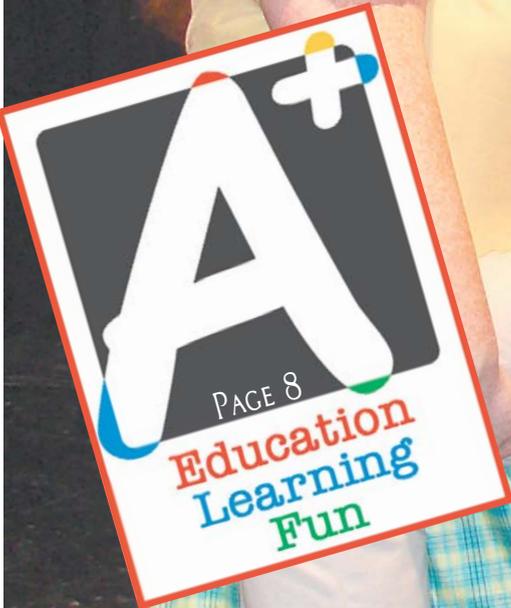


Oak Hill ♦ Herndon CONNECTION

(From left) Brittany Washington, of Oak Hill; Cole Smith; Amanda Mason, who plays Penny; and Chaz Coffin cut up on stage.



You Can't Stop the Beat'

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Metro Development Takes Next Step

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Quilts with A Story

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'Finale of Childhoods' In Herndon

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To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Karen Pechacek-Washburn at 703-778-9422 or E-Mail the info to kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com All listings due by Monday at 3 P.M.

SCHOOLS



Samantha Carillo Wins Bookmark Contest

Samantha Carillo, a student at Herndon Middle School, designed the winning design in the Town of Herndon's "Prevent Stormwater Pollution" bookmark contest. The town's Department of Public Works (DPW) worked with Herndon Middle to conduct the contest. Carillo's winning design has been reproduced onto bookmarks that will be distributed throughout DPW events and programs.

Aliene Smith of Herndon has received a bachelor of arts in markets and culture from Southern Methodist University of Dallas, Tx.

Alison Virginia Silkworth of Oak Hill has been named to the spring 2011 president's list at Miami University of Oxford, Ohio.

Molly Eyerman of Herndon, a student at Paul VI Catholic High School was named the 2011 recipient of the Saint Michael's College Book Award for Academic Achievement with a Social Conscience.

Thomas Daniel Makridis of Herndon has been named to the spring 2011 dean's list at Miami University of Oxford, Ohio.

Caroline Paganussi of Oakton has graduated with a bachelor of arts in arts

and sciences from Cornell University of Ithaca, N.Y.

Herndon residents **Kevin Wright, Sarah Roethel, Jordan Bell** and **Kevin Mohan** have been named to the spring 2011 dean's list at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Ga.

Amanda Mattea Brock of Herndon has graduated with a master of arts in graphic design from the Savannah College of Art and Design of Savannah, Ga.

Jillian Lopina of Herndon received a bachelor of arts in psychology and was named to the spring 2011 dean's list at Saint Mary's College of Notre Dame, Ind. She is the daughter of Maureen and Brian Lopina.

Alison Spurlock of Herndon has

received a bachelor of arts in elementary education from Saint Mary's College of Notre Dame, Ind. She is the daughter of Mary Jane and Kevin Spurlock.

Christian Bexar Drake of Herndon has graduated with a bachelor of science in nursing from George Mason University, and was named to the spring 2011 dean's list. The 2006 graduate of Herndon High School recently completed a preceptorship at the Intensive Care Unit at Fairfax Hospital.

Holly Conroy from Dranesville Elementary School in Herndon has been selected to participate in the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources Summer Teacher Institute. Educators attending the Teacher Institutes develop primary-source based teaching strategies that they can take back to their school districts.

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THE CONNECTION
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NEWS

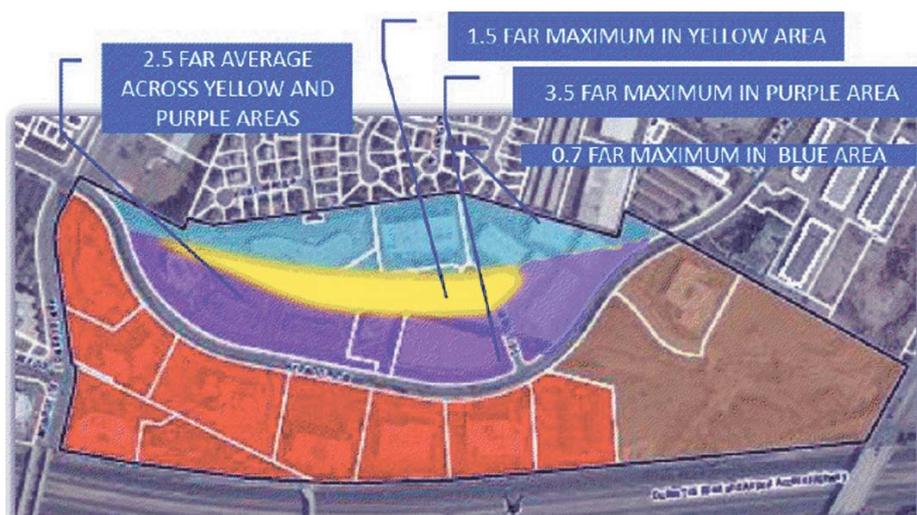


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

This plan shows current densities for the area north of the proposed Herndon-Monroe Metrorail station. A financial study using these densities was presented to the Town of Herndon Planning Commission Monday night.

Metro Development Takes Next Step

Economic study for Metro redevelopment approved by Herndon Planning Commission.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The Town of Herndon Planning Commission approved the results of an economic study conducted by BBP and Associates at their Monday, July 18 meeting. This means that the approval of a final plan for the 110 acres north of the proposed Herndon-Monroe Metrorail station could finish ahead of schedule, since time was built in to accommodate a second iteration of the study if requested by the Planning Commission.

The acreage north of the Dulles Toll Road will eventually be rezoned as an addition to the Town's Comprehensive Plan as a result of expected growth that will come with the station.

"Our objective at the end of this exercise is to come out with a greatly expanded chapter of the Comprehensive Plan," said Kevin East, chair of the Planning Commission.

The study area is divided into four different parcels, each having limits on the allowed Floor Area Ratio (FAR) for redevelopment. Floor Area Ratio is a measure of the floor area of a building to the area of the lot it sits on. For example, a 1.0 FAR would be a one-floor building covering an entire lot, a two-floor building covering half of a lot or a four-floor building covering a quarter of the lot.

THE STUDY was conducted assuming the area south of Herndon Parkway and immediately north of the Dulles Toll Road would average a 4.5 FAR, while the area im-

mediately north of Herndon Parkway would have an average FAR of 2.5. This would also include a buffer zone set at a maximum 0.7 FAR for the properties closest to existing residences.

Kay Robertson, senior project planner for the Town of Herndon, said the purpose of the study was to ascertain whether the public expenditures for redevelopment would exceed public revenues.

The study was done by BBP and Associates, an economics and real estate development advisory firm based in Annapolis, Md. It was done to forecast development in both 2025 and 2035 for the land use types currently preferred by the town.

On March 22 the Town Council approved the following ultimate land use mix for when all development is completed in the 110-acre study area: 50 percent office, 41 percent residential, 6 percent hotel and 3 percent retail.

According to the study, the growth of redeveloped properties is likely to be uneven. It projects that five of the 14 properties in the study area would be likely to redevelop by 2025, with "more development closer to station by 2025, with more office."

The additional properties are likely to redevelop by 2035, according to the study.

Patty Nicoson, president of the Dulles Corridor Rail Association, says options are limited on the Reston side of the toll road.

"At Herndon-Monroe, that committee staff is using 2.0 FAR on the south side [of the Dulles Toll Road,]" she said. "We've got the parking garage, we've got the wetlands, there aren't too many op-

portunities, so we're hoping [Herndon] will take the lead with the Herndon-Monroe station in terms of creating a real place."

The current area plan is estimated to cost \$79.7 billion in infrastructure over the two phases of construction

The study goes on to say that by using the current area plan public expenditures would be covered by public revenues and would create a \$10.7 million surplus over the two phases of redevelopment.

As currently zoned in the existing Comprehensive Plan, the public expenditures would still be covered by public revenues, but with a \$990,000 cumulative surplus.

Ralph Basile, an associate at BBP said the project "could almost be viewed as self-supporting in a lot of ways," through various means.

"Proffers could be a good source [of funding], you'd rather use developer money to build on a cash basis your public costs so you don't have to incur interest and float bonds. There's a good chance, depending on the timing of that, that you've got a way to cover most of your costs," he said. "If not, you have the tax revenues that come off these properties being applied to pay your debt service on those bonds. It doesn't cover it all, but it would cover something like 87 percent."

MOST OF the commission members said they were comfortable with the outcome of the study, which will result in the consultants drawing up a version of the plan that will eventually be presented to the public and the Town Council over the next few months.

Planning Commission member George Burke said he wasn't entirely comfortable with the picture painted by the study results.

"I'm skeptical of rosy financial scenarios, I've learned to be that

SEE METRO, PAGE 5



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

(Back row, from left) are Joe Philipoom, Mike Cash, Michael Clendenin and Taylor Young; (In middle, from left) are Madeline DeFreece, Chaz Coffin, Amanda Mason, Cathy Arnold and Ellen Woodstock; and (Front row, from left) are Cole Smith, Brittany Washington and Taylin Frame.

'You Can't Stop the Beat'

Oak Hill woman plays the lead in 'Hairspray.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

A cast of more than 90 people will burst upon the stage in The Alliance Theatre's Summer Stars production of "Hairspray." It'll run two weekends at Chantilly High, and Director Annie Ermlick is thrilled with the caliber of the actors.

"They're super-talented — the leads are fierce," she said. "We auditioned 200 people, so we got the cream of the crop. It's an upbeat, fun-spirited musical where audiences will tap their feet and walk away singing."

It's 1960s Baltimore and change is in the air. When plus-sized Tracy Turnblad wins a spot on a local TV dance program, she's transformed overnight to teen celebrity. But her hopes and dreams extend far beyond the dance floor.

"She's uplifting to everyone and promotes integration on the TV show," said Ermlick. "The message of the story is to not judge a book by its cover — whether it's appearances, race or class level."

PORTRAYING TRACY is Brittany Washington of Oak Hill. "It's my first show with Alliance and it's really exciting," she said. "Tracy's a vibrant and bodacious high-school student who knows what she wants in life and isn't afraid to go after it. She has a strong sense of right and wrong and will fight for what she believes in. She's not particularly popular, but she doesn't let it get

To Go
Performances are Friday, July 29, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, July 30, at 4 p.m.; Sunday, July 31, at 2 p.m.; Monday, Aug. 1, at 7:30 p.m.; Thursday-Friday-Saturday, Aug. 4-5-6, at 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Aug. 7, at 2 p.m.
Tickets are \$16, adults; \$14, children 12 and under; and senior citizens, \$14. Order online at www.TheAllianceTheatre.org. Chantilly High is at 4201 Stringfellow Road in Chantilly.

her down."

Calling it a "dream role" she's always wanted to play, Washington said it's an amazing opportunity for her. "Tracy's such a strong person, especially for a high-school student," she said. "It's a character you can look up to."

Her favorite song is "Without Love," done by Tracy and her friends. "It's got really nice harmonies at the end, and I love listening to Cole [Smith, who plays Link] sing," said Washington.

Sporting a dress, heels, black wig and curlers, Joe Philipoom plays Tracy's mother, Edna. "She's middle-aged and her dreams of designing queen-sized clothes passed her by," he said. "So she works as a laundress out of her home and hasn't left the house in 10 years. Her husband adores her, but she fears her daughter's dreams will be broken like hers were, so she's protective of Tracy."

AS AN ACTOR, Philipoom's okay with wearing a dress, but he's not thrilled about showing his legs and is still working on making more-feminine hand movements. "I have to be conscious of 'being' a woman and I'll speak in a higher voice with a

SEE HAIRSPRAY, PAGE 5

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'Finale of Childhoods' in Herndon

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Petrificus Totalus! For those who have not been following either the literary or the theatrical exploits of a certain boy wizard from Little Whinging in Surrey, England, that's a magical command meant to temporarily render someone immobile. Thankfully, at 12:01 am, Friday, July 15, no magical incantations were required to hold the audiences spellbound in their seats as the final installment of the Harry Potter series, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 2*, came to cinematic life.

The midnight opening took place at some 4,375 theaters across the U.S. and Canada, including eight of the nine screens at the Phoenix Worldgate Theater in Herndon, where the crowds began arriving hours before showtime.

Ralph Reichle, General Manager of the theater, described the event as the best of the nine midnight openings they've had. "It's certainly the biggest attendance. The crowd was really enthusiastic," he said. "Lots more people in costume for this movie," he added.

There were too many Harrys, Rons and Hermiones to count, along with scores of robed Hogwarts "students," but Kelly Verdon of Oak Hill really stood out, dressed as Professor Trelawney. Her brother, Michael, made an impressive showing as Hagrid. Janie Yurechko and Ariana Gover-Chamlou wore their Hogwarts school ties. Both sang the praises of Langley High School in their hometown of McLean, but Ariana admitted that they had first applied to the School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. "We waited, but we never got our Owl Post letters," she said.

While the mood was mostly one



Livia Sauvage, Michael Apsley and Chiara Sauvage of Herndon arrive early for the midnight showing.



Lauren Petrecca, Caroline Matranga and Eleanor Jacobson, students at Crossfield Elementary in Herndon, wore their Hogwarts robes.

of laughter and anticipation, there were some expressions of sadness at the ending of an era. Kaitlin and Heather Heenehan especially identified with the characters from author J.K. Rowling's wizarding world. "This is the finale of our childhoods. When we started reading the books, we were about the same age as Harry and the gang. It's like we grew up with them," said Kaitlin. Posing in front of the movie poster, Heather read the caption aloud. "It All Ends July 15th."

The sisters knew they had to share this experience, so they met in the middle, Heather traveling

from their hometown of Hamilton, N. J., and Kaitlin driving up from Blacksburg where she is enrolled in a Master's Program at Virginia Tech.

The adventures of Harry Potter may well have ended, but judging by the reaction of the audience, as they cheered, clapped, booed, chuckled and even sniffled here and there throughout the film, the event could be described using a literary title from another famous English author: "All's Well That Ends Well." Or to give it a more local spin, as Alexia Poe, who motorcycled over from Clifton for the showing said, "It's been a fun ride."

Audience Reaction: A Good Job of Finishing Things Off



Natalie Whitton, Reston, Student at University of Texas, Austin

"This is the darkest and most dramatic movie of the series. Mostly true to the book — even the cheesy epilogue. I'm not sure outsiders who have not read the books understood the significance of certain scenes, like Snape telling Dumbledore he has always cared for Harry. One of the best things was the architecture of the Hogwarts castle. What cooler way to experience it than to see it being defended by enchanted medieval knights in an all out battle with the Dark Lord?"



Kelly Verdon, Oak Hill

"Actually, I didn't really like the book, but I did like the movie. I was trying to decide which I liked better, Part 1 or Part 2. I thought stylistically Part 1 was better, but the actors really came into their own in this one. I want to mull it

over a bit more, but I did like this one. Except for the Epilogue. That not so much."

NEWS

High Energy Fun

Ain't Misbehavin' with Musical Rhythms Galore at Elden Street Players.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Find out what the audience wants and give it to them" is a line from "Ain't Misbehavin': The Fats Waller Musical Show" the musical revue next for the Elden Street Players. With some 30 musical numbers recreating the magic and atmospherics of legendary pianist, composer and comic entertainer Thomas "Fats" Waller, director Richelle "Rikki" Howie is focused on making sure the audience "has a fun, carefree evening full of good natured attitude."

J. Michael Eric d'Haviland, musical director for the evening, said the Waller music has "songs with timeless appeal. They are about love, longing, and respect. They depict the need to belong and be loved; messages that are universal that an audience will relate to."

The musical numbers range from sultry to sassy, comic to heartfelt, powerful to bawdy, including standards such as Ain't Misbehavin', Honeysuckle Rose, Two Sleepy People, I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter, Mean to Me, The Joint is Jumpin' and Black and Blue to name just a few. They are woven



Back Row, from left: Lolita Marie, Jeremy Austin, Paige Grayson; Front row: Michelle Harmon, Christopher Prince, Rikki Howie, and Patrick Doneghy.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELDEN STREET PLAYERS

together to recreate Waller's captivating musical stylization of the 1930s Harlem Renaissance and early World War II period that swept America.

Ain't Misbehavin' was based upon the idea of Washington, D.C. local Murray Horwitz along with Richard Malby, Jr. The show had a long Broadway run with more than 1600 performances, receiving multiple 1978 Tony Awards including for Best Musical.

Howie was "fortunate to speak directly with Horwitz as she developed her vision for the production." While usually the cast is five, she has added an ensemble of four actors so as "to really show the world as it was then; a world of diversity as people ventured from downtown to uptown and Harlem to take in the music and entertainment." She added that "the show is a biographical piece so I wanted audiences to become reacquainted with the magic of Fats Waller and the times."

Where and When

Industrial Strength Theater, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Sunset Business Park, Herndon. Performances July 29-Aug. 20, 2011. Friday-Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday, July 31 & Aug. 7 at 3 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 14 at 7 p.m. and Thursday, Aug. 11 & 18 at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$19-\$22. Call 703-481-5930 or log on: eldenstreetplayers.thundertix.com

The production will include a visible seven-piece band with piano, drums, reeds, bass and brass. Choreography will showcase the syncopated hip rhythms of the period whether smooth or bouncy, such as swing, lindy hop, black bottom, and even a waltz.

In a recent interview, the cast as one nodded in agreement when Jade Jones said "the production is high energy fun." Lolita Marie added that there are many visual delights for the audience including "some sassy vixens with attitude, attired in wonderfully provocative period costumes."

Hairspray

FROM PAGE 3

Baltimore accent," he said. "I want to play her feminine, but not over-the-top."

He said the audience will "love the show's musical, production numbers, right from the start, when they hear 90-plus voices singing, 'Good Morning, Baltimore' — and it only gets better from there. And Brittany is so talented; she has a beautiful voice and is a nice person to work with."

Michael Clendenin of Franklin Glen portrays Corny Collins, host of a popular, teen-age dance show on TV. His son Connor, 13, is one of the TV show's dancers, and Clendenin's delighted to work with him. As Collins, his show's on the cusp of going nationwide.

"He now wants to break out and do something important," said Clendenin. "And he sees Tracy coming to the show — plus the integration issue — as a catalyst to something else."

Clendenin's favorite song is "Hairspray" because "it's a beautiful, grand, production number and the lyrics are so much fun to sing." Actually, he said, "I'm blown away by the breadth of talent on stage, and I think audiences will be, too. They'll be amazed by the size and complexity of this show, and the kids' singing and dancing is remarkable."

'Rosy Scenarios' Questioned

FROM PAGE 3

way over the last couple of years," he said, getting a laugh from the commission. "So it's \$10.7 million in phases one and two. Can you envision a scenario

where that might be inaccurate?"

Basile responded by saying "there are no guarantees," but that he believed if the development follows the current plan, than the study would prove true.

"We were asked to tell you what the market will be in 10 to 15 years, and how the numbers would respond," he said. "It's based on that much development happening. If that much develop-

ment doesn't happen, then you've got something else."

More information on future meetings and plans for the study area can be found at www.herndon-va.gov.

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Statement of Peter C. Labovitz, President and Chief Executive Officer, Connection Newspapers, LLC

JULY 19, 2011

For more than 20 years I have been honored to be President and Chief Executive Officer of the Connection Newspapers, which serve the people of Northern Virginia and suburban Maryland. Since The Alexandria Gazette was founded in 1784, our organization's journalism has played an essential role in our communities.

But like all American newspapers, in recent years the Connection Newspapers have faced daunting technological and economic challenges. We have weathered repeated crises that killed or crippled many others in the news media. I am proud that we have kept these vital community voices alive.

After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, when the country came to a virtual standstill, our revenues temporarily plummeted. And when the severe recession began in 2007, our revenues plunged again, often failing to cover our operating costs.

During these two periods of great financial duress, our organization filed all of our required tax returns but did not pay all of its federal payroll taxes in full. We initially fell behind after 9/11. Most of the payroll taxes in this period were paid, but some balances remained due. For several quarters in 2007-2008, we again fell short.

As President and Chief Executive Officer of Connection Newspapers, I take personal responsibility for this significant failure in oversight and in the organization's management systems. I am deeply sorry this happened.

I am personally making arrangements to pay the most recent shortfalls in full. We have changed our organization's processes to ensure that nothing like this happens again. We have been current on our payroll taxes for more than three years. No employee of Connection Newspapers has suffered any financial loss whatsoever because of this.

On July 19, 2011, I pled guilty to two misdemeanor charges of failure to make timely payments of payroll taxes in the U.S. District Court in Alexandria. To our employees, our readers, our communities and local and federal governments, I apologize. I understand that newspapers are a public trust and I know our entire organization works hard every day to earn that trust. I will do all I can to sustain that trust as we go forward.

It's my privilege and responsibility to serve as steward of these historic and vital newspapers. I hope to continue in this role. I am committed to doing whatever I can to ensure the Connection Newspapers adapt to these very difficult and challenging times and continue serving our communities for years to come.

Write

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Time to Listen and Lead

To the Editor:
Are you tired of excuses from do-nothing politicians? I am. It is time to listen and lead. Do politicians show evidence of American ingenuity, innovation and peerless leadership?

Two weeks ago Delegate Plum wrote about his summer vacation in France. On July 13 in commentary titled, "Decision Time," [Oak Hill/Herndon Connection, July 13-19, 2011] he showed no leadership.

Instead, Plum complained about the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority's inability to move forward on Phase 2.

In his commentary ironically titled, "Decision Time," Delegate Plum fails to mention he and Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Bulova (D) failed to secure any funding for Phase 2 from Richmond during both Democratic and Republican gubernatorial administrations.

Zero state dollars for a project so many politicians claim as vitally important to our community's future economy.

Have you seen any proof they

even tried? No. Now, Plum is complaining rather than leading. Our politicians have the privilege and responsibility of advocating the best interests of Fairfax County and our people.

Frankly, they all have failed to stand up and fight for our community. Fairfax County taxpayers are forced to subsidize other taxpayers to meet a state mandate at a cost of over \$501 million annually. They drive up our real estate taxes by over 31.5 percent.

Meanwhile, we lack resources to address our local priorities in education, transportation, public safety and tax relief.

While Sharon and Spike remain silent, I am advocating our community's best interests. I own responsibility and embrace accountability. As chairman, I will conduct monthly, televised town hall meetings hosted by journalists and bloggers throughout our community.

We are raising expectations; we are raising the level of accountability. Working together we will achieve important milestones for our community.

Will Radle

Candidate for Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors - FairfaxAdvocates@gmail.com

BULLETIN BOARD

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

WEDNESDAY/JULY 20

Spiritual Development and Study Group. 7:30 p.m. Hunan East, 2533 John Milton Drive, Herndon. Every Wednesday. 703-620-3018.

MONDAY/JULY 25

Senior Fitness Swim. 10 a.m. Newbridge Pool, 11718 Golf Course Square, Reston. First of four sessions: continued on July 27, Aug. 1 and Aug. 3. Stroke correction, endurance swimming and adapted strokes, for senior adults who already know how to swim, but are looking to improve their strokes or to just get back into the water. \$30.50 Reston Association members, \$39 non-members. Registration required at www.reston.org or 703-435-6520.

Be Prepared for Your Children: Learn Legal Aspects of Child Support, Custody & Visitation. 7 p.m. Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon. Discuss how courts determine what financial support is required based on spousal income(s), what is deemed to be in the "best interests" of the child and what to expect during the custody proceedings. A support group will be available. \$55 non-members, \$45 members. Register at www.thewomenscenter.org

TUESDAY/JULY 26

Greater Reston Chamber of

Commerce Luncheon Meeting and Awards for Chamber Excellence. 11 a.m. Westin Washington Dulles Airport Hotel, 2520 Wasser Terrace, Herndon. Va. Governor Bob McDonnell will address transportation issues, how chamber of commerce and business incubator programs can aid in job growth, and what is to come in the closing two years of his administration. ashleyo@restonchamber.org or 703-707-9045.

FRIDAY/JULY 29

What Does The Path To Full Economic Recovery Look Like? 11:30 a.m. Westfields Marriott, 14750 Conference Center Drive, Chantilly. Dr. Jeffrey Lacker, President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond will address the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce's Newsmaker Luncheon. Members \$45, prospective members \$60. lswift@dullesregionalchamber.org.

SATURDAY/JULY 30

Useful Services Exchange Information Meeting. 2 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Reston (UUCR) 1625 Wiehle Ave, Reston. USE members trade services and earn hours of USE credits. No money is exchanged, repay by performing services for other members. Learn how to find and use services, negotiate exchanges, report hours. Individual members \$10, household memberships \$15. e.fusaro@verizon.net or 703 437-3477.

THE CONNECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Newspaper of Oak Hill & Herndon

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

1606 King Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

THURSDAY/JULY 21

All Stars Rock the House Benefit for Ronald McDonald House Charities. 7-9 p.m. Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market Street, Reston. The All Stars group includes 4 musicians from Northern Virginia and DC. Free concert under the stars. Bring a lawn chair. Face painting for kids. www.rmhccreaterdc.org or 703-698-7080.

Book Discussion. 7 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. The Ascent of Money: A Financial History of the World by Niall Ferguson. Adults. 703-242-4020.

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

Local Authors Civil War Book Signing. 6-9 p.m. Jimmy's Old Town Tavern, 697 Spring St., Herndon. Bert Morgan will sign his movies "The Battle of First Manassas" and the "The Battle of Chantilly (Ox Hill)," the largest Civil War battle fought in Fairfax County. Chuck Mauro will sign "The Civil War in Fairfax County: Civilians and Soldiers," "A Southern Spy in Northern Virginia: The Civil War Album of Laura Ratcliffe," "Herndon: A Town and Its History," "Herndon: A History in Images." Eric Buckland will sign "Mosby's Keydet Rangers," "Mosby Men" and "Charles Broadway Rous: Mosby Ranger, Millionaire, Philanthropist." 703 435-5467.

FRIDAY/JULY 22

Children's Author Judy Link Cuddehe. 10:30 a.m. Barnes and Noble Bookstore, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Oak Hill author-illustrator Cuddehe will read from her recent book about fireflies, "Flash Light!" 703-966-2175.
"Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street." 8:15 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. A fully staged production of Stephen Sondheim's musical about Sweeney Todd, a barber on a murderous path for revenge in London. With the National Symphony Orchestra, conducted by James Moore, and the Wolf Trap Opera Company. Tickets \$20-\$70. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/JULY 23

Incendio. 7:30 p.m. Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St., Reston. Spanish guitar, Afro-Cuban and more. www.reston.com.

8th Annual Asian Food and Tennis Festival. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With 35 multi-cultural food and 150 product vendors. Four showcase villages, Heritage India, Wow Philippines, Image of China and Amazing Thailand. Free admission. info@asianfestivaldc.com.

Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association gives tips and strategies. 703-242-4020.

What in the World. 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Magic and mystery from around the globe with magician Mike Rose. Age 6-12. 703-689-2700.

Plunkett & Tremolo Show. 10 a.m. Reston Town Square Park, Town Square St., Reston. Knock-about

Written and Illustrated by Judy Link Cuddehe

Written and Illustrated by Judy Link Cuddehe

Local children's author Judy Link Cuddehe will sign and read from her books on Friday, July 22 at 10:30 a.m. Barnes and Noble Bookstore, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Oak Hill author-illustrator Cuddehe will read from her recent book about fireflies, "Flash Light!" Books will be available for purchase. 703-966-2175.

comedy and classic physical mime antics. Free. www.restontowncenter.com.

Marianna Previti In Concert. 8 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Jazz vocals. \$12. www.artspaceherndon.org or 703-956-6590.

Emmylou Harris and her Red Dirt Boys. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$42 in-house, \$25 lawn. www.wolftrap.org.

SUNDAY/JULY 24

8th Annual Asian Food and Tennis Festival. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With 35 multi-cultural food and 150 product vendors. Four showcase villages, Heritage India, Wow Philippines, Image of China and Amazing Thailand. Free admission. info@asianfestivaldc.com.

MONDAY/JULY 25

Miranda Cosgrove. 7 p.m. Filene Center, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. www.wolftrap.org.

English Conversation. 10:30 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. English practice for adult non-native speakers. 703-242-4020.

TUESDAY/JULY 26

One-on-One Computer Tutoring. 2 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304

Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn the basics of the Internet, Word and Excel. Adults. 703-242-4020.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 27

One-on-One Computer Tutoring. 3 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn the basics of the Internet, Word and Excel. Adults. 703-242-4020.

Going on a Picnic Preschool Storytime. 12 p.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Stories, songs, and rhymes about picnics. Bring a packed lunch. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-437-8855.

Busia Bear's Sensational Summer Films - Lights! Camera! 7 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join Busia for an Hour of Family Fun Films. All ages. 703-689-2700.

THURSDAY/JULY 28

Stuntology. 7 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Sam Bartlett, musician, artist and author of Stuntology, presents pranks, tricks and stunts to amuse yourself and amaze your friends. 703-242-4020.

Chris Vadala with the Rick Whitehead Trio. 7 p.m. Lake Anne Plaza, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Live jazz music. Sesutu@aol.com.

FRIDAY/JULY 29

"Ain't Misbehavin'." 8 p.m. The Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. The Elden Street Players in Thomas 'Fats' Waller's musical comedy of 1930s Harlem. \$22 adults, \$19 students and seniors. 703-481-5930 or www.EldenStreetPlayers.org.

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College Can Wait

Some local high school graduates put off going to college for a year to pursue other opportunities.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION



JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

McLean High School graduate Emily Hunt deferred her admission to James Madison University so she could spend a gap year going to school in Mexico.

While most of her friends worried about whether they would get along with their freshman year college roommates last summer, Emily Hunt thought about living with a Mexican host family and attending high school classes conducted entirely in Spanish.

After graduating from McLean High School in 2010, Hunt deferred her acceptance to James Madison University for a year so she could live abroad through an exchange program sponsored by Rotary International.

"I didn't really feel ready to jump right into college life. I wanted to take some time to see more of the world and decide what I wanted to study," said Hunt, whose exchange was sponsored by the Rotary Club of McLean.

Over 10 months, she lived with three host families while she attended an extra year of high school in Aguascalientes, Mexico. She returned from Mexico in June and plans to enroll at James Madison as a freshman this fall.

Hunt said there were many tangible benefits to taking time off between high school and college, typically referred to as a gap year.

For example, she speaks fluent Spanish now and spent time with students from many different cultures. Her classmates not only included other Mexicans but also students on Rotary scholarships from Japan and other parts of the world.

"I became so much more mature over the last year. I was away from my parents for an entire year and I had to handle situations all on my own. Now I feel very confident," said Hunt.

Many students who study abroad through Rotary International go during high school but Hunt worried that credits from a foreign high school wouldn't transfer. She wanted to be able to graduate on time from McLean

had graduated from high school and gone directly to college. It just wasn't something we were familiar with," said Bruce Pujanauski, who lives in Oak Hill.

But Bruce Pujanauski said he couldn't think of a better experience for his son, who came back speaking and writing German fluently. Now a student at the University of Virginia, Kevin returned to Germany between his freshman and sophomore years of college to intern in Berlin.

"The whole experience was just fantastic for him. He got everything out of it," said Bruce Pujanauski.

Some of Kevin Pujanauski's peers were also a little confused about his plans to go to Germany.

"My friends were like 'What? Huh? You're still going to be in high school?'...It was strange for most students. At TJ, life is all about getting ahead," he said.

Yet Kevin Pujanauski grew a lot as a person during his year in Germany, where he was the only American in his high school. It allowed him to experience the freedom and responsibilities that come with living on your own before he entered college. The teenager, who had never been outside the United States before, also got to visit 10 or 11 other countries.

The trip was not only good for Kevin Pujanauski's personal growth but his professional and academic development. Kevin Pujanauski still sees the benefits of that growth when he goes on job interviews.

"I think in terms of my maturity, the benefit was two or three fold. I worked out a lot of issues that most people have to deal with when they are freshman in college," he said.

NOT ALL gap year plans require that a family shell out an immense amount of money for tuition.

For example, Hunt and Pujanauski are both receiving full scholarships to study abroad, which assuaged their parents' concerns about the cost of taking a gap year. Volunteer programs like Americorps — where students can assist flood, hurricane and tornado victims for example — also cover room and board for their participants.

"I think the fact that I received a full scholarship helped. I think [the gap year] would have been a much tougher sell if I had been asking my parents to pay for it," said Kevin Pujanauski.

Gap Year Resources

Is your child considering taking a year off between high school and college? Here are some helpful websites and books with information on gap years.

❖ <http://www.usagapyearfairs.org> - Look for upcoming local gap year fairs during the 2011-2012 school year at this website.

❖ <http://www.gapyear.com> - General information on gap years and gap year programs

❖ "The Gap Year Advantage: Helping Your Child Benefit From Time Off Before Or During College," by Karl Haigler and Rae Nelson. This book has general tips on the gap year process.

❖ "The Complete Guide To The Gap Year: The Best Things To Do Between High School and College," by Kristin White. This book is another "tell all" on taking a gap year.

with the rest of her friends, so she decided to go abroad after high school and start college a year late.

"I figured whatever year I started college, I was going to be able to make friends," she said.

YET PARENTS, other students and faculty can be skeptical of the benefits of taking a gap year.

Bruce Pujanauski said he was a little skeptical of his son taking a year off between high school and college.

Kevin Pujanauski won a scholarship with the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange to study abroad at a high school in Germany after he graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in 2007.

"We weren't really familiar with these programs. His older siblings

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Summertime Football Thrills For Prep School Fans

Mel Kiper football passing tournament comes to the area.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

No, it is not yet high school football season in Northern Virginia or around the country. But last week, some of the top high school gridiron players, both locally and across the nation, converged in Chantilly to take part in the Mel Kiper, Jr. 7 on 7 University National Championship Tournament. One of the biggest off-season events anywhere, the non-contact, passing event is meant to upgrade teams' aerial attacks as well as individual fundamentals in a highly competitive setting.

Poplar Tree Park, located off of Stringfellow Road in Chantilly and under the jurisdiction of the Fairfax County Park Authority, was the venue of the 32-team spectacle from Thursday, July 14, through Saturday, July 16. Fast-moving games, played in less than 45 minutes, took place over the three days on the park's two 100-yard turf fields. On one field alone, two games could be played at once with each game utilizing 50 yards of real estate.

Local participating teams from the Northern Region, along with two-time defending Div. 6 region champion Lake Braddock, were Oakton (Concorde District), Lee (Patriot District), and Yorktown (National District).

THE EVENT'S STAR POWER came from Mel Kiper, Jr., the well known ESPN college football and NFL pro draft analyst who, along with his wife, was on hand for the entire three days. Kiper kept tabs on all the games but paid special attention to the school where he graduated, Calvert Hall out of Baltimore. The popular, energetic Kiper was immediately recognized by players, coaches, and football fans alike and spent much of his time talking football with folks.

Several months ago, Kiper, who has directed and led his own 7 on 7 University Series for several years, contacted D.C. area pass league organizers, including Oakton High football coach Joe Thompson, to talk about combining forces and creating a national tournament. Last week's showcase at Poplar Tree was the result of those talks.

"Mel Kiper came on board with his group, so we were able to put his name on it," said Thompson, who teamed with friend Jim Boone in recent years to run both Northern Region and metro area passing league tournaments. "He's been instrumental in getting teams here."

Kiper said the arrangements to hold the tournament at Poplar Tree Park were made late but that he was thrilled with the site.

"I can't thank these people enough," he said of the county park officials and Thompson's group. "It's a great atmosphere and everything you want in a football setting. We couldn't be happier with this. We were in the position late in the [organizing] process



Mel Kiper, Jr. was on hand at Poplar Tree Park last Friday, July 15.



Oakton High linebacker C.J. Reimann made the game-clinching interception which helped advance the Cougars to Saturday's final day action.

waiting for a venue.

"You have two turf fields here, concessions in between the fields and trees in the background," said Kiper. "The atmosphere is great and you have everything you could want. Poplar tree is a special site and they have been accommodating."

LOCAL TEAMS OAKTON AND LAKE BRADDOCK both went as far as the tournament quarterfinals before losing. The Cougars reached the quarters by defeating Warwick High (N.Y.), 45-21, on Saturday morning. Their run to a championship then ended with a loss to Calvert Hall, which ultimately reached the title game where it fell to Pulaski (Ark.), 30-26.

Oakton qualified for Saturday's final day action as a result of a dramatic 36-34 Friday afternoon win over Linganore High (Frederick, Md.). Oakton linebacker C.J. Reimann, a rising senior, clinched the victory with an interception late in the game just after the Cougars had taken the lead for good on a touchdown pass thrown by lefty quarterback Tuck Masker.

On the clinching interception, Oakton's Chris Larkin, a safety, deflected the thrown ball, which was then caught by Reimann, who made a long return before ultimately making a lateral of the ball to teammate and cornerback Andy Boone, who picked up a few more yards.

"Chris came up on the play and deflected the ball," said Reimann, a First Team All-Region linebacker last fall for an Oakton team which competed at the Div. 6 playoffs. "I was in the right spot at the right time."

Reimann said it was neat that Oakton, from its own back yard, was vying in a tournament against some of the top high school teams in the country.

"We talked about that," he said, with a laugh. "We're 15 minutes down the road from Oakton and we're playing these teams like Arkansas, Florida, and New York. We've meshed together pretty good as a team and played together."

Oakton, at the passing tournament, was under the coaching of siblings Sean Packey and Purcell Packey. School season head coaches were allowed to be on hand but not allowed to coach their squads. So Thompson, the Oakton head coach during the school year, simply took in the action. He had to like what he saw.

"This has definitely been a lot of fun," said Masker, the Oakton QB.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

Oakton High Golfer Wins State Amateur

Amanda Steinhagen, a Longwood University sophomore from Oak Hill, won her second straight Virginia Women's Amateur Championship on July 15 at Alexandria's Belle Haven Country Club.

"It's a huge thrill to win two in a row," said Steinhagen, 19.

She won the title by beating another teenager in the final, Ju Hee Bae, 16, from Chantilly. Steinhagen closed out the match on the 14th hole, winning 5 and 4. Bae is a rising sophomore at Chantilly High School and was the runner-up in the 2010 Virginia interscholastic girls championship.

Two rounds of stroke play cut the field to 32 on July 12, and the players shifted to match play. After fairly easy wins in the first two rounds, Steinhagen had two tight matches, with the first in the quarterfinals when she beat Amanda Hollandsworth from Floyd, Va., 1-up. In the semifinals, she needed an extra hole to beat her long-time rival Lauren Greenleaf, also from Oakton.

"Beating Lauren was a big confidence booster for me," Steinhagen said after the finals. Steinhagen remarked that the past year of college golf helped her game mature, especially the mental side and handling nerves. That experience helped her in the finals.

"It was one of those days when I had to keep myself calm and collected," said Steinhagen. She led the Longwood women's golf team with the lowest stroke average and won the award for school's freshman female athlete of the year.

"She amazes us," said her father Bob after the final round. He and his wife Bev beamed as their daughter accepted the championship trophy.

Nancy Duncan, who represented the Virginia State Golf Association at the tournament, said that half of the tournament field was under 21 years of age. The youngest player in the match play portion was 13-year-old Shannon Brooks from Vienna, who lost in the quarterfinals to Bae.

— MICHAEL K. BOHN



Amanda Steinhagen, a resident of the Oak Hill section of Oakton, won the 2011 Virginia Women's Amateur at Belle Haven Country Club on July 15.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL K. BOHN

The Vienna Babe Ruth 15-U All-Stars baseball team captured a district title last week with a 15-3 win over Arlington. As a result, the locals have qualified for the state tournament.

Herndon Mavericks NCSL Boys U15 Travel Soccer- Team Tryouts!

Date: Thursday, July 21 6:30-8:00pm

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More info please contact: 703-867-8294



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Need To Tell



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Then there are those people who definitely should know about your (mine actually) health status – and whom you want to tell, and tell in an extremely timely and considerate manner. People whose friendship you value, whose counsel you seek, whose understanding and support you need, and whose care and concern you cherish. People in your inner circle who are happy to surround you with open arms and warm embraces – literally and figuratively. These are typically the first people on the list to be told anything, especially things pertaining to your health, given the terminal nature of the original diagnosis (I wouldn't tell them if I had a hang nail, but I might tell them if I had a bloody nose; an occasional side effect of the chemotherapy drug, Avastin, with which I am still infused monthly).

But neglecting to tell them, as innocently and as inadvertently as it may sometimes be, causes its own unique set of problems/anxieties. Since these individuals know most of the details of my original prognosis, they're particularly sensitive to not hearing from me regularly, not receiving prompt call backs and not being kept in the loop. Not so much daily, but frequently enough so that the status of your life is not left to any kind of chance and/or random update/encounter. They want to know, and have a right to know – given the depth and history of their respective relationship with you, so my being casual about what tests I'm having, what results I'm waiting for, what appointments I'm scheduling, etc., may suit my laissez-faire-type approach, but might not suit their respective – and worried – personalities.

All of which doesn't bother me in the least. It matters to me. In fact, it empowers me. However, sometimes it humors me less than others. Sometimes, I don't want to update anybody about anything. Sometimes, I want to mind my own business – literally, and not involve anybody in any of it. Though I respect and appreciate everybody's concern, sometimes I want to make as little as possible about what I'm going through in an attempt to prevent the cancer from consuming my life and freaking me out. And not talking about it, not assessing it in multiple conversations – soon after receiving results, via phone calls, texts, e-mails is almost therapeutic: the less said about it, the better (although I realize one likely has very little to do with the other.) It is my effort, amateurish though it may be, to employ a variety of mind games to manage my emotions and control the spread of my cancer.

It's a real-life version of George Costanza's advice to Jerry Seinfeld on how to beat a Lie Detector test: "It's not a lie, if you believe it." I guess I too am sort of pretending – with conviction, though. If I don't act like my health situation is serious, maybe it won't be serious. And regularly, constantly, communicating with my closest friends and family members – as if something is really wrong with me, might have a harmful effect on me, and since I've already been diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer, I'm hoping that what I don't tell you – as quickly as you want – and deserve – to hear it, won't hurt me.

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

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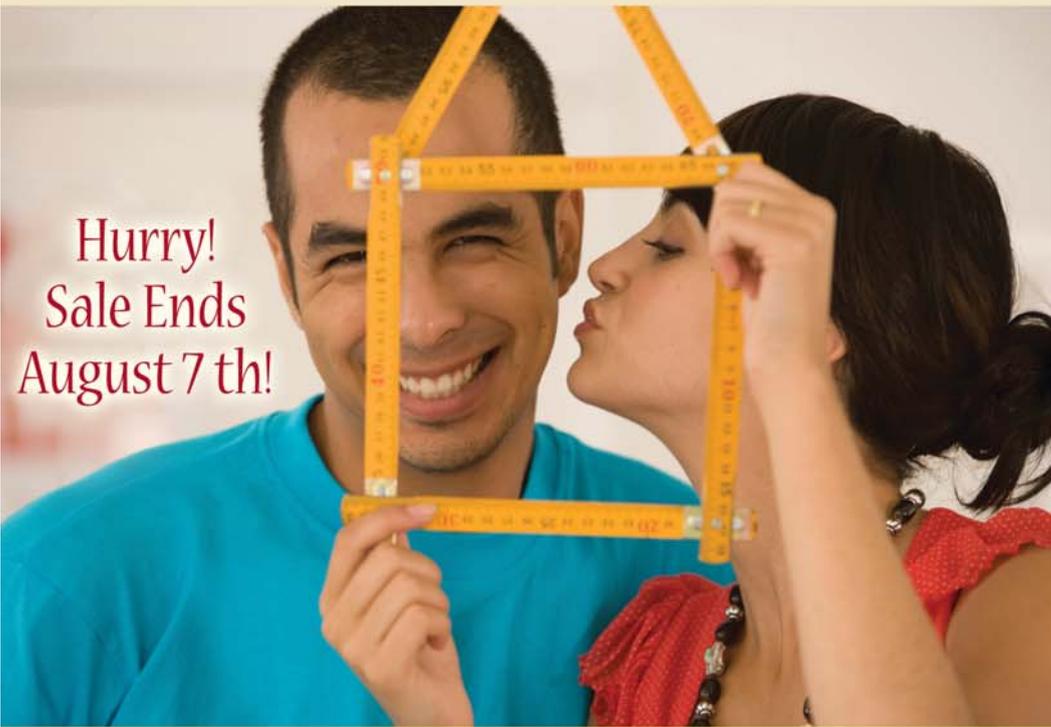
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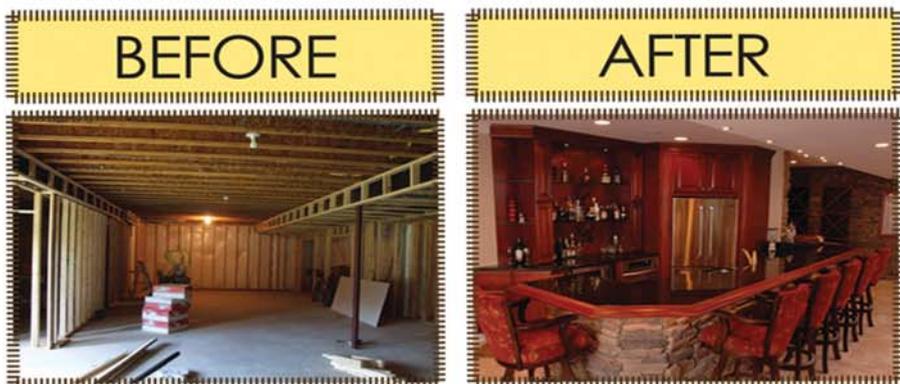
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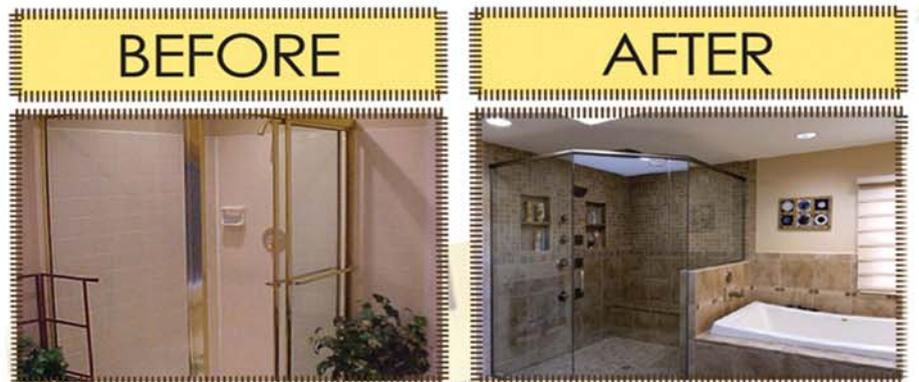
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