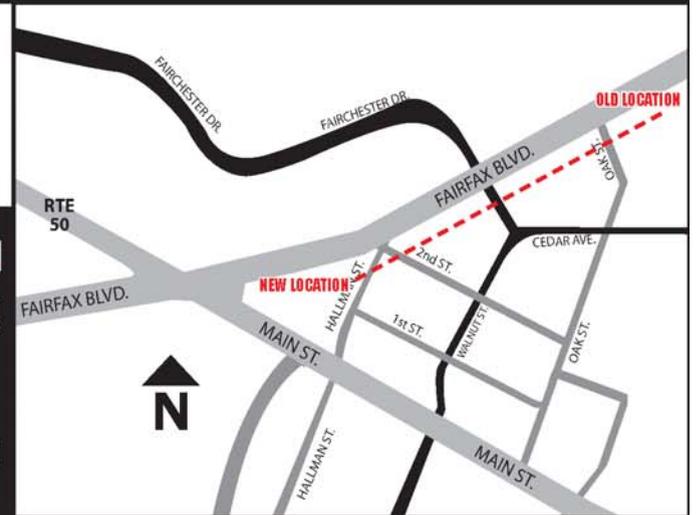
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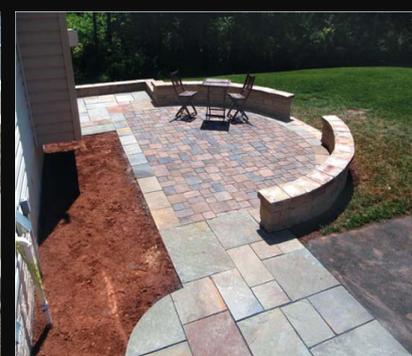
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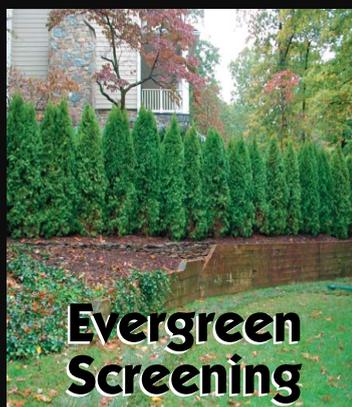
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