

# Home Life Style

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is next week. Tickets  
and information at  
[www.VAgardenweek.org](http://www.VAgardenweek.org).

Creating a  
Family Foyer

HOME LIFE STYLE, PAGE 17

8 Sides  
Of a Dream

HOME LIFE STYLE, PAGE 12

River View  
For Sale

HOME LIFE STYLE, PAGE 13

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## WEEK IN RESTON

### Bank Robbery in Reston

Shortly before 9:30 a.m. on Monday, April 11, a man entered the Congressional Bank located at 1800 Michael Faraday Drive, approached a 43-year-old teller and displayed a handgun. He demanded money and left with an undisclosed amount of cash. There were no injuries. The suspect fled the bank and was last seen headed in the direction of Wiehle Avenue.

The suspect was described as black, 5-feet-3 to 5-feet-6 inches tall, stocky build, wearing all black clothing.

A police helicopter and K-9 responded to check the area.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at [www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org](http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org) or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

### Global Camps Africa Hosts Reception

Global Camps Africa will host a reception Saturday, April 16 to celebrate Camp Sizanani and to raise awareness and support for the children of Africa affected by HIV/AIDS. The event will be held at the Walker Nature Education Center, 11450 Glade Drive in Reston from 7 to 9 p.m.

Global Camps Africa (GCA), which was the recipient of the 2010 Reston Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 25th Annual Birthday Celebration Award for International Impact, was founded in 2003 by veteran U.S. camp owner Philip Lilienthal, who brought together his belief in the transformational nature of camp and his passion for helping people around the globe to create a powerful force in the lives of South African children.

Since 2004, Global Camps Africa has held 38 camp sessions for more than 4,300 children. A testament to its success is that between 600-1,000 children attend Kids Clubs every other Saturday.

The April 16 event will include South African wine, food and music.

Tickets are \$50 each and sponsorships ranging from \$100 to \$500 are available.

For further information, visit [GlobalCampsAfrica.org](http://GlobalCampsAfrica.org) or contact Cindy Donahue via e-mail at [Cindy@GlobalCampsAfrica.org](mailto:Cindy@GlobalCampsAfrica.org). Global Camps Africa founder Phil Lilienthal can be reached at [Phil@GlobalCampsAfrica.org](mailto:Phil@GlobalCampsAfrica.org).

### Empty Bowls Event Set For April 29

The Reston Giving Circle of HOPE is hosting "Empty Bowls," an annual benefit supper for hunger relief Friday, April 29, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 11900 Lawyers Road, Reston. All proceeds will go directly to Food for Others, the largest distributor of free food to the needy in Northern Virginia.

For a minimum donation of \$20, guests choose a handmade pottery bowl and receive a simple supper of soup, bread, beverage and dessert. The bowl is theirs to keep to remind them that there are "empty bowls" in our community. Tickets may be purchased by contacting [emptybowls@givingcircleofhope.org](mailto:emptybowls@givingcircleofhope.org) or calling 703-608-2231. All contributions are tax-deductible.

### Correction

The "Springtime in Reston" sidebar on page 3 of the April 6-12 issue of the Reston Connection stated that the Reston Farmer's Market allows customers to purchase "local produce, meat, crafts and art." The arts and crafts are not part of the farmer's market. They are part of the Reston Craft Market, which is located at Lake Anne Plaza.

Also, the school bands theme will not run from May to October. There will be a different music theme every week and the band Split String Soup will play at the farmer's market approximately once a month.

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**Aaron Williams, director of the Peace Corps, speaks to more than 80 past and present Peace Corps volunteers at the Walker Nature Education Center in Reston April 8, as part of the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Peace Corps.**



## Celebrating 50 Years of Outreach

PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

**Nature House hosts 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Peace Corps.**

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

**A**t the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Peace Corps April 8, Reston resident Kate Sullivan stood out a little bit. Unlike the more than 80 people in attendance, Sullivan hasn't yet spent the years abroad: her 27 months of service begins next month.

"Joining the Peace Corps was something I wanted to do for a while. I'm a service-oriented person and I thought it would be neat to be immersed in a foreign country," said Sullivan, who will be serving her time in Suriname, a country in northern South America, to help with community economic development. "It's been really exciting hearing about the positive experiences everyone had, and it's made me more confident in my decision."

Peace Corps members from throughout the organization's 50 years gathered at the Walker Nature Education Center to reminisce on old times, swap stories and learn about the organization's future from Peace Corps Director Aaron Williams, a Reston resident.

**THE PEACE CORPS** was established by President John F. Kennedy in Executive Order 10924 on March 1, 1961, and authorized by Congress on Sept. 22, 1961. Kennedy first announced the idea during the 1960 presidential election and by the end of 1961, volunteers had already been sent to Ghana.

Sarah Robinson of Reston served in Tanzania from 2007 to 2010, teaching math and science. From her early days working at the Reston Association Science Camp, she has enjoyed teaching and the Peace Corps allowed her an outlet to do that.

"It was so far from the normal experience of the everyday American," she said. "I've talked with



**Lynn Lilienthal of Reston presents Peace Corps Director Aaron Williams with a token of appreciation at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Peace Corps at the Walker Nature Education Center April 8.**

people I served with and we all agree how life-changing it was. I think it was a very important life experience."

Robinson said she knew she had become part of the community in Tanzania after getting some bad news from back home.

"When someone gets sick or dies, the community comes together and collects money to help them out. When I was there, my grandma back in New York got really sick and all of a sudden they started getting a collection together for me," she said. "At that moment, I knew I was part of their community. To

SEE GOING GLOBAL, PAGE 4



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

**Officials break ground April 5 on Reston Station, a new transit oriented development near the Metrorail station off Wiehle Avenue. The facility is a partnership between Fairfax County and Comstock Partners and is expected to be completed by 2013.**

## Breaking New Ground for Metro

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

**F**airfax County and Comstock Partners broke ground on a new transit oriented development structure April 5 at the site of the future Metrorail station at Wiehle Avenue. The facility, called Reston Station, will feature a 1.5 million square foot subterranean parking structure with 2,300 spaces, as well as a kiss and ride, a 10-bay bus loop and parking spots for 150 bicycles. The facility is expected to be completed in 2013.

"This groundbreaking represents the beginning of the transformation of the Dulles Corridor into an urban, mixed use environment," said Christopher Clemente, CEO of Comstock Partners. "It will form the foundation of an exciting new development above and around the Metro facility that will include world-class architecture, dedicated civic gathering and activity spaces, multiple opportunities for public art, significant, affordable workforce housing and multiple commuter amenities and conveniences."

Fairfax County officials were present for the ceremony, as well as members of the Herndon Town Council, the Reston Association Board and Reston founder Robert Simon. Kathleen Driscoll McKee, President of the RA Board, called the facility the "next step in

Reston's evolution."

**THE PARKING DECK** will go seven levels underground and will require excavation of more than 500,000 cubic yards of dirt. According to a Reston Station press release, 28 football fields would fit in the garage. Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) called the event a culmination of the work that began in January 2008.

The development will contain 1.3 million square feet of mixed-use development, including office buildings, retail shops, a full service hotel and up to 900 residences.

Dr. Stephen Fuller, of the George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis, said that the project sets a good precedent for future planning along the Dulles Corridor.

**SHARON BULOVA** (D-at large), chairman of the Board of Supervisors, said the development will set an example for future public-private partnerships.

"What you've got is a poster child for transit oriented development. Everything is coming together right here, you've got the public and private sector coming together," she said. "I look forward to coming back in 2013 where we can actually cut the ribbon and start riding the Metro."

More information on the Reston Station facilities can be found at [www.restonstation.com](http://www.restonstation.com).

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\* By readers of the *Virginia Gazette* 2007-2009



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PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

From left, Sarah Samuel and Judy Podlesney, both of Reston, compare locations they served in the Peace Corps. Samuel served in Ethiopia from 1966-68 and Podlesney served in Malawi from 1993-96.

## Going Global for Peace

FROM PAGE 3

see the support these people showed me, for someone they've never met in another country that was sick, it was surreal."

Robinson returned in December and will be attending graduate school in the fall to study neuroscience.

Susan Widmayer, who served in the Ivory Coast from 1965 to 1967, said the experience is something that takes a lifetime to process.

"I was talking to a young woman the other day about her trip and all she talked about was her own experience, she didn't think to ask about mine. And it struck me, she's still in the experience, still processing it and not ready to hear about others yet," Widmayer said. "I think it does take many years of introspection afterward, thinking about what it all means. I know I got a lot more out of it than I gave."

Kevin Porter of Sterling is reminded of his time in Paraguay every day. While serving there from 1981 to 1984 he met his wife, Monica Lidral. He likes to say that she never would have given him the time of day if they weren't forced together in a village.

"The impression I got was how amazingly open human beings can be as youth. We would hang around kids who didn't speak our language and had no idea why we were there, but we got along. Between youth and our mid-30s, somehow we turn into the people who start wars," Porter said. "It can be isolating, you don't have all the accoutrements you would normally have, but you make connections and you get through it."

**PHIL LILIENTHAL** of Reston, who served from 1965 to 1967 in Ethiopia, said he thinks of the Peace Corps as a non-exclusive organization where members care about each other.

"It breaks down the barriers of experience, you can be on a beach in Portland,

Maine, and all of a sudden see a car with a Peace Corps sticker and you've got an immediate conversation," he said. "And the conversations and questions you get are more than just 'Oh, how was it?'"

Williams, who has been the director of the Peace Corps since August 2009, served in the Dominican Republic from 1967-70. He spoke with excitement about what the new generation of Peace Corps volunteers are bringing to the table with their knowledge of technology.

**"I know I got a lot more out of it than I gave."**

— Susan Widmayer

"This new generation is very technologically savvy. When a lot of us were in the Peace Corps, there were no cell phones, you couldn't text," he said. "Now they not only use it to call home, to stay in touch with parents and friends, they use it in a way that is very innovative in terms of development at the village level. I've seen volunteers in Namibia who invented a texting service so that young people in Namibia can ask questions about HIV/AIDS and their sexuality in a private place, and get answers from experts."

As the country and the world's financial situation gets worse, Williams said Peace Corps volunteers are what will keep the organization thriving.

"We obviously have challenges, but we can count on the fact that our volunteers remain dedicated. They're going to represent us in the best possible way in the countries they serve," Williams said.

## OPINION

# A Crazy Quilt

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



I was first elected to the House of Delegates in 1977 as part of the five member delegation representing the northern half of Fairfax County and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church. A similar five-person delegation represented the southern half of Fairfax County. These several members-at-large districts came about as Virginia was forced by the federal courts to reapportion its representation to reflect the population shift of the state from rural to suburban regions.

I was defeated in my first bid for re-election in 1979 but was re-elected in 1981. I returned to the House of Delegates just in time for the court challenges to multi-member districts. Just as I had trouble being re-elected in a huge district, the courts found the large multi-member districts to be unconstitutional in not allowing minorities and others an equal opportunity for election as offered in single member districts. The Virginia legislature was required to redraw its district lines twice resulting in elections in 1981, 1982 and 1983. The final acceptable lines were for single-member legislative districts. That experience along with the advocacy of Common Cause made me aware of the potential of having legislative district boundaries to be drawn by an independent redistricting commission. In 1982, I introduced legislation to establish such a commis-

## COMMENTARY

sion in Virginia and I re-introduced the bill more than a dozen times and as recent as this year. It was defeated each time, first by a Democratic majority and more recently by the Republican majority. Each party views redistricting as a way to maintain or expand its majority.

The most recent patchwork of crazy district lines demonstrates once again the value that could come from having an independent commission doing the work. I do not consider the commission appointed by Governor McDonnell as a bipartisan group to be the same as an independent commission of retired judges and academics. His commission was appointed too late with an unclear mandate to influence the outcome. With all the slicing and dicing of communities that has occurred in the current plans, I am pleased that Reston continues as a community of interest within one delegate, one state senate and one congressional district.

The plans passed by the General Assembly must be signed by the Governor, approved by the Department of Justice as Virginia is still under the federal Voting Rights Act, and possibly defended in a court suit over whether minorities are appropriately represented. If the plans are thrown out at any of these stages, we could possibly have a repeat of the 1980s with elections this year followed by elections next year and the next. Not an attractive crazy quilt!

# Rail Digs, Politics of Redistricting

BY JOHN LOVAAS  
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST



It has been an interesting couple of weeks in Reston the non-Town. On Tuesday last, a dump-truck load of dirt was dumped on asphalt in the recently closed Wiehle Avenue park-and-ride lot so that community leaders, developers and local pols could dig it up again with shiny chrome shovels. They were "breaking ground" for a new 2,300-car parking garage, 45 kiss-and-ride spaces and storage for 150 bicycles to be built by Comstock Partners at the Reston East-Wiehle rail station at the end of Phase I of the Silver Line.

The digging followed numerous speeches by assembled notables inside a flailing circus tent with 100 people listening and kept awake by a downpour accompanied by hurricane-like wind gusts threatening to carry away the tent and all of us inside. The speeches, with one exception, applauded the fact that at long last rail was coming to Wiehle, the terminus of Phase I. No mention was made of the fact that under the best of circumstances it will be close to four years before the train actually goes on to Dulles Airport. Officialdom is reluctant to talk about the traffic mess—and their lack of adequate preparation for it—that is likely to engulf the station area while it remains the last one in the corridor. They are even less anxious to discuss the problematic financing for Phase II. As it stands, Dulles Toll Road users are on the hook to pay for about 75 percent of the current estimate of \$2.5 to \$2.8 billion tab, likely causing tolls to rise to \$15 or more one way in a few years. If the feds, committed to \$0.0 for Phase II, or Gov.

## INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

McDonnell don't chip in additional funding, I wonder who in fact will upfront the big bucks with repayment so dependent on exorbitant tolls? Wiehle Avenue may be the last stop for a long time.

Janet Howell, our state senator, had an up and down couple of weeks. Her bill to require insurance companies (if paid to do so) to cover youth autism treatments up to a \$35,000 cap passed the legislature, but it was a momentary victory for her and thousands afflicted by autism. As I write this, Governor McDonnell has amended the bill to weaken and potentially kill it and Senator Howell's good effort. Simultaneously, Howell failed to seize a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to improve the functioning of democracy in Virginia. As chair of the committee drawing new state senate district lines, she reverted to politics as usual, drawing districts resembling squashed snakes to pull together voters favorable to her party and gerrymandering out of existence districts favorable to opponents, just as House Republicans did on their side. I expected this of Republicans, but not so much of a Democrat, especially one from Reston.

Lastly, a Reston newspaper columnist again alerted us to more creeping socialism right here. This time it was environmental conservation and sustainability under his bed reaching out to take from his wealthy neighbors. Meanwhile, his own party just kicked off total war on the middle class and their ilk, proposing a long-term budget that would redistribute about \$8 trillion from lesser beings up to very wealthy folks nationwide, not just in Reston.

## 9 Things You Must Know Before Putting Your Home Up for Sale

Washington, D.C. A new report has just been released which reveals the 7 costly mistakes most homeowners make when selling their home, and a 9 Step System that can help you to avoid them and sell your home fast and for the most money.

This industry report shows clearly how the traditional approaches to selling homes have become increasingly less effective in today's complex and fast paced society. The fact of the matter is that three quarters of home sellers don't get what they want for their homes, become disillusioned and – worse – financially disadvantaged when they put their homes on the market.

As this report shows, most home sellers

make the same 7 deadly mistakes costing them thousands of dollars needlessly. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is preventable. In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a FREE, Special Report called, "The 9 Step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar."

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## PHOTO GALLERY!

### "Me and My Mom"

To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Connection will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to:

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Or to mail photo prints, send to:  
The Reston Connection, "Me and My Mom Photo Gallery,"  
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# OPINION

## Striving to Tell Community Stories

The Connection Newspapers, including the Alexandria Gazette Packet, the Mount Vernon Gazette and the Centre View, won dozens of news awards for work published in 2010. Awards were announced at the Virginia Press Association annual conference in Norfolk on April 9.

Michael Lee Pope won nine awards writing for the Arlington Connection, the Alexandria Gazette Packet and the Mount Vernon Gazette, including investigative writing, public safety writing, education writing, breaking news writing, business and financial writing, obituary writing, feature writing and headline writing. Pope also reports for WAMU radio and authored a book, "Ghosts of Alexandria," in 2010. Pope's award-winning writing included local police departments' lack of transparency and refusal to share information that is public in almost every other state.

Alex McVeigh garnered awards for public safety writing for his coverage of the burglary spree in Northern Virginia, and for feature writing in the Reston Connection.

Julia O'Donoghue won first place for her coverage of Fairfax County School Board decision-making and communication on redrawing school boundaries and decision to close Clifton Elementary School.

### News Awards

- ❖ First place, Michael Lee Pope, Obituary Portfolio, Personal Service Writing, Alexandria Gazette Packet
- ❖ First place, Michael Lee Pope, Feature Series or Continuing Story, Creating a Police Oversight Board, Mount Vernon Gazette
- ❖ First place, Michael Lee Pope, Public Safety Writing: Price of Justice; Seeking Complaints; The Buoy Druggers; Mount Vernon Gazette
- ❖ First place, Bonnie Hobbs, Public Safety Writing: Killing Yields Five Years; Child Molester Sentenced to Prison/Parents of Pedophile's Victims Speak Out; Fireworks Lead to Death, Jail, I Just Wanted Him Held Accountable, Centre View Southern Edition
- ❖ First place, Mary Kimm, Editorial Writing: Tolls and a Transportation Fix; Police Power Demands Transparency; Breast Cancer Awareness; The McLean Connection
- ❖ First place, Julia O'Donoghue, General News Writing, School Board Email Communication, Fairfax Station/Laurel Hill Connection
- ❖ First place, Louise Krafft, Picture Story or Essay, Elementary School Track Meet, Mount Gazette
- ❖ First place, Craig Sterbutzel, Sports News Photo, Spartans Repeat as Region Champions, Springfield Connection

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Explaining Sustainability

To the Editor:

Sustainable Reston, a project of the Fairfax Coalition for Smarter Growth (a 501 (c) (3) organization), is pleased to partner with Fairfax County, Reston Interfaith, Reston Association, Reston Community Center and others in our community in Supervisor Hudgins' initiative "Looking Back, Moving Forward to a Sustainable Reston." In his opinion piece ["Sustainable Reston?," Reston Connection, April 6-12, 2011] Jack Kenny posed a number of questions about

"Sustainable Reston," making no distinction between the community-wide initiative to promote sustainability in Reston and Sustainable Reston, an organization established several years ago by a group of concerned Reston residents. He seems to think that Sustainable Reston is part of some U.N. inspired socialist plan to deprive Restonians of their liberty and private property. In order to clear up any misunderstanding, allow me to provide Mr. Kenny and the readers of the Connection with information on Sustainable Reston.

Sustainable Reston envisions a Reston that is environmentally

sustainable and self-reliant, able to withstand the challenges of peak oil, climate change and major economic disruption. How do we get there? Through education and community engagement. What does self-reliance mean in a rapidly urbanizing suburb? Quite simply that we are not totally dependent on imported goods and services to keep body and soul together, and that we have the tools and organizations to protect ourselves from the vagaries of things like droughts, food recalls, defaults, mortgage scandals, higher fuel prices, distant political upheavals, etc. We may not have any control over external events, but

we can develop systems to protect ourselves from the impact of these events. Sustainable Reston is about giving Restonians more, not less, control over their lives.

One of best things we can do to promote local self-reliance is find ways to provide more local food to our citizens, either from local or nearby farms or from our own yards. Local food is good for our health and the health of our economy. According to the Virginia Food System Council website (<http://virginiafoodsystemcouncil.org/>), if every Virginia household spent just \$10 a week on local food and farm

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7



**Mary Kimm won first place for Editorial Writing in the McLean Connection and Alex McVeigh second place for Public Safety Writing in the McLean Connection and third place for feature writing in the Reston Connection.**

Bonnie Hobbs, longtime reporter with the Centre View, won first place for her well-known public safety writing, and also for feature series for her compelling coverage of 3-year-old Rachel D'Andrea's struggle with neuroblastoma; Rachel died in January.

Managing editor Mike O'Connell won two awards, one for page design and one for overall newspaper design.

Mary Kimm won two awards for editorial

- ❖ First place, Reed Albers, Sports Writing Portfolio, Springfield Connection
- ❖ Bonnie Hobbs, Feature Series or Continuing Story, Rachel D'Andrea, Centre View Southern Edition, second place
- ❖ LaShawn Avery-Simons, Sports Feature Photo, Inaugural Bridge Half Marathon, Alexandria Gazette Packet, second place
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Breaking News Writing, Snowmageddon Grips Alexandria, Crushing, Money Down the Drain; Alexandria Gazette Packet, second place
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, General News Writing, Controversy Along The Waterfront; Alexandria Gazette Packet, second place
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, In-depth or Investigative Reporting; Police Transparency Blackout, second place
- ❖ Craig Sterbutzel, Sports News Photo, Celebratory Splash, The Burke Connection, second place
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Headline Writing, Arlington Connection, second place
- ❖ Michael O'Connell, Page Design, Springfield Connection, second place
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Business and Financial Writing, \$7 Billion Stimulus; Fewer Services, More Taxes; Board Raises Taxes, Arlington Connection, second place

writing, including editorials on police power, remembering on Memorial Day, Virginia's challenge to the health care law, transportation, budget and breast cancer.

Our photographers, whose work is so important to community coverage and Connection style, won many awards. Louise Krafft won three awards for picture story and essay, and for her photographic contributions to Alexandria's Talk of the Town page. Craig Sterbutzel won first place for sports news. Deb Cobb won for her epic Day in the Life of Chantilly and her contributions to the Burke Connection. LaShawn Avery-Simons won first place for sports feature.

Jeanne Theismann, who joined the Gazette and Connection staff well into the contest year in 2010, nevertheless won two awards, one for her feature photography and one for headline writing.

Nick Horrock, who covers BRAC and Fairfax County Board of Supervisors after a distinguished national career, will be inducted into the Maryland-Delaware-DC Hall of Fame on April 21, 2011.

Jon Roetman, Ken Moore, Laurence Foong and the staff of the Potomac Almanac won awards in the Maryland-Delaware-DC press association news contest; the specific awards will be announced next week.

- ❖ Mary Kimm, Editorial Writing: Adding Painful Cuts; Cuccinelli Misleads on Costs, Remembering on Memorial Day, Fairfax Connection, second place
- ❖ Alex McVeigh, Public Safety Writing, Series of burglaries hits McLean, McLean Connection, second place
- ❖ Julie Ferrill, Laurence Foong, Louise Krafft, Specialty Pages or Sections, Talk of the Town, Alexandria Gazette Packet
- ❖ Jeanne Theismann, Headline Writing: For Whom the Bell Tolls; Ghost Writer; Plaid Tidings; Love on the Docks; Anchored in Alexandria, Alexandria Gazette Packet, third place
- ❖ Jeanne Theismann and Louise Krafft, Picture Story or Essay, Plaid Tidings; Alexandria Gazette Packet, third place
- ❖ Deb Cobb, Picture Story or Essay, A Day in the Life of Chantilly, Centre View Northern Edition, third place
- ❖ Michael O'Connell, Julia O'Donoghue, Jon Roetman, Rich Sanders, Deb Cobb; General Makeup, Burke Connection, third place
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Education Writing: Behind the Cafeteria Wall; Racial Divide; Instruction Versus Administration, Arlington Connection, third place
- ❖ Alex McVeigh, Feature Story Writing, Family, friends reconnect 20 years after teen's death, Reston Connection, third place

## THE CONNECTION

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

products, \$1.65 billion would be generated annually, directly impacting our economy.

Sustainable Reston is also exploring local energy generation. If the small farming village of Freiamt in the Black Forest can become totally energy independent, is there any reason why Reston can't come together as a community to generate a portion of our own energy?

Sustainable Reston supports a strong local economy where locally-owned businesses thrive. Many studies have shown that dollars spent at a locally-owned business "recirculate" within the local community much more than dollars spent at a big box store that has a distant headquarters and is not rooted in the community. One study, focused on local food production in Northeast Ohio, found that meeting just 25 percent of the food needs of the region with locally produced food "could create 27,664 new jobs, providing work for about one in eight unemployed residents. It could increase annual regional output by \$4.2 billion and expand state and local tax collections by \$126 million. It could increase the food security of hundreds of thousands of people and reduce near-epidemic levels of obesity and Type-II diabetes. And it could significantly improve air and water quality, lower the region's carbon footprint, attract tourists, boost local entrepreneurship, and enhance civic pride." (Source: "The 25 Percent Shift", Michael Shuman, shuman@igc.org)

So, no folks, we're not coming for your liberties or property (although we would love to see those non-native and invasive Bradford pears replaced with native fruit trees). We are committed to making Reston the best it can be with a vibrant local economy, protected natural areas that provide environmental services to the community, and the ability to survive and thrive in an era of diminishing fossil fuel resources, climate change and economic disruption. If you'd like to join in our efforts, please contact us at [dblust@comcast.net](mailto:dblust@comcast.net).

**Diane Blust**

President, Fairfax Coalition for Smarter Growth  
Sustainable Reston Project

## Write

Letters to the Editor  
The Connection  
1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314  
Call: 703-778-9410.  
By e-mail:  
[reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com)



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**SUNDAY, APRIL 17**  
PALM SUNDAY  
7:30 a.m. Eucharist  
9:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist\*  
11:15 a.m. Choral Eucharist\*

**FRIDAY, APRIL 22**  
GOOD FRIDAY  
12:10 p.m. Way of the Cross\*  
7:30 p.m. Liturgy of Good Friday\*

**SATURDAY, APRIL 23**  
HOLY SATURDAY  
9:30 a.m. Liturgy of Holy Saturday  
8:00 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter

**APRIL 18, 19, 20**  
12:10 p.m. Eucharist\*

**THURSDAY, APRIL 21**  
MAUNDY THURSDAY  
6:00 p.m. Agape Meal  
7:30 p.m. Eucharist\*

**SUNDAY, APRIL 24**  
EASTER DAY  
7:30 a.m. Eucharist  
9:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist\*  
11:15 a.m. Choral Eucharist\*

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- Thursday, 4/28/11: Willem Dicke 8:30pm-12:30am

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## NEWS

# Reston Sets Example

**Saudi Arabian delegation tours Reston as they plan city.**

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

**A**s a planned community thriving more than 40 years after it was founded, Reston serves as a testament to what proper planning can do for a community. With this in mind, planners from the Saudi Arabian city of Jubail visited Reston April 7 to get insights on everything from storm water management to creating a successful urban core.

"The city is expanding quickly and it's time to build a city center, which is an opportunity to do something great," said Stuart Gilchrist of Euasia Limited, tourism and town planning consultants. "We like to see communities that grow as planned, rather than haphazardly. We're here to look at best practice design, first in Columbia [Md.], now in Reston, and it seems like they're thriving."

Jubail's city center is about 650 acres and is surrounded by residential development. Officials estimated there are about 120,000 immediate residents, with another 30,000 to 40,000 commuters. There is a waterfront area along the Persian Gulf that's about 10 percent of the total area, and that's what planners are focusing on now.

Oliver Trueb of Deboli, a planning firm based in Hong Kong, said that America and Saudi Arabia have many things in common from a planning perspective.

"Saudi and American society are car-based, which is different than Asia and Europe," Trueb said. "The problem in Saudi Arabia is pedestrian areas. People often just drive from shop to shop, even if they're only 200 meters apart. It was only a few years ago that Riyadh got its first sidewalk."

Gilchrist said he was impressed at the way Reston managed to blend pedestrian access with car transport.

"We've seen places where the parking is hidden, and it's impressive the way pedestrians and cars can access the same places," he said. "These are the kind of places where you go the whole day without having to go back to your car."

Reston Founder Robert Simon gave the group a tour of Lake Anne Plaza, and they also toured Reston Town Center and got a look at the stream restoration projects happening around Reston.



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

**Members of the Saudi Arabia Jubail Royal Commission, Reston Association staff and Reston Founder Robert Simon tour Lake Anne April 7, as part of the Royal Commission planning staff's visit to Reston to search for best practices as they design their town.**

Simon said that when he designed Reston, he took ideas from around the world, from "Finland to San Francisco," and that it was important to have some fun while designing. He pointed to the boat-shaped indentation and the flight of stairs to nowhere at Lake Anne as an example, saying though they serve no practical purpose, they are things that children enjoy about the plaza.

He also spoke about what he had learned since the founding of Reston.

"We're learning as a large community that density is good," Simons said. "Ten years ago, density was something you threatened, but density is community. It's hard to have a close community when people live far apart from each other."

Hamed Ghandorah, director of Urban Planning Development for Jubail's Royal Commission, said he was humbled to meet Simon, and that he hoped the community they were planning could live up to Reston's legacy.

"It was an honor to meet Mr. Simon, someone who has been living his dream for so long," Grey said. "We've been planning for the past 30 years and we're always interested in what goes wrong, and what goes right."



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# BULLETIN BOARD

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

## WEDNESDAY/APRIL 13

**R4 Collection Day.** 1-4 p.m. Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St., Reston. "Reduce, Re-use, Recycle, Reston," with on site collections by Bikes for the World (bicycle, sewing machine and hand tool collection); Reston Lions Club (eyeglasses, hearing aids); Secured Shred (document disposal on site); and Turtle Wings (computers and other electronics collection). Turtle Wings provides removal and destruction of computer hard drives on site. [www.restontowncenter.com](http://www.restontowncenter.com).

## SATURDAY/APRIL 16

**Phi Upsilon Zeta chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. 2011 Hattitude Luncheon.** 1:30 p.m. Dulles Hyatt Hotel, 2300 Dulles Corner Blvd., Herndon. Food, fellowship and more. Tickets \$50, a portion will be used to fund scholarships for Loudoun County youth. 703-430-7853.

## MONDAY/APRIL 18

**Assistance League of Northern Virginia.** 9:30 a.m. at the Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. A nonprofit, volunteer organization promoting literacy and well-being for women and children through community based programs, such as Operation School Bell: New Clothes for Kids and Weekend Food for Kids. Meetings are the third Monday of every month. 703-878-1928.

**NARFE Dulles Chapter 1241 Luncheon Meeting.** 11:30 a.m. Amphora Diner, 1151 Elden St., Herndon. Marcia McAllister, Fairfax County Department of Transportation, on "What will the Dulles Metro Rail mean to us". \$17. 703-435-3523.

## WEDNESDAY/APRIL 20

**The Advisory Board of the Northwest Center for Mental Health Services.** 7-9 p.m. at Northwest Center for Community Mental Health, 1850 Cameron Glen, Reston. Volunteers are needed to serve and act as advocates for women's shelters, homeless shelters, etc. The Board meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Contact Cleveland at 703-435-0868 or [leaderwilliams@gmx.com](mailto:leaderwilliams@gmx.com).

**Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group.** 6:30 p.m. Reston Police Station, 12000 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. 703-204-4664 or 703-723-4657.

## SUNDAY/APRIL 24

**Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group.** 6 p.m. Sunrise of Reston, 1778 Fountain Drive, Reston. 703-956-8934.

## WEDNESDAY/APRIL 27

**MOMS Club of Herndon.** 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Spring open house, with medical writer and speaker Kimberly Day on limiting stress and enhancing mental well-being. Refreshments, door prizes and more. [herndon\\_moms\\_info@yahoo.com](mailto:herndon_moms_info@yahoo.com).



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### Holy Week and Easter Worship Services

**Thursday, April 21**  
Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion - 7:30 pm

**Friday, April 22**  
Good Friday Service of Darkness - 7:30 pm

**Sunday, April 24th**  
**Easter Sunday**  
Services of Holy Communion to Celebrate Christ's Resurrection  
7:00 am - 9:00 am - 11:00 am

---

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## Join us for Easter Services!



**Saturday Evening Easter Services (April 23)**  
5 PM - New Traditional Service  
7 PM - Latino Service (Spanish)

**Sunday Easter Services (April 24)**  
6:15 AM - Sunrise Service  
8 AM, 9:15 AM, 11 AM - Traditional  
5 PM - Contemporary

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RESTON CONNECTION ♦ APRIL 13-19, 2011 ♦ 9



Sen. Janet Howell (D-32), Del. Ken Plum (D-36) and Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) were present to celebrate Founder's Day.



Bob Simon meets Restonians who joined the Founder's Day celebration.

## Happy Birthday, Dear Founder

### Bob Simon's 97<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrated.

Restonians gathered last Saturday to celebrate Founder's Day: The 97<sup>th</sup> birthday of Reston Founder Robert E. Simon, Jr.

The crowd who attended the Saturday celebration at Lake Anne Village Center included relatives, friends, dignitaries and those who had heard about the event through media and just dropped by out of curiosity.

There were congratulatory speeches by Chuck Veatch of the Reston Historic Trust Board, Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), Sen. Janet Howell (D-32) and Del. Ken Plum (D-36). Beverly Cosham serenaded Simon, commemorative bricks in the plaza were dedicated, and a treasure hunt was held for children of all ages.

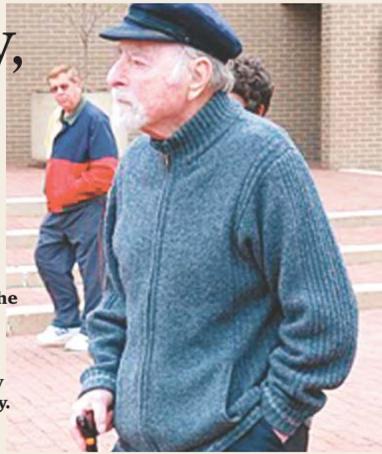
The Mallow Drama bakery provided a huge birthday cake for Simon to cut. As he was doing this, the crowd, some of whom were actually on pitch, sang a lusty "Happy Birthday" to the youthful 97-year-old.

— MICHAEL MCKEE



Mary and David Supley Foxworth of the 'Mallow Drama' bakery watch Bob Simon cut his birthday cake.

Robert E. Simon, Jr., the founder of Reston, celebrated his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday last Saturday.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL MCKEE

## ENTERTAINMENT

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

### THURSDAY/APRIL 14

**"Thrill Me: the Leopold and Loeb Story."** 8 p.m. The Elden Street Players at the Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. The story of Leopold and Loeb, the Chicago "Thrill Killers" of 1924. 703-481-5930 or [www.eldenstreetplayers.org](http://www.eldenstreetplayers.org).

**Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.** 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$7-\$15. [www.ringling.com](http://www.ringling.com) or 202-683-3238.

**Teen Cupcake Party.** 7 p.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Celebrate National Library Week with cupcakes, games, and talking about your favorite fiction. Age 12-18. 703-437-8855.

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

**Book Discussion Group.** 7:30 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein. Adults. 703-689-2700.

**"Fiddler on the Roof."** 7:30 p.m. Park View High School, 400 West Laurel Ave., Sterling. \$7 students and seniors, \$10 adults. [PatriotDrama@gmail.com](mailto:PatriotDrama@gmail.com).

### FRIDAY/APRIL 15

**"Thrill Me: the Leopold and Loeb Story."** 8 p.m. The Elden Street



The Weekend Bluegrass Concert Series presents Mill Run on Saturday, May 14 at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road in Herndon. The traditional bluegrass band from Disputanta, Va. features the husband and wife team of Bobby Goff, Jr. and Billie Sue Goff. Tickets are \$12. <http://millrunbluegrass.intuitwebsites.com>.

Players at the Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. The story of Leopold and Loeb, the Chicago "Thrill Killers" of 1924. 703-481-5930 or [www.eldenstreetplayers.org](http://www.eldenstreetplayers.org).

**Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.** 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$7-\$15. [www.ringling.com](http://www.ringling.com) or 202-683-3238.

**"Fiddler on the Roof."** 7:30 p.m. Park View High School, 400 West Laurel Ave., Sterling. \$7 students and

seniors, \$10 adults. [PatriotDrama@gmail.com](mailto:PatriotDrama@gmail.com).

### SATURDAY/APRIL 16

**"Thrill Me: the Leopold and Loeb Story."** 8 p.m. The Elden Street Players at the Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. The story of Leopold and Loeb, the Chicago "Thrill Killers" of 1924. 703-481-5930 or [www.eldenstreetplayers.org](http://www.eldenstreetplayers.org).

**Something Different 2011.** 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The Elden Street Players,

Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Four short improvised plays for young audiences, including The Gingerbread Man, The Cracked Pot, The Pied Piper and The Rabbi's Judgment. Written and directed by Holly Harrington. \$7. 703-481-5930 or [www.eldenstreetplayers.org](http://www.eldenstreetplayers.org).

**St. Elizabeths Hospital and the Civil War.** 9:30 a.m. Frying Pan Park Visitor Center, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Keith Young will speak on St. Elizabeths, its shop for manufacturing prostheses, and its role in treating soldiers psychologically damaged by wartime experiences. The hospital cemeteries' burials span 1856-1983. Sponsored by Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association, Inc. \$5 donation requested, free to FCCPA members. 703-437-9101 or [www.honorfairfaxcemeteries.org](http://www.honorfairfaxcemeteries.org).

**Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.** 11:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$7-\$15. [www.ringling.com](http://www.ringling.com) or 202-683-3238.

**Kaveri Kannada Sangha.** 3 p.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Art and drama meeting. 703-437-8855.

**Ryan Buckle & Friends: Science You Can Sing To.** 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Music and science with Ryan Buckle and Zeldia the Zookeeper. All ages. Register at 703-689-2700.

**Spring Wildflower Walk.** 1:30 p.m. Reston Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza, Reston. Meet at the Museum for orientation and to carpool to the Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade

Drive, Reston. After viewing the wildflowers, continue along the stream valley path to the major stream restoration in the Glade area. All welcome. 703-709-7700 or [restonmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:restonmuseum@gmail.com).

**"Fiddler on the Roof."** 7:30 p.m. Park View High School, 400 West Laurel Ave., Sterling. \$7 students and seniors, \$10 adults. [PatriotDrama@gmail.com](mailto:PatriotDrama@gmail.com).

### SUNDAY/APRIL 17

**Something Different 2011.** 2 p.m. The Elden Street Players, Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Four short improvised plays for young audiences, including The Gingerbread Man, The Cracked Pot, The Pied Piper and The Rabbi's Judgment. Written and directed by Holly Harrington. \$7. 703-481-5930 or [www.eldenstreetplayers.org](http://www.eldenstreetplayers.org).

**"Live Wire."** 4 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Theater of the First Amendment recreates the look, sound and feel of the classic radio days of the 1930s with "Live Wire," featuring a selection of authentic shows drawn from Mason's extensive Federal Theatre Project archives. Pre-performance discussions, free to ticket holders, begin 45 minutes prior to the performance at the Center for the Arts on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$18-\$36 at 888-945-2468 or [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

**Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.** 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$7-\$15. [www.ringling.com](http://www.ringling.com) or 202-683-3238.

## Reston Players Presents 'Moonlight and Magnolias'

"A complex story surrounding" how the greatest movie of all-time was produced with "snappy dialogue and farcical situations" is how veteran director Sue Pinkman described the Reston Community Players production of "Moonlight and Magnolias." With its high energy, Pinkman knows the show will "bring enjoyment" to everyone whether they know "Gone with the Wind" or not.

"Moonlight and Magnolias" was written by Ron Hutchinson, a stage and Emmy Award-winning television writer. Hutchinson aimed to provide fictionalized "insight to what went on behind the making of the classic movie." He based his script upon what was known and his own humorous "speculations with flair," said Pinkman.

The setting is Hollywood 1939; the initial weeks of filming "Gone with the Wind" have not gone well. Producer David O. Selznick, all of 37, has shut down production. Drastic measures were needed so he brought in Ben Hecht, considered a great script doctor, and director Victor Fleming fresh off "The Wizard of Oz." These are the "facts" from which Hutchinson created his stage vision of "what happened behind the scenes."

Pinkman cast the show with veterans and newcom-

ers to the Reston stage. Andy Izquierdo plays the legendary David O. Selznick obsessed with making "Gone with the Wind." Without divulging all the over-the-top lines, Izquierdo gave a tease with a deeper-meaning, one-liner, "It's only in the movies where the dead can walk. You have any other way to live forever?"

Newcomer Chuck Dluhy is Ben Hecht. He described the "extreme lengths and unique style of collaboration" that the audience will see depicted. As antic scenes take place, his Hecht "in the midst of the chaos, is the voice of reason." Lauren Palmer Kiesling "keeps the ship on course" as Selznick's loyal secretary. She, too, keeps things moving in her own way as she regularly responds to her boss with "Yes, Mr. Selznick," with her own flair. Michael Clendenin plays Victor Fleming.

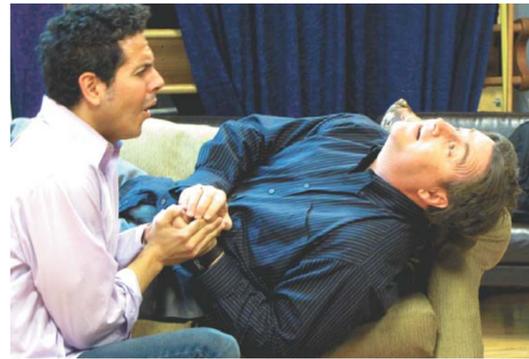
Props are important visuals. Be warned, there are lots of peanuts and bananas around. Why? Well, the show takes place in a Hollywood office where the characters are locked in with only bananas and peanuts to eat. Oh, and the title. According to legend, "Moonlight and Magnolias" was Ben Hecht's dismissive name for Margaret Mitchell's "Gone with the Wind," which he hadn't even read.

Izquierdo summed-up "Moonlight and Magnolias" as "a tremendously clever show" that is "a joy."



Michael Clendenin (left) and Chuck Dluhy in the Reston Players' production of 'Moonlight and Magnolias.'

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RESTON COMMUNITY PLAYERS.



Andy Izquierdo (left) and Michael Clendenin.



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## Octagon House, a Long-Awaited Dream

Design explores rare 19<sup>th</sup> century architectural style.

BY JOHN BYRD  
THE CONNECTION

Good things come to those who wait sometimes in memorable shapes.

It was almost 30 years ago, in fact, that Susan Cooper first got a glimpse of her future dream house and another 20 years before she discussed the vision with someone who could properly interpret it. Cooper contends that the result one of the few octagon houses in the United States – was worth the wait.

“An old boyfriend’s family had an octagon-shaped country house,” Cooper recalls. “I was fascinated with the irregular lines and the creative interior design the shape allows. So smitten, I immediately began to plan an octagon house of my own.”

Cooper indulged in a recurrent labor of love, sketches, floor plans, design details and several scale models. Still, it wasn’t

until 1986 that Cooper had a chance to review the project’s feasibilities with a real architect, Joe Burton, principal of JA Burton Architects in Vienna.

Burton was designing commercial interiors for Rucker Realty Group where Cooper was employed. The two shared a love for the Romantic-revival period architecture (1850 to 1910), the octagon house being a favorite, and by the late 1980s, Cooper had commissioned Burton to convert her concepts into working drawings.

The Northern Virginia native even put Burton’s plans out for bid, only to conclude the interviewed builders weren’t right for her special assignment.

Eventually, Cooper hired Burton to build a more conventional house for herself and her husband. But when her husband died a few years ago, Cooper knew it was time to commence work on the long-forested dream home.

“An octagon house is essentially a radiant pattern — like a spider web — that proceeds from a central core and links eight horizontal beams to eight equidistant vertical shafts,” Burton explains. “This structure, in turn, directs the search for symmetry into a continu-



PHOTO BY GREG HADLEY

Susan Cooper and Joe Burton in front of Cooper’s Octagon dream in McLean.

ally compelling convergence of the functional and the decorative.”

**WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN SPORADIC EXPERIMENTS** with the octagon’s demanding geometry, the style’s pioneer was American architect Orson Fowler, who authored a seminal work on the topic. Fowler was persuaded that the design greatly improves on traditional shapes by augmenting both natural light availability and outdoor visual continuum. While some Fowler-influenced homes were built in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the design never enjoyed wide spread popularity; today there are fewer than 500 authentic octagon houses in the country.

“Certainly the shape mainly appeals to owners with a particular sensibility,” Burton said. “When you’re looking to create personalized spaces, this is a fascinating configuration.”

Structurally, Burton designed a 6,400 square-foot three-level home around a belvedere-topped central atrium that features a glass-encased elevator.

“I had the belvedere fabricated off-

SEE OCTAGON HOUSE, PAGE 14

### SUN DESIGN

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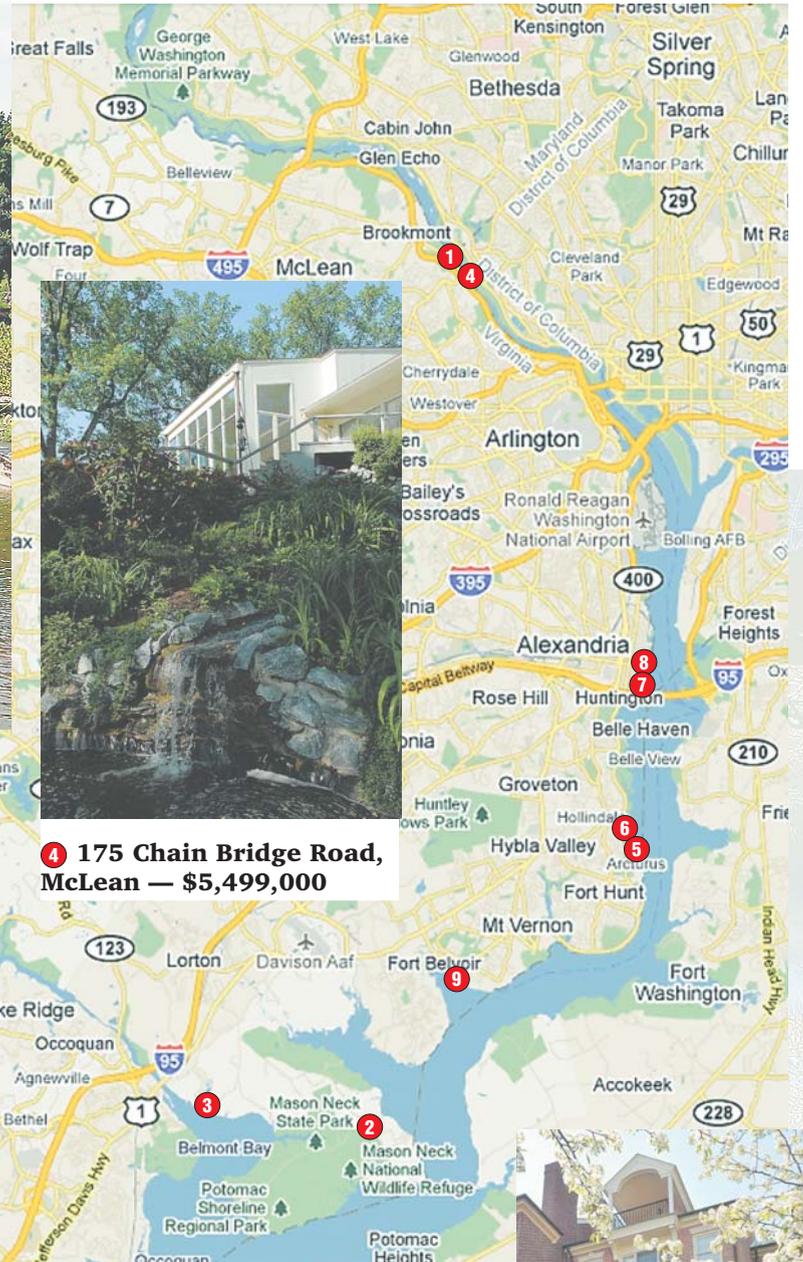
# Northern Virginia REAL ESTATE

## Potomac River View Properties on the Market

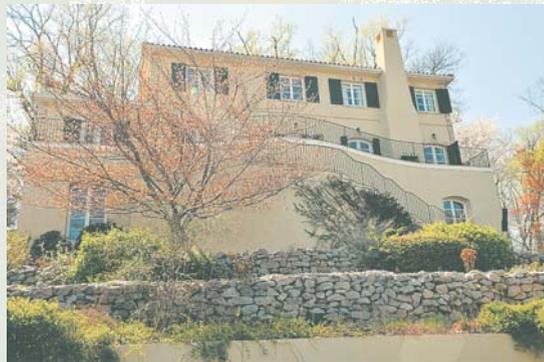
PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION



**1** 636 Chain Bridge Road, McLean — \$10,995,000



**4** 175 Chain Bridge Road, McLean — \$5,499,000



**6** 7608 Southdown Road, Alexandria — \$2,750,000



**5** 7808 Southdown Road, Alexandria — \$3,555,000



**8** 6 Wolfe Street #22, Alexandria — \$2,550,000

Address	MLS#	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Price	Type	Lot AC	Subdivision	Listed by	Agent
<b>1</b> 636 CHAIN BRIDGE RD	FX7544964	10	8	1	MCLEAN	\$10,995,000	Detached	6.52	MCLEAN'S GOLD COAST	Washington Fine Properties LLC	William F. X. Moody
<b>2</b> 11201 GUNSTON RD	FX7324475	6	8	2	MASON NECK	\$7,995,000	Detached	5.131	STONE MANOR ON THE POTOMAC	McEneaney Associates	Sue Goodhart
<b>3</b> 10606 BELMONT BLVD	FX7469424	4	3	1	LORTON	\$7,000,000	Detached	7.735	BELMONT BAY	Long & Foster	Pascale Karam
<b>4</b> 175 CHAIN BRIDGE RD	AR7568928	4	3	1	MCLEAN	\$5,499,000	Detached	2.299	ARLINGWOOD	Long & Foster	Jack Spahr
<b>5</b> 7808 SOUTHDOWN RD	FX7260580	6	6	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$3,555,000	Detached	0.645	WELLINGTON	Coldwell Banker	Wil Roberts
<b>6</b> 7608 SOUTHDOWN RD	FX7523353	3	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,750,000	Detached	0.416	ARCTURUS ON THE POTOMAC	Keller Williams Realty	Bob Kuletz
<b>7</b> 12 WOLFE ST #52	AX7549012	3	3	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,695,000	Townhouse	-	HARBORSIDE	TTR Sotheby's	Michael Rankin
<b>8</b> 6 WOLFE ST #22	AX7557493	4	4	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,550,000	Townhouse	-	HARBORSIDE	McEneaney Associates	Babs Beckwith
<b>9</b> 8516 MOUNT VERNON LNDG	FX7022897	6	5	-	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,900,000	Detached	0.535	MT VERNON ON THE POTOMAC	Long & Foster	Chris White

SOURCE: WWW.HOMESDATABASE.COM

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 10335 Southam Ln.....\$929,235.....Sun 1-4.....Craig Lilly.....Prudential Carruthers.....703-599-2566

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## Home LifeStyle



PHOTOS BY GREG HADLEY

**Architect Joe Burton designed a 6,400 square-foot three-level home around a belvedere-topped central atrium that features a glass-encased elevator.**

# Octagon House

FROM PAGE 12

site, then craned into place," Burton said.

The main level consists of an entryway with a living room off to the right and the kitchen and informal dining to the left. One can walk through the atrium to the formal dining room, then circle back in either direction. Cooper finds the plan confers each room with privacy while simultaneously encouraging strollers to roam about freely.

"There cannot be a better plan for entertaining," Cooper said. "I've had up to 60 guests and found I had plenty of space to add tables where needed."

Cooper selected Mexican Saltillo tiles for the first level flooring. Burton introduced brick-hued variants in a pattern to emulate the home's web of structural supports.

The second level provides three bedrooms, each with a private bath. The lower level incorporates a spacious family room and an additional guest room.

As one would expect of a Romantic-revival style home, the transition from inside to outside is a critical piece of the architectural statement. A generous veranda completely circumscribes the home's main block. A spacious breezeway, crowned with a 16x16-



foot skylight, links the house to a two-story outbuilding.

Burton notes that an essential consideration was sighting the structure with an eye towards focal points. On this score, Burton positioned the living room fireplace and built-ins to obstruct a view of the only close neighbor. Other windows present inviting portraits of surrounding woodland, a vista Cooper has begun enhancing with a series of landscaping projects.

Joe Burton periodically holds workshops on residential architecture. Contact 703-321-0021 or [jburtun@burtonarch.com](mailto:jburtun@burtonarch.com) for information.

# NEWS

## WMAA Chooses Underground Subway

### More expensive option for Dulles Airport metro station draws criticism.

BY NICHOLAS M. HORROCK  
THE CONNECTION

The Washington Metropolitan Airport Authority voted 9 to 4 last week to override Virginia State and local officials and select an underground subway station that will cost \$330 million more than an above ground plan that was considered.

The action brought immediate criticism from Sean Connaughton, Virginia's secretary of Transportation and from the chairmen of the Loudon and Fairfax Boards of Supervisors.

Frank Wolf, the Republican congressman who represents Virginia's 10th District which includes Dulles Airport, called it a "bad decision. The WMAA had a chance to cut more than \$600 million from the project and chose not to."

Wolf has been a long time critic of WMAA's management and has asked the U.S. Government Accountability Office and the Department of Transportation's inspector general to make a "comprehensive review of WMAA's operations."

**BUT IF ANYTHING**, the WMAA's action underscores the delicate nature of operating in the shadow of the capital of the richest and certainly the most powerful nation on earth. Like the Department of Defense's decision to move some 20,000 employees from Maryland, Washington and Arlington to Fairfax County, the local governments can object and resist, but the nature of the national needs can often overcome local governments.

Mame Riley, who chairs the board's Dulles rail committee, believes she and her colleagues made the right decision. The underground stop will be closer to the main terminal, about 550 feet away, and allow passengers to stay under cover until they enter a walkway with moving belt to the terminal. The open air station, though cheaper, would have been 1,150 feet away.

"If you're a family and you're traveling to India with a lot of kids and lot of luggage," she said in an interview, "that's a long haul."

According to Riley, the above ground plan was a "second class station for a first class airport," reminding her of old style bus stations.

Riley said the reality is that Dulles is in competition with the Baltimore Washington International Airport, which has gotten higher marks for customer convenience and accessibility (what she and others call the "schlep test;" how far you have to "schlep" your bags to get to your plane.)

### FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community, including special holiday services. Send to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday.

**Washington Plaza Baptist Church**, 1615 Washington Plaza in Reston, has announced their Holy Week events. The regular weekly Sunday worship service is at 11 a.m., followed by lunch together at 12 p.m. Contact 703-471-5225 or [www.washingtonplazachurch.com](http://www.washingtonplazachurch.com).

❖ **Maundy Thursday Service, April 21.** 7 p.m. Experience Christ's

last night through narration and music...

❖ **Reston Community Good Friday Service, April 22.** 12 p.m. Share the story of Christ's last hours through scripture & prayer.

❖ **Easter Sunday, April 24.** 8:30 a.m. Sunrise service outside with music and prayer; 9:30 a.m. breakfast in the Plaza Room; 9:45 a.m. children's Easter Egg Hunt behind the church; 10:45 a.m. Worship Celebration with the choir; 12 p.m. coffee downstairs (no lunch this day).

**Oakton United Methodist Church**, 2951 Chain Bridge Road in

Though Riley said she is totally sympathetic with the letters from Sharon Bulova (D-at large), chairman of the Fairfax Board of Supervisors and the Loudon County chairman, she believes that the authority can trim other costs and make up the difference of the underground station. "I've been told by some that the rail yard is 'gold plated' at \$330 million and I think we can save there and other places," she said. The board had already trimmed the subway plans.

Riley said she has talked to members of the Fairfax Board of Supervisors who have privately told her that they approve of the board's action, but in the aftermath of the economic crisis and facing an election they could not say so publicly. "They told me that it is the board's job to take the long view," she said. "This subway station will be operating 50 to 75 years from now."

**THE UNDERGROUND OPTION** will cost \$912 million to build and is scheduled to be completed in mid-2017. The above ground station would have been done in 2016.

Former Congressman Tom Davis, a member of the WMAA and the Dulles rail committee, led the critics in meetings last week. He argued that in choosing the more expensive station, the authority was failing its "partners," Fairfax and Loudoun counties which share 25 percent each of the cost. Some 50 percent will come from revenue of the toll road from the Beltway to Dulles and the Greenway and the rest from the federal government and the state of Virginia.

Davis warned in the committee meeting that extravagance in the second phase could see the subway end at Wiehle Avenue in Reston. He argued that some estimates suggest only 7 percent of the subway's riders will be airline passengers, but Riley countered that the 13,000 employees at Dulles- TSA screeners, maintenance and other personnel will certainly be major candidates for subway service.

Robert Clarke Brown, who headed financing issues on the committee, said the cost of the station is only 5 percent of the \$6 billion total price tag on the rail line. Both he and Riley made the point that very reason for the WMAA being involved in the subway line was to get a subway to Dulles, one of the fastest growing airports in the nation.

"The whole toll road involvement was to get a subway out to Dulles," Riley said.

But perhaps Brown underscored the underlying issue at the board's meeting last week when he noted that both Dulles and National had been designed by famous architects and planned to be welcome points to the nation's capital. Indeed, Eero Saarinen, the designer of the terminal building at Dulles, was perhaps the greatest architect of the 20th century.

"Dulles deserves a first class subway station," he said in an interview.

Oakton, will offer "The Seven Last Words of Jesus on the Cross" at their April 22 Good Friday Service. Contact 703-938-1234 or [www.oaktonumc.org](http://www.oaktonumc.org).

❖ **12 p.m. Word 1:** Luke 23:34a with Rev. Beth Neubauer, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Vienna.

❖ **12:25 p.m. Word 2:** Luke 23: 43 with Dr. Edward Bauman, Chaplain, Virginia Hospital Center, Arlington.

❖ **12:50 p.m. Word 3:** John 19: 26 with Rev. Chris Bowman, Oakton Church of the Brethren, Vienna.

❖ **1:15 p.m. Word 4:** Matthew 27: 46 with Dr. James Hoffman, Fairfax Baptist Church, Fairfax.

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# SPORTS

## Rain, Rain Go Away

Local high school teams do all they can to get practices, games in.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

Dealing with poor springtime weather is a yearly ordeal for high school sports teams. The cranky spring seasons in Northern Virginia often consist of cold, blustery weather and lots of rain. Such elements can create havoc with the re-scheduling of games, difficult field conditions and team continuity. Weather is often worse over the first six weeks of the spring season, a carryover from the winter, before turning for the better over the final six weeks of the season.

"It seems as if weather has always been an issue during baseball season," said second year Herndon High baseball coach Greg Miller, a former player for the Hornets as well. "I always tell our team that we need to control what we are capable of controlling and the weather isn't one of those things."

IT IS PRETTY MUCH expected that several games during the

spring will be hindered by poor weather, resulting in temporary stoppage of play during a game or postponement. Early season non-district games are often not re-scheduled. District games usually are re-scheduled.

"We have been fortunate so far, in that we have only postponed one game due to weather," said Maurice Tawil, the McLean High girls' softball coach.

Last Saturday, the Highlanders spent most of the day preparing their field for a 2 p.m. afternoon game versus private school opponent Bishop O'Connell. Late week rain had swamped the diamond with water. But all the hard work Saturday morning and on into the early afternoon paid off as the field was made playable. McLean, the defending state public school champions, went on to defeat the perennial powerhouse Knights to improve their record to 6-0.

"We worked on our field for seven hours, to make the field playable for our game with O'Connell," said Tawil. "We obviously wanted to play."

The relatively recent addition of turf playing fields on high school athletic campuses throughout Fairfax County has made it easier to combat rainy conditions. Many of the football stadiums use turf, meaning springtime girls' and boys' soccer and lacrosse games can often take place even when it is raining.

John Schneeberger, the Madison softball coach who led the Warhawks to both the Liberty District and Northern Region titles last year, said dealing with poor weather is simply a part of the spring sports equation.

"Rain is just a part of spring sports and impact softball and baseball the most," he said. "At Madison we plan for it and do what we can to play. The school is very supportive to make sure we have the resources available to get the field ready."

Sometimes, teams are grateful when a game is postponed. Craig Lunde, the South Lakes High boys' lacrosse coach said his team was preparing to play without several key players in a March 31 district game at McLean. It turned out that the game was postponed due to poor weather. In the make-up game played on April 4, the Seahawks were at full strength



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**Herndon's Matt Smith swings at a pitch during last Saturday's Concorde District make-up baseball game between the Hornets and host team Centreville squad. The game, dedicated to local military personnel, was originally scheduled to take place the night before. But poor field conditions due to recent rains resulted in the postponement. Herndon won Saturday's make-up, 6-3**

again and defeated the Highlanders 13-6.

The Langley High girls' lacrosse team has had one game shortened - a 10-4 Liberty District home win over Marshall - due to worsening weather conditions, and another - a scheduled district home game last Friday night versus Jefferson - that was not started because of poor conditions.

While just two of Langley's games have been affected by poor weather, numerous practices have been changed up. "We haven't had use of our fields about nine times

this year," said Langley coach Richard DeSomma, who led the Saxons to their first ever state playoff appearance last year. "We are used to adjusting for that."

"The girls aren't affected in any way," said DeSomma. "They and coaches are used to making adjustments. Any coach or player involved in a spring sport for any length of time knows what to expect - that it's not really warmer until the end of the season and that fall [season] sports are warmer for a longer period than spring sports."

### SPORTS ROUNDUPS

Another cold night saw the South Lakes High baseball team recover from three consecutive losses with an 8-6 victory over Jefferson. The Liberty District game took place on April 1 at South Lakes.

The Colonials jumped out to a 3-0 lead with a run in the first inning and two more in the second. After leaving runners in scoring position in the first two innings, South Lakes got on the board with two runs in the third on singles from JoJo Lear and Billy McLaughlin, and a long RBI double from Will Sweet. The Seahawks scratched out the tying run in the fourth with a leadoff Taylor Gose single, stolen base by pinch runner Austin Schweppe and sacrifice by David Odlen before Schweppe scored on a wild pitch.

The Seahawks took the lead in the fifth with a two-out bases loaded walk to Taylor Gose. David Odlen followed with a triple, scoring three runs to make the score 7-3 South Lakes. Jefferson came back with three runs in the sixth on four walks and a single to make it 7-6. The Seahawks added an



PHOTO COURTESY/RESTON LADYHAWKS

**The 16th annual Special Olympics basketball Tournament took place on Saturday, April 2 at Marymount University in Arlington. One of the participating teams in the tournament was the Reston Ladyhawks. Here, in a tournament game between the Ladyhawks and the Alexandria Titans, Sarah Marvin (white jersey) of Reston and Mike Smith (left) of the Titans both go for the basketball. Reston's Lauren Fultz (40) is in the background.**

insurance run in the bottom of the sixth on a McLaughlin sacrifice fly for the final runs of the evening.

Seahawk hitters had eight hits on the night, led by right fielder Odlen (double, triple, sacrifice bunt and 3 RBIs); shortstop JoJo

Lear (2 hits); and third baseman McLaughlin (2 hits). Gose (single), the Seahawks' catcher, and pitcher Will Sweet (RBI double) also had good nights.

Sweet, the starting pitcher, got into some early trouble but settled



PHOTO COURTESY/PEGASUS

**The Herndon Pegasus, coached by Paul Robson and his sister Hannah Robson, won three games to capture the Fairfax Police Youth Club (FPYC) Liberty Cup Tournament for the U12 Girls Blue Division on March 27. The Pegasus, a member of the Washington Area Girls Soccer League (WAGS), fought hard through the cold weather to capture the victory. On the back row, left to right: Cara McFerren, Emily Jones, Erica Griffith, Cabrey Keller, Leah Fri, Seanna Adam, and Caroline Glazier. Front Row: Mia DiTommaso, Ashley Wilson, Annie Colclough, Maddie Patrick and Renee Kohler.**

down before he tired in the sixth. He lasted 5-2/3 innings, allowing six hits for a hard-fought win.

John Beck relieved, pitching the final 1-1/3 innings to finish up and earn the save.

# The Family Foyer: Essential Space

BY JOSH BAKER  
FOUNDER, BOWA

**T**he front entryway. The mud room. The all purpose room for shoes, backpacks, mail, mobile phones, keys and gym equipment.

Whatever your name for it, this space is essential for every homeowner. At BOWA, we call this important room the “Family Foyer” as it often includes spaces to help organize the way today’s modern family lives. Here are four tips to help your family optimize (or create) a useful Family Foyer.

## 1.) Transforming a Space into a Family Foyer:

If there is no space currently allocated as a Family Foyer, the first step is to understand what the space is currently being used for and if those functions

can be moved elsewhere or incorporated into the new family foyer space. For example, at BOWA, we are seeing more people repurpose their back halls and laundry spaces into family foyers. Many families are doing home renovations to move their laundry facilities to the upper level since that is where the majority of laundry is generated.

## 2.) Protect from Wear and Tear:

The family foyer is the first line of defense from the outdoors—meaning it sees a lot of traffic, dirt and other debris. To protect floors from wear and tear, utilize tile or stone flooring. These materials are much easier to clean and protect than carpet or wood flooring. Stone materials used to create adjacent patios or walks can be incorporated to create a cohesive flow between the indoor and outdoor spaces. For walls, we recommend a quality grade of paint with a



Josh Baker



BOB NAROD PHOTOGRAPHY

This family entrance in Great Falls features custom bench and cubbies

more durable finish like eggshell or satin, which makes clean up easier. For aesthetic reasons, we also see a lot of wainscoting used in family foyer renovations. This material also has the added benefit of being a more durable surface to protect walls from the scuffing of kids’ backpacks and the dog’s scratching.

## 3.) A Space for Everything:

From a space for mail organization, to mobile phone charging stations, to shelves for storing children’s backpacks and shoes. We have also seen dog showers and storage for Fido’s leash, toys and food. In some cases the family foyer blends into the home more seamlessly by remodeling areas for crafts or laundry centers (if that doesn’t get moved upstairs). There are a lot of tools out there to help economize and tuck storage into every spare space. Small space storage organizers used to be seen only in the design of boats and RVs but are now being used to

help fit a lot of function into residential small spaces. At BOWA, we particularly see this in our condo remodeling and row house projects, where space is often at a premium.

## 4.) Provide Personalized Spaces:

If you provide it, maybe they’ll use it? Consider designating individualized spaces for family members to help ensure their personal items are actually put away. For children, consider creating individual lockers or cubbies with their names on them and designed to meet the needs of the particular child. For example, the ballerina needs space for her dance bag while the budding baseball player might need a taller cubby for his bat bag and cleats. For smaller spaces, you can still provide children opportunities to customize. That may mean a different color or decal on their cubbies, or adjustable hooks for the youngest child to be able to hang his or her coat without assistance.

## 78th Anniversary Historic Garden Tour

The Garden Club of Fairfax will host five homes on the 2011 tour in Arlington and McLean on Tuesday, April 19.

Featured homes include a cross between a ranch and a “Cape Cod on steroids,” designed and constructed by Marvin T. Broyhill for his son, Joel Thomas Broyhill; a modified Craftsman house by BOWA Builders; a brick cottage-rambler, a Tudor Revival Arts and Craft remodeled 1938 home and a French Country home.

This year’s co-chairs Sandra Hunt and Cheryl Freeman of Vienna are working up last minute details on the docent’s notes and coordinating the multiple committee assignments.

The Fairfax Tour will be held on Tuesday, April 19, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$20 prior to the tour and \$25 day of tour; they may be purchased online at [www.VAgardenweek.org](http://www.VAgardenweek.org) or locally at participating retailers: Anita Perlut Interiors in Oakton, Burke Florists in the University

Mall, Calico Corners on Williamsburg Boulevard, Color Wheel in McLean, Company Flowers in Arlington, Damon Galleries in Vienna, Executive Press in Fairfax, Express Jewelers in the Ballston Mall, Heart in Hand in Clifton, Judy Ryan of Fairfax, Katie’s Coffee House in Great Falls, Lemon Twist in Arlington, McLean Cleaners in McLean, Mesmeraldas in McLean, Millie’s Dry Cleaning in Arlington, Needlewoman East in Falls Church and the Old Brogue Irish Pub in Great Falls.

On the day of the tour, tickets may be purchased at the Memorial Baptist Church and at any of the properties open for the tour.

Garden Week in Virginia hosted by the Garden Club of Virginia, the oldest and largest statewide tour in the country. This year 36 tours feature 250 homes, gardens, and historic landmarks during the week of April 16-23.

At the Ceckowski-Christie home, a trans-



formation of the grounds got underway six years ago. And now it boasts an Edgeworthis chrsantha, a Pyrus communis Moonglow – Pear, a Mexican buckeye, a Continus grace Smoke tree, a Parsley-leaf Hawthorn, Chinese Fringe, a Japanese Snowbell and Cusa dogwoods, Cornell dogwoods, and a walking stick tree.

# Population Increases 7.6 Percent

**P**opulation in the Town of Herndon increased 7.6 percent between 2000 and 2010, to reach 23,292 residents, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. This compares to similarly modest growth rates in the City of Fairfax (5 percent) and the Town of Vienna (8.5 percent), although it is less than the population growth rate in Fairfax County (11.5 percent) and the Commonwealth of Virginia (13 percent).

2010 Census data also reveals a significant increase in Herndon’s Hispanic or Latino population. Hispanic or Latino residents now make up 33.6 percent of the town’s total population, compared to a 26 percent share in 2000. This represents a 38.9 percent increase in Herndon’s Hispanic or Latino population over 10 years; in comparison, the Commonwealth of Virginia experienced a 91.7 percent increase in Hispanic or Latino residents, and Fairfax County saw a 57.5 percent increase.

The population of every race held steady in the town between 2000 and 2010, with the exception of people who identify themselves as White; the White population decreased 7.2 percent over the time period. Notably, the town’s Asian population rose 4 percent, while the percent of people identifying their race as “Other” rose 3 percent.

The number of housing units in Herndon increased by 8.7 percent, or 623 units, between 2000 and 2010. The percentage of homes vacant in the town in 2010 was 3.2 percent, above Fairfax County’s vacancy rate of 2.4 percent but well below the commonwealth’s vacancy rate of 7.1 percent and the national vacancy rate of 14.5 percent.

For more detailed information on the 2010 Census, visit the U.S. Census Bureau online at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

## SCHOOL NOTES

**Thomas C. Loper III**, son of Thomas C. Loper II and Kathleen S. Loper of Herndon, has received an appointment to the Class of 2015 at the United States Military Academy at West Point. Loper is scheduled to graduate from Marion Military Institute in May of 2011 where he was a member of Normandy Society. The prospective members of the Class of 2015 will report to West Point for the first time on June 27, 2011.

Herndon High School students **Patrick Miller** and **Zach Ward** made the All Virginia Orchestra and **Matt Larson, Ryan Little, Kat Lopes,** and **Caitlin Williams** made the All-Virginia Band and Orchestras. **Kevin Hopkins** is an alternate on English horn.

**Robert Snow** of Herndon received a bachelor of science in recreation and parks management from Frostburg State University, Frostburg, Md.

Oak Hill residents **John Thomas Palmisano, Alison Virginia Silkworth** and **Molly Caitlin McKee** have been named to the fall 2010 dean’s list at Miami University of Oxford, Ohio.

**Lila Herk Rieber** of Herndon was named to the fall 2010 honors list at Mary Baldwin College of Staunton, Va.

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## Time To Consider



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As much as I want to – and try to – act normally (not consider the fact that I have cancer and a life-expectancy-challenged future), every day; situations, questions and decisions arise which, inadvertently almost, prevent me from doing so. Choices that previously would have been made without giving any thought to time. Now, all I see is time.

As a few examples: pills; some of the vitamins and supplements I buy offer a multi-bottle discount/incentive. Given the varying numbers of pills per bottle, it's possible I could be buying enough pills to dose for a year – or more. Ordinarily, given the value/cost savings and my middle age, it would be prudent and cost-effective to buy in such quantities. But then it hits me: am I going to be alive in a year? And if not, why spend money now on something I might not need later?

A new bed, a dental crown, a new roof, a new washer/dryer; do you think products/services with a 10-year/20-year guarantee interest me, generally speaking? If I didn't have a terminal disease and the need was genuine, and the money was available, I wouldn't hesitate. Now, not so much. I don't want to think this way, but I do.

Clothes, shoes/sneakers, seasonal items, items bought off-season/in advance; three months, six months ahead: will I need these items the next time the calendar reads spring, summer, fall or winter? Maybe I will, maybe I won't; and again, might the money I spend now – for the future, instead be needed for a present that might arrive sooner than I want to believe – or even anticipate? I realize a positive attitude/belief is important, crucial maybe, but sometimes you can't stop a speeding train by merely hoping and praying that it slows down. A thought sort of has a mind of its own, if you know what I mean?

I guess what this column is really about is, how am I supposed to live for today (as a terminal cancer patient) when my nature, my personality and my life's experiences have typically been about living today while planning and preparing for tomorrow? To not consider, in everything I do – or consider doing, the fact that I have an "underlying problem" (stage IV lung cancer), and a less-than-expected life expectancy, would seem to be counter-productive almost.

Still, not doing so, might hurt me in the short run. I wouldn't exactly call this an opportunity (seems the wrong word, given my prognosis) however, but perhaps it is a chance to rearrange my life in a way that might provide some relief. It's so backward though, for me to not consider the consequences tomorrow of what I'm doing today. It's not normal. Not how I was raised. Not instinctive, at all. So it doesn't seem/feel right. But I suppose being diagnosed with lung cancer at age 54 isn't right either. What is right though – for me, is trying to find a balance (I'm a Libra; duh!) so that I can stay true to who I am but not be so stuck in my circumstances that happiness is always beyond my reach.

As you can tell, I'm still working on it. Maybe the journey taken is more important than the actual arrival. I sure hope so because, knowing myself as I do, I'm not sure I'm getting there anytime soon.

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

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**Jim Lewis explains the significance of the intersection of Hunter Mill Road and the W and OD Trail during the Civil War Saturday. Lewis lives on nearby Buckthorn Lane, and hosted the walking tour of Civil War history in that part of Reston.**



PHOTO BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

# History in the Backyard

**Reston residents host tour of Civil War sites in Reston.**

BY ALEX MCVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

For some, Hunter Mill Road is a way to get from Reston to Oakton, Vienna and Fairfax while staying away from Leesburg Pike or the Beltway. For others, the road is a piece of American history, just waiting to be discovered.

Jim Lewis and Bob Eldridge are two men who know that story, and Saturday they helped almost 100 people discover the history that is literally in their backyards. They live off Buckthorn Lane in Reston, and their backyards are filled with what used to be artillery pits and other earthworks made by soldiers during the Civil War.

"The day after Virginia voted to secede, Robert E. Lee gave the orders to start tearing up the tracks of the W and OD railroad, because it was such an important supply line," Lewis said. "It was the main line between the Fairfax Courthouse, which was a supply depot, to Dranesville, where you would cross the Potomac River."

**LEWIS AND ELDRIDGE** are members of the Hunter Mill Defense League, a group that studies the history that happened along the road. Ninety-four people met at Eldridge's house Saturday afternoon, and were greeted with a display of artifacts that have been found in the area. Bullets, belt buckles, spurs, uniform buttons and artillery are some of the objects found.

Tom Evans displayed some items he's found during the 37 years he's lived in Reston. In addition to bullets that were still intact, he has found several that were melted down into poker chips or sinkers for a fishing line. He also has some that show clear evidence of being pulled out of a person, due to the marks made by a surgeon's tools. He even has a spur that is bent in such a way that suggests a rider's horse was shot and the rider fell.

"I've found most of these pieces between here and Oakton, along Hunter Mill Road," he said. "Mostly with a metal detector, but it's amazing the other ways I've found things. Just last week after one of the big

rainstorms, I walked out on my driveway and there was a Civil War bullet, just sitting there. It had been washed out."

Evans displayed only a small part of his collection and he regularly donates items to museums. And even through his decades of research and hunting, he says he still learns new things.

"I just recently learned about two new skirmishes that happened in this area," he said. "There's always something new to learn."

After exploring the trenches along the road behind Buckthorn Lane, Lewis led the group down the W and OD Trail to where it intersects with Hunter Mill Road. The intersection was a major landmark during the war and Lewis pointed out the location where a sentry tower stood at the northwest corner.

"The best thing if you're into archaeology is to find a trash pile from a camp, which we did," Lewis said. "We found a lot of good stuff there."

Among the more famous non-combatants to use the W and OD trail and Hunter Mill Road was a then struggling writer named Herman Melville.

"He was a struggling writer who wiggled his way into a Union mission to look for [Confederate General John S.] Mosby," Lewis said. "He came through here April 18, 1864, just to try and find something he could write about and sell."

Steve Sensabaugh of Reston has been on a few of the bus tours given by the Hunter Mill Defense league, but he had never seen the actual earthworks behind Buckthorn Lane.

"I've heard Jim and Bob talk about the trenches in their backyards before, but I had no idea there were so many," Sensabaugh said. "I live about 10 minutes away and it's amazing so much history happened right here."

Les Thomas of Reston said he was also unaware of the area's rich history.

"I didn't realize Hunter Mill Road was basically a highway for troop movements and commerce," he said. "It's amazing to think of a group of Confederate soldiers just sitting right here, waiting."

**THE EVENT** kicked off the Reston Museum's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary recognition of the start of the Civil War. Southern states began adopting ordinances of secession in the months following the November 1860 election of Abraham Lincoln, culminating in the first shots fired on Fort Sumter, S.C. on April 12, 1861.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL MCKEE

**Cheerleaders welcomed the walkers back to Reston Town Center.**

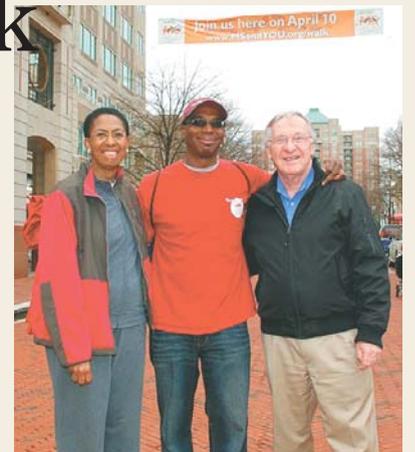
# Hundreds Take MS Walk

Thankful for the good weather, hundreds of Restonians and visitors took a long walk Sunday morning. Their goal was to provide both support and hard cash to fight multiple sclerosis.

Many Restonians were there to contribute, including Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) and Del. Ken Plum (D-36).

Reston Association President Kathleen Driscoll McKee and Hudgins' staff member Martin Taylor had a far more personal interest. McKee's sister has MS, as does Taylor. Both walked the entire four-mile distance wearing red T-shirts with "Team Taylor" emblazoned on them.

On the Saturday evening prior to the Sunday morning walk, Taylor organized a fund



**Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) and Del. Ken Plum (D-36) gave their encouragement to Martin Taylor (center), who organized 'Team Taylor.'**

raiser at Kalypso's restaurant in Lake Anne Plaza. He read portions of his soon-to-be published autobiography, which in part describes his life-long fight against his disease.

— MICHAEL MCKEE



**MS Walk participants pictured at Lake Anne.**