Remembering ‘Beloved Mr. Newsom’

Janice Jewell, Herndon High School English department chair, plants a flower May 19 in the school’s Senior Courtyard in memory of Joel Newsom, an English teacher who died Jan. 2.

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Metro Planning Marches On
Town staff, consultants give update on Metro progress.

By Alex McVeigh
The Connection

As planning for the coming of the Metrorail to Herndon continues, the town hosted an informational meeting Monday at the council chambers to introduce the latest area plan and answer questions from the community.

Two different area plans were presented to the community during a November meeting, each with its own recommendations for floor area ratio (FAR) limits for three different zones in the 180-acre study area located north of the proposed Herndon-Monroe station.

After a Jan. 21 joint meeting between the Herndon Town Council and Planning Commission, those two options were retired and a new framework plan was put into place. The new plan reduces the study area to 110 acres, and breaks it up into five different zones, each with a different target FAR.

The zone between the Dulles Toll Road and Herndon Parkway between Van Buren Street and going just east of Exchange Place has a target FAR of 4.5. The next zone is the area just east of Herndon Parkway all the way to the toll road, and is suggested FAR 3. On the north side of Herndon Parkway, there are zones targeted at 2.5 FAR and 1.5 FAR, with the northern area that borders residential property suggested for 0.7 FAR as a buffer zone.

Pat Voltmer, who lives on Missouri Avenue and whose property backs up to the study area says she believed the plan sacrifices the wants and needs of current residents in the name of attracting new people to Metro.

“The consultant’s goals come across as wanting to create an urban metropolis to bring new businesses and residents to the area, versus creating accessibility to mass transit for the current town residents,” she said. “I would implore that any future designs also received questions about whether landowners to the area, versus creating accessibility to mass transit for the current town residents, said they had need for 2025, though “many could argue they’re needed sooner.”

By 2025, it is estimated that an additional 200-foot right turn bay would be needed to turn from Van Buren Street onto Herndon Parkway. The consultants also estimated that there would need to be a two-lane widening on northbound Herndon Parkway near the intersection of Spring Street, and that a barricade would need to be built on Spring Street to separate traffic turning left onto Herndon Parkway from traffic going straight.

Kay Robertson, senior project planner with the Town of Herndon, said the town was trying to work on some of the Van Buren Street and Herndon Parkway issues before 2025.

“The intersection at Van Buren Street and Herndon Parkway is overdue for improvements. We have just initiated some design work to put in that right turn lane and we are collecting funding at the state level to build up the construction money we need to make that improvement,” she said.

ELIZABETH GILLERAN, director of community development for the Town of Herndon, said they had also received questions about whether landowners near the station would be willing to redevelop their properties.

“They have shown an interest in it. What their timing is, we don’t know, but they are definitely interested, they have been tracking the plan, they are interested, they’re giving feedback,” she said.

Geoffrey Morrison-Logan of VHB says the goal is to decide on the alternate frameworks this summer, draft them during the fall and possibly adopt the plan by the end of 2011.

The next meeting, which will be about the economics of such development, will take place June 13 at 7 p.m. in the Herndon Town Council Chambers, located at 765 Lynn Street. Additional meetings will be at the same time and place on July 18 and August 22.

More information on public meetings can be found at www.herndon-va.gov and copies of plans and presentations can be found at www.vhb.com/herndonmetrorail.

Making Housing Affordable, Green
Reston Interfaith showcases “Green and Graceful” townhouse.

By Alex McVeigh
The Connection

Reston Interfaith opened a “green and graceful” townhouse on Branch Avenue in Herndon May 18, which will house a family of eight people. Through a partnership with various businesses, the townhouse was restored from its previous dilapidated condition with the latest in environmentally friendly features.

“We’ve helped to take a house and turn it into a home,” said John Payne, deputy director of the Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development, one of the groups that partnered with Reston Interfaith.

Anne Strange of Graceful Homes, said the house was just one part of the group’s larger goals.

“Projects like this are important, because even though this is one of the wealthiest areas in the nation, we don’t have enough workforce housing, and that’s what this does,” he said. “That’s the key to bringing new families to this area.”

ECO-FRIENDLY FEATURES of the house include: flooring, cabinets and countertops made from recycled materials, Energy Star rated roof, windows, heating and cooling system and appliances, energy efficient light fixtures, low flow plumbing fixtures and zero volatile organic compound paints

MANY WHO STOPPED BY the house said they hoped it would serve as an example of how to make low-cost, environment friendly housing around the county. Diane O’Grady, chief of staff for Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) said they plan to use it as an example at an upcoming sustainability forum.

Greg White, chief operating officer of Reston Interfaith, said the house was just one part of the group’s larger goals.

“This is part of our larger initiative to prevent homelessness, which means finding affordable housing for people,” he said. More information about Reston Interfaith can be found at www.restoninterfaith.org.
Remembering ‘Beloved Mr. Newsom’

Herndon High School faculty, students dedicate memorial to teacher.

By Alex McVeigh
The Connection

S
ome teachers instill lifelong memories of too much homework, unfair grades and boring classes. Joel Newsom, an English teacher at Herndon High School, was not one of those.

To his students, he was a soccer fan, a heavy metal lover and a teacher who was always ready to joke around with them. To his fellow faculty members, he was an easy colleague to socialize with, and always had a knack for starting e-mail discussions that began with a simple question (“What’s your favorite Patrick Swayze movie?”) and would go on for weeks.

Newsom died Jan. 2. At the age of 40, but he was forever memorialized May 19 at the school where he spent his career. His family, along with faculty, staff and students joined to remember their colleague, teacher and friend at a memorial garden in the school’s Senior Courtyard.

The English department decided to plant perennials at the memorial, as well as annuals, which department member Vania Beight says was a deliberate choice.

“As a department, we always get together on Cinco de Mayo every year,” she said. “We planted the annuals so that every Cinco de Mayo, we’ll gather at his memorial and plant the flowers. We’ll never forget him.”

NEWSOM STARTED at Herndon High in 1997 as an intern, became a part-timer in 1998 and was a permanent faculty member in 1999.

“I was always surprised at how easy it was to pick up right back up again with him after a summer away, because it had only been a long weekend,” said Terri Wright, an English teacher who started at Herndon High around the same time as Newsom.

Salah Ward, a senior, remembered Newsom always coming into the classroom ready to talk about soccer.

Herndon High School senior Salah Ward plants a flower in memory of Joel Newsom Thursday at Herndon High School. The school dedicated a memorial garden in the Senior Courtyard for Newsom, who died Jan. 2.

“He would always come up and ask what the scores were, who the new players were. His favorite team was Real Madrid,” he said. “He was a really good guy.”

Junior E.K. Korvarth remembered that Newsom always “liked to keep the room cold, that was his thing.”

Senior Tedy Vasquez remembers Newsom’s fondness for Mr. T, and how he loved to say “I pity the fool.”

Other students remembered Newsom as someone who would always join in the pre-class joking around that so often happens in high school.

“The students would kid each other, and he’d get right in there and start joking back with you, he was very funny,” said junior Rajaa Ibrahim.

Senior Katherine Morales remembers Newsom as a relaxed teacher who “would just let us do our work, he’d be on the computer, always ready to help or answer a question.”

While their memories of Newsom are fond and light-hearted, many students say they are also the kind of memories that will stay with them forever.

“He was funny, gentle, compassionate and always easy-going,” said junior Jallinn Ahmad, who presented Newsom’s widow Erica with a soccer jersey on Wednesday.

Growing Up Tobacco-Free

Patrick Kelly of Herndon, a member of the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth’s Y Street volunteer group, pictured with Virginia Secretary of Health and Human Resources Dr. Bill Hazel at the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids’ 15th annual gala held Wednesday, May 18, in the nation’s capital. Y Street won the Youth Advocates of the Year award for their leadership in the fight against youth tobacco use. Kelly and other Y Street members also met with U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius.

Kim Heald of Herndon Heads Virginia Tech Rescue Squad

Kim Heald from Herndon serves as an attendant in charge and president on the Virginia Tech Rescue Squad, providing the top emergency medical care available to the university and community.

Heald is a part of the oldest student-run volunteer emergency medical service in the nation. More than 40 students have dedicated their time and effort to their passion of helping others.

The rescue squad was the recipient of the Governor’s Award to the Outstanding EMS Agency in the commonwealth, the highest award presented by the state Office of the Emergency Medical Service. This group of volunteers has been recognized over and over again for exceptional training standards over the years.

Established in 1969, the Virginia Tech Rescue Squad is the emergency medical service agency serving the campus of Virginia Tech. It is a volunteer student-run organization committed to providing exceptional emergency medical services to the university community. Virginia Tech Rescue Squad maintains three advanced life support ambulances and a first response vehicle with in-station crews ready for service 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The agency relies heavily on private donations from members of the university and extended community to fund technological upgrades and capital improvements to better provide this service to Virginia Tech at no cost. All members of the squad receive Virginia State Emergency Medical Technician certification.

Visit http://www.rescue.vt.edu/ for more information.

School Notes

Gillian Gundersen and Brenda Perez of Herndon High School, won the third place award of $1,000 in Environmental Sciences for “The Effect of Pollutants on Eisenia fetida and its Potential as an Indicator Species” at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, held last week in Los Angeles.

Andrew Rys of Herndon has been named to the fall 2010 dean’s list at The Johns Hopkins University. The Oakton High School graduate is the son of Steven and Leigh Rys.

Kevin Heald of Oak Hill has gained membership to the Virginia Tech regional band, the Highy-Tighties. Heald is an academic freshman majoring in general engineering in the College of Engineering.

Three Oakton residents have been awarded $2500 National Merit Scholarships:

❖ Stephen L. Eltinge of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

Hefferson High School for Science and Technology.

Probable career field is education (college professor).

❖ Catherine F. Mahoney of Oakton High School. Probable career field is international economics.

❖ Kathleen M. Atlatch of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. Probable career field is bio-medical engineering.

Two Herndon residents have been awarded National Merit Corporate Scholarships:

❖ Venkateswaran Muruganandam of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology has been awarded a National Merit CSC Scholarship. Probable career field is engineering/business.

❖ Michael Yixuan Wu of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology has been awarded a National Merit CACI Scholarship. Probable career field is computer science/finance.
Crime Solvers Seeks Suspect in Four Bank Robberies

Fairfax County Crime Solvers is asking for the public’s assistance in identifying the man responsible for robbing four banks: two in the Reston area and two in the McLean area.

The first bank robbery occurred on Wednesday, April 11. Shortly before 9:30 a.m. a man entered the Congressional Bank, located at 1800 Michael Faraday Drive. He approached a 43-year-old teller and displayed a handgun. He demanded money and left with an undisclosed amount of cash. The suspect fled the bank and was last seen running toward Wiehle Avenue. The victim did not require medical attention. Photos of the suspect are available at: http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org/WeeklyReleases/2010Year/thumbnails.html or http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/news-releases/2011/041111congressionalbankrobbery.htm

The second bank robbery occurred on Friday, May 6 around 11 a.m. A man entered the Wachovia Bank at 1311 Dolley Madison Boulevard, displayed a gun and demanded money. The suspect fled with an undisclosed amount of cash. The victim did not require medical treatment. Photos from that robbery are available at: http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org/WeeklyReleases/2010Year/thumbnails.html or http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/news-releases/2011/050611bankrobmclean.htm

The third bank robbery occurred on Friday, May 13. Around 10:44 a.m. a man entered the Cardinal Bank, located at 11150 Sunset Hills Road, and jumped the teller counter. The suspect displayed a handgun and demanded money. He struck the employee, a 54-year-old man, in the upper body, took an undisclosed amount of cash and fled. The victim was taken to a local hospital and treated for non-life-threatening injuries. Video from this bank robbery is now available to view on Youtube at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z8gMPJl6zmM

The most recent robbery occurred Thursday, May 19. At 10 a.m. a man entered the United Bank at 2071 Chain Bridge Road. He brandished a handgun and demanded money from the teller, a 56-year-old woman. The suspect fled with an undisclosed amount of cash. There were no injuries. Photos from this robbery are available online at http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org/WeeklyReleases/2010Year/thumbnails.html or http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/news-releases/2011/051911unitedbankrobbery.htm

In each robbery the suspect was described as black, 5 feet 6 inches to 5 feet 10 inches tall and about 250 pounds. His face was covered. He was wearing a dark-colored sweatshirt, blue jeans and black gloves in the first robbery and black clothing in the second. Detectives believe the same suspect is responsible for all four bank robberies.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS(8477), e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text “TIP187” plus your message to CRIMES (274637). A $1,000 cash reward will be paid for information that leads to an arrest. As always, callers never have to give their names or appear in court. Find us on Facebook.

A time to honor those in military service.

On Memorial Day, we remember those who have died in military service, more than 400,000 in World War II, more than 30,000 in Korea, more than 50,000 in Vietnam.

Earlier this month, the number of U.S. military deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan since Sept. 11, 2001, exceeded 6,000. Nearly 50,000 U.S. military service members have been wounded.

Memorial Day is also a time to reinvigorate efforts to provide the proper treatments and opportunities to our veterans. The Post-9/11 GI Bill dramatically increases the educational benefits extended to members of the military who have served at least three months of active duty since Sept. 11, 2001. Steps to provide better, faster and more responsive health care to veterans, including mental health care, are underway, but have a long way to go. We must commit the resources to do better.

More than 175 U.S. military service personnel from Virginia have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, including several in the last year.

Here are the names of some of the local men and women who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan since 9/11.

We repeat these names at least twice a year on Memorial Day and Veterans Day to honor the military who have served at least 30,000 in Korea, more than 50,000 in Vietnam, and thousands in Vietnam since 9/11.

We honor the memories of those who served and paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Cpt. Charles A. Ransom, 31, of Midlothian was one of eight airmen who died April 27, 2011, at the Kabul International Airport, Afghanistan, from gunfire. Sgt. Sean T. Callahan, 23, of Warrenton was one of two Marines who died April 23, 2011 in combat in Afghanistan.

Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Venet Jr., 30, of Prince William died Jan. 28, 2011 in Afghanistan, in a non-combat incident. Venetz had played football at Herndon and Reston, and also considered Herndon and Reston his hometowns, was a champion slam poet.

Pfc. David Sharrett, 27 of Okotoks, died Jan. 16, 2008 in Iraq. On Oct. 24, 2008, his father, David H. Sharrett, was on hand along with former U.S. Rep. Tom Davis (R) as the Okotoks Post Office on White Granite Drive was renamed to honor his son.

Army 1st Lt. Thomas J. Brown, a George Mason University graduate and Burke resident, died Sept. 29, 2008, while serving in Iraq. His unit came under small arms fire, and Brown, 26, died from his wounds.

Sgt. Scott Kirkpatrick, 26, died on Aug. 11, 2007, in Arab Jabour, Iraq, Kirkpatrick, who graduated from Park View High School in Sterling, and also considered Herndon and Reston his hometowns, was a champion slam poet. His father, Ed Kirkpatrick, calls him the “warrior poet,” and he and his wife helped injured vets at Walter Reed through the Yellow Ribbon fund (www.yellowribbonfund.org).

Ami Neiberger-Miller of Sterling lost her brother, U.S. Army Spc. Christopher Neiberger, 22, in August 2007 when he was killed by a roadside bomb while serving in Baghdad, Iraq. Neiberger-Miller has devoted herself to the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (www.taps.org), which provides support and services for families of the fallen.

Staff Sgt. Jesse G. Clowers Jr., 27, of Herndon, died when an improvised bomb exploded near his vehicle in Afghanistan on Aug. 12, 2007. Jonathon Cloud, 21, of Falls Church, died in Iraq on May 23, 2007, when an IED exploded near his vehicle.

Nicholas Rapavi, 22, of Springfield, died Nov. 24, 2006, of wounds received during combat in Anbar province in Iraq. Army Cpl. Andy D. Anderson, 24, was killed by enemy fire in Ar Ramadi, Iraq on Tuesday, June 6, 2006. Air Force 1st Class Lief Bernard, 21, was killed Oct. 14, 2006, by sniper fire in Iraq, trying to protect civilians from a roadside bomb.

Spc. Robert Drawl Jr., 21, a 2003 graduate of T.C. Williams High School, was killed by bomb in Kunar, Afghanistan, on Aug. 19, 2006. U.S. Army Specialist Felipe J. Garcia Villareal, 26 of Burke, and a rondon grad, was injured in Iraq and flown to Washington Hospital Center, where he died Feb. 12, 2006.

Capt. Shane R. M. Mahafee, 36, a 1987 graduate of Mount Vernon High School, died May 15, 2006. He was a lawyer, married, with two children. His parents live in Alexandria.


Staff Sgt. George T. Alexander Jr., the 2,000th soldier to be killed in Iraq, was literally born into the Army here in Northern Virginia, at DeVitt Army Hospital at Fort Belvoir. Alexander died at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, Oct. 22, 2005, of injuries sustained in Samarra, Iraq, Oct. 17.


We invite you to share the memory of friends or family, or about the progress of someone injured, please let us know.

-- Mary Kimm
**Week in Herndon**

**MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE AT CHESTNUT GROVE CEMETARY**

The Wayne M. Kidwell American Legion Post 184, in cooperation with the Town of Herndon, will be holding their Annual Memorial Day Observance at the Chestnut Grove Cemetery, 831 Dranesville Road, Herndon on Monday, May 30, at 10 am. This year’s program will feature the Herndon Naval Junior ROTC Color Guard. Virginia Senator Mark Herring (D-33) will be this year’s Guest Speaker.

The Avenue of Flags will be displayed from morning to dusk at the Chestnut Grove Cemetery. The Avenue of Flags now consists of 50 Veteran casket flags displayed from the main gate to the side gate. Each flag has a marker identifying the veteran. This display can be viewed on foot or from a car.

For more information regarding the ceremony, call Post Commander David Kirby at 703-481-6189.

**TOWN’S BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS SEEK APPLICANTS**

The Town of Herndon is seeking applicants to serve on its boards and commissions, to include the Planning Commission, the Architectural Review and Heritage Review Boards, the Board of Zoning Appeals and various ad hoc committees.

“We are fortunate to live in a community in which so many citizens are willing to dedicate their time and talents to benefit our town,” said Mayor Steve DeBenedittis. “I urge all citizens who are interested in serving on one of our boards and commissions to get an application on file, so that when vacancies arise we have a qualified field from which to select candidates.”

The Town Clerk’s Office maintains a “talent bank” of applications to boards and commissions. The Town Council reviews talent bank applications when making selections to fill vacancies. Applications are available via the town’s website, www.herndon-va.gov and at the clerk’s office in the Herndon Municipal Center, 777 Lynn Street. A description of all boards and commissions is included on the application.

For more information or to update an application already on file, citizens may contact the clerk’s office at 703-435-6804 or town.clerk@herndon-va.gov.

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**HALL OF FAME**

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**May 25-31, 2011**
Hерndon’s district title game loss to Oakton was its first setback of the season. Both teams are headed to the region playoffs this week.

Oakton Boys Take Down Herndon in Soccer Finals

Hornets show second half heart but fall, 3-0, in Concorde title contest.

By Rich Sanders
The Connection

Herndon’s bid for its first Concorde District boys’ soccer title since 2008 fell short last Friday evening, May 20 when the Hornets lost to a red hot Oakton High squad, 3-0, in the district tournament title game played at Westfield High School.

The loss was the first of the season for top-seeded Herndon (13-1-1), which just 10 days earlier had beaten Oakton, 2-1, in a late regular season district road game. The Cougars, who have enjoyed their first winning season in at least five years, improved their record to 10-3-1 overall and captured their first winning season in at least five years, improved their record to 10-3-1 overall and captured their first district tournament crown since 2001. Oakton is coached by Todd Spiralng.

Both teams are competing at this week’s 16-team Northern Region tournament.

Heron促使了 as one of the top teams in the region this season under veteran head coach Sean Lanigan. But in the championship game, Oakton, which a year ago went 6-8-1 and lost to Lake Braddock in a first round region playoff game, scored all three of its goals within a 17 minute period of play in the first half to take total command of the game by halftime. While Herndon made strong rush after strong rush towards Oakton’s goal in the second half, the Hornets were not able to find pay dirt as Oakton goalie Logan Cropper continually had answers for Herndon strikes. There were times, in fact, when the junior net-minder was flat out brilliant in his protection of his team’s net.

“That was the first team to keep us shut out all year,” said Lanigan, whose team’s only prior non-win this season came in a 2-2 tie versus visiting non-district opponent and fellow region power Langley in the Hornets’ final regular season game on May 11. “Their goalie made some great saves and their backs did a good job.”

Cropper came up with perhaps the games’ best sequence of plays just past the midway point of the second half as Herndon, trailing 3-0 and trying desperately to get back into the game, got off two sizzling shots, both stopped on diving saves by the goalie. The latter stop came on a straight-range, follow-up scorcher from 10 yards out.

“That was great,” said Oakton senior forward Bubba Delgado, a team tri-captain along with fellow captains Ahmed Ismail and Charlie Ahn. “I was surprised he got that second one.”

The South Lakes High boys’ soccer team was scheduled to play at West Springfield High this week on Wednesday, May 25 in a first round Northern Region playoff game. The Seahawks earned a seeding at regionals by defeating McLean High, 1-0, in a first round Liberty District game last week on May 17 at Marshall High School. The Seahawks (5-10-1) are under head coach Marty Pfister. No. 21 in this photo for South Lakes is Mohamed El Nahal.

Sports Roundups

South Lakes High School will offer a summer basketball camp for boys’ ages 7 to 15. The sessions will focus on teaching basketball skills of shooting, ball handling, passing and team offense. In addition to individual work, players will participate in 5-on-5 drills, a 1-on-1 tournament, and a Hot Shot contest. There will be individual and team awards. All teaching will be conducted by the South Lakes High boys’ basketball staff, along with current and former players. For more information, contact Andrew Duggan at amduggan@fcps.edu or at 703-715-4517.

The 4th Annual ‘We’ve Got Your Back’ 5K Run/Walk, held on Saturday, May 14 in Reston, attracted more than 600 participants and raised more than $100,000 for the Spinal Research Foundation (SRF).

“This is our signature event for raising awareness, and the money raised contributes directly to life-changing research and educational programs conducted by SRF,” said Thomas C. Schuler, president of SRF.


Rocky McIntosh of the Washington Redskins and James Thrash, a former Redskin, also appeared and spoke about their personal victories over neck and back pain and how spinal treatment helped them as football players.

Members of the Spinal Research Foundation (SRF) Board of Directors who attended The 4th Annual ‘We’ve Got Your Back’ 5K Run/Walk, held on Saturday, May 14 in Reston, included, left to right: Brian R. Subach, SRF Director of Research; Brian D. Nault; Andrew T. Greene, SRF Treasurer; William H. Evers, Jr., Ph.D.; Raymond F. Pugsley; and Thomas C. Schuler, SRF President.
Six Years and Going
Sterner’s Tae Kwon Do Academy celebrates six years in Herndon.

By Caroline Burr
The Connection

Six years and still kicking. Master Adam Sterner’s Tae Kwon Do Academy celebrated its six-year anniversary with festivities and entertainment on May 22. Master Sterner started martial arts as a child. He has a 5th degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do. In 1988, Sterner was inducted into the World Karate Union Hall of Fame as Competitor of the Year. From moving from Hollywood to New York City, to a career in modeling, everything in life has “always come back to martial arts,” said Sterner. Dedication and an interest in Tae Kwon Do sparked the idea to start an academy in Herndon six years ago.

About 40 classes a week for people of all ages, Sterner’s Tae Kwon Do Academy is about “the development of each student,” Sterner said. The most exciting factor for Sterner is seeing the same children multiple times a week and noticing their progress. Every anniversary is greeted with new things.

“Each year we do something different, there is always something to be excited about,” and there’s a “fresh feeling,” said Sterner. Six years of the academy welcomes the hanging of new banners and a large mural with “Tae Kwon Do” painted in Korean.

Many current students have siblings, and it is most memorable “getting to know the kids” and to see a “current student’s infant sibling” show up to class and later on “begins taking classes,” said Sterner.

Youngsters can enroll in the after school program which offers pickup from school, homework time and Tae Kwon Do classes. At 4:15 p.m. children begin rushing off Sterner Academy buses and into the school to release some energy and get ready for class. Shreya Sivaram, 7, enjoys “learning forms and having fun and learning new stuff.” Her brother who started after seeing his sister ining forms and having fun and learning new stuff.”

Sterner’s Tae Kwon Do Academy is about “the development of each student,” Sterner said. The most memorable “getting to know the kids” and rean.

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Sterner’s Tae Kwon Do Academy is located on 420 Elden Street, Herndon. Visit www.adamsterner.com.
Doug Graney is recognized as Educator of the Year.

Teaching since 1985, social studies teacher Doug Graney of Herndon High School will receive the Herndon Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year Award as part of the Dulles Regional Chamber. Graney introduces his students to the real world with his ability to relate moments in history to current events.

“Because of my parents, I was always interested in current events,” said Graney, and because “Gerry Martin was such a great teacher, I thought it was something I wanted to do.” Graney taught in Connecticut and New York and then he moved to Fairfax County and started at Herndon High School in 1992.

Graney, Rebecca Small and Kim Belknap of Herndon High School’s social studies department have helped provide about 700 students with internships from 1994. With endless opportunities, yearly trips to an embassy and meeting with a different member of Congress, Graney thanks the current department chairs. He said, “Jean Blackwood was supportive when I wanted to start a political science class, and Laura Totoro helped support the trips. She has my back.” The political science internships are diverse and include, but are not limited to, involvement with members of House or Senate, Reserve Officers Administration, embassies, Human Rights Campaign and different government agencies.

Graney remembers when some of his students participated in a naturalization ceremony. “It was the most powerful trip, as one girl led new Americans in their first Pledge of Allegiance,” he said.

Senior Rohafza Atazai, Aamna Ahmad and Miya Ogawa.

Doug Graney talks with Miya Ogawa about class.

Doug Graney with his students, Herndon High seniors Rohafza Atazai, Aamna Ahmad and Miya Ogawa.

Photos by Caroline Burr/The Connection

Rohafza Atazai, Aamna Ahmad and Miya Ogawa.

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Connection
With a Reader

By KENNETH H. LOURIE

Recently, an e-mail was forwarded to me by one of the editors at Connection Newspapers. It was originally received as a regular reader alert of the Arlington Connection. This alert reader noted that my column was missing from this particular year’s edition, which sometimes happens, for a variety of reasons. Given the cancer content of my columns over the last nearly two years however, this reader expressed electronic concern about my health: “Is he OK?” When I received/ read the e-mail, I immediately replied directly to the sender/recipient that indeed I was “OK,” and thanked her for her concern. For future consideration, I referred her to our Web site and provided instructions for accessing and viewing my weekly column, which is typically posted by Friday following our Wednesday publication date.

This reader’s query got me thinking though, as I e-mailed a reply to her that evening, about the last column that I write, or I should say, the last column that will appear in print for the Connection Newspapers. I know, you know, the one that I won’t be around to read. It’s a thought that persists in my head even though I try to deny its inevitability. I hope and pray that it doesn’t necessarily make it less realistic. It’s sort of a no-paper-occurs-kind of reality. There are certain rules – for lack of a better word – that exist. In essence, I am at an exchange between Col. Henry Blake and Capt. Benjamin Franklin Pierce on an episode of M*A*S*H when “Hawkeye” was asked if he would perform surgery on a patient he was treating dead. Col. Blake spoke with him outside of the operating room, during a brief respite after hours spent in surgery operating on a high number of casualties. “There are two rules in war: Rule number one, young men die. Rule number two, doctors can’t change rule number one.”

Accepting my circumstances and trying not to stress over them is a major part of my routine. Part of that acceptance is not thinking about – too much, anyway, what happens when. Still, somehow I must approach it as a way because there are necessary and appropriate arrangements that need to be made, to simply contain certain inevitabilities, shall we say. But thinking about it is exactly what I’m trying to avoid; my thought process being somewhere between denial and being positive. If I don’t have any negative thoughts, maybe I won’t have negative results. And to me, thinking about death is a far more positive, you know, less of a result. But occasionally, I do, in spite of my best intentions.

Certainly, getting things in order would pre- sumably partake of some careful consideration (the patient you’re truly for the people (family and friends), likely most affected by the patient’s death. But if finding that order – and balance, creates so much stress on the patient in the interminable that it actually upsets that calm that some exist, all things considered by not confronting the what-to-do/what-will-happen when questions, then why do them? “The final move” “Undefined reference,” the (final) column(s) the one that appears after my death (or reference therein), the final arrangements, etc. are all issues yet to be resolved and need to be resolved. Yet, the prospects of doing so are so daunting that.

The reader didn’t see my column, and wondered if its disappearance had something to do with my health. Fortunately, it did not. It was Kenny-column business as sometimes is usual and customary. One day though, hopefully much later than sooner, it won’t be Kenny-column business as usual. It will be much different. I know I need to prepare for that day, but doing so means I’ll have to alter my denial strategy, which will be an extremely difficult thing to do so far, (diagnosis-to-date almost 28 months), following this path of less resistance has worked wonders. I’ve outlined my original prognosis. How can I change now when I’ve beat all the odds originally presented to me?

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.
Green Carwash Opens in Herndon

Town gets America’s first LEED certified carwash.

By Meredith Billman-Mani
The Connection

“I was the kid in high school with the old car that I’d wash and wax on weekends,” laughs Guy Palozzi. The new Flagship Carwash in Herndon is the result of his childhood passion. It’s his 10th carwash in the area but Flagship is the only carwash in the nation to be LEED certified.

Developed by the United States Green Building Council in 1998, Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) is a green building certification system. Buildings must have measurable strategies and implementation for things like energy savings, water efficiency, carbon emissions reduction and improving indoor environmental quality, in order to be considered for LEED status.

“I wanted to build something good for the environment and put my name on it. I’m proud to do so with this building,” said Palozzi. He built the state of the art car wash from the ground up to reflect his commitment to the environment and to doing business as greenly as possible. From the water reclamation systems to the floor cleaners used at Flagship, priority is given to the environment.

This water reclamation system is the largest in North America. We can clean and reuse 320 gallons of water a minute,” said Palozzi. The carwash tunnels capture the “dirty” water and clean and filter it to such a high standard that Flagship has a DEQ permit to discharge into the storm drain instead of the sewer. “That’s unheard of, explains Palozzi. “That’s a million gallons I’m reusing instead of discharging. We’ve got a biological version that’s almost a mini-facility, with special tunnels and a flat conveyor belt to accommodate the low profiles of a sports car. Additionally, it has added services, like a high-end coffee bar called the Carwash Caffeine Café to the waiting area so that customers can multi-task instead of dropping 10 minutes in a carwash.

RANDY COFFEEY has been in the auto detailing business for 24 years. He heads the interior and exterior detailing department at Flagship. “We have a lot of experience under our belt. We are trying to educate people that the cleaners now days, they do about the same thing as the old ones. There are different processes but when you do it right, by people who know what they are doing, we make people happy and we protect the environment,” said Coffey.

Flagship Carwash Center is located at 632 Grant Street between Elden and Grove Streets.

By Emily Bagdasarian
The Connection

A rtSpace hosts its first exhibit of artwork by Herndon High School students in the year the school is marking its 100th anniversary. The exhibit, titled “Mind, Heart, Vision,” features selected painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, and computer graphics by Herndon High School seniors. The jurors, Eileen Lyons and Jeanette Burkle, selected works from 25 seniors to be displayed. Herndon’s Vice Mayor Lisa Merkel said she is “just thrilled about the optimistic outlook of the future these emerging artists showcase through their talents as they experience what is to be a full working artist.”

Lyons, a former Herndon High art teacher and a professional painter, is pleased by how gracefully the students handled “putting themselves out there about their artwork. It took a few tries, but I think they handled it.” Lyons and Burkle looked for 12 key elements: the impact on the audience, technical quality, creativity, style, composition, presentation, color balance, focal points, lighting, subject matter, technique and story telling. Seniors who were selected signed contracts with the gallery just like any professional artist would. Also each piece of work came attached with a price tag, requiring students to make a value assessment of their creation.

Students’ Art on Display

ArtSpace presents ‘Mind, Heart, Vision’ artwork by Herndon High School students.

Linda Pena stands beside one of her displayed works, “City of Los Manos,” a pastel drawing.
**Fine Arts Come to Reston**

**Town Center hosts 20th annual Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival.**

**By Alex McVeigh**

The Connection

S

hawn Fain, of Reston, describes himself as only “sort of” being interested in art. But when a sunny Sunday afternoon gave his family a chance to walk over to Reston Town Center and see what the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival was all about, he was in.

“I was blown away,” he said. “I guess when you think art, you think mostly paintings, but this really gave me a chance to see and appreciate just what art is and why it’s so great.”

While there were plenty of paintings at the 20th Annual Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival last weekend, that was just the tip of the iceberg. Photography, sculpture, jewelry, clothing and more were on display throughout the town center over the weekend. More than 50,000 people attended the May 21–22 two-day event.

Amelia Eddy of Herndon said she too was shocked at the variety of items for sale.

“I came to find maybe a small sculpture for the mantel, I had no idea I’d find myself in front of a full-length mirror trying on a few pieces of clothing,” she said. “And it was really unique stuff. The overcoat I bought really lives up to its name as ‘wearable art’ and I think it is a pretty piece.”

Anne Anderson of Gulfport, Fla., had one of the more striking displays, so much so that very few people were able to walk by without looking farther. What at first appeared to be mounted heads of lions, leopards and zebras were not. They are part of Anderson’s work, where she uses sisal rope fiber to simulate the short, bristly hair of the animals.

“I would have bet a mortgage payment that those were mounted lion heads,” said Stephanie Renard of Reston. “It wasn’t until I saw the one with all the features mounted and knew it was made from sisal rope that I realized it was not a real lion.”

Mary Page, of Glenwood, Iowa, was surprised by what she found in the interactive nature of the event.

“I was blown away,” she said. “I guess when you talk about her process it was amazing. Even standing up close, knowing what they were, you could have fooled me into thinking they were real.”

**THE TOWN SQUARE**

At the western end of Reston Town Center also served as an interactive art exhibit for kids. There was Children’s Art Tent hosted by the Greater Reston Arts Center where children could make hats and paint.

Just outside the tent was a community art mural where visitors of all ages could make their mark on a long piece of paper with a variety of paints. If it was something less permanent children were interested in, they could doodle to their heart’s content on a variety of stages throughout the weekend.

Members of UpRooted Dance, a contemporary dance company, perform at the 20th annual Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival. The event featured live entertainment on a variety of stages throughout the weekend.

**What do you like most about participating in the Reston Fine Arts Festival?**

— Samra Khawaja

Nancy Novick, Reston

“It’s the social aspect and exposing my artwork. I recognize and know people. I love being out and seeing my neighbors… it’s where I live!”

Dana Ann Scheurer, Reston

“It’s phenomenal and the most wonderful opportunity! The show is better every year. It’s great to do something you love to do. People out here really support art. I experience delight from the visual reactions.”

Ann Barbieri, Reston

“I like seeing old friends. Some of these people I haven’t seen in 25-plus years. Of course, I like presenting my artwork to such a great audience. These people have such an appreciation for art. As much energy you need, the adrenaline kicks in.”

Connie Slack, Reston

“It’s like a big block party! I’ve lived in Reston for 35 years so I know a lot of people in Reston. There are a lot of people coming out like old clients you haven’t seen in many years. It’s just fun. It becomes a big family weekend as well. I’ve got family help and support here.”

Laurie Fields, Herndon

“For me, it’s seeing so many people I know. It makes the experience so much more fun!”

Elissa Farrow-Savos, Sterling

“People are friendly, supportive, and positive. When the weather is good, nothing is better. Career wise, it’s a good place to be seen and sell work.”

Cheryl Parsons, Herndon

“A lot of traffic comes here. I like coming because it’s local. It’s easier to set up a booth since I don’t have to travel. I send a lot of emails and Facebook messages so I see a lot of people I know.”