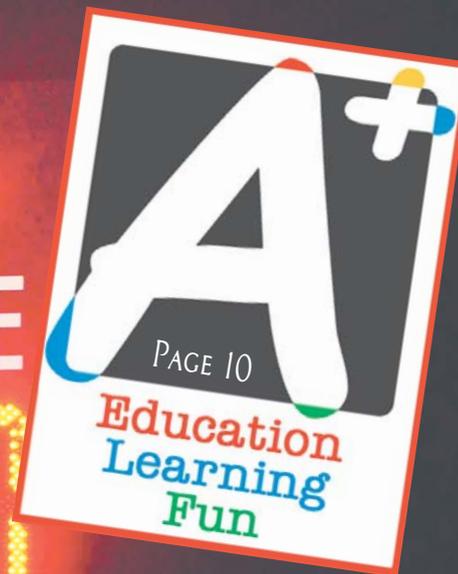


Reston CONNECTION

The Reston National Little League team stands under the scoreboard after defeating Vienna American 10-3 to win the district championship Friday night at Barcroft Field in Arlington. The team will play in the state championships for the first time since 1998.

STRIKE OUT
GUEST 3 HOME 10
6 INNING



Reston Wins District Championship

SPORTS, PAGE 13



Fondue-ing it Up For Reston Interfaith

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Living in Reston for A Lifetime

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NEWS

Steve Gurney, publisher of the "Guide to Retirement Living SourceBook" and Reston resident, outlines concepts of Phase II of the initiative



PHOTOS BY JEAN T. JIANOS/THE CONNECTION

Living in Reston for a Lifetime

Grassroots effort moves forward with making Reston a better community for all ages.

BY JEAN T. JIANOS
THE CONNECTION

Reston for a Lifetime, formerly known as Aging in Reston, has begun Phase II of its initiative to "facilitate making Reston a better community to live a lifetime," given the complex issues facing suburban elderly. At a standing-room-only, community planning meeting held on Saturday afternoon, July 16, at the Reston Community Center, Lake Anne Plaza, it was announced that from June through December of this year, a focus of the grassroots initiative will be to organize Neighborhood Network structures in three Pilot Neighborhoods: Newport Shores, which consists of townhouses; Village Ridge condominiums; and the single-family home neighborhoods of Bishopsgate, and of Timberhead Lane, Burgee and Spinnaker Courts. Volunteer "Village Coordinators" will be needed to coordinate and promote the concept that "a key resource to making Reston more livable for a lifetime is the ability for neighbors to help each other."

IN SUMMARIZING a portion of the report on Phase I of the initiative, speaker Pat Williams, owner of the Reston-based, home care agency Graceful Care, Inc., said, "we need to focus on the resources that we are to each other."

Presenter Steve Gurney, publisher of the "Guide to Retirement Living SourceBook," noted that in

Phase II, the pilot projects will be testing, "how we can come together in an intentional way."

In his introduction of Fairfax County District Supervisor Catherine "Cathy" Hudgins (Hunter Mill), Gurney thanked Supervisor Hudgins for her support of the Reston for a Lifetime Initiative, and acknowledged her role in hosting a variety of organizational and planning meetings on Reston's aging in place issues over the course of the past three years.

One of Supervisor Hudgins' goals has been to "see a connection of ideas and resources for seniors in the northern and western parts of the county." In her remarks, she added that the "ability to connect people, to build a community spirit, is not just about aging."

Also as part of Phase II, the Advocacy Working Group will continue to conduct research and engage in community education on a variety of topics and issues, including affordable housing, transportation, and incorporating universal design features in housing construction.

The report on Phase I unveiled at the event contains the finding that "for the most part, housing in Reston is neither affordable nor



Fairfax County District Supervisor Catherine "Cathy" Hudgins (Hunter Mill) speaking at the unveiling of a report on Phase I of the Reston for a Lifetime Initiative.

accessible to Reston's aging population, especially for those on fixed incomes and/or with physical limitations or disabilities.... Taking into account current zoning regulations, developer attitudes and the economic outlook, it will require a major change in priorities and culture in both public and private sectors to make Reston a place where a significant portion of its aging residents may continue to live."

Speaker Bonnie Whyte, convener of the Phase I Transportation Working Group, emphasized that "with Metro coming, it will mean big changes for all of us. There is a need for advocates wherever seniors need to be represented."

THE NEXT MONTHLY meeting of Reston for a Lifetime, held on the second Wednesday of every month from 2 until 4 p.m., will be Aug. 10 at the Reston Association Offices on Sunrise Valley Drive.

Aging Gracefully

Reston residents on issues important to those seeking to live a lifetime in Reston.



Rosa McDaniel, Retired, 15-year resident of Reston

"There is a gap between assisted and independent living resources. Housing, transportation and other services are big issues for people who can live independently, but who don't have a lot of money or who may have physical ailments, especially if they don't have family support."



Sharon Greene, Fairfax County employee eligible for retirement in 2012, 22-year resident of Reston

"I hope that housing expenses for seniors do not increase with the extension of Metro to Reston."



Ken Reinfeld, Sr. Policy/Program Analyst, U.S. Dept. of Interior, Reston resident for almost 30 years

"I am very desirous of having Reston be a place that can address a whole myriad of needs that seniors here may have, and in a way so that you are not isolated, but integrated in to a vibrant community."



Gloria Sussman, Instructor, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (George Mason Univ.) at Lake Anne, 40-year resident of Reston



Kathy and Don Boileau [Kathy is a retired registered nurse and Don is a professor of communication at George Mason University], moved to Reston a year ago

"We wanted a multi-age community. The sound of kids playing is part of living."



Dr. Craig Clark, Family physician, currently on disability, Reston resident since 1986

"One of the most important things for us to do is staying connected in useful ways throughout our life. When we ask ourselves what it is that makes us happy, it is to contribute in a meaningful way."

PHOTOS BY JEAN T. JIANOS

— JEAN T. JIANOS

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Commonwealth Orthopaedics

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Reston Association's Weed Warriors Project needs volunteers on Saturday, July 23, 10 a.m. - Noon. Volunteers will meet at the natural area on Running Cedar Road, just past Foxcroft Way, next to 11425 Running Cedar Road. Look for the RA truck.

Area residents are invited to spend a couple hours in parkland protecting forests every fourth Saturday of each month and help restore Reston's forests to their natural state. Children under 13 must be supervised by an adult. Wear long sleeves and long pants if you are allergic to poison ivy. RA will provide tools, gloves, snacks and water. Contact Ha Brock, RA community outreach specialist, 703-435-7986, or at habrock@reston.org

Stream Monitoring, Summer monitoring session, is July 1-Aug. 31. One volunteer per season is needed to help monitor two sites in Reston. To learn the dates and class information, e-mail bpetty@reston.org with the message, "add me to the stream monitors list."

Reston Association is in need of volunteers to assist with stream monitoring at several locations throughout Reston during all seasons. If you are willing to learn, can work with a partner, enjoy data collection, insect identification, and are interested in the health of Reston's streams, this is the job for you. Volunteering consists of four

monitoring sessions of 3-4 hours each for a total of 12-16 hours per year. Training and practice are required and a two-year commitment is encouraged.

Reston Association's 2011 Volunteer Appreciation Pool Party will be held on Friday, July 29 (Rain date is Thursday, Aug. 4), 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Hunters Woods Pool, 2501 Reston Parkway, Reston. Enjoy food, music, door prizes and giveaways.

RSVP by July 25 to Ha Brock at 703-435-7986 or via e-mail habrock@reston.org.

This pool has a children's splash area, diving board and large spa. So bring your family and enjoy a relaxing evening. Volunteers will have a chance to win one of three \$50 Visa Gift Cards courtesy of First Virginia Community Bank.

Volunteers are needed for the Reston Kids' Triathlon on Aug. 14 from 6 a.m. to Noon at Ridge Heights Pool. This is an opportunity to get involved in the community and encourage youth to be healthy and active. Volunteers are crucial in helping ensure the safety and success of the event by providing support to the race organizers and to the young athletes. Duties include assisting race organizers in different areas and assisting young athletes in any of the three events: swimming, biking and running. Contact Ha Brock at 703-435-7986 or e-mail habrock@reston.org if you are interested in helping out with this event.

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- Pet Connection, publishes July 27, closes July 21
- Wellbeing, publishes Aug. 3, closes July 27
- HomeLifeStyle, publishes Aug. 10, closes Aug. 4
- A+ Education Learning Fun, publishes Aug. 17, closes Aug. 11
- Insider's Edition: Community and Newcomer's Guide, publishes Aug. 24, closes Aug. 18



HOME SALES

In June 2011, 104 Reston homes sold between \$1,259,000-\$119,000. This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$1,259,000-\$435,000 range. For the complete list, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Subdivision
1484 WATERFRONT RD	5	3	1	RESTON	\$1,259,000	Detached	0.26	RESTON	
12050 CREEKBEND DR	6	4	1	RESTON	\$1,028,000	Detached	0.49	RESTON	
11724 LAKE FOREST DR	4	3	1	RESTON	\$970,000	Detached	0.41	SHAKER WOODS	
11051 BIRDFOOT LN	4	3	1	RESTON	\$950,000	Detached	2.03	LAWYERS CREST	
11990 MARKET ST #412	3	3	0	RESTON	\$890,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		MIDTOWN AT RESTON TOWN	
11504 HEMINGWAY DR	4	3	1	RESTON	\$879,000	Townhouse	0.05	RESTON	
11314 HANDLEBAR RD	4	2	1	RESTON	\$800,000	Detached	0.57	RESTON	
1114 NORTHWIND DR	4	3	1	RESTON	\$767,000	Detached	0.18	RESTON	
11200 CENTER POST CT	5	4	1	RESTON	\$760,000	Detached	0.15	RESTON	
1932 BARTON HILL RD	4	3	2	RESTON	\$739,500	Detached	0.46	RESTON	
1206 BISHOPSGATE WAY	4	2	1	RESTON	\$700,000	Detached	0.84	ASCOT	
11990 MARKET ST #511	2	2	0	HERNDON	\$679,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		MIDTOWN @ RESTON TOWN CTR	
10922 THANLET LN	4	3	1	RESTON	\$675,000	Detached	0.32	RESTON	
11131 LAKE CHAPEL LN	4	3	1	RESTON	\$675,000	Townhouse	0.07	RESTON	
10718 MIDSUMMER DR	4	2	1	RESTON	\$650,000	Detached	0.33	RESTON	
11614 SPRINGHOUSE PL	3	3	1	RESTON	\$650,000	Detached	0.17	RESTON	
2607 PENNY ROYAL LN	4	2	1	RESTON	\$645,000	Detached	0.55	RESTON	
12009 TURF LN	4	3	0	RESTON	\$642,000	Detached	0.70	RESTON	
11818 RIDERS LN	4	3	2	RESTON	\$624,900	Detached	0.34	FOX MILL WOODS	
11602 SPRINGHOUSE PL	4	2	1	RESTON	\$624,900	Detached	0.11	RESTON	
1256 WOODBROOK CT	3	3	1	RESTON	\$615,000	Townhouse	0.08	RESTON	
1262 WOODBROOK CT	3	3	1	RESTON	\$608,000	Townhouse	0.07	RESTON	
1219 WOODBROOK CT	3	3	0	RESTON	\$603,000	Townhouse	0.11	RESTON	
1221 WOODBROOK CT	3	3	1	RESTON	\$600,000	Townhouse	0.07	RESTON	
1651 STOWE RD	4	3	1	RESTON	\$599,999	Detached	0.19	RESTON	
2013 CHADDS FORD DR	3	2	2	RESTON	\$586,000	Townhouse	0.05	RESTON	
11222 LAGOON LN	4	3	1	RESTON	\$575,000	Townhouse	0.05	RESTON	
1682 WATERHAVEN DR	3	3	1	RESTON	\$574,000	Townhouse	0.05	TOWNES AT WATERFORD	
12025 NEW DOMINION #117	3	3	0	RESTON	\$570,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors		MIDTOWN NORTH	
2456 ARCTIC FOX WAY	4	3	1	RESTON	\$565,000	Detached	0.12	THE COURTS OF FOX MILL	
1988 SOLARIDGE CT	2	1	0	RESTON	\$552,500	Detached	0.10	RESTON	
11611 BROMLEY VILLAGE LN	3	3	1	RESTON	\$545,000	Detached	0.12	RESTON	
2002 SWANS NECK WAY	2	2	2	RESTON	\$535,000	Townhouse	0.04	RESTON	
12391 COPENHAGEN CT	4	3	1	RESTON	\$534,000	Detached	0.33	RESTON	
1642 STOWE RD	4	2	1	RESTON	\$525,000	Detached	0.23	RESTON	
12209 QUORN LN	4	2	1	RESTON	\$510,000	Detached	0.35	RESTON	
2400 EARLSGATE CT	4	2	1	RESTON	\$505,000	Detached	0.47	STRATTON WOODS	
2523 FREETOWN DR	4	2	1	RESTON	\$500,000	Detached	0.37	RESTON	
2022 CHADDS FORD DR	3	2	1	RESTON	\$500,000	Townhouse	0.03	RESTON	
12353 BROWN FOX WAY	4	4	1	RESTON	\$500,000	Detached	0.05	COURTS OF FOX MILL	
2031 SWANS NECK WAY	3	3	1	RESTON	\$489,900	Townhouse	0.05	RESTON	
11790 GREAT OWL CIR	3	3	1	RESTON	\$480,000	Townhouse	0.05	RESTON	
1669 CEDAR HOLLOW WAY	3	3	0	RESTON	\$475,000	Detached	0.20	RESTON	
1247 WILD HAWTHORN WAY	3	2	2	RESTON	\$462,000	Townhouse	0.04	RESTON	
1458 PARK GARDEN LN	3	3	1	RESTON	\$459,000	Townhouse	0.03	BALDWIN GROVE	
11701 BLUE SMOKE TRL	4	3	0	RESTON	\$450,000	Detached	0.75	RESTON	
11500 FAIRWAY DR #301	3	2	0	RESTON	\$440,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors		WATERFORD SQUARE	
2280 DOSINIA CT	4	3	1	RESTON	\$435,000	Detached	0.23	RESTON	

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Offering Roadmap to Renovation

At the NOVA Expo 11, Mina Fies of Reston-based Synergy Design & Construction (left), advises homeowners such as Miriam Rosenthal from Fairfax on ways to save time and money on remodeling by doing it the right way. Fies says using their Renovation Roadmap is the key. She spoke at the NOVA Expo 11, the first regional housing fair hosted by the Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance in cooperation with the Cities of Alexandria and Falls Church, the Town of Herndon and Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun Counties. During the presentation, Fies also provided information on how to hire a quality contractor.

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Saturday, August 6th, 7:00-10:00 pm
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Saturday, August 13th, 7:00-10:00 pm
Simple & Easy Gourmet Dining - \$65.00 — Elegantly simple recipes in minutes are perfect for busy weekday nights or entertaining. *Fresh made pasta con Quattro Formaggi; Prosciutto & Summer Melon Salad; Baked Goat Cheese with Mesclun Greens, Sliced Pears & Toasted Almonds; Vol au Vent with Fresh Berries & Whipped Cream*

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From the CEO

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.

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

Unconscionable

To the Editor:

I read with interest your article headlined "Skaters Plan Park at Lake Fairfax," and your reporter's assertion that "local skaters, used to traveling to Alexandria or Leesburg until the opening of the Herndon Skate Park . . ." That's simply not true. There is a large modern skate park at Wakefield Recreation Center and another one on Old Lee Highway both in Fairfax County. They are underused. Other private skate parks have come and gone in the area over the years, including a highly lauded one at Potomac

Mills. I would also note that a BMX bicycle race course once existed in Lake Fairfax park but was eventually closed for lack of interest.

Approved or not, the \$1.2 million skate park approved by the county is unconscionable and will spew red ink for decades. Skateboarding is an urban sport, headquartered in Los Angeles and Philadelphia. While there are enthusiasts in the area, the numbers are not enough to justify a million dollar expenditure.

Adrian Havill

Reston

Sunshine in November?

To the Editor:

It would seem there are strange and questionable things taking place here in Fairfax County Schools. So questionable, in fact, that it is time for an outside forensic audit to be conducted. That audit needs to go back three years and forward two years.

In an article in the Evening Star newspaper from March 1971, alarm was raised because the Fairfax County Public School Superintendent took a week to re-

spond to a series of questions by the Fairfax County Executive. That slow response by the Fairfax County School Superintendent may have been the beginning of our school administration misery.

What have we wrought in 30 years of fiscal mismanagement?

I can tell you.

We have a Fairfax County School Superintendent who now runs the schools and the School Board with an iron hand doling out retribu-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7

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:

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-778-9410.

By e-mail: reston@connectionnewspapers.com

OPINION

Virginians Leading the Nation

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

In the late 1990s the state teachers' organization distributed a hopeful poster. With scenes from Monticello and colonial Virginia printed in the background, the text proclaimed that "Virginians led the Eighteenth Century, Virginians can lead the Twenty-first Century."

There is a plentiful supply of documentation of Virginians providing leadership in the Revolutionary period through the formation of our Nation.

Virginian Thomas Jefferson put in words in the Declaration of Independence the case for freedom of the colonies from the Mother Country and also the notion of natural rights of life, liberty and



George Mason insisted on a Bill of Rights as part of the new country's constitution, and history is replete with examples of the wisdom of his leadership.

Virginian George Washington took the helm of the new government, but even as he was wildly popular chose to step down from leadership rather than to proclaim himself king or dictator as the patterns of past history may have suggested for him to do. Virginian Jefferson became our third presi-

dent followed by his neighbors Madison and James Monroe, making Virginians four of our first five presidents.

Virginian John Marshall gave form to our Supreme Court. From that surge of leadership with the formation of our country, Virginia fell rapidly from its position of providing national leadership. Historian Susan Dunn in her book *Dominion of Memories: Jefferson, Madison and the Decline of Virginia* (Basic Books, 2007) found that unlike the men of the founding generation, Virginians who inherited the Revolution were "spellbound by the myth of aristocratic, gracious plantation life, they waged an impossible battle against progress and time itself."

The designers of the teachers' poster were hoping that Virginians might reassert themselves and pro-

vide leadership to the Nation by an investment in public education. Their wishes have not come true. Each year there is a struggle in the legislature to prevent any further erosion of education funding. But Virginia names are being mentioned nationally in a way that hardly brings favor to the state.

Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli has gained national notoriety for his attack on academic freedom at Mr. Jefferson's University and for his actions against the new federal health care law. Virginia Congressman Eric Cantor as majority leader of the U.S. House of Representatives gets national attention daily with his grimaces, sneers, and "just say no" approach to budget and deficit negotiations.

Virginians need to step forward and show national leadership of the style of Virginia's earliest years, not like what we have seen lately.

Principles and Priorities in the 8th District

BY JOHN LOVAAS
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST

Last week, 150 8th district residents attended a public policy workshop organized by our congressman and the bipartisan Concord Coalition. Our task was nothing less than to "reduce the projected 10-year federal deficit," something the U.S. Congress seems unable to do.

We divided into working groups of eight to 10 and were given a background piece on the debt and its drivers produced by the Pew Trusts and a 43-page "Options Book" by Concord. Our workbook test had four options sections, three on spending areas — general government; defense & homeland security; and, so-called entitlements (Social Se-



curity, Medicare, Medicaid) plus two healthcare-related choices. The 4th options category was revenues/taxes. Each option choice in the four categories had a real world estimated negative (deficit increase) or positive (deficit decrease) impact.

There were 35 choices in all. Each group was to "decide which policies constitute the fairest, most effective way to reduce our deficit and work toward a balanced federal budget." There were really tough choices including topics requiring background reading by the largely older, mildly progressive crowd.

In general government outlays, our group favored educating our people and building economic in-

frastructure. We rejected a mindless domestic discretionary funding freeze to cut the deficit by \$750 billion. We ended up adding a net \$838 billion to the deficit in this category. We made up some of it under Defense and Homeland Security where we saved \$147 billion overall. I would have cut it more — going deeper than a five-year DoD freeze. I was pleased that we rejected the option of cutting military retiree health benefits.

In the "entitlements" category, our group came up with a net increase in the deficit of \$319 billion over ten years. We opposed cuts to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid on firm grounds of fairness to populations in need — noting that we would have preferred to change Social Security to add means testing. We agreed to an overdue increase in the earnings cap for the payroll tax, a \$457 billion savings to stabilize Social

Security for a generation or more. The surprise of the evening for me came in the revenue category. My work group and nearly every other approved phase-out of the home mortgage interest deduction on grounds of fairness — a savings of \$633 billion! We also agreed to extend only the "middle income" portion of the infamous Bush tax cuts passed and continued despite two wars — increasing the deficit by \$1.3 trillion over 10 years. We reduced the deficit by a net \$1.1 trillion under revenue/ taxes, bringing the overall budget into balance over ten years with a modest surplus of \$86 billion and a country with people and principles intact.

I commend Congressman Moran for a very educational experience. Now, I only wish the U.S. Congress could be as fair and efficient as the locals.

psaw. We are already approaching or have exceeded \$15M in costs that can be indirectly and directly attributable to the redistribution of the students who formerly attended a community re-vered Clifton Elementary School. Maybe November will bring new school board representation and a little sunshine to the process.

The School Administration reported reasons, in the aggregate, have become the material of legend for their turpitude. There are those who would argue the underlying purpose was to redirect the \$10M, previously allocated to refurbish Clifton Elementary School, to another application. Unbelievably, among the Fairfax County Public School administration's advertised reasons was to save millions of dollars. To that I would say

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 6

suits are initiated and carried out at huge expense lightly, they are grossly mistaken. There are very serious concerns across the whole of Fairfax County about our schools and their management.

We have a schools administration that has lied to the voters and taxpayers in the little town of Clifton, Va. and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors about reasons to close the Clifton award-winning elementary school.

The School Administration reported reasons, in the aggregate, have become the material of legend for their turpitude. There are those who would argue the underlying purpose was to redirect the \$10M, previously allocated to refurbish Clifton Elementary School, to another application. Unbelievably, among the Fairfax County Public School administration's advertised reasons was to save millions of dollars. To that I would say

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Guests sample various dessert fondues at The Melting Pot in Reston Thursday.



PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/ THE CONNECTION

Fondue-ing it up for Reston Interfaith

The Melting Pot opens new location in Reston.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Barry Berkowitz and his wife Chrissy went on their first date at The Melting Pot. Though that restaurant was in Florida, it's still very much a part of Barry Berkowitz's life, as he owns four in the area. The Melting Pot in Reston celebrated its new location in Plaza America Thursday, July 14 raising \$4,250 for Reston Interfaith in the process.

"We are always looking for places to give back, and we share a lot of the same values with Reston Interfaith," Berkowitz said. "A lot of people in this community know them for the great work they do, and we're happy to reach out to them."

Abby Kimble of Reston Interfaith said the organization was pleased to start a partnership on the eve of the opening of The Melting Pot's new location.

"They reached out to us and asked us about an event to support us," she said. "I think they're happy to be a part of this community, and we're happy the community came to support us."

THE MELTING POT'S NEW LOCATION, in the west side of Plaza America, features more room than the previous location. In addition to the spacious party room at one end, lit by natural light and opening up to a porch, there are sections for every type of diner.

There's a section where the walls are higher and the booths are more isolated, a section Berkowitz



Barry Berkowitz, owner of The Melting Pot in Reston, and his wife Chrissy at the grand re-opening of the restaurant in its new location. The couple went on their first date at a Melting Pot in Florida. Now Barry Berkowitz owns four locations in the Washington, D.C. area.

calls "lover's lane." The seats are connected at a 90-degree angle instead of being parallel like a standard booth, allowing couples to be a bit closer as they enjoy their fondue.

Other booths are more open, lit by mostly natural light from the windows, and there's a new bar section that wasn't present in the restaurant's previous incarnation. The bar section also offers its own menu for those who aren't in the dipping mood, such as quesadillas and flatbreads.

Berkowitz ran the previous location for the past 16 years, and he says he's looking forward to seeing customers old and new in the new location.

"We listened to our guests at the old location and they said they wanted more space," Berkowitz said. "The build out has been wonderful and now I think we've got a very intriguing location, I don't think we could ask for any better."

RESERVATIONS (which Berkowitz says are "highly recommended") give a table at least two hours to work their way through several courses that can feature various cheeses, oils, broths and chocolates throughout the meal.

"It's sort of a nostalgia thing, it was big in the 70s, but fondue never really lost its appeal," Berkowitz said. "It's something that's meant for special occasions, for being social and just enjoying a meal."

Each table has its own heater, and if cheese is ordered, the server will melt the cheese right there at the table.

ENTERTAINMENT

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

THURSDAY/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.rmhc.greaterdc.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 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.,

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.



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 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.

Golden Dragon Acrobats from China. 3 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Acrobatics, traditional food and 150 product vendors. Four showcase villages, Heritage India, Wow Philippines, Image of China and Amazing Thailand. Free admission. www.wolftrap.org.

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.

TUESDAY/JULY 26

Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce Luncheon Meeting and Awards for Chamber Excellence. 11 a.m. Westin Washington Dulles Airport Hotel, 2520 Water 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 Life Economic Recovery Look Like?

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. Sehut@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.

SATURDAY/JULY 30

The Vervy Varela Band. 7:30 p.m. Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St., Reston. Salsa, merengue, rumba and more. www.reston.com.

Presto - A program of Magic and Music. 10 a.m. Reston Town Square Park, Town Square St., Reston. A string trio performs classical and other music with magical feats interspersed. Learn about the different instruments of the string family and elements of music making. Free. www.restontowncenter.com.

"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.

SUNDAY/JULY 31

"Ain't Misbehavin'." 3 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.

FRIDAY/AUG. 5

"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.

SATURDAY/AUG. 6

Jambulay. 7:30 p.m. Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St., Reston. Reggae, calypso, zouk and

11:30 a.m. Westfields Marriott, 14750 Conference Center Drive, Chantilly. Dr. Jeffrey Lackner, President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond will address the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce's Newsmaker Luncheon. Members \$45, prospective members \$60. lsswift@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

more. www.reston.com.

Prelude Brass: Come and Blow Your Horn! 10 a.m. Reston Town Square Park, Town Square St., Reston. Great music performed on historical instruments, with stories of how these instruments evolved from conch shells and animal horns through shofars, Egyptian horns, "natural" trumpets and more, to modern instruments including herald trumpets, piccolo trumpets and others. Free. www.restontowncenter.com.

The 63rd Annual Fairfax County 4H Fair and Frying Pan Farm Park Show. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. 4H club demonstrations of crafts and woodworking, food and nutrition, floriculture, photography, and science and technology. Rides, animals shows, blacksmithing demonstrations and live entertainment. Free admission, \$5 parking fee. Stephanie.Ballard@fairfaxcounty.gov.

"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.

SUNDAY/AUG. 7

The 63rd Annual Fairfax County 4H Fair and Frying Pan Farm Park Show. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. 4H club demonstrations of crafts and woodworking, food and nutrition, floriculture, photography, and science and technology. Rides, animals shows, blacksmithing demonstrations and live entertainment. The Great Zucchini will perform at 1 p.m. Free admission, \$5 parking fee. Stephanie.Ballard@fairfaxcounty.gov.

"Ain't Misbehavin'." 3 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.artspaceherndon.org.

THURSDAY/AUG. 11

"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.

services, negotiate exchanges, report hours. Individual members \$10, household memberships \$15. e.fusaro@verizon.net or 703-437-3477.

MONDAY/AUG. 1

Introvert vs. Extrovert: Networking, Interviewing and Business Strategies For Success. 7 p.m. Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon. How being an "introvert" or "extrovert" affects work relationships, how to feel more comfortable about your style plus techniques for networking, interviewing, and navigating work environments. \$25-\$35. Register at www.thewomenscenter.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

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 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.

MANY EUROPEAN students take a gap year to travel or do community service before starting university, though American students who take time off before college remain an exception to the rule. Fewer than one percent of incoming freshman at Virginia Tech, one of the commonwealth's largest universities, take time off between college and high school, according to the school's admissions office.

Gap years do have some high-profile advocates, including admissions officers at some of the country's most elite universities.

William Fitzsimmons, dean of admissions and financial aide at Harvard College, encourages taking time off between high school and college. Between 50 and 70 students defer admission to Harvard every year and the results have been "uniformly positive" in helping teenagers avoid burn-out in college, wrote Fitzsimmons in article on the university's admissions website.

"Perhaps the best way to get the full benefit of a 'time off' is to postpone entrance to college for a year. For nearly 40 years, Harvard has recommended this option, indeed proposing it in the letter for admission," he wrote.

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 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 Uni-

versity 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.

THE COST OF gap year can also be a deterrent for some families. Some gap year programs, particularly those that are structured and involve international travel, can cost as much as a year of college itself.

Camille Morrow of Alexandria said her parents told her she will have to attend a public university or college after they help pay for her gap year excursions. She plans to attend Virginia Commonwealth University in the fall of 2012.

Morrow, who graduated from T.C. Williams High School in June, is enrolling with National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) program this fall and may be traveling to West Africa in the spring. The costs for NOLS program alone is a little under \$12,000.

"I will need to spend a lot of my free time working but I need to pay them back for some of this," said Morrow, whose parents were very supportive of her taking time off before going to college.

"I've been in school for so long. I felt like it would be nice to take



PHOTO BY 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.

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.

a break. I will pretty much be sleeping on the ground for three months and I am not allowed to have a cell phone," said Morrow, who will backpack, canoe and camp in the Southwest United States. "I definitely think it will be good for me to get away. I think I will come back more attuned to myself."

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.

Some young adults also choose to work during their gap year.

Liam Malakoff is working on getting various Red Cross and wilderness first responder certifications so he is better qualified to get a job in Colorado outdoors community. A recent graduate of T.C. Williams, Malakoff would like to be a whitewater rafting, canoeing or camping guide in the western United States during his time off.

"The one rule I set for myself is that I have to do something. There is no point in taking a year off and not doing anything with it," he said.

Malakoff, who just returned from kayaking competition in Wisconsin, is also hoping to organize a whitewater kayaking race series on the East Coast.

'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 End's 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?"



Sridhar Ganesan, Reston, Co-Founder-Chairman, Timbre Media

"It was probably the best one, after the fourth. The story line was a bit stronger. Various elements came together to finish the movie. There were funny parts. Then you had a moment of

Harry Potter meets Lord of the Rings during the war scenes. Maybe that action not but I think it finished well."

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NEWS



PHOTO COURTESY OF RSTA SWIMMING

Ilayda Boucher of North Hills competes in the Girls 8-under freestyle event.

Upsets as RSTA Season Winds Down

Reston Swim Team Association Report

One of the more popular slogans in the advertising world these days is “Expect the unexpected.” So it was during the fifth week of the Reston Swim Team Association (RSTA) season last Saturday.

Going into Saturday morning only two teams had perfect marks of 4-0 — Hunters Woods and North Hills. With Hunters Woods having defeated Lake Audubon the previous week, the road seemed clear for them to advance to a league championship. Their foe on Saturday, Ridge Heights, had other ideas. In one of the biggest upsets of the season, Ridge Heights outscored Hunters Woods, 566 to 549.

The last undefeated team in RSTA also went down to defeat. The North Hills Hurricanes, who had handily defeated Ridge Heights earlier in the season, came upon a Lake Audubon squad that was still licking its wounds from their defeat the previous week at the hands of Hunters Woods. With many more of their swimmers in attendance, they defeated North Hills by a score of 567 to 521.

The day’s events leave North Hills, Lake Audubon and Hunters Woods tied for the league lead with 4-1 records with one meet left in the season.

With all of this drama being played out at the team level, several individuals had record setting days. For Lake Anne, Joanne Fu bettered her time in the girls (11-12) 50 meter butterfly from 33.87 down to 33.80. In the girls mixed age 200 relay, the Glade Gators team of Sophia Landeryou, Natalie

Bardach, Emily Landeryou and Olivia Wolfe dropped their time from 2:10.28 to 2:09.78.

And Rachel Swarts of North Hills broke her team’s pool record in the girls (15-18) 50 Freestyle with a time of 28.92. This bettered the mark of 29.49 that was set by Katherine DeCrosta during the summer of 2008. With this performance, Rachel now holds the record for her age category in every stroke for North Hills.

Scores and highlights from Saturday’s meets follow:

Newbridge 599, Autumnwood Piranhas 490: For Newbridge, triple event winners were Celia Compton, Emma Grossback, Ryan Ha, Stephen Baldwin and Jessica Klonaris. Double event winners were, Elise Baldwin, Maura Burke, Zac Carey, Andy Carro, Ethan Ha, Ian Ha, Megan Ha, David Joyner, Christopher Mathias, Andrew Miner, Joseph Sgambati, Grant Tremaine and Jocelyn Wulf.

For Autumnwood, triple event winners were Robin Brazier and Inanje Mintz. Double event winners were Brendan Carrick, Kerry Curran, Gracie Grubbs, Stephen Grubbs, David Robertson, Paul Robertson, Phineas Ulmishek-Anderson, Max Wilson and Sherry Xie.

Ridge Heights Sharks 566, Hunters Woods Blue Marlins 549: For Ridge Heights, triple event winners were Tyler Ellis, Anna Liang and Hailey Wang. Double event winners were Ryan Coghlan, Nicholas Diewald, Delaney Duchak, Ryan Ferzoco, Harrison Hughes, Margo Moyer, Olivia Stiebel, Rory Stobie, Tara Thomas and Anna Tignor.

For Hunters Woods, triple event winners were Nathan Dawson,

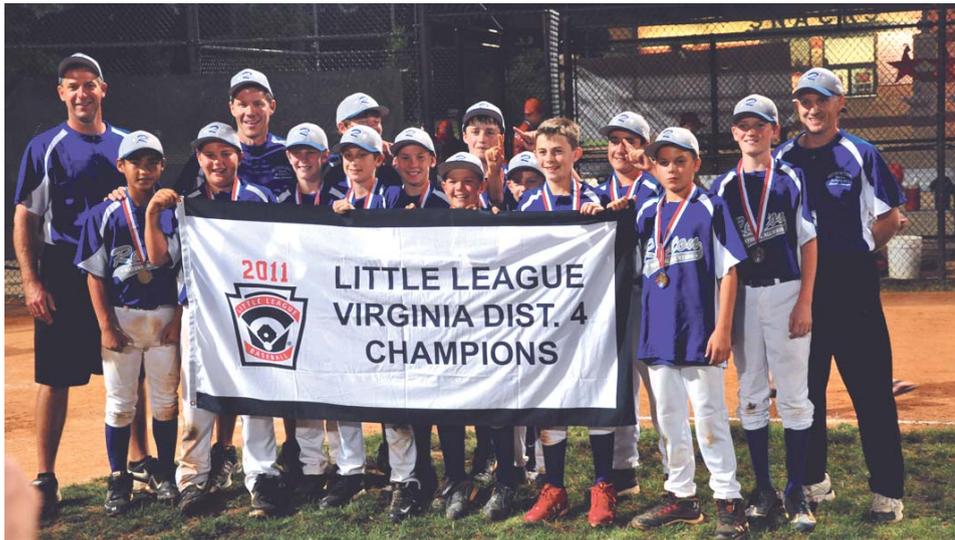
Philip Pan and Ashley Thai. Double event winners were Alex Li, Spencer Line, Sara Maslouhi, Kevin Vintimilla, Ryan Vintimilla, Joseph Wang and Julia Yang.

Lake Audubon Barracudas 567, North Hills Hurricanes 521: For Lake Audubon, triple event winners were Austin Chute and Conor McBride. Double event winners were Louis Boyum, Bannon Brazelle, Brendan Burke, Molly Clough, Kasey Corey, Matthew Fritz, Sabrina Groves, Kaliyana Haering, Matthew Hughes, Vela McBride, Griffin Scanlan and Will Sickenberger.

For North Hills, their triple event winner was Lindsay Najjoun. Double event winners were Christopher Bochtler, Courtner Clark, Marlee Czarny, Brenna Emery, Nicole Flint, Benjamin Livaudais, Edward Lue, Christina Mazziotta, Emily McKittrick, Emily Ren, Joseph Sciortino and Oliver Shi.

Lake Anne Stingrays versus Glade Gators - Final Score Under Review: For Lake Anne, triple event winners were Jason Fu, Sophie Hartmann, Mascha Jorch and Matthew Rodakowski. Double event winners were Lucas Abousleiman, Devin Conley, Tamar Dayian, Victoria Gonzales, Dillon Jiang, Frank Keusenkothen, Hannah Lane, Brian Marquet, Scott Mayo, Trenten Moder, Tope Oladimeji, Lindsey Rook and Fred Zhang.

For Glade, triple event winners were Caitlin Dixon, Emily Landeryou, Sophia Landeryou, Madeline LaPorte and Natalie Bardach. Double event winners were Kahlil Anderson, Maya Berry, David Clark, Ronak Cuthill, Andrew Draganov, Amelia Flavin, Monica Lannen, Zea Nims, Jack Thomas and Phobe Warstler.



PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION



Reston National's Johnny Micka waits on a pitch during their game Friday night against Vienna American. Reston would go on to win 10-3, giving them the division championship and a spot in the State Championships in Leesburg.

The Reston National Little League team holds the District 4 championship banner after their 10-3 win over Vienna American at Barcroft Field in Arlington July 15.

Reston Wins District Championship

Reston National heads to State Championships for first time since 1998.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION



Reston National's Patrick Francisco pitches to a Vienna American batter during the District 4 championship game July 15 at Barcroft Field in Arlington.

According to members of the Reston National Little League team, they thought this season might be special. In their first game against McLean, Antonio Menendez hit a walk-off grand slam to give the team a season-opening victory. Several months later, the team is headed to the State Championships in Leesburg for the first time since 1998, before most of their current players were even born.

Reston clinched the division championship against Vienna American Friday, July 15 by a score of 10-3. Led by the lights-out pitching of Patrick Francisco, the team won their second game in two nights to head off to play for a state championship.

"The chemistry on this team is like no team I've ever coached," said Coach Jeff Grammes. "Every player from one to 13, top to bottom, I could rely on them all."

The night before Reston National met with its counterpart, Reston American. After giving up an early 1-0 lead on a throwing error to third, Reston National's bats exploded for 11 straight runs, enacting the slaughter rule and sending them to the district championship game.

"We've been knocking the ball

around all the way through the season," Grammes said. "We've gotten in a lot of good practices, and parents have been great about throwing during batting practices."

RESTON JUMPED OUT to a 3-0 lead in their half of the first inning in Friday's game at Arlington's Barcroft field. Despite being officially the home team, much of the crowd was clad in red Vienna jerseys. But the crowd bleachers on the first base side next to Reston's dugout was as blue as they needed to be.

Francisco was downright dazzling through the first few innings, getting through the second in eight pitches (including two strikeouts), and keeping Vienna scoreless through the first three innings.

On the other side of the ball, Reston's lead quickly ballooned to 7-0 after RBI hits by Johnny Micka and Jack Kidd, with Kidd knocking in two with a double before stealing home a few pitches later.

Pinch hitter Eli Nachison led off the bottom of the third with a home run, making it 8-0, fulfilling a prophecy he shared with his coach before the game.

"Eli said to me before the game

that he thought he might hit a home run tonight," Grammes said. "I told him I'd take a single."

Vienna started to make it interesting in the top of the fourth scoring three runs, including a sacrifice bunt RBI from Joey Welsh.

After Reston went through a scoreless bottom half of the fourth, Francisco started the fifth strong, striking out the first two batters and putting up two strikes on the third batter. But after giving up a single, a walk and hitting the next batter, Vienna's Courtland Brower came to the plate with a chance to get the team back in the game.

Francisco was able to do what he seemingly did all night though, getting Brower to strike out looking.

"I think my fastball was helping me get strikeouts during the game," Francisco said. "But our defense was great for the entire game, and that was very important."

Grammes said Francisco had taken "huge leaps" this season, eventually throwing as hard as 70 miles per hour.

"We've been riding him this whole tournament, he's pitched all our tough games and hasn't let us

down yet," Grammes said. "He just throws strikes on command."

Will Rippey and Francisco scored the final two runs for Reston in the bottom of the fifth on a passed ball, and with a 10-3 lead, the Reston players began to believe.

"After Patrick scored to make it 10-3, I think we got a really good feeling," said Zander Bohoslav.

Francisco returned to the mound to strike out one final batter on his 92nd pitch before handing the ball off to Bran Lawson. Lawson got the final two batters out, with centerfielder Kidd catching the final out before he and his teammates piled on each other right next to first base.

"I think we all played really well as a team, and of course the pitching helped," Menendez said. "We knew Vienna American was a good team, but we had to know we were better."

Bohoslav said the team's chemistry was what he thought propelled them to the district championship.

"I think we're all very good at our positions, but we're also very complimentary of one another," he said. "We're always giving players compliments after they make good plays, and I think it makes everyone want to try harder."

Grammes has been coaching Little League for the past five years, and had made it to the semifinals before, never the district finals.

"I never thought I'd be standing here holding the pamphlet with the State Championship information," he said while standing in center field, just after his team hoisted the championship banner below the scoreboard.

THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS will take place in Leesburg at Freedom Park. Reston will play three games against three other teams in their pool, and they will advance to the semifinals if they finish first or second in their pool.

More information, including a complete schedule, can be found at www.eteamz.com/restonlittleleague.

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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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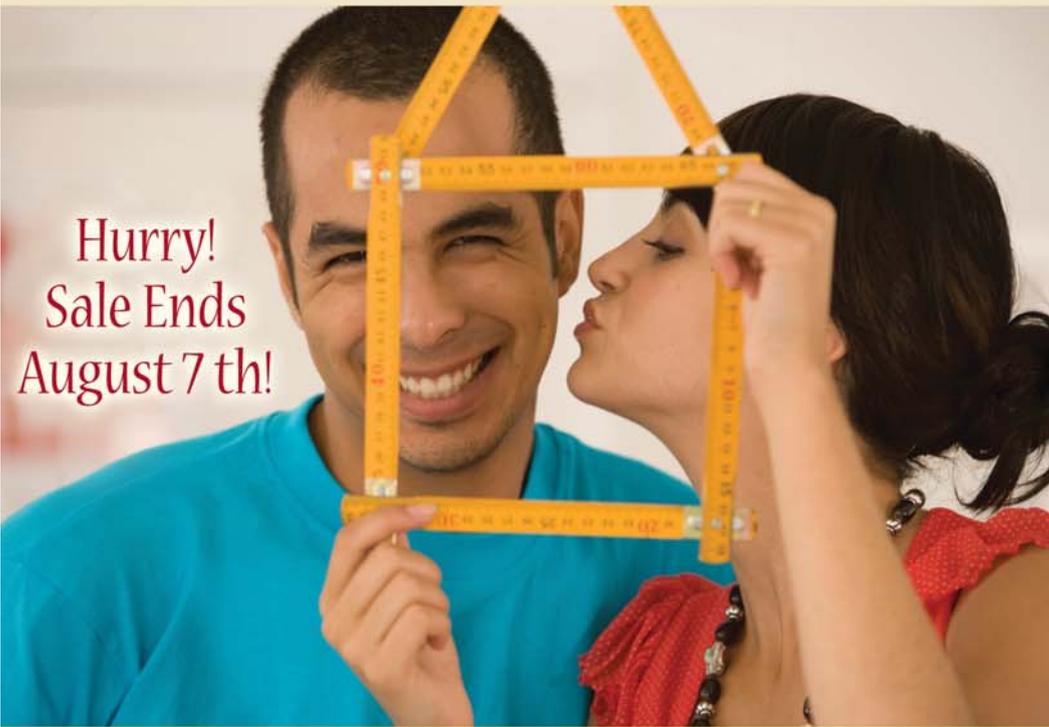
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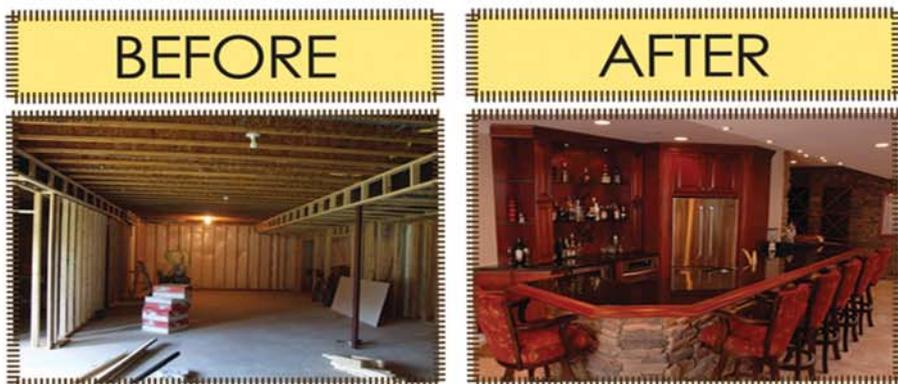
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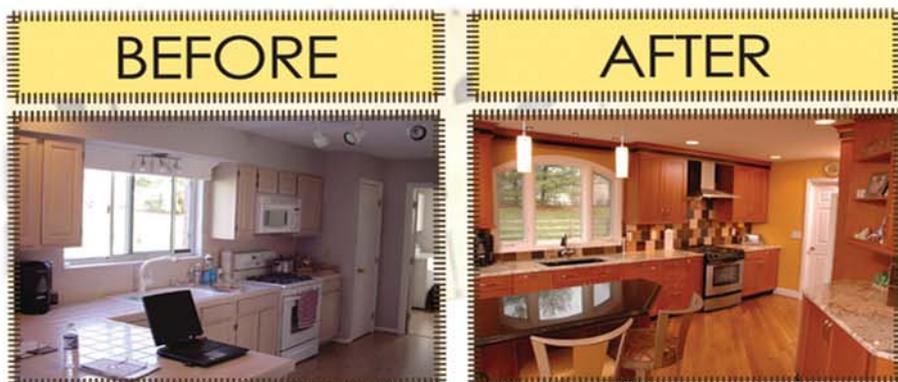
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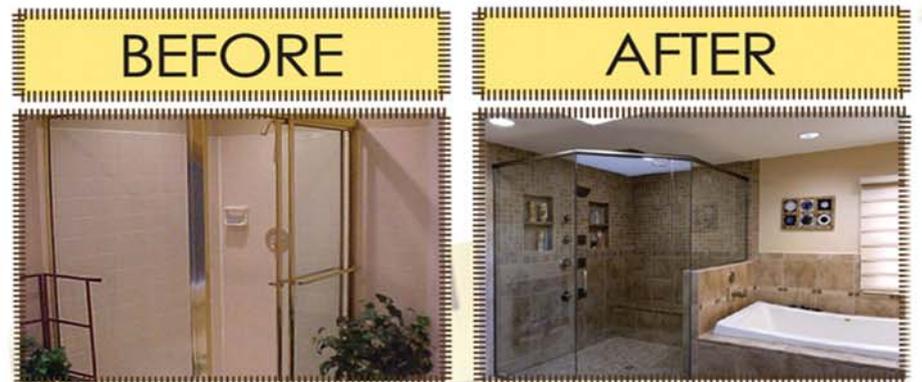
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