

Reston CONNECTION Festive Cultures

NEWS, PAGE 6

Ancha Lee, carves an ornate design into a watermelon at the fruit-carving table at the Thailand display at the Asian Festival.

PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION OPINION, PAGE 4 ♦ CALENDAR, PAGE 7 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 8 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

Navigating The Classroom

PET CONNECTION, PAGE 3

Comedy Supports Nature House

NEWS, PAGE 9

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flowers, eggs, baked goods, honey and more. Every Wednesday through Oct. 703-642-0128.

SATURDAY/AUG. 7

Spring Forest Qigong Practice. 8:30 a.m. at Sports Edge Acupuncture Clinic, 600-D Carlisle Drive, Herndon. 703-867-0480.

Lake Anne Farmer's Market. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at Lake Anne Plaza, Reston. Local produce, honey, meats and more. Live music. www.restonfarmersmarket.com.

MONDAY/AUG. 9

Keith Fimian for Congress (VA-11) Fundraiser. 7 p.m. at 12305 Delevan Drive, Herndon. With George Allen. \$50. 703-264-5854.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 11

Circle of Life Blood Drive. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon. Register at www.florisumc.org/574604.ihtml.

Moms Club of Reston. 10 a.m. at Great Falls Grange Park in Great Falls. Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Playgroups, babysitting co-op, moms' night out and more. www.momsclubofreston.webs.com.

Reston's Wednesday Farmer's Market. 3:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. at the NE corner of Reston Parkway and Sunrise Valley. Producer-only locally grown fruits and vegetables, locally raised meats and poultry, and local breads, cheeses, salsa and sausage. <http://smartmarkets.org>.

Frying Pan Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Freshly picked fruits, vegetables, cut

THURSDAY/AUG. 12

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.

Herndon Farmer's Market. Every Thursday, 3:30-6:30 p.m. at the Herndon Center, 460 Elden St., Herndon. Producer-only locally grown fruits and vegetables, locally raised meats and poultry, and local foods from bread and cheese to salsa and sausage. smartmarkets.org.

FRIDAY/AUG. 13

VolunteerFest Project Proposals Due. Volunteer Fairfax is now accepting project applications for this year's VolunteerFest to be held Saturday, Oct. 23. To participate in this year's event, qualifying projects must be within Fairfax County borders and require a minimum of five volunteers. www.volunteerfairfax.org, 703-246-3825 or ccoffey@volunteerfairfax.org.

SATURDAY/AUG. 14

Masonic Lodges Herndon 264 and Ashburn Sterling 288 Blood Drive. 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Herndon Lodge, 820 Elden St., Herndon. Child ID program also available, sponsored by the Virginia State Police. Receive a \$10 gas card when you complete the donor screening process. Visit Inova.org/donateblood and use sponsor code 7438 to make an appointment, or call 703-655-4655. Masonic264Blooddrive@gmail.com.

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Navigating the Classroom

Fairfax County teachers train with new technology at Google offices.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Teachers and staff from Fairfax County Schools spent four days last week training on Google Earth and other Google applications in order to find a better way to educate their students. The teachers came from South Lakes High School and its feeder middle and elementary schools.

The session was the first part in what both Google and Fairfax County are hoping becomes a long and fruitful partnership.

"We don't just want to partner with organizations like Google in name, we want to do something that helps both parties," said Jay Garant, coordinator for business and community partnerships for Fairfax County Public Schools.

Seven teachers each from eight different schools brought their own laptops, loaded with the Google Earth software, and split up into groups at Google's Reston office. Though they were spread across several conference rooms, all the rooms were linked by videoconferencing, allowing everyone to receive the instruction and interact with any of the teachers. "We're hoping that between the 56 teachers, we're able to develop a minimum of 24 curriculum packets," Garant said.

THE EDUCATORS tackled a variety of tasks during the four-day training. Jana Chavers, a teacher at Forest Edge Elementary was able to plot out her dream vacation — which started at Ronald Reagan National Airport and included stops in San Juan, Puerto Rico, St. Vincent and Tobago — in great detail.

"It even showed me the part of the ocean where I would be going snorkeling," she said.

Megan Goddard, a senior geodata analyst for Google who also has a background in cartography, showed the teachers that Google Earth has applications far beyond the geographical information.

"You can use these programs "for



Teachers from South Lakes High School and its feeder schools practice using Google Earth at Google's Reston Headquarters July 29. Educators learned how to use software such as Google Earth and Google Sketchup to help children learn more interactively.



Ji Ahn, a teacher at Hunters Woods Elementary, shares one of her projects, which involved a tour around the Amazon River.

a lot of subjects, including math, history and literature," Goddard said. Technology such as Google Earth is often more familiar to the younger students than teachers. Tim Stahmer, a technology specialist with Fairfax County, hopes that this sort of thing changes the way students are taught for the better.

"This should help us move away from lecture-demo type instruction and move to project-based instruction," Stahmer said.

Linda Martin, an Advanced Academic Resource teacher at Dogwood Elementary, said she came away with a lot of ideas how to integrate the training into the curriculum.

"I didn't know how to do any of this two weeks ago, but I learned that it's a very accessible tool," Martin said.

DIANE HARAZIN, a curriculum technology specialist with Fairfax County, praised the visual nature, saying "we are seeing proof of the



From left, Jennifer Bower, Mark Moseley and Barb Coates, teachers at Dogwood Elementary, share ideas about how to use Google Earth in the classroom.

power of visual tools. Special Education and [English as a Second Language] students can respond just as well. It's applicable to all our student populations."

Harazin was sent to California to train on the software before the Reston training. After being invited, there initially wasn't money in the budget to send her, but Apple Federal Credit Union donated the money.

"We're an education-affiliated credit union, and we're dedicated to classroom enhancement," said Robert L. Sowell Sr., vice president of community relations for AFCU.

Harazin said she is hoping that if the first round of training goes well, they can start spreading across the entire county and beyond.

"By developing and defining these sort of curriculum packages, we hope to be able to share them with Fairfax County teachers and even the Google Earth community," she said.



Steve Bowers performs at the kickoff event for the League of Reston Artists second annual ArtsCapade.

ArtsCapade Returns in October

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The League of Reston Artists showed off the plans for the second edition of ArtsCapade, an arts festival at Dulles Station in Herndon. The kickoff event took place at Frying Pan Farm Park July 22, featuring barbecue and live music.



Cheryl Parsons, president of the League of Reston Artists speaks to an audience at Frying Pan Farm Park about the upcoming ArtsCapade art festival July 22.

The festival will take place Oct. 23 and 24 and it will feature paintings, sculpture, jewelry, photography and other arts, including interactive art for children.

This is the first year non-members will be part of the festival, last year almost 200 members participated and organizers are looking for an even bigger turnout this year.

"This is the biggest event we've ever done, and we're hoping for a lot of artists to come out this year," said League President Cheryl Parsons. "When you see the work these artists put in, it's hard to say no, so it's nice to be able to get more artists in."

LAST YEAR, the show took place inside, but this year they're expanding to two blocks, all the way down Sayward Boulevard. League member Alfonso Ong designed the layout for the festival, and said that Dulles Station provided a perfect atmosphere.

"It's a nice long, wide street with a park in the middle, it's just what we needed," Ong said. "By going from inside to two blocks, we'll be able to ac-

commodate a lot of artists."

The League of Reston Artists has been around for more than 40 years, and they held last year's ArtsCapade because "we thought it was about time we got out and did something with this organization," Parsons said.

The event has a submission process, but juror Kerin McBride, a painter, said that this is a good event for artists to get the feel of the process.

Loretta Scott, a jeweler and painter, said the festival is a good way for artists that have another job to get out there.

"If you've got a day job, you can't always get out and display your work as much as you'd like," Scott said. "It's difficult to get your own exhibition, but the festival is great for putting your name and style on display."

The LRA is also currently involved in search of a gallery, they display work at the Reston Chamber of Commerce and the Reston Community Center.

More information about the LRA can be found at www.leagueofrestonartists.org, and applications for ArtsCapade can be submitted to www.zapplication.org. Submissions are due Aug. 11.

OPINION

Five Percent Off

Back-to-school sales tax holiday a reminder of other back-to-school rituals; buy some extra supplies for needy students.

While some of us are not sure how it got to be August, never mind time to start thinking about going back to school, the first day of school is more than a month away, Tuesday after Labor Day, Sept. 7.

Virginia families can take advantage of what amounts to a three-day coupon for five percent off many back-to-school items. Sales tax is suspended for the coming weekend, Friday through Sunday, Aug. 6, 7 and 8 (restrictions apply).

During this three-day period, purchases of qualifying school supplies selling for \$20 or less per item, and purchases of qualifying clothing and footwear selling for \$100 or less per item will be exempt from sales tax.

The tax holiday should encourage more families to spend their back-to-school dollars in local stores rather than online. This is an excellent time to support local businesses, many suffering from the recession as well as competition from online businesses that offer tax-free shopping all the time. Local businesses that don't get their money from the federal government need local shopping support now more than ever.

AUGUST SALES TAX HOLIDAY:

SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND CLOTHING

When: First full weekend of August (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) each year. The 2010 holiday will take place on Aug. 6-8.

What's Exempt: During this three-day period, purchases of qualifying school supplies selling for \$20 or less per item, and purchases of qualifying clothing and footwear selling for \$100 or less per item will be exempt from sales tax.

www.tax.virginia.gov, click on "Sales Tax Holidays"

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHTS

FAIRFAX COUNTY

See this link for a complete list of upcoming Back-to-School nights
<http://www.fcps.edu/news/backtoschool.htm>

Remember that many families in the area are struggling. There are many options to help.

❖ FACETS in Fairfax, which provided more than 300 students with backpacks filled with supplies last year, is collecting school supplies until Aug. 13 at 10640 Page Avenue, Suite 300, Fairfax. Volunteers will gather for Back to School parties to stuff their new backpacks with supplies. Contact Deborah Heller at 703-352-3268 or dheller@facetscares.org.

❖ The Fairfax Bar Association Paralegal Section, with the Fairfax Law Foundation, is col-

lecting for its annual Back-to-School Supplies Drive, for children at Mondloch House II, a Fairfax County homeless shelter for families. Send donations by Aug. 26 to Fairfax Law Foundation, 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Suite 216, Fairfax, VA 22030.

❖ Our Daily Bread's Back to School program helped more than 350 receive the supplies they needed, 108 more children than in 2008, and they expect the demand for assistance this year to be greater than ever. See www.our-daily-bread.org/Back_to_School_Program.html

Back-to-school shopping for supplies is one of many important things to take care of before school starts. Students need up-to-date immunizations. Early in fall, flu shots will also be available. Add to the list of "safety" items: talk with your students about what they are doing online (hint: it mostly isn't shopping).

But probably the most important thing parents can do to ensure a successful school year is to make contact with your child's teachers, make sure they know who you are, how to contact you and that you care. Use the online tools to track your child's progress (but don't go crazy monitoring every blip).

One of the best ways to kick off this regular contact with your child's school is to attend back to school night. Most back to school events for parents are already scheduled; mark your calendar.

— MARY KIMM.

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Reston Summer Weekend

BY JOHN LOVAAS
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST

Last weekend, as July crossed into August, I was reminded how nice this place called Reston truly is. We were in Lake Anne Village Center, Reston's only genuine "village center," as founder Robert Simon reminded a group visioning Reston's future the other evening. Our weekend began with live music on Washington Plaza by the lake, where several party boats bobbed about with passengers contentedly listening to the music from comfortable deck chairs. We dined on the Plaza with a magnificent view of Lake Anne from the new Kalypso Restaurant featuring a nice Greek-Italian fare and a wait staff anxious to please. The Plaza was alive with people, music and a friendly navy joining in. Bob Simon says a plaza or square (with or without lake?) where people congregate is a sine qua non to make a genuine village center. Lake Anne clearly qualifies.

Early Saturday morning, our reinvigorated Lake Anne Village sprang to life again with the

Reston Farmers Market, the Best in Northern Virginia, according to Northern Virginia Magazine. It filled the center's parking lot with the freshest fruits and veggies, flowers and plants, marvelous baked

goods, honey, soups, meats and cheeses music and more. For several years, the Farmers Market was the only Saturday life, but now the Open Air and Handicrafts Market with as many as 40 vendors simultaneously fills the contiguous Plaza itself, creating a synergy that gives the whole village the air of a great bazaar, complete with music, wandering magicians and more.

I admit to possible bias about the Farmers Market where my wife Fran and I serve as volunteer "market masters" Saturday mornings.

Somehow this last Saturday seemed especially vibrant and enjoyable as 3,000 or so shopped and socialized at the Market. Perhaps it seemed that way because of the gentler temperatures and nice



INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

breeze, or perhaps it was because we were having fun being there on our 45th wedding anniversary.

Across the street from Lake Anne on Saturday afternoon and Sunday, the seventh annual Asian Festival

filled the Lake Newport tennis courts area and the Brown's Chapel park with three performing stages, 35 food stands offering some of the most exotic and wonderful Asian chow to be found in the region, a Philippine Village including a performing stage and a wide array of goods for sale from that charming archipelago nation, and a great selection of exotic goods for sale and fun and games for all ages. Last year, organizers estimated that 50,000 people visited the Festival. There certainly were no fewer this year at what I believe is close to becoming Reston's premier annual event, second only perhaps to the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival in terms of character and attendance.

A great place to spend a special weekend — Lake Anne in Reston.

LETTER

Why Companies Are Sitting on Cash

To the Editor:

News commentators, analysts and Republican congressmen frequently make statements that U.S. companies have accumulated \$1.8 trillion in cash and they won't expand plants, buy equipment and hire new employees because of uncertainty about the financial/Wall Street reform, and healthcare reform. Uncertainty is not new to U.S. companies. U.S. businessmen are trained to manage their companies in times of uncertainty. All competitors in any industry will have to operate under the same conditions/restraints established by the newly enacted reforms. Uncertainty is only a fringe issue. The primary reason companies are sitting on this cash and not expanding plants and hiring people is that their market research reveals low demand for their product and services. Even when facing uncertainty, prudent companies will expand plant, buy equipment, and hire people when there is market evidence of a robust demand for their products and ser-

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THE CONNECTION

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OPINION

Schools Feeling Impact of Cutbacks

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

I learned recently that the Page County School Board has decided to close Grove Hill Elementary School that I attended for my first seven years of schooling. The locality has lost too much in state education funding and local tax revenues to be able to keep the 100-year-old community school open. The longer bus rides to other schools that the 150 students will have to take to attend larger classes are but a few examples of how the recession and the reductions in state school funding are impacting on schools. In my district, schools are increasing class size, reducing programs, and adding fees to make up for some of the lost revenue.

A paper, "The Evolution of Virginia Public School Finance: From the Beginnings to Today's Difficulties" by Professor Richard G. Salmon of Virginia Tech who is the acknowledged expert on public school finances in the state, quantifies the fiscal challenges being

felt by the public schools. According to his report that is in the June 2010, The Virginian News Letter of the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia (www.coopercenter.org), Virginia "ranks among the lowest in the nation for fiscal effort for education based on personal income." The National Education Association estimates that for the 2009-2010 school year Virginia will rank 47th lowest in public school funding as a percent of personal income.

As is true for all states, Virginia's education funding would be even bleaker if it had not been for the infusion of federal stimulus dollars. Federal aid per pupil in Virginia for the past several years has hovered around \$700. This year with the stimulus money it jumped to over \$1,200. Next year it is likely to revert back.

Salmon has a reputation for being direct in his findings and conclusions on public school funding. He does not disappoint in this report. "Both the executive and the legislature," he wrote, "have relied



exclusively on cost containment and have implemented massive budget reductions for virtually all state agencies in order to balance the budget. The reductions have fallen particularly hard on public education. ... Both [the executive and the legislature] have attempted to convince the public that their constitutional obligation to provide and maintain a high quality system of public schools has been fulfilled by engaging in a series of charades." The charades he refers to are the use of the federal stimulus dollars, reduction in personnel requirements, and a raid on the state Literacy Fund.

As the public becomes more aware of the impact that current budgeting practices are having on educational programs for their children, grandchildren, and children in the community, will the public demand that their legislators develop the backbone and will to deal more realistically with the budget? I voted against the current budget as being inadequate. Next year the impact on schools will be even greater.

community as a whole and to the Task Force members in particular. I would submit that Mr. Gilley may wish to contact the Fairfax County Public School planning staff to receive the information for himself that we presented in our paper to the Task Force. According to the FCPS planning staff, the older neighborhoods of Reston are rapidly turning over to new, younger families with children. Ask those of us who live in these neighborhoods or any Reston realtor to confirm this, please. In addition, demographics are changing as families with children are living in smaller and smaller quarters. Without any new residences in Reston, FCPS predicts that all of the schools in the Reston pyramid will be overcrowded in five years. Any children coming into our community from new construction are not included in these projections. Indeed, the Task Force must plan for extra schools now. Please, Mr. Gilley, as you entreat in your letter-to-the-editor, please refrain from presenting opinion as fact. Reston 2020's information has been vetted by officials and is not opinion.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 4

vices. To do otherwise, would leave the opportunity to their competitors. Blaming uncertainty is a false claim, and the people who make just claim should know better.

Col. Denver Lovett
Reston

Board Knows Best

To the Editor:
Fortunate are we poor, wretched citizens of Fairfax County to be blessed by the wise leadership of elected officials — gods really — who exhibit the judgment to know what they must do for our own good, even when it is against our own misguided wishes. Had School Board members Stuart Gibson (Hunter Mill) and Tessie Wilson (Braddock) only explained this to us earlier, things would have been so much easier. But, as they explain in their letter ["Keeping Our Eye on the Prize," Connection, July 28-Aug. 3, 2010], their reasoning may be beyond our meager ability to comprehend, so perhaps this explanation wouldn't have helped.

The important thing is that they

are in place, doing exactly the opposite of what constituents want on nearly every issue of substance, for our own good. Their insight into what is in fact truly best for the children of the county, as they explained that only they understand, is particularly incredible in light of the fact that neither of them has school-age children. What can we parents possibly know about our own kids and their cohort that these board members don't perceive more acutely? We citizens can only guess what additional unpopular-but-necessary decisions these omniscient board members will deign to impart upon us.

Dan Carney
Herndon

Facts vs. Opinion On Overcrowding

To the Editor:
Regarding the letter "Overstating the Overcrowding" by Wade Gilley, Alt. to Reston Task Force [Reston Connection, July 7- 13, 2010].

RCA's Reston 2020 is assisting the Task Force by conducting research and issuing reports on topics that should be of interest to the

community as a whole and to the Task Force members in particular.

I would submit that Mr. Gilley may wish to contact the Fairfax County Public School planning staff to receive the information for himself that we presented in our paper to the Task Force.

According to the FCPS planning staff, the older neighborhoods of Reston are rapidly turning over to new, younger families with children. Ask those of us who live in these neighborhoods or any Reston realtor to confirm this, please. In addition, demographics are changing as families with children are living in smaller and smaller quarters. Without any new residences in Reston, FCPS predicts that all of the schools in the Reston pyramid will be overcrowded in five years. Any children coming into our community from new construction are not included in these projections. Indeed, the Task Force must plan for extra schools now.

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Tammi Petrine, Co-Chair
RCA's Reston 2020 Committee



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Surya Williams delivers a flying kick to the pad being held by Master Jeong Jea Kim, during Tiger Den's martial arts demonstration at the D.C. Asian Festival July 31.

Festive Cultures

Festival brings together best of Asian cultures.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Lake Newport Square hosted the Seventh Annual Asian Festival last weekend, and it gave the community a chance to sample the very best of culture from the Asian world. A variety of foods, music, crafts and culture could be found around every corner of the square throughout the two-day event.

Three different stages featured a variety of music and other demonstrations, and wherever there was open space, a martial arts, tennis or crafts demonstration could break out. The variety of experiences offered kept visitors moving around constantly, trying to take it all in. "This year's festival offers all-day entertainment, native food, handicrafts, as well as sports and games for all ages, which translates into non-stop fun for everyone," said George Duangamee.

MOST PEOPLE parked at the Lake Anne Village Center or took the shuttle over from the old Reston Association Building. Most of the displays were laid out in a line, and as guests walked along the paths adjacent to Browns Chapel Road.

The section closest to the shuttle drop-off point featured clothing, household goods and activities for children. Several makeshift tennis courts were also set up on the asphalt, and throughout the event, Tiger Den Martial Arts performed demonstrations, where their students performed a variety of crowd-pleasing stunts.

"I was surprised at the variety of stuff here for sale," said Diana

Aston, whose cloth shopping bag was filled with a selection of gourmet teas, a wooden Buddha head and a red silk sari. "I definitely wasn't anticipating doing any shopping here, but there was some pretty neat stuff."

The selection of local foods provided everything from drinks (fresh sugar cane juice, Thai iced tea), grilled meats, and regional dishes and desserts. It seemed that almost anyone could find something that they hadn't tried before.

"I've done a pretty good amount of traveling throughout Asia, so I came here looking for some of my favorites," said Gary Lowe, a resident of Sterling. "I had some chicken satay (skewered chicken served with sauce), which was as good as I've had outside of Indonesia. I also tried halo-halo (Filipino dessert, a mixture of shaved ice and milk), which I had never had, and was very pleased."

The last stretch of paths led to a carnival-style area, with amusement park rides available for children and adults.

THE PHILIPPINES were the showcased nation this year. They had a big display set up at the front of the festival, featuring the tinikling, the national dance of the Philippines where dancers step over and around two bamboo poles that are tapped on the ground in rhythmic fashion.

Interested parties were invited to step up and try their hand at the dance, which cause a few missteps early, but people picked up the rhythm quickly and soon children and adults were all taking their turns.

"It was really hard to keep up, but then they told me to pay attention to the rhythm of the bamboo hitting the ground," said Becky Ballard, 11. "Once I picked it up it was sort of like a really fun kind of jump roping."



Reston Founder Robert E. Simon, Jr., Del. Ken Plum (D-36) and RA President Kathleen Driscoll McKee attend the opening of the Asian Festival.



Asian Festival attendees try their hand at the tinikling, the national dance of the Philippines. The dance, which involves dancing around two pieces of bamboo moved by the people on the ground, was part of the display for the Philippines, which was the featured nation of this year's festival.



Candidates for 'Miss Chinese-American' were introduced at the Asian Festival in Reston.

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/AUG. 5

U.S. Navy Cruisers Contemporary Entertainment Ensemble. 7:30 p.m. Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 W. Ox Road, Herndon. www.navyband.navy.mil

Open Mic for Bands Night. 9 p.m. at Jimmy's Tavern, 697 Spring St., Herndon. 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.

Wolftrap Children's Theatre in the Woods. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. 10 a.m. PROJECT Trio: From Hip-Hop to Bach, 11:15 a.m. Wolf Trap Opera Studio: Instant Opera! Free workshops follow the 10 a.m. performance; reservations required at 703-255-1824. \$8-\$10. www.wolftrap.org.

Mystic Warriors. 7 p.m. at Lake Anne Plaza, Reston. World and New Age music. www.mseproductions.com.
ESL Beginners. 10 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Practice English in a group with a volunteer facilitator. Adults. 703-689-2700.

FRIDAY/AUG. 6

Junior Ranger Day. 12-3 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Fun activities for children as they learn about the performing arts, Wolf Trap, and the National Park Service. Activities include a variety of ranger-led programs and a rubber stamp scavenger hunt. www.nps.gov/wotr/forkids or 703-255-1827.

SATURDAY/AUG. 7

62nd Annual Fairfax County 4-H Fair and Farm Show. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon, with a carnival open to 10 p.m. Old-fashioned country fun with games, rides and exhibits. Try milking a cow or shelling corn. Live entertainment, dog and horse shows and more. Free admission, parking \$5. 703-437-9101.

Stream Restoration Exhibit and Walk. 12 p.m. Reston Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza, Reston. Kelly Petrey of Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. will discuss the state of Reston streams and the renovation programs now underway. Join WSSI on a field trip to a stream in the Colvin Run watershed of North Reston. reston.wetlandstudies.com.

Wolftrap Children's Theatre in the Woods. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. 10 a.m. PROJECT Trio: From Hip-Hop to Bach, 11:15 a.m. Wolf Trap Opera Studio: Instant Opera! Free workshops follow the 10 a.m. performance; reservations required at 703-255-1824. \$8-\$10. www.wolftrap.org.

Mark Lohr's Classic Comedy Show. 11-11:45 a.m. Reston Town Square Park, 11900 Market St., Reston. Side-splitting family vaudeville show filled with audience participation and circus skills with a sprinkling of magic. www.restontowncenter.com.

Big Joe & the Dynaflo. 7:30 p.m. Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St., Reston. Bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets and enjoy New Orleans swing and rhythm & blues. Free. Rain or shine. 703-912-4062.

Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 10 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven

Place, Oakton. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association gives tips and strategies. 703-242-4020.

SUNDAY/AUG. 8

62nd Annual Fairfax County 4-H Fair and Farm Show. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon, with a carnival open to 8 p.m. Old-fashioned country fun with games, rides and exhibits. Try milking a cow or shelling corn. Live entertainment, dog and horse shows and more. Free admission, parking \$5. 703-437-9101.

Hippiefest. 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. \$55-\$471. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

MONDAY/AUG. 9

Mr. Knick Knack Children's Performance. 10:30 a.m. Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St., Reston. Music for kids. Free. www.restontowncenter.com.

TUESDAY/AUG. 10

George Thorogood & The Destroyers. 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. \$51-\$471. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

Wolftrap Children's Theatre in the Woods. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. 10 a.m. Dance Institute of Washington: West Side Story, 11:15 a.m. Rocknoceros: Painting the Town PINK! Free workshops follow the 10 a.m. performance; reservations required at 703-255-1824. \$8-\$10. www.wolftrap.org.

Stage Combat. 7 p.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Practice the art of stage combat in this workshop presented by The Sterling Swordplayers. Age 12-18. Wear tennis shoes. 703-437-8855.

Money Matters. 7:15 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Monthly group discussion focuses on personal finance and investing. 703-242-4020.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 11

The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra's OTO String Quartet. 10 a.m. Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Children's educational program. Free. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance.

Book Discussion. 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. The Woman in White by Wilkie Collins. Adults. 703-689-2700.

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

Wolftrap Children's Theatre in the Woods. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. 10 a.m. Dance Institute of Washington: West Side Story, 11:15 a.m. Rocknoceros: Painting the Town PINK! Free workshops follow the 10 a.m. performance; reservations required at 703-255-1824. \$8-\$10. www.wolftrap.org.

Legally Blonde. 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. \$46-\$184. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

Uptown Vocal Jazz Quartet. 7 p.m. at Lake Anne Plaza, Reston. American Songbook classics. www.mseproductions.com.

ESL Beginners. 10 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Practice English in a group with a volunteer facilitator. Adults. 703-689-2700.

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Rec Sports Leagues Provide Competition, Fitness, Friendship

Sports playing careers don't have to end after college for the athletic minded.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Crowing up in his hometown of Vienna in the 1970s, Rodger Melchiori of Chantilly had a love and passion for playing and following sports. Some of his greatest memories are of playing youth basketball for the Cougars within Vienna Youth Incorporated, as well as playing baseball for the Rebels within the Vienna Little League.

Melchiori continued to play and excel in athletics as he moved into his teens, always enjoying the competition and camaraderie that comes with being part of a team unit. He competed at the intramural level at James Madison University in Harrisonburg and, during the summers, loved playing slow pitch softball within the old Vienna Church Softball League as a member of the St. Mark's team.

As an adult, Melchiori, a 1981 graduate of James Madison High School in Vienna, played softball for years within Fairfax County as part of the Fairfax Adult Softball organization — one of the largest and best run adult softball programs in the country. He also played in Fairfax County-run basketball and flag football leagues.

One of the greatest benefits for athletic minded adults, like Melchiori, in Northern Virginia is the outstanding Fairfax County adult recreation sports leagues that allow individuals to continue their playing careers for as long as they wish. A sports venue is always available for men and women who love hitting the ball field or the hard wood.

"Fairfax County [for adult athletes] is excellent," said Melchiori, the father of three. "They do a fantastic job of providing opportunities to play, having well organized programs and having good playing facilities."

As Melchiori's children grew older over the year, he got more involved in their sports endeavors and "retired" as an active athlete himself.

"Once your kids start playing sports, their activities kind of take



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



Fairfax County adult recreation indoor soccer provides participants a chance to compete while staying in shape and having fun.

over," said Melchiori, with a laugh. "But I have always thought it would be fun to be in one of the 50-over leagues."

FAIRFAX COUNTY'S most popular adult sport venue is Fairfax Adult Softball (FAS), which has close to 10,000 participants — men and women combined — who make up more than 800 teams. The organization runs spring, summer and fall leagues. Ball players can compete in men's or women's leagues, as well as coed and senior divisions.

The long-running FAS organization is currently as popular as ever. "We have a whole lot of teams, from the [more] competitive level to recreation level for those who like that," said Christine Frece, FAS administrative assistant. "This year, we have increased teams for fall, spring and summer."

Frece, whose father played competitive tournament softball, said there are so many positives that come from playing adult softball or any sport.

"It's fun, you get exercise and you have the social aspect playing with friends and family," said Frece, a former girls' softball player at Robert E. Lee High School in Springfield. "It's funny who you'll run into on the softball field."

Frece also plays recreation volleyball.

"I like volleyball a lot," she said. "You play three games a night and it's fast paced."

Those interested in playing within FAS' upcoming fall league softball program should contact the FAS office@fairfaxadultsoftball.com.

Fairfax County adult sports programs that take place on outdoor fields across Northern Virginia in-

clude baseball, field hockey, flag football, lacrosse, rugby, soccer, kickball, softball and cricket. About 50,000 adults participate in those sports combined. The county sports programs that take place indoors include badminton, basketball and volleyball. Close to 13,000 participants take part in those sports.

Karen Avvisato, the Fairfax County's division director for community use scheduling for the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, said adults love competing in sports for numerous reasons.

"People want the socialization, and they want to unwind after their work day and get together with friends," said Avvisato, who works out of the Pennino Building in Fairfax. "Some [participants] have never played before and go out for the fun of it. But most people have played sports most of their lives and want to continue that."

"We live in such a fast-paced area," she said. "It's a tough time economically and people work hard for a living here. It's nice for people to unwind and to have that avenue to exercise and play sports with friends."

While adult softball has the most participants, Avvisato said soccer is also popular with more than 9,000 athletes having participated this past spring season and just as many likely to play this fall.

"There's lots of running and it's a way to get exercise," said Avvisato, of the cardiovascular strengthening sport of soccer. "Soccer helps you maintain fitness."

Fairfax County, for its sports programs, utilizes gym and field space at local schools and park sites, pro-

Fairfax Adult Softball offers an opportunity to compete for a range of age groups and ability levels.

viding quality playing venues for all those involved in adult recreation sports.

"It's our job to give everyone a [quality] place to play, to maximize all the facilities out there," said Avvisato.

Lasting Memories

Dave Sanders, who grew up in Vienna and currently lives in Ashburn with his family, played within the Fairfax County recreation men's basketball and softball leagues for years, and currently plays hoops within Loudoun County.

Sanders, a former Madison High basketball player (Madison, class of 1987), has great memories of his 20-plus years on the ball diamond playing softball. He played for Emmanuel Lutheran Church's men's softball team within the Vienna Softball Church League in the mid-to-late 1980s and into the early 1990s. Eventually, the team moved into the Fairfax County league.

"Playing softball in Fairfax County was and has been a great experience," said Sanders. "It gave me the ability to connect with family, church and college friends on a weekly basis for 20 years. Memories include playing at Braddock Park, my favorite venue, during summer nights, nothing quite like the feeling of playing under the lights against tough competition. The most special experiences, however, were the teammates, guys trying to sustain the glory years, giving it their all, allowing us for just a moment to leave all the daily responsibilities behind."

"My memories include the feeling of hitting a line drive to the opposite field, relays to the plate,

guys taking shots off their chest from aluminum bats that became more difficult to navigate, calling the [FAS] rain lines and, most of all, the friendship and competition," said Sanders, who currently has cut down his athletic playing endeavors to basketball within Loudoun County. "Fairfax County always ran a good league."

RESTON NATIVE Anne Nichols, 21, plays for a social league softball team despite having no experience. She joked that she plays catcher to avoid being involved in the action.

"It just seemed like a fun opportunity, even though I'm really miserable and I've never played before," said Nichols, a student at Wake Forest.

Nichols' boyfriend's sister, Katie Flynn, started the team. Flynn, a 27-year-old Reston native, played softball at South Lakes High School and Seton Hall University. While Nichols is a newcomer along for some fun, the rest of the team has a different approach.

"As a team, we're outrageously competitive to a point where it's embarrassing and awkward for everybody," Flynn said.

Within Fairfax County adult recreation sports, there is a place for the highly competitive as well as those who come out strictly for social enjoyment and exercise.

"For me, it was more being with your friends," said Melchiori, of the greatest enjoyment he received over the years playing sports, both as a youngster and on into adulthood. "You develop such friendships playing youth ball and into high school [and beyond]. Playing sports is a great way to maintain friendships."

Reporter Jon Roetman contributed to this story.
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Comedy Supports Nature House

BY TIMOTHY P. MUHA
THE CONNECTION

The auditorium filled with laughter as the “Oh Mother! Stories about Nature” inaugural show began on Saturday, July 24. The performance drew large crowds to the Nature House off Glade Drive in Reston.

On behalf of the Friends of Reston, Jessica Piscitelli, a board member, brought together six of the area’s best storytellers and comedians. With hopes of bringing a little laughter and some donations to the Nature House of Reston, performers did their best to entertain and educate the audience.

Amy Saidman, Dustin Fisher, Jennifer Moore, Meredith Maslich, Kevin Boggs and Adam Reuben offered the packed auditorium at the Nature House, recollections and ideas about what nature means to them. The show raised over \$750, dedicated to improving the environmental education programs at the nature house.

“It is important to have draws and events that keep people coming to the Nature House”, said Katie Shaw, the Nature Center manager.

The Nature House is open to the public Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., and Sundays, 1-4 p.m.



PHOTOS BY TIMOTHY P. MUHA/THE CONNECTION

The performance drew large crowd to the Nature House off Glade Drive in Reston.

VIEWPOINTS

How do you think events like this help the Nature House?



Fran Lovaas, Reston
“It’s great to raise money for the things the Nature House wants to do.”



Susan Williams, Reston
“I think this will give people a better idea of what goes on here at the Nature House.”



John Lovaas, Reston
“It is exactly what the Nature House needs to get their name out. Mixing comedy and nature is a great way to build excitement for this beautiful place.”



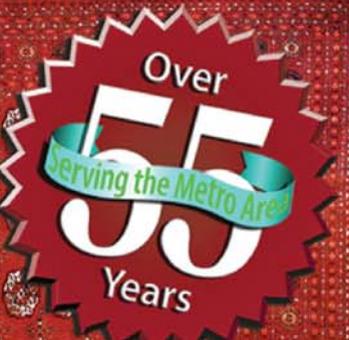
Craig Herwig, Haymarket, Va.
“The more programs the Nature House has, the more the people will come and benefit from all great things they have to offer.”

— TIMOTHY P. MUHA

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1658 Parkcrest #2c/300.....\$155,000...Sun 1-3...Lynette Villanueva.....Keller Williams.....703-340-5036
 1984 Winterport Dr.....\$369,000...Sun 1-4...Sandra Cronin.....Coldwell Banker.....703-731-8280
 10969 Harpers Square.....\$385,000...Sun 1-4...Mary Bernard.....Coldwell Banker.....703-471-7220
 11760 Great Owl Circle.....\$475,000...Sun 1-4...Nikki Ryan.....Keller Williams.....703-615-2663
 11706 Great Owl Circle.....\$479,000...Sun 1-4...Timothy Savin.....McGrath Real Estate...703-863-1020

Oak Hill/Herndon

1451 Powells Tavern.....\$509,900...Sun 1-4...Virginia Clark.....Long & Foster.....703-254-3866
 12395 Rock Ridge Rd.....\$524,900...Sun 2-4...Kashmira Kroner.....Keller Williams.....703-946-2526
 13405 Alfred Mill Ct.....\$649,900...Sun 2-4...Donny Samson.....Samson Properties...703-864-4894
 11917 Richland Lane.....\$1,000,000...Sun 1-4...Keith Harris.....Samson Properties...703-395-6601

Sterling

21300 Highwood Ct.....\$648,000...Sun 1-4...John Edwards.....Long & Foster.....703-587-3242
 19277 Youngs Cliff Rd.....\$899,900...Sun 1-4...Tracy Wenger.....Avery-Hess.....703-615-2334

Great Falls

1122 Mornngwood Lane.....\$975,000...Sun 1-4...Vivian Lyons.....Weichert.....703-406-9009
 700 Parish Farm Lane.....\$1,375,000...Sun 1-4...Jan and Dan Laytham...Long and Foster.....703-759-7777

McLean

1707 Great Falls St.....\$599,000...Sun 2-4...Jennifer Justice.....Weichert.....703-760-8880

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 2120 Bobbyber Drive.....\$588,000...Sun 1-4...Elaine Bowlds.....Premier Realty.....703-864-6886
 904 Woodnor Drive.....\$649,500...Sun 1-4...Jin O'Neill.....Weichert.....703-967-3399
 1299 Difficult Run Ct.....\$875,000...Sun 1-4...Jin O'Neill.....Weichert.....703-967-3399

Oakton

3123 Miller Heights Rd.....\$669,500...Sun 1-4...Lisa Moffet.....Coldwell Banker.....703-517-6708
 11409 Vale Spring Dr.....\$710,000...Sun 1-4...David Aronheim.....Long & Foster.....703-579-1881

Falls Church

212 Buxton Rd.....\$899,000...Sun 2-4...JD Calander.....Weichert.....703-606-7901

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

Reston Association Moves to New Headquarters

The Reston Association Board conducted its first meeting at the new headquarters last Thursday, July 29.



PHOTOS BY MIKE MCKEE

The exterior of the new RA headquarters building, located at the corner of Reston Parkway and Sunrise Valley Drive, seems to echo the Green Tree RA symbol.



RESTON ASSOCIATION HEADQUARTERS HAS MOVED

New Address:
12001 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, VA 20191

703-435-6530

Save the Date
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More details to come.



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