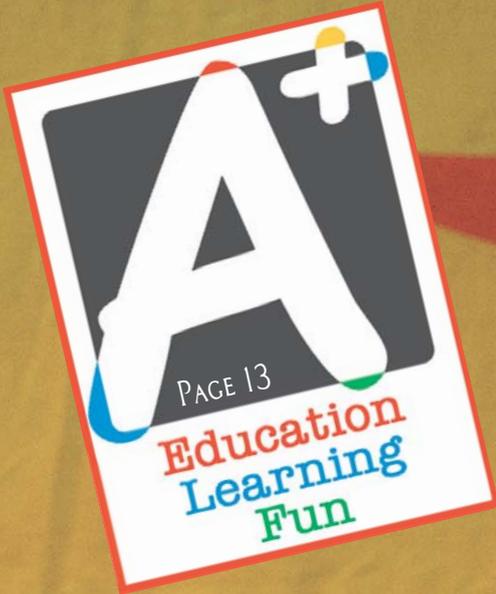


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At Home On the Dance Floor

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Holiday Gift & Entertainment Guide

PAGE 8

Hannah Markowitz, 16, plays Aurora in the Classical Ballet Theatre's production of Sleeping Beauty in April. Markowitz recently finished a stint with the Suzanne Farrell Ballet at the Kennedy Center.

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WEEK IN HERNDON

Town of Herndon Holiday Schedule

Town of Herndon government offices and services will be impacted by the Thanksgiving holiday as follows:

Town Offices will be closed Thursday, Nov. 24 and Friday, Nov. 25.

No refuse collected Thursday, Nov. 24. Refuse normally collected on Thursday will be collected Friday, Nov. 25.

Herndon Community Center will be closed Thursday, Nov. 24, and open Friday, Nov. 25, 8 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Herndon Centennial Golf Course will be open Thursday, Nov. 24, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Friday, Nov. 25, 8 a.m. – dark.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service on Nov. 23

A community service of Thanksgiving, open to all, will be held Wednesday, Nov. 23, at 7:30 p.m. at the United Christian Parish, 11508 North Shore Drive in Reston. Participants will include leaders of the Shoresim Community, All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS), Community of ALL People United Church of Christ, United Christian Parish, and Reston Interfaith. Virginia Delegate Ken Plum and Fairfax County Supervisor Cathy Hudgins will also take part.

"Each year we gather as a community to celebrate the overflow of God's goodness, express gratitude for our blessings great and small, and remember that we are entrusted with the responsibility of caring for all our neighbors and our neighborhood," said the Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes, pastor of the United Christian Parish. There will be an offering to benefit Reston Interfaith. A social time will follow the service. Additional parking will be available at Lake Anne Elementary School, next door to the church.

The United Christian Parish is an ecumenical church uniting four denominations: United Methodist, Presbyterian Church (USA), United Church of Christ, and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ.) For additional information, call the church office at 703-620-3065 or visit www.ucpreston.org.



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U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) watches election returns at the event sponsored by the Fairfax Democratic Party at The Waterford at Fair Oaks on Nov. 8.

PHOTO BY
DEB COBB/
THE CONNECTION



A Good Year for Incumbents

Democrats retain power in Fairfax County, GOP celebrates statewide gains.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

The anti-incumbent mood reflected in national polls did not express itself in Fairfax County when voters cast their ballots on Election Day.

With 99 candidates to pick from, and almost every state and local office up for reelection, voters overwhelmingly returned incumbents to office. And incumbent in Fairfax County typically means Democrat.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors remains the same, with a 7-3 Democratic majority. Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) — who first won the at-large seat in a 2009 special election — cruised to victory with nearly 60 percent of the vote over her Republican opponent Michael “Spike” Williams. Supervisor John Cook (R) held on to his Braddock District seat by a razor-thin margin, after a scathing and closely-watched battle with his Democratic challenger, Janet Oleszek.

On the 12-member Fairfax County School Board, the race that generated the most heated speculation, voters returned every incumbent, and elected newcomers who, with one exception, identified themselves as Democrats.

Although Republican hopes for more of a foothold in Fairfax County failed, GOP gains in the rest of the state effectively transferred control of the state legislature to Republicans.

The state Senate, which had a Democratic edge of 22-18, is now evenly split 20-20 between Republicans and Democrats. Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling, a Republican who was not on this year’s ballot, now wields the power to cast any tie-breaking votes. The Republicans increased their majority in the House of Delegates from 61-39 to 68-32. Republicans now control both chambers of the General Assembly and the governor’s mansion for the second time since the Civil War.

Virginia General Assembly

As the campaign signs come down, and post-election navel-gazing goes up, the question of “who



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) said he is concerned about the “inflammatory rhetoric” from state Republicans during an interview Friday in his Fairfax City law office. “The rhetoric from the Republicans right now is ‘we’re in full control.’ But the power should reflect the 20-20 split,” Petersen said.

won?” shifts to “what does it all mean?”

“I think the real question is what the Republican gains in the state Senate will mean,” said Stephen Farnsworth, a Virginia political expert and professor at George Mason University. “It’s going to be a tough time for Northern Virginia, when you look at the make-up of who controls the levers of power in Richmond.”

Farnsworth said funding for transportation and education are key issues on the table. “There’s a pretty valid claim that even though [Northern Virginia] pays more than its fair share to Richmond, there’s not going to be any attempt to equalize the resources. When Virginia goes from Democratic to Republican, the power base moves south.”

Democrats say they are not just concerned with the shift in party, but with what they think may be a

SEE FAIRFAX, PAGE 16

ELECTION RESULTS

31st Senate district

Democrat Barbara Favola defeated Republican Caren Merrick for the open 31st district senate seat, which was vacated by the retiring Democratic incumbent Mary Margaret Whipple. Favola, a member of the Arlington County Board of Supervisors, won Arlington County 71 percent to 29 percent. Merrick won the parts of the 31st district in Fairfax and Loudoun County, by 53 percent to 47 percent and 55 percent to 45 percent, respectively.

Favola said that creating and maintaining job growth and an educated workforce “are the



Barbara Favola, the newly elected state senator for the 31st district.

things I care about, and I want them to continue.”

Dranesville Supervisor

John Foust (D) won reelection to his second term, defeating Republican challenger Dennis Husch 61 percent to 39 percent. He won all 30 precincts in the district by 5,360 votes.

Foust said he planned to focus his next term on the widening of Route 7 from Tysons Corner to Reston, secure more funding for Tysons redevelopment and Dulles Metrorail Phase Two.

He said a priority would be to “find the right balance of infrastructure in Tysons,” because, along with Dulles Metro, it will serve as the economic engine of the region.

When it comes to funding Phase Two of the rail, Foust said he wants to look at funding sources that will not increase the burden on taxpayers who



Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust was elected to his second term Tuesday.

drive the Dulles Toll Road.

Foust also said it would be a “huge mistake” not to finish Phase Two of the Silver Line.

Dranesville School Board

Strauss won 21 of 30 precincts in the Dranesville District. Eighteen of the precincts were decided by less than 100 votes, with Strauss winning 12 of those. The Langley precinct, which Epstein took, was decided by only 25 votes.

Strauss says she intends to use future funding to buy down the class size in the Dranesville District, which are among the largest in the county.

“As money becomes available, I would like to put those additional resources back into the schools with larger class sizes,” she said.

Strauss also said she hopes to move beyond standardized tests.

“We have to move away from the overemphasis of [Standards of Learning tests], we’ve got to get back to higher-level problem solving,” she said. “I believe we



Incumbent Dranesville School Board representative Janie Strauss won re-election Tuesday.

can create some engaging, wonderful problem solving projects for our 11th and 12th graders that will be interesting an appropriate for what parents are asking for.”

—ALEX MCVEIGH

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NEWS

Herndon officials cut the ribbon on the new bio-retention ponds that will help stop pollution and erosion around Runnymede Park Thursday, Nov. 10.



PHOTOS BY
ALEX McVEIGH/
THE CONNECTION

Herndon Cuts Ribbon On Bio-Retention Ponds

Ponds will help improve water quality, slow erosion going into Runnymede Park.

the ditch leads into, that will take the runoff from the road. The second pond is located behind the first, closer to the nearby Runnymede Manor neighborhood.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Town of Herndon officials cut the ribbon on the new bio-retention ponds along Herndon Parkway Thursday, Nov. 10. The two ponds, which are located across Herndon Parkway from Runnymede Park, will help improve the water quality of storm runoff.

“This project was part of the town’s capital improvement project, and its completion enhances the preservation of Runnymede Park by filtering polluted runoff,” said Herndon Mayor Steve DeBenedittis.

Though they are called bio-retention ponds, on most occasions the area will be dry, with a bed of grass, soil and other plants surrounding the two depressed areas. Before the ponds were constructed, the area north of Reneau Way was overgrown forest, filled with invasive plant species and trees that had been choked off from life.

STORM RUNOFF would run down Herndon Parkway and into a drain, which would go underneath Herndon Parkway at a high velocity, eroding the stream banks.

“The rain going over Herndon Parkway washes away oil, gasoline, and in the winter chlorine and salt, into the drain, which before the pond would just go into the stream and eventually, the Chesapeake Bay,” said Marius Burdubus, the project manager for AMEC the company that built the ponds.

Now a new drain has been in the first drain into a drainage ditch, which is the first step of pre-treatment,” said Michel Quaglia, an engineering technician with AMEC. “The ditch is lined with grass and leads into the drainage pond, all of which help slow water velocity and help with water filtration.”

The pond closest to Herndon Parkway is the one



Town of Herndon staff examine one of the Filterra drains near the new bio-retention ponds in Herndon. The plant in the drains will slow the speed of storm water, as well as help

“The back pond will be taking a lot of water from the parking lots and roads of the subdivision,” Burdubus said. “One of our goals with the project was to be able to treat runoff from as large an area as possible.”

The ponds are lined with native plants, shrubs and bushes, ensuring that they will not need to be regularly maintained. As the water slows in the ditch and stays in the ponds, the plants will naturally remove phosphorus from the water.

Quaglia says the ponds are built to hold water from a 10-year storm event, which is the standard, and each pond also has an elevated drain to ensure they don’t overflow in larger storms.

A SECOND GROUP of drains were built near the original drain, but each one is a special Filterra drain,

where a plant is rooted in a prefabricated concrete box at the drain. The water first goes through the soil, where the plant will filter it and the soil will slow its velocity.

A bench has already been installed on one edge of the park, and Herndon Director of Public Works Bob Boxer said that in the future there will be educational materials posted explaining exactly the process here. The drainage ditch is lined with large rocks that were brought up during the construction of the ponds.

As the plants surrounding the ponds grow, the area will grow to resemble a park.

“In five, six, seven years, you’ll have a beautiful corner of heaven here,” Burdubus said. “Children can come and learn about aquatic life, pollution and more. One of the requirements we were given at the first meeting for the project was to all school children to be able to do onsite pollutant treatment studies here.”

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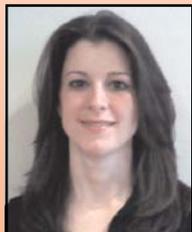
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NEWS

Real-Life Learning: Decorated Veterans Inspire the Next Generation

Ambleside School in Herndon honored veterans of all the armed forces at its annual Veterans Day Chapel, on Nov. 11. This event gave students an opportunity to deepen their connections to history and be inspired by people and experiences beyond their own lives.

A student color guard opened the ceremony, and stood at attention while the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance and sang the national anthem. All 99 students in kindergarten through eighth grade participated in a recitation of Psalm 91, which is often quoted as a psalm of protection in battle.

Two guest speakers addressed the standing-room-only crowd. Maj. Amy Punzel, U.S. Marine Corps, recounted her service during two tours in Iraq. The only female Marine in her unit, Punzel served as the public affairs officer, supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. John Weida, retired, shared stories of some experiences as an F-16 pilot in South Korea, and crucial moments in negotiations with North Korean top military leaders. Using a model of an F-16, General Weida described the sensation of flying faster than the speed of sound.

Every veteran in attendance was recognized and received a personal thank-you memento. Ambleside students sang "Thank You, Soldiers," before the color guard retired the colors to close the service.



Ambleside School in Herndon honored veterans of all the armed forces at its annual Veterans Day Chapel, held on Nov. 11.

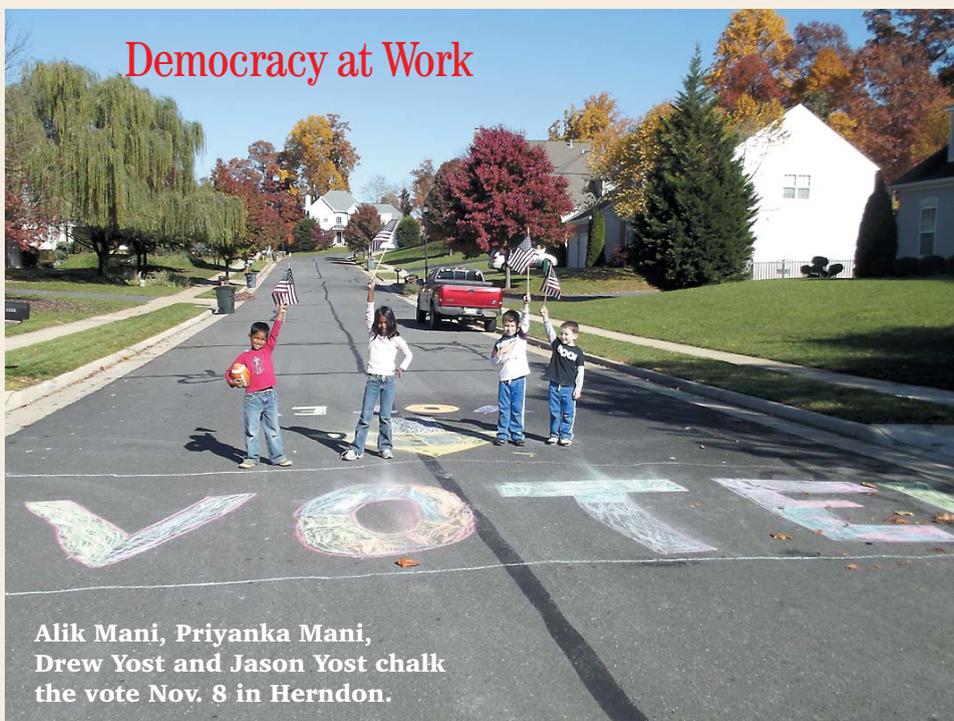


Veterans mingled and chatted with students.

Veterans mingled and chatted with eighth grade students and other guests at a reception following the service. Younger students later enjoyed the opportunity to ask questions of some of the veterans who visited several classrooms.

Ambleside School of Herndon, a member of Ambleside Schools International, is an independent, Christ-centered school forming students based on the philosophy of Charlotte Mason (1842-1923).

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Democracy at Work

Alik Mani, Priyanka Mani, Drew Yost and Jason Yost chalk the vote Nov. 8 in Herndon.

PHOTO BY MEREDITH BILLMAN-MANI

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OPINION

Give Locally

The need has never been greater.

As the holidays approach, many nonprofits that provide holiday meals, food support and other services for people in need are reporting that they are overwhelmed.

More than 45,000 students in Fairfax County Public Schools are from families poor enough to qualify for free or reduced priced meals. That's more than 25 percent of students in the schools. In Arlington, 34 percent of students are poor enough to qualify for free or reduced meals. In the City of Alexandria, more than 54 percent of students are poor.

In Fairfax County, 46,000 live below the poverty line; more than 80,000 have no health insurance.

Where To Give

This is a partial list of charities helping those in need during the holidays and beyond. Let us know about other organizations not listed here.

Additional nonprofits can be found listed on the local Catalogue for Philanthropy website, <http://www.catalogueforphilanthropy-dc.org>. Click on "how to give."

Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia, Arlington, 703-521-9890

Comfort for America's Uniformed Services (CAUSE), CAUSE ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. 4114 Legato Road Suite B, Fairfax, VA 22033, 703-591-4968, cause-usa.org

Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic, 13525 Dulles Technology Drive, Herndon, VA 20171, 571-235-3577, jsfreeclinic.org Last year 139 community volunteers — nurses, nurse practitioners and physicians — gave more than 1,300 hours of their time to see patients.

Alternative House - Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge, 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA 22182,

In Northern Virginia, thousands are unemployed and many more are underemployed. Among the homeless in Northern Virginia, many are working poor, families with at least one wage-earner who doesn't make enough to pay for housing for the family.

In this environment, more and more people are turning to food pantries for part of every month. And it's not surprising that many, many families will have little to offer in holiday cheer and holiday gifts for children without the help of organizations and individuals. It's hard to imagine, but there are hundreds of children in the area who would not receive a single holiday present without the help of a charitable organization.

703.506.9191, www.thealternativehouse.org
Reston Interfaith, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, www.restoninterfaith.org

SHARE of McLean seeks donations of grocery gift cards. Gift cards can be dropped off at SHARE, c/o McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Road on Wednesdays and Saturdays (except Thanksgiving week) between 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Checks and gift cards can be sent to: Holiday Celebration, Share, Inc. PO Box 210, McLean, VA 22101. 703-284-2179. www.SHAREofMcLean.org

LINK, serving Herndon, Chantilly, Loudoun and more, needs contributions of food, coats and holiday toys for children, plus volunteers. Email Lisa Lombardo at LisaLombo@signaturecos.com. (703) 437-1776 www.linkagainsthunger.org

Herndon-Reston FISH (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), 703-391-0105

Northern Virginia Family Service, Oakton, 703-385-3267
Food for Others, 2938 Prosperity Avenue, Fairfax, 22031, 703-207-9173

Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO), 703-569-9160, www.echo-inc.org. Open to receive donations at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield

Lorton Community Action Center operates the Act II Thrift Shop at 9506 Richmond Highway, Lorton.

If you're reading this paper, chances are that you are among the people at the other end of the spectrum, trying to devise methods to keep the holidays more modest. One way to do this is to help your children understand how lucky they are with a glimpse at the needs of others right here.

There are many ways to give, with some local charities connecting the donor to a specific family to provide a holiday food basket and fulfill some wishes for gifts. Many organizations encourage the donation of gift cards. Every local group seeking to help the needy right now is facing extra demand and needs both volunteer and financial help.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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FACETS, 703-352-5090

National Capital Food Bank, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia, 703-541-3063, www.capitalareafoodbank.org

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries, food pantry at 13981 Metrotech Drive in Chantilly (near Backyard Grill and Bar). For more information or to sponsor a family, call 703-988-9656, ext. 105. To mail gift cards or send donations by check, add a note saying "food basket program" and send them to: WFCM, P.O. Box 220802, Chantilly, VA 20153. 703-988-9656

Our Daily Bread, 10777 Main Street #320, Fairfax, 703-273-8829

Shelter House, www.shelterhouse.org, operates two homeless shelters in Fairfax County, in Centreville and Seven Corners. 571-522-6800

Committee for Helping Others (CHO), Vienna, 703-281-7614

Fairfax City Area FISH (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), 703-222-0880

Lamb Center, www.thelambcenter.org, Fairfax 703-691-3178

A Fresh Start

BY JACK KENNY

With the results of the Nov. 8 election pretty well settled, the complexion of Fairfax County School Board remains much the same. Time will tell if we can believe many of the campaign promises, slogans, and debate points. The new board has a chance to review the previous board's action to pass up the opportunity for an outside, independent audit. The question still remains: "Are the taxpayers getting their money's worth for their tax dollars?"

Why the reluctance to look in the corners and file cabinets? Is No Child Left Behind program working? Are we testing too much? The right skills and knowledge? Do the minimal Standards of Learning get the results we need? Is the ratio of teachers in the classroom to staff appropriate? Are we making the best use of our investment in information technology? The school system has a working pro-

gram where teachers are encouraged to communicate directly with the parents via the Internet. Assignments are forwarded. The teacher is available for clarifications and direct communications with the responsible parents and a record is kept of the transactions. There is accumulating evidence that the program is paying off. An observation has been made that those teachers who do not use the program are the ones with the long lines during parent-teacher conferences.

There are continuing undercurrents that a number of administrative responsibilities assigned to the classroom teacher inhibit their actual teaching time. The process of sending a misbehaving student to the "time out" room is so cumbersome that it actually takes a teacher as much as 40+ minutes of a 50+ minute class period. Those 24 or so behaving students



A DIFFERING POINT OF VIEW

are the losers. Thomas Friedman, in a recent televised lecture to students at Johns Hopkins University, holds that the average bar has moved substantially higher. Our students getting a C are effectively getting a D-. Friedman, a noted New York Times columnist, points to the tremendous growth and opportunity the Internet has brought to the world. The power of the Internet offers mankind virtually unlimited access to mind boggling knowledge

bases. Those who have not learned to use the Internet are falling behind. It has been well documented that high school dropouts are most likely destined to live their lives in poverty. It may be argued that a school system not keeping up with the advances in knowledge and skills and imparting them to their charges are actually failing in their chosen profession. The average bar has risen substantially. Are we keeping up?

What is to fear from an outside, independent audit? Or more pointedly, who's ox will get gored? To continue to deny the obvious is to foster the impression there is

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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NEWS

Scouts Join Giving Season

Local Boy, Cub Scouts collect more than 500 boxes of food.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

This year's Scouting for Food Drive in the Herndon and Reston area collected more than 500 boxes of food for the Community of Faith United Methodist Church food bank last weekend. The church, which hands out food to those in need every Tuesday, filled both their storage sheds with items collected, and had to stash even more throughout the building.

"In the last two weeks, we've served about 100 families per week, which is a significant increase from the 75 to 80 we usually see," said Reverend Rob Vaughn, the pastor at Community of Faith.

Scouts dropped off empty bags at homes the previous weekend,



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Scouts from Pack 1160 helped collect more than 500 boxes of food for the Community of Faith United Methodist Church food bank with the annual Scouting for Food Drive.

and came by Nov. 12 and 13 to pick them up, hopefully filled with nonperishable food items. As parents pulled into the church's parking lot, scouts helped bring the bags from the cars to tables where volunteers sorted the food into categories.

This year's collection broke last year's record of more than 300 boxes of food collected.

"We exceeded last year's total by about 30 percent just on Saturday," Vaughn said.

The Scouts who spent two week-ends on the Scouting for Food drive say it's one of their favorite events of the year.

"It's really rewarding to knock on someone's door, and they say they're glad to help us," said Robert Hilleary, 8. "It's rewarding to go out and work hard to get food for people that sometimes don't have any money or shelter."

John Castro, 10, said that collecting food is especially important during the holiday season.

"When it comes time for Thanksgiving, people want to invite their families over, but they need food to be able to do that," he said.

Thomas Mika, 8, said "it is nice to help people get enough food to make it through the winter."

Some older Boy Scouts from the Vale United Methodist Church in Oakton came by to help the younger scouts haul and sort food.

"We like helping the younger scouts, being a leader for them," said Alex Jacquay, 14. "And it's always nice to see so much support coming from all of our local neighborhoods."

The scouts will make at least one more return to Community of Faith to hand out the food they collected.

"The kids will come in Tuesday and see where the food goes," Vaughn said. "I think that really completes the experience for them, seeing the faces of the people they're helping."

The Community of Faith is planning an expansion in the next few years that will increase its food storage capabilities. More information can be found at www.cof-umc.org.

Be a Part of CHILDREN'S (& TEENS') CONNECTION



Every year between Christmas and New Year's, The Oak Hill/Herndon Connection turns its pages over to the contributions of local students. We are seeking artwork, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories and reflections. We welcome contributions from public schools, private schools and students who are home schooled.

E-mail to: ChildrensNorth@connectionnewspapers.com, or mail (.jpg and text files on disc only) by Nov. 30, to 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Please be sure to include the student's name, age, grade, school and town of residence along with each submission. For information, call 703-778-9410.



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HOLIDAY GIFT & ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Great Harvest in Herndon

Great Harvest Bread Company, 785 Station Street in Herndon, with locations in Vienna, 132 Church St. NW, and Ashburn, 44260 Ice Rink Plaza, Suite 117, offers a variety of holiday treats. Visit www.darngoodbread.com.



Teena Greenwood of Ashburn stops by Great Harvest Bread Company for a quick treat, helped by employee Nicole Lee. In the foreground are samples of the build-your-own à la cart gift basket or gift bags that you can fill with wonderful freshly baked breads, scones, cookies, muffins, pretzels, dog bones, biscotti, granola, local jams, and bread cutting and buttering supplies offered at the shop. You can also have gifts shipped!



Build your own à la cart gift basket at the Great Harvest Bread Company in Herndon filled with freshly baked bread, muffins, scones, cookies and other treats. After you make your selections, you can have them shipped.



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

The Great Harvest Bread Company in Herndon offers a wide variety of freshly baked bread, cookies, muffins, scones, pretzels, dog bones, biscotti and granola in their shop.

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All proceeds benefit the mission of the Junior League of Northern Virginia, a nonprofit tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

HOLIDAY CALENDAR

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

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 24
Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service.
7:30 p.m. at the United Christian Parish, 11508 North Shore Drive, Reston. Participants will include leaders of the Shoresham Community, All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS), Washington Plaza Baptist Church, Community of All People United Church of Christ, United Christian Parish and Reston Interfaith. Virginia Delegate Ken Plum and Fairfax County Supervisor Cathy Hudgins will also take part. A social time will follow the service. 703-620-3065 or www.unitedchristianparish.org.

FRIDAY/DEC. 3
Reston Choral: The Wonder of the Season. 7 p.m. Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon. The Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten. lindacke@verizon.net.

"Amahl and the Night Visitors." 8 p.m. at George Mason University Harris Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Gian Carlo Menotti's classic story. \$20 adults, \$15 students and seniors. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

SATURDAY/NOV. 27
"Nutcracker Ballet." 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College Ernst Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Presented by the Classical Ballet Theatre of Northern Virginia. Tickets \$18-\$22, special pricing available for military families and Girl Scouts. www.cbntva.org or 703-471-0750.

SATURDAY/DEC. 4
Jingle on the Lake Holiday Event. Join us on the Lake Anne Waterfront as we kick off the holidays on Saturday, Dec. 4, with Jingle on Lake Anne—a Holiday Event Celebration, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Community organizers and plaza retailers will host a variety of festive activities ranging from a special visit from Santa (arriving on a lake barge), strolling carolers, a petting zoo, wine tastings, merchant specials, a gingerbread house decorating contest, cookie decorating, holiday arts & crafts market, holiday entertainment and much more. The day will be filled with activities and holiday delights for all ages. Free, Rain or Shine. Website: www.lakeanneplaza.com

Reston Choral: The Wonder of the Season. 7 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten. lindacke@verizon.net.

Gifts That Give Hope Alternative Gift Fair. 12-5 p.m. at Truro Church, 10520 Main St., Fairfax. Donations and some tangible items for local non-profits in all price ranges, from \$15 for a gallon of milk plus a dozen eggs for 3 families up to \$75 to help prevent eviction for a family with children. More than 20 non-profit organizations will be on-hand. www.givingcircleofhope.org or www.giftsthatgivehope.org.

Old-Fashioned Country Christmas on the Farm. 1-7 p.m. Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Equestrian and blacksmithing demonstrations, wagon rides, photos with Santa, children's holiday shopping and live music. Strolling carolers singing traditional yuletide tunes. Storytelling and children's activities. Park admission free, some activities have fees. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fpp or 703-437-9101.

"Amahl and the Night Visitors." 8 p.m. at George Mason University Harris Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Gian Carlo Menotti's classic story. \$20 adults, \$15 students and seniors. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

SUNDAY/DEC. 5
Master Singers of Virginia: Christmas Around the World. 7 p.m. at Church of the Epiphany, 3301 Hidden Meadow Drive, Herndon. A 28-member a cappella ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Erik Jones, explores holiday music of different cultures. Pre-concert lecture at 6:15 p.m. www.msva.org.

TUESDAY/DEC. 7
Handel's Messiah Sing-along. 7:30 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. With the Reston Choral and the Reston Community Orchestra. \$10. Rental scores available. lindacke@verizon.net.

FRIDAY/DEC. 10
Waverly Consort's "A Christmas Story." 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. In the spirit of the medieval church dramas and mystery plays, eight singers and five instrumentalists play reproductions of medieval instruments. \$21-\$42, youth through grade 12 half price. Tickets available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

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HOW TO GET YOUR ORGANIZATION'S SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE CONNECTION

Calendar Listings

The Connection Newspapers contain a Calendar of Upcoming Events every week. While we cannot guarantee that every event we receive information about will be listed, here is the information we need for your upcoming event to be considered for the Calendar. We welcome photographs of similar events held previously, which sometimes appear with Calendar items.

Name of Event:

Day of the Week, Date and Time:

Name of the Place Event will Be Held:

Address of the Place Event Will Be Held:

Name and Phone Number for More Information:

Three Sentences Describing the Event:

Please submit your calendar information at least two weeks before your event. Clear photographs from similar previous events are always welcome. All events should be open to the public. We give first priority to free events. E-mail listings to:

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or mail to:

Calendar, Connection Newspapers
1606 King Street
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For more information, call 703-778-9410.



www.connectionnewspapers.com

HOLIDAY GIFT & ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Hannah Markowitz, 16, performs "The Dying Swan" at a Classical Ballet Theatre fundraiser last March. Markowitz, a junior at South Lakes, was recently selected to perform with the Suzanne Farrell Ballet at the Kennedy Center.



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/
THE CONNECTION

At Home On the Dance Floor

Hannah Markowitz completes performance with Farrell Ballet at Kennedy Center.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Lisa Markowitz remembers watching her daughter Hannah when she started doing ballet at age 3.

"Most of the time she just kind of sat in the corner during class, and we almost pulled her out," she said. "She was very shy, but she began to come out and really learn to express herself."

Hannah Markowitz, now 16 and a junior at South Lakes High School, is hoping ballet becomes more than just a hobby. A student at the Classical Ballet Theatre in Herndon, she just completed performing with the Suzanne Farrell Ballet at the Kennedy Center.

"It was great dancing with professionals and getting a good idea of what it's like to dance for a living," she said. "It was a little bit scary, watching the professionals come in first thing in the morning and staying until late at night"

Renee Maxwell, a volunteer at the Classical Ballet Theatre says it's a "testament to Miss Markowitz's dedication, talent and excellent training."

Hannah Markowitz says she hopes to get an apprenticeship at a studio, which she hopes will lead into a full-time gig. She is hoping to try out for an apprenticeship at the Pacific Northwest Ballet in Seattle, Wash. next summer, and if she gets in, she has enough credits to get her high school diploma remotely.

"At first I didn't enjoy it, but after doing it every day, I really fell in love with it," Hannah



Hannah Markowitz, a junior at South Lakes High School, recently finished a stint with the Suzanne Farrell Ballet at the Kennedy Center.

PHOTO BY VIHAO PHAM

CBT Performs "The Nutcracker"

The Classical Ballet Theatre will perform "The Nutcracker" Nov. 26 and 27 at the Ernst Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. The performance of a holiday classic features many dancers, brilliant costumes and scenery, and a special touch of magic to bring Clara's dream to life. Show times are Saturday at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m.

Markowitz said.

She credits teachers like Alisher Saburov and Jody Skye Schissler for inspiring her to work harder.

"It's nice to know I've had teachers who have been there and done that," Hannah Markowitz said. "A lot of studios are just about technique, and while CBT is strong on technique, they also take it to the next step by pushing the artistic side."

Lisa Markowitz credited the CBT staff with helping her daughter learn the truth about a future in ballet, saying "they've given her

very good advice about what her options would be."

Hannah Markowitz said one of the most challenging things about ballet is making all the hard work look easy.

"A lot of effort goes into making it look effortless," she said. "And while there are always more techniques to learn, you can't just be technically advanced, you have to fill roles within each performance."

Hannah says her dream role is to be in "Swan Lake," saying "it's a role that describes exactly who I am."

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11:00 AM Connection, Contemporary Worship Service

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ENTERTAINMENT

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THURSDAY/NOV. 17

- "Almost, Maine."** 7 p.m. South Lakes High School, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston. Nine tales of love by John Cariani in a mythical town. \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. www.southlakesdrama.com.
- Jared Bernstein to Speak at NVHC.** 8 p.m. Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, 1441 Wiehle Ave., Reston. Vice President Biden's former Chief Economics and Policy Adviser, on "The Long and Bumpy Road to Economic Recovery and Growth." Free admission, open to the public. ruthseldon@comcast.net.
- Russell Brand.** 8 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$25-\$45, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. www.russellbrand.com or www.patriotcenter.com.
- Book Discussion.** 7 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. The Comedian by Graham Greene. Adults. 703-242-4020.
- E-book /E-Reader Instruction.** 7:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn about library eBooks and how to access them with your compatible device. Call for an appointment. Adults. 703-242-4020.
- Melissa Manchester.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Award-winning singer/songwriter. \$35. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/NOV. 18

- Weekend Bluegrass Concert: Special Concensus.** 8 p.m. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. \$15, age 12 and under free. www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net.
- 30th Annual Pre-Turkey Quarter Horse Show.** Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Riders compete and showcase their abilities. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fpp/equest.htm.
- "Almost, Maine."** 7 p.m. South Lakes High School, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston. Nine tales of love by John Cariani in a mythical town. \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. www.southlakesdrama.com.
- Catie Curtis With Meg Hutchinson.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Folk-rock. \$22. www.wolftrap.org.
- National Acrobats of The People's Republic of China- Direct from Beijing.** 8 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$24-\$48, youth through grade 12 half price when accompanied by adult. 1-888-945-2468.

SATURDAY/NOV. 19

- Thanksgiving Golf Tournament.** 10 a.m. Herndon Centennial Golf Course, 909 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. The annual "Gobbler Scrambler" golf tournament has become one of the Herndon Centennial Golf Course's most popular events. 703-471-5769.
- Turkey Trot 5K Race.** 4 p.m. Herndon Centennial Golf Course. 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. A 3.1 mile

cross country style race held on the golf course. Sponsored by the Herndon Parks and Recreation Dept. 703-787-7300.

- An Evening with Andre Rieu.** 8 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Accompanied by the 60-piece Johann Strauss Orchestra. Tickets are \$49-\$143, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. www.andrerieu.com.
- Holiday Bazaar.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Wooden bowls and carvings, pottery, hand painted floor cloths, knitted hats, glass plates, jewelry, jams and more. 15% of all sales support UUCF. Free admission. melarkins@verizon.net.
- 30th Annual Pre-Turkey Quarter Horse Show.** Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Riders compete and showcase their abilities. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fpp/equest.htm.
- "Almost, Maine."** 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. South Lakes High School, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston. Nine tales of love by John Cariani in a mythical town. \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. www.southlakesdrama.com.
- National Acrobats of The People's Republic of China- Direct from Beijing.** 8 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$24-\$48, youth through grade 12 half price when accompanied by adult. 1-888-945-2468.
- Flutopia.** 8 p.m. George Mason University Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. 703-993-1380 or www.music.gmu.edu.

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South Lakes, shown here in its season opener versus Westfield, played hard from start to finish this season, according to their head coach Marvin Wooten.



PHOTO BY
CRAIG STERBUTZEL/
THE CONNECTION

Wooten Completes Tough but Positive First Season at SLHS

First-year Seahawks' football coach endured mother's death.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

As difficult as the season was for the South Lakes High football team this fall, first year head coach Marvin Wooten, who experienced a whirlwind inaugural campaign which saw him adjust to his new position and also deal with personal highs and lows, came through the entire experience optimistic about the program's future.

The former Seahawks' assistant coach took over as head last May after former head coach Andy Hill, after one season at the helm, elected to step down and move back to his home town in Minnesota. The Seahawks, who had enjoyed a winning season and gone all the way to the Northern Region Div. 5 semifinals in 2010, struggled through a difficult 1-9 season this autumn.

Player losses to graduation, the changeover to a new coach, and a number of inexperienced players were all factors in the re-building season. But Wooten could not have been more pleased with the way his players hung together through the trying 10-game schedule.

"I think the No. 1 thing I'm happy about is the kids fought hard every week," said Wooten. "The kids didn't give up. They played as hard the first half of the season as they did the second half of the season."

On the evening of South Lakes' season opener — a home game versus Westfield High on Sept. 2 — Wooten, in what under normal circumstances would have been a watershed moment in his professional life, instead was dealing with heartache as a result of the death of his mother, Carol, who had been killed in a vehicle accident four days earlier outside of Leesburg.

On the day of the Westfield game, Wooten attended his mother's viewing in Herndon before making his way to Reston just in time for the start of the Seahawks' opener. Wooten's Seahawks lost 52-6 that night to a Westfield team that is currently unbeaten

and preparing to play in a Div. 6 region semifinals game versus West Potomac this week.

WOOTEN, throughout the season, dealt the best he could with the loss of his mother. He also, over the first several weeks of the season, prepared for his early October wedding with then-fiancé Safiya.

On the field, South Lakes' first four games were all lopsided losses. But the Seahawks, in a week five game, nearly won their first game — a 21-19 setback at non-region opponent Louisa County. Two weeks later, South Lakes lost another close contest — at Liberty District rival Madison, 16-13. The Warhawks ultimately went 7-4 this season.

The team's breakthrough first win game came in a week nine district affair at Marshall — a 22-16 triumph. While South Lakes lost its season finale at Jefferson, 17-7, the following week, at least the Seahawks had gotten a taste of victory by beating the Statesmen.

Four South Lakes players earned All-Liberty District recognition — First Team players Rashaan Jones, a junior skill position player, and senior running back/defensive back Devon Johnson; as well as Honorable Mention Seahawks Calvin Vaughn, a sophomore quarterback, and sophomore receiver Khayri Denny.

Wooten said the entire South Lakes community, including administrators, teachers, students, players, parents, and his assistants rallied around him all season long and made his first season as head coach a positive one.

"The best lesson I learned is that there's lots of support here," he said. "The season was definitely overwhelming at times and I had to deal with stuff off the field — my mom died and I got married. But I had the support. The parents [of the players] were wonderful. My coaching staff was great. They coached the kids up and taught the fundamentals."

Wooten said the future of the program looks bright. The Seahawks' freshmen team went 5-1-1 this season so a number of those players will be moving their way up through the program. The coach also said he has a good group of sophomores and juniors who will be part of the varsity next year.

"The kids we have in the program are willing to work and they have heart," said Wooten. "We have a bunch of motivated kids that want to get on into the weight room. I definitely feel things can turn around. It's tough to lose games but the kids didn't buy into any of the negative stuff they heard."

SPORTS BRIEFS



PHOTO COURTESY OF RESTON SEAHAWKS

The Reston Seahawks captured the 95-pound Central Division Fairfax County Youth Football League Championship last Saturday with a dominating 32-0 win over the Southwestern Youth Association (SYA) Wildcats. The title game took place at Chantilly High School. The Seahawks controlled the game throughout. Defensively, SYA twice got within Reston's 20-yard line but could not score. On offense, Reston QB Kaevon Chase had a big game with long scoring runs of 70 and 96 yards, and a pair of scoring passes to receiver Dimitrie Eaton. Also for Reston, Coleman Bishop scored on a three yard run. Congratulations to the Seahawk players and Reston coaches Lawrence Carter, Ahmad Johnson and Brian Vanderhoof.

The Reston Seahawks 150-pound 'A' team played its fourth game of the season against Herndon in a youth football contest on Oct. 8 at Herndon High School. The Seahawks won by a 34-20 score over a determined Herndon team, which also played a good game. Reston's offensive attack was led by Seth Ravenstahl, David Kerns, Sean Hill, Sander Smith, Cam Wooden, Dominique May, and Delontae Wingfield. Outstanding blocking came from Tyler Norris, Luis Castro, Nick Fouty, Dylan Gill, and Victor Devonte Spann. On the defensive side of the ball, Alex Schulz, Chaz Anderson, Tsheetiz Tamang, Izaz Amir Hamza, Ben Thompson, and Joshua Stokes handled the defensive line and corner duties. Missing from action due to injury and prior commitment were Romello Ownes and Turner Walton.

The Seahawks started the game strong, but ran into trouble in the third quarter. They were able to regroup in the fourth quarter and finish the game strong. The Reston touchdowns came from David Kerns, Sander Smith, Sean Hill and Seth Ravenstahl.

The Chantilly Phoenix, an under-17 Div. 1 team within the Washington Area Girls' Soccer League (WAGS), is looking for a few self-motivated, dedicated and committed players who are intent on playing college soccer. The Phoenix conduct open tryouts year-round. Through the

end of November, practices are as follows: Mondays at Word of Grace from 7:15 to 9 p.m.; and Thursdays at Word of Grace from 7:15 to 9 p.m. Please contact coach Cristian Linte at linte@verizon.net to arrange a tryout.

The NoVA Wonders professional basketball team, a member of the American Basketball Association, is participating in a nationwide fundraiser for the National Foundation for Cancer Research (NFCR) called 'Shoot for the Cure.' The campaign invites basketball teams around the country to participate by committing to donate proceeds from at least one game or special event to NFCR. The Wonders dedicated their game on Nov. 13 versus the Richmond Elite to the NFCR cause. The event was scheduled to take place at the Wonders' home venue, the Northern Virginia Sportsplex.

"We are excited to be a part of NFCR's pursuit of a cure through this fundraiser," said Jackie Smith, General Manager for the NoVA Wonders. "The cause is especially close to my heart, as I have lost both my parents to this terrible disease. Cancer research programs should never have to worry about funding; millions have been lost to cancer and it must be cured. Our team is looking forward to doing our part to contribute."

To learn more, please visit www.nfcr.org/shootforthe cure or call 1-800-321-CURE.

Where Science and Business Collide

New master's degree programs address employer demand for more science and math knowledge.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION



PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Students study at George Mason University's Arlington Campus. Many professional master's degree programs are structured to meet the needs of working adults.

Some call it the new MBA. Others say it is one of the keys to employability in a difficult economic environment. Meet the professional science master's degree, a relatively new, two-year graduate degree that combines advanced training in science or math with business skills often desired by employers.

Professional science master's degrees are designed to address what forecasters say is a future of economic growth and job creation driven by advances in science, bringing a new emphasis in science, technology, engineering and mathematics [STEM] education at many levels.

"A master's degree in a STEM field often offers a clear pathway to professional employment and career success even in a difficult job market," said Debra Stewart, president of the Council of Graduate Schools. The Council of Graduate Schools conducted a study of graduates with professional science master's degrees and found that 82 percent were employed. More than 55 percent of those were earning \$50,000 or more.

Like many other professional master's degree programs, PSMs are structured to meet the needs of working adults.

"Most of our graduate students are part-time students," said Michelle Marks, associate provost of Graduate Education for George Mason University, and an Oakton resident. "There is a market of students who are interested in graduate school and are working full time and don't want take a break in their careers to go to graduate school."

The concept of designing graduate degrees around needs of working professionals is not new. "The motivation for a lot of these programs is access," said Carol B. Lynch, senior project director, Professional Master's Programs Council of Graduate Schools. "When you look at the ads that you see on the Metro and in the newspapers, they are really targeting people who are working and want to advance but don't have the luxury to take time off to go to a more traditional program."

According to the National Professional Science Master's Association (NPSMA), schools in the Washington, D.C., region offering PSM degrees are George Washington University, University of the District of Columbia, American University and University of Maryland University College. Georgetown University and Virginia Tech formed a partnership and created a PSM program in Biomedical Technology Development and Management.

"[George Mason] is currently developing programs that will likely be PSMs that combine science courses with management [and] workplace skills," said Marks.

PSM programs, which often include internships and training in workplace skills, are generally developed in coordination with employers, including nonprofit organizations, businesses and government agencies. Both George Mason University and George Washington University offer professional studies classes at their Arlington campuses.

"We do a lot of market research, and we also have

Graduate Open Houses

Learn more about professional studies programs at one of the following information sessions. Reservations are required.

George Mason University Graduate Admissions session and tour, Sunday, Nov. 20, Presentation at noon (Johnson Center Bistro, lower level); followed by tour at 1 p.m.; <http://admissions.gmu.edu>, click Graduate and Schedule a Visit.

Wednesday, Dec. 14, Tour at 6 p.m.; followed by presentation at 7 p.m. (Johnson Center Cinema, lower level).

Thursday, Jan. 5, 2012 Presentation at 1 p.m. (Johnson Center Cinema, lower level); followed by tour at 2 p.m.

George Washington University Arlington Campus
Saturday, Nov. 19, 2-4 p.m. Arlington Education Center, 950 North Glebe Road, 6th Floor, Arlington.

George Washington University Virginia Science and Technology Campus

Engineering Management, Accelerated M.S. Tuesday, Nov. 21 or Dec. 6, 6:30 p.m. Exploration Hall, 20101 Academic Way, Ashburn, Call 703-726-8253.

Electrical Engineering, M.S.E.E. (Thursday, Nov. 17, 6:30 p.m. Exploration Hall, 20101 Academic Way, Ashburn, Call 703-726-8253.

advisory boards and professional groups that we talk to about what is actually needed [in the workplace]," said Kathleen Burke, Ph.D., dean of the College of Professional Studies at George Washington University. "Then we can create programs based on what we know are specific needs."

Unlike traditional graduate science programs, PSM programs are generally terminal; they do not lead to a Ph.D.

"[Part-time] programs are really geared towards people achieving a breadth of business knowledge and then moving into the workforce," said Marks, "as opposed to a more traditional master's program where people may very well move onto a Ph.D."

Are professional degrees like the PSM less rigorous than their traditional counterparts? Just because the courses are offered nights and weekends doesn't mean that the program is less strenuous, university officials said.

"Our programs are very high quality. They are selective," said Burke. "They have admissions requirements and standards that are very comparable to other graduate programs. We don't admit very many students into our programs."

While the overall enrollment of new students at U.S. graduate schools fell 1.1 percent in 2010, according to the annual CGS Survey of Graduate Enrollment and Degrees, the number of students entering science and engineering programs grew as much as 8.6 percent.

Marks adds, "I don't think there is a rigor difference, certainly not at George Mason, between [traditional] programs [and those] that are offered on the weekends or evenings or in a format that appeals to students who have full-time jobs."

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A Predicament



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not that I'm stressing about having cancer – too much (really?), but I wish there were an off switch. A figurative button to press that would stop the flow of cancer-induced, cancer-related cancer consumables: information, concern, anxiety, focus, orientation, predisposition, etc. And if I were to attempt to delude myself into saying that I don't think about having cancer all the time – consciously, then I suppose I would admit to it being top of mind (bottom of mind, too) subconsciously, whether I like it or not – and of course this column is about not liking it.

But as Popeye the Sailor Man so often said: "I yam what I yam." And what I am is a cancer survivor, still surviving 32 months post-diagnosis, after being given a "13-month to two-year" prognosis back in late Feb., 2009. And as much as I want to look forward – and presumably it is much healthier, anecdotally speaking to do so, it is difficult – for me, to not consider the past as some sort of prologue, with a premature end hopefully not in sight, and one whose epilogue has yet to be determined. This preordained time line, indeterminate though it may actually be, wears on me. Not that I want to know what the future holds, but something inside me almost needs to know. Unfortunately, if I were to be realistic though, given my diagnosis, the future is not exactly my oyster. Certainly it's there for the taking, it's simply impossible to know if I'll be alive for the receiving.

Considering that I'm a planner and that I live today for tomorrow instead of living today like there's no tomorrow (ironic given my diagnosis/prognosis), I'm always thinking about what's next and what I have to do to get from point "A" to point "B." Being diagnosed and "prognosed" as I have, my thought processes have been turned upside-down and inside-out. I still know my left from my right, but so many other presumptions about life/the future are no longer what I thought they were or anticipated they would be. If I had to hazard a guess/offer an explanation about the topsy-turvy world in which I now try to exist – normally, I would rationalize it and say: a terminal diagnosis will do that to you.

But I don't want it to do it to me. Yet it does. It's almost as if I've been rewired. All the connections, all the pathways, all the familiar/functioning routes that I understood/took to get through the past, present and future are all jumbled up and not nearly as clear as one would have lived 57 years expecting them to be. All bets are off, as they say. From now on, my life is one big gamble, a risk few players would likely take.

But if I don't take any risks, I may very well succumb to that what ails me. Living like I don't have a future is probably the surest way to not have one. For me to do so, however requires a complete reversal of who I am, how I think. The problem is, I like who I am, who I've become. Nevertheless, continuing to be this person, living and thinking as I do, might be counter-productive (counter-intuitive for sure) to fending off my cancer.

Whatever I decide to do, however I'm able to change, being unhappy and negative about the choices that I make is also counter-productive. I don't exactly want to die young and leave a good-looking corpse (as James Dean is alleged to have said – or a derivation thereof), but nor do I want to be miserable for the rest of my life. I need to find a compromise somewhere/somehow, some way to live for today – and tomorrow.

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

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The biggest things are always the easiest to do because there is no competition.
-William Van Horne

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21 Announcements

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SBSINC, INC trading as Edoya Ssambab & Sushi, 150 Elden St, #160, Herndon, VA 20170. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine & Beer on Premises and Limited Mixed Beverage on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Myoung E. Shim, owner. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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Fairfax Water

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2012 BUDGET

Fairfax County Water Authority (Fairfax Water) is proposing a \$141.3 million budget for calendar year 2012¹. On Thursday, December 15, 2011, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed 2012 Budget in its offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax. The public hearing will begin at 6:30 p.m. A copy of the proposed budget can be viewed on our Web site at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org/>. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed budget should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017. Revenues are expected to be \$141.3 million in 2012. Water sales are expected to provide \$121.9 million. Approximately \$19.4 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

Category	2011	2012
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$44,812	\$46,934
Power and Utilities	10,813	11,802
Chemicals	5,958	7,463
Fuel	822	862
Postage	407	416
Insurance	1,211	1,175
Supplies and Materials	3,891	4,044
Contractual Services	8,569	8,480
Professional Services	1,112	1,151
Other	2,130	2,224
Sub-Total	79,725	84,551
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(9,391)	(9,559)
Total	70,334	74,992

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$40,798,000
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$13,629,000

¹ Fairfax Water's Board will continue to monitor economic factors and review revenues and expenditures at mid-year to determine if additional action is needed.

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Fairfax Remains Blue, GOP Celebrates Statewide Gains

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shift to more extreme views.

“Arizona, Mississippi, and Wisconsin will be pushed off the front pages of national newspapers as Virginia takes leadership with right-wing legislation,” said Del. Ken Plum (D-36), who was first elected to Richmond in 1978 and serves as the chairman of the House Democratic Caucus.

Issues that concern Democrats include reductions in public education funding resulting from resources being diverted to charter schools, restrictions on abortion, immigration enforcement, and weakening health and safety regulations.

“The Senate of Virginia will no longer be the safeguard that it has been for the past several years to stop wacky legislation,” said Plum.

“When you look at the legislative agenda, a lot of the more polarizing social issues were killed because of the Senate,” Farnsworth said. “There will probably be more of these issues moving forward now.”

Democratic Senators are also not willing to concede full control to the GOP. “The rhetoric from the Republicans right now is ‘we’re in full control.’ But the power should reflect the 20-20 split,” said state Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34), referring to control of the chamber’s floor sessions and committees. “Democrats need to make sure our funding for education and transportation doesn’t drop off.”

But Del. Dave Albo (R-42), who was first elected in 1994 and is Northern Virginia’s most senior member of the House, said the alarmist rhetoric is just party politics.

“Everybody needs to take a chill-pill,” Albo said. “[Democrats] are all crying like babies about [the election]. They try to scare people into thinking that suddenly there’s going to be all this wacky legislation out of Richmond. The immigration bills are not wacky at all. We allowed police officers to detain someone as an illegal alien when they get a hit on their car. We require businesses to use E-Verify. When they say it’s wacky, I want to say, specifically, tell me which bill you’re worried about. We are not going to be doing anything out of the ordinary,” Albo said.

Albo said revenue for some transportation projects, such as road maintenance, may increase with the GOP in control.

“One of the good-news things of Republicans in the Senate is that we should be able to get some-



Raba Letteri of Reston with School Board Candidates Ryan McElveen and Pat Hynes

thing passed for more money for secondary road maintenance and improvements,” Albo said. “The Democrats have never wanted to use the General Fund for revenue to pay for the roads.”

Even though Republicans now reign south of the Rappahannock, Fairfax County is likely to remain blue.

“You had an optimal environment for Republicans this year. There was a lot of money sloshing around...and they just can’t close the deal in this part of the state,” Farnsworth said.

“I was disappointed countywide,” Albo said. “I doubt that Republicans will ever gain a foothold when [Republican] candidates like Bill Cooper, who was running for sheriff, or Lolita Manchino-Smoak, who was running for the School Board, can’t win...Slowly but surely, Fairfax County is becoming Alexandria and Arlington.”

Fairfax County School Board

The Fairfax County School Board race was the one to watch this year. It was the most talked-about, blogged-about, debated and partisan-fueled race in the board’s 19-year history.

Political insiders predicted that parental anger over discipline, boundaries, class size and grading policies would sweep out incumbents and usher in a slate of candidates running as “reformers” and endorsed by Republicans.

The predictions proved wrong. Voters returned six incumbents to the 12-member board and handed the three at-large seats to the Democrat-endorsed candidates. Elizabeth Schultz, in the Springfield District, was the only

Republican-endorsed candidate to win a district seat.

“Voters didn’t reject ‘reform,’ this was a partisan victory for the Democrats pure and simple,” said Sheree Brown Kaplan, who lost her bid for an at-large seat.

But Ted Velkoff, a former PTA president from Rocky Run who won an at-large seat, said the message voters sent on Election Day was more nuanced than partisan politics.

“I don’t think it was a rejection of reform, or embracing of the status quo,” Velkoff said. “In the end, I think people in Fairfax County are generally happy with the schools. They said, on balance, that the school system is being run well, and voters manifested their diverse spectrum of views about issues by electing a diverse group of people.”

“What the voters have rejected,” said Ilryong Moon, who retained his at-large seat, “is the oversimplification of complexity of governance of our school system and efforts to meet needs of all students with a few sound bites or campaign slogans.”

Moon, who will be serving a fourth term on the board, said the six new board members will be facing several challenges when they meet in January, including a tight budget climate and the selection of a new superintendent.

Fairfax County Superintendent Jack D. Dale, who steered the 175,000-student system for seven years, announced in September that he will retire when his contract ends in June 2013.

“Voters want us to continue staying on the current path, and maintain the quality of our top performing school system,” Moon said.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) said he thought many of the winners, even though they

were endorsed as Democrats, supported the reform message of transparency, accountability and smaller class sizes.

“A prime example is the independent auditor reporting to the School Board...This and many of the issues that finally got open and honest discussion will result in better schools,” Herrity said.

Velkoff agreed that the lengthy campaign process called attention to a number of issues the new board will address, including class sizes, needs-based staffing, “21st century learning,” and advocating for an independent auditor to bring more transparency to the School Board’s budget. Currently, the School Board absorbs 53 percent of Fairfax County’s annual budget of \$3.3 billion.

“There needs to be confidence in the budget process. We can’t defend initiatives without independent confirmation of our budget from an outside auditor,” Velkoff said.

“While voters in this election expressed satisfaction that the Democratic leadership provides good stewardship over our high-ranking public school system, I think voters also made it clear that they expect the school board to spend more time listening to parent and community concerns,” said Rex Simmons, chair of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee (FCDC).

Ryan McElveen, who also won an at-large seat, said he wants the School Board to be more responsive to stakeholders.

“I hope parents, teachers, school employees of all stripes, and especially students, will get in touch and share their concerns and ideas. I’m excited for the road ahead,” McElveen said.

“My hope is that we move away from teaching to the test and find ways to make sure students are well-rounded and ready for college or careers,” Velkoff said. “I think it would be great if we could look back in 10 years at how Fairfax County became the model for 21st century learning.”

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

With the exception of the scorched-earth battle for the Braddock District seat — which Republican Supervisor John Cook won by just 327 votes — the nine other incumbents on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors retained their seats with fairly wide

margins of victory.

“With the Board of Supervisors, we’re looking at a situation where the voters were less angry than in other parts of Virginia. There wasn’t much voter dissatisfaction with the current board,” Farnsworth said.

“The Board of Supervisors has the turnover rate of the Supreme Soviets; they only leave by death or indictment,” quipped state Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34), who endorsed Democrat Janet Oleszek in the race to unseat incumbent John Cook in the Braddock district.

Three of the 10 supervisors were unopposed — Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), Jeff McKay (D-Lee) and Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) — while Michael Frey (R-Sully), Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon), Penny Gross (D-Mason), John W. Foust (D-Dranesville) and Linda Smyth (D-Providence) faced nominal opposition and ran relatively quiet campaigns.

Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) easily won her bid for a second term, running on a solid record of accomplishments as leader of the most powerful governing body in the county. The only nail-biter was in the Braddock District, where Cook was narrowly reelected after a contentious 10-week battle with his Democratic challenger, Janet Oleszek, a former School Board member.

“I was very pleased with the win by my colleague John Cook in the Braddock District. This was a race that the Democrats made a priority and put a lot of time, energy and resources into,” Herrity said.

Rex Simmons, chair of the FCDC, said voters sent a message that they were pleased with the county’s quality of life, strong fiscal management and sound governance in returning incumbents to the board.

“Fairfax County has weathered the worst recession since the Great Depression with few service cuts and minimal tax increases,” Simmons said. “We have great schools, major transportation improvements underway, excellent environmental protection programs, a modest affordable housing program, and well maintained parks and recreation centers... Even in tough economic times, Fairfax County has remained an economic engine for Virginia.”

One critical decision facing the returning board is the hiring of a new county executive. Just two days after the election, County Executive Anthony H. Griffin announced that he will step down in April after serving 12 years in the position.