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PHOTO BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

Reston resident Raba Letteri, with her sons Aaron, 8 (right) and Joseph, 12, jump into the 40 degree water of Lake Anne on Feb. 4, as part of the Freezin' for a Reason fundraiser to benefit Camp Sunshine in Casco, Maine, a camp that serves families that have a child with a life-threatening illness.

# Freezin' for A Reason at Lake Anne

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The Newberry Family of Oakton - Tucker Newberry, Claire, Grant, Carine, and Nicholas - jump into Lake Anne. Collectively, the family raised \$705 for the charity.

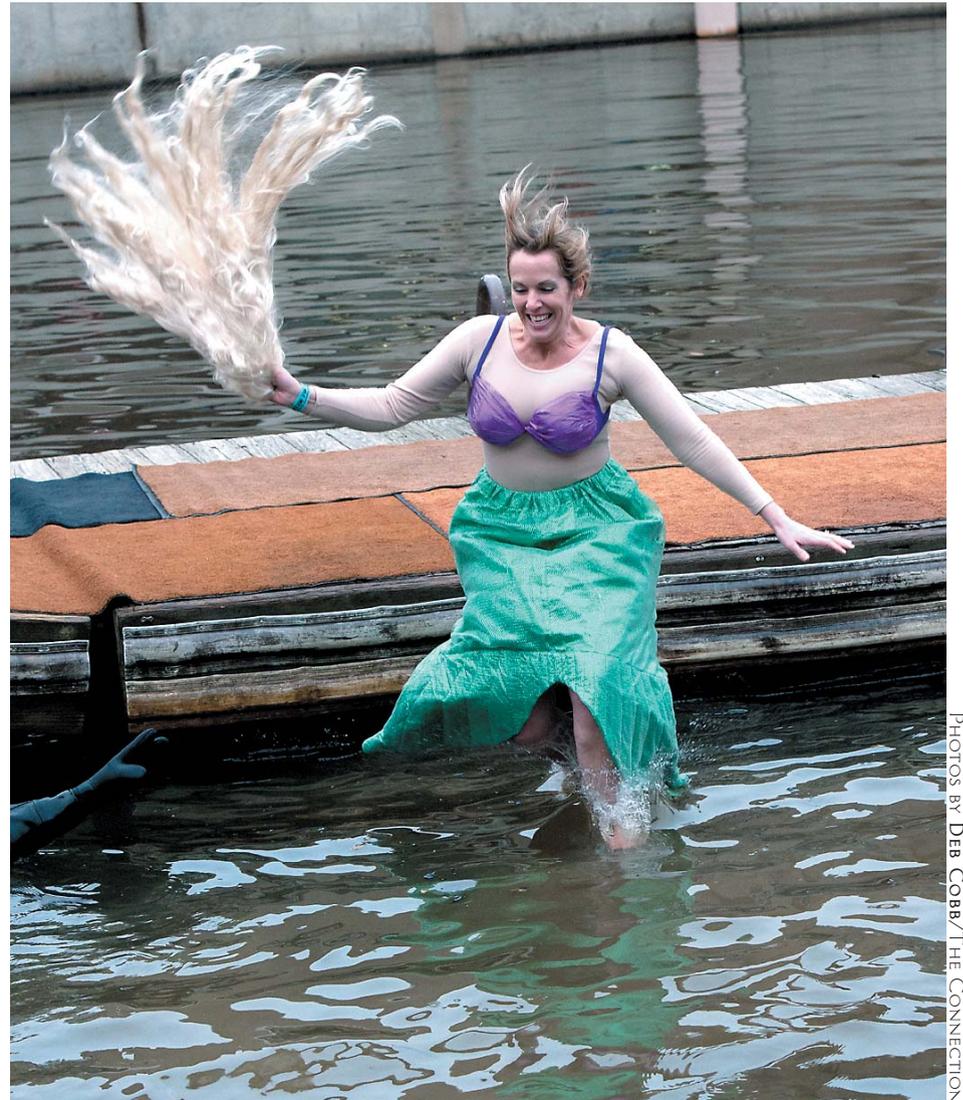
## Freezin' for a Reason

On Saturday, Feb. 4, 185 hearty souls jumped into the 40 degree water of Lake Anne at Lake Anne Plaza to raise over \$73,000 for Camp Sunshine ([www.campsunshine.org](http://www.campsunshine.org)), a camp in Casco, Maine devoted to serving families that have a child with a life-threatening illness. Started by the Toth family of Vienna five years ago, the fundraiser has become a popular event at Lake Anne Plaza, with 71 more jumpers than last year.

Gabe Collins, 5, of Reston, is comforted and warmed by father Mike Collins after jumping into the 40 degree water of Lake Anne. Gabe Collins was one of the youngest of the 185 jumpers at the event. The family raised \$1,100 for the charity.



Tim Gieber (right) of Herndon and Shawn Egan climb out of the cold waters of Lake Anne on Feb. 4. They participated in the fifth Freezin' for a Reason Polar Dip.



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

Mermaid Mary Turner of Herndon jumps into the 40 degree water of Lake Anne on Saturday, Feb. 4, as part of the fifth Freezin' for a Reason Polar Dip, that raises money for Camp Sunshine in Casco, Maine ([www.campsunshine.org](http://www.campsunshine.org)). This is Turner's second year to make the plunge.



Lifeguards from the Reston Community Center jump into Lake Anne as part of the Feb. 4 Freezin' for a Reason Polar Dip fundraiser. In no particular order: Scott Sorenson, Rifat Chowdhury, Elizabeth Keith, Allie Babiarz and David Halcombe.



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

**President Barack Obama spoke at the James Lee Community Center in Falls Church on Wednesday, Feb. 1 about his plans to revitalize the stalled housing market. His speech was short and pointed.**

## President Announces Homeowners Bill of Rights

**Local housing advocates say new rules give homeowners important safeguards.** week to kick-start the stalled housing market.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County housing advocates applauded President Barack Obama's proposed Homeowner's Bill of Rights, saying it will give homeowners critical protection from predatory lenders and important safeguards when they purchase a home.

Calling the continuing depression in the housing market a "make-or-break" moment for the middle class, Obama told a crowd of about 350 people at the James Lee Community Center in Falls Church on Feb. 2, that he wants to see "a set of common-sense rules of the road that every family knows they can count on when they're shopping for a mortgage."

"No more hidden fees or conflicts of interest. No more getting the runaround when you call about your loan. No more fine print," the president said to loud applause. "New safeguards against inappropriate foreclosures. New options to avoid foreclosure if you've fallen on hardship or a run of bad luck. And a new, simple, clear form for new buyers of a home."

He addressed the local housing market: "Here in Falls Church, home values have fallen by about a quarter from their peak. In places like Las Vegas, more than half of all homeowners are underwater. More than half. So it's going to take a while for those prices to rise again," he said.

**THE AUDIENCE**, which included many local housing advocates, cheered when the President took Congress to task for dragging its feet on plans he announced during the State of the Union Address last

"I am sending Congress a plan that will give every responsible homeowner in America the chance to save about \$3,000 a year on their mortgage by refinancing at historically low rates... What this plan will do is help millions of responsible homeowners who make their payments on time but find themselves trapped under falling home values or wrapped up in red tape."

According to Kerri Wilson, CEO of Reston Interfaith, one of Northern Virginia's largest social services organizations, the nonprofit has received hundreds of calls since the recession from homeowners facing foreclosure or trying to get lenders' attention to reduce their mortgage payments.

"We've heard from those who have lost their jobs and are afraid of losing their homes and everything they've saved for their families. We all know that too many Americans did not fully understand the financial implications of taking out mortgages they could not afford," Wilson said. "Based on our experience then, the Homeowners Bill of Rights will address the issues surrounding foreclosure crisis and offer individuals the help they need to stabilize their budgets and families."

Paula Sampson, executive director of Fairfax County's Department of Housing and Community Development said the president's initiative refocuses attention on the still faltering real estate market and the many homeowners who are still struggling.

"A 'Homeowner's Bill of Rights' and the clarity and transparency it would bring to buying a home could be invaluable," Sampson said. "Just think of the thousands of homebuyers who might have avoided a predatory loan or unexpected rate swings, if the information had been clear and understandable at the closing table."

Sam Mayo, a 21-year-old graduate student from

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PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

**From left, Frank Lynch of Reston Little League, Janet Bolton, Anne Strange, Karen Hale and Jean Boston of Graceful Spaces, Boofie and Joe O'Gorman, Karen Brennan of We Play and Philip Sandino of Dominion Power, winners and representatives for the 2012 Best of Reston winners are announced Thursday, Feb. 2.**

## Best of Reston Named

**Reston Interfaith, Chamber name annual award winners.**

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

### Best of Reston

Four individuals and four organizations were named Best of Reston for 2012 at Google's Reston headquarters Thursday, Feb. 2. The annual awards, which are awarded to those who serve their community, will be given at the 21<sup>st</sup> Best of Reston Awards April 12.

"We're celebrating the people and businesses who make our outstanding community," said Valerie Novak, one of this year's co-chairs.

The individuals recognized were Janet and Vade Bolton, as well as Boofie and Joe O'Gorman.

Janet and Vade Bolton have volunteered with Reston Interfaith since 1985. They have also served with such groups as The Closet, the Embury Rucker Community Shelter and more.

Vade passed away in December, but Janet has continued her volunteer activities, serving at the FACETS Hypothermia Prevention Program, and a captain for the Reston Sprint Triathlon.

"They have been partners in a mission to make our community a fair, just and compassionate place. They honor the dignity of each individual with whom they work and advocate for big picture changes in the way we address homelessness in our community," said Judy Redpath, chair of the selection committee. "They are known for challenging and for inspiring everyone around them to

The following individuals and organizations were named Best of Reston for 2012.

Janet and Vade Bolton, "volunteer champions changing the odds for people in need in Fairfax County."

Boofie and Joe O'Gorman, "steadfast to the Reston vision of a place to live, work, play and serve for generations to come."

Graceful Spaces, "providing a graceful transition from homelessness to home ownership."

Reston Little League, "teaching all-American values through an all-American game."

Wee Play, "channeling a fun, caring and positive environment to our community's children."

Dominion Power, "powering the community with volunteerism and corporate philanthropy."

The winners will be recognized at the Best of Reston awards on Thursday, April 12 at the Hyatt Regency Reston.

serve."

The O'Gormans got their start in coaching their children's athletics, with Joe coaching basketball and soccer and Boofie serving as president of the Reston Swim Team Association. For the past five years, they have supported up to 30 Fairfax County police officers and firefighters in the annual Reston Triathlon.

"They bring new vitality and leadership to organizations as diverse as the Reston Triathlon, the YMCA Fairfax County-Reston, Reston Interfaith and Wolftrap," Redpath said. "Their philosophy of giving back has been embraced by their two daughters, and has had a ripple effect in this community."

SEE BEST OF RESTON,  
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## WEEK IN RESTON

### Fatal Crash

A 69-year-old Mineral man was killed when he stepped into the street in an attempt to help a tractor-trailer backing out of a parking lot, and was struck by an oncoming vehicle. Police responded to the crash in the 2500 block of Fox Mill Road on Wednesday, Feb. 1 shortly after 11:30 a.m. The pedestrian, Basil Knick, was flown by helicopter to a local hospital and was pronounced dead a short time later.

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

County Police at 703-691-2131.

### Correction

In the article "VOICE Seeks Funds for Dental Care," in the Feb. 1-7 issue, it was stated that "VOICE already operates a dental clinic at Baileys Crossroads," however, VOICE does not operate dental clinics, they advocate for funding of the Northern Virginia Dental Clinic, operated since 1994 by the Northern Virginia Dental Society.

The article also stated that the clinic "will provide free care." In fact, there is a fee of \$40 for most services, which helps with running expenses of the clinics.

### Anna Shade, 99, of Reston, Dies

Anna M. Shade, a long time resident of Reston, passed away while residing at Monroe House.

Shade was 99 years old. A daughter of the late Robert and Lizzy (Cocrell) Morgan, she was born in 1912 in Halltown, W. Va. Employed by NASA, she held the position of Info Specialist. Shade attended St. Anne's Episcopal Church.

She leaves behind to share the memories her daughter Belinda Jones, two grandchildren, six great grandchildren and her brother William Morgan of Win-

chester, Va. Along with her parents she was predeceased by her husband, Leonard A. Shade.

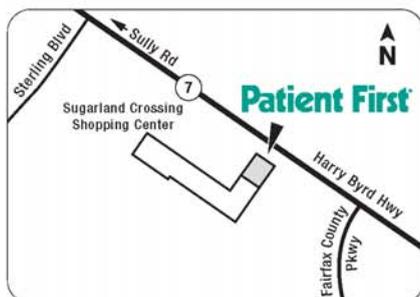
Family and friends are invited to a time of visitation at Colonial Funeral Home, 201 Edwards Ferry Rd. NE. in Leesburg on Wednesday, Feb. 8, between 10 and 11a.m. With the service following at 11 a.m. Burial will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 8, at the

Rosedale Cemetery, 917 Cemetery Rd., Martinsburg, W. Va. Please leave condolences at [www.colonialfuneralhome.com](http://www.colonialfuneralhome.com)

# When a warm blanket just isn't enough.

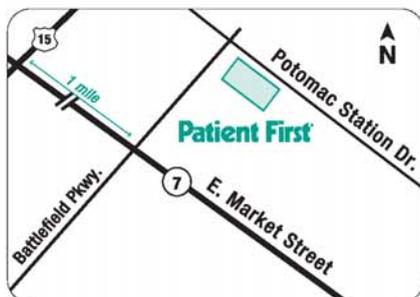


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PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

**Pre-schoolers at Al Fatih Academy in Reston examine a table full of handmade toys donated by the Reston Community Center woodshop's Good Neighbors program.**

## Al Fatih Receives Handmade Toys

### Good Neighbors program donates wooden toys to Muslim school in Reston.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

While toys are usually delivered to children around the end of December, members of the Reston Community Center's Good Neighbors program made their delivery a few weeks after. On Tuesday, Jan. 31, they delivered dozens of hand-made wooden toys to pre-schoolers at Al Fatih Academy in Reston.

"We usually make these drops when we reach critical mass with the amount of toys we've made, which is generally about once a year," said Walter Lazear, a member of the group. "Usually it ends up being around Christmas or just after, and it's always fun to bring in some new toys for kids and see how excited they get."

The Good Neighbors program has been around since the early nineties and also donates toys to the Laurel Learning Center, the Fairfax County Women's Shelter, as well as local schools and day care centers.

Volunteers unloaded planes, cars, trucks, blocks, animals and many other kinds of toys onto several tables before the students arrived. Each student was allowed to pick out their own toy to start with, but it was barely 10 minutes before toys

had been swapped and passed around.

The toys proved to be sturdy, surviving mid-air collisions and heavy use, especially the ones with moving parts. Before the students ended their play time, a wheel or two had fallen off, but they could be easily repaired, and the members of Good Neighbors said that every toy comes with a "lifetime warranty" for repairs.

Al Fatih academy's teachers and students are all Muslim, and it was started in 1998 by members of the All Dulles Area Muslim Society to develop their children in faith and education.

Amaarah DeCuir, principal of the academy, says though the school has been undergoing transitions for the past few years, she said she hopes this newfound relationship with the Reston Community Center will help them become intertwined with the community.

"We connected at the Martin Luther King Jr. march a few weeks ago, and though our school has moved a bit, from Herndon to Sterling and then here, we're at a point where we're ready to interact with our neighbors," she said. "One of our school's founding ideals is to be involved in as many aspects of community service as possible."

## OPINION

# Short Changing the Education

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

Last week I addressed the House of Delegates to express concern that Governor McDonnell's proposed budget short changes the education of our children ([http://youtu.be/-VbOv\\_uJXOU](http://youtu.be/-VbOv_uJXOU)).

While the Governor is claiming to provide about 500 million new dollars for public education, school boards and superintendents around the Commonwealth are talking about the cuts in programs and teachers they will need to make because of the loss of state aid in his budget.

The differences in the two perspectives can be explained in how the budget is constructed. Every two years the formula for funding schools is adjusted in a process called "rebenchmarking" to ensure that the formula reflects the realities of school population increases, inflation, standards changes and other factors. This year there was a partial rebenchmarking of the formula, and the result is that the cost of schools appears artificially low. The costs left out of rebenchmarking included some inflation, federal funds, and cost to compete. The Governor's increases are added to an understated budget.

In order to calculate the benchmark for school costs without the arbitrary adjustments made by the Governor, the Appropriations Committee staff calculated that an additional \$99.2 million would be required



in the first year and \$100.5 million in the second year. I introduced budget amendments to restore the cuts in funding.

In an analysis done for local governments to determine the cost to local government of the rebenchmarking policy changes, it is estimated that half of local governments will need to increase the real estate tax by at least two cents to make up the difference and in seven localities the increase would be five cents of the real estate tax rate. I told legislators not to go home bragging that we did not raise taxes. Our continued policy of devolution of costs for public education is the main driver in property tax increases.

The Commonwealth Institute measures our state's declining support for education another way. They found investment in education has fallen from 2.33 percent of personal income FY2007 to roughly 2 percent in the next biennium.

Keep in mind that Virginia is the 8th wealthiest state in per capita personal income in the nation. Yet our per-pupil spending from state sources is 35th lowest in the nation. Our average teacher's salary is \$4,510 below the national average. At the end of the next biennium we will be running our schools on \$547 less per pupil than in 2009. We already have 2,116 fewer teachers in our schools today than we did in 2009, but we have about 45,000 more students.

As I told members of the House, it is time that we stop short changing the education of our children.

COMMENTARY

## Virginia Assembly—From Bad to Worse

BY JOHN LOVAAS  
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST

Last year, our legislators exemplified the ethically-challenged behavior so commonplace in Richmond. Several turned up in France sipping fine wines claiming to be studying uranium mining, all expenses paid by a corporation seeking Assembly approval to mine uranium and make billions. A classic conflict of interest you'd think would be illegal, but not in Virginia!

The 2012 session is now underway. Let's see how the people's business is going. One example from the Richmond swamp is Republican males busily writing bills to regulate women's reproductive health decisions. The latest requires a woman making the painful decision to end a pregnancy to first watch and listen to a description (presumably by a certified Republican) of an ultrasound fetal image before being allowed to have an abortion. Our own Senator Janet Howell, not to be outdone, wants to amend the bill to require men to have intensive rectal exams before getting prescriptions for Viagra!

In a state with a long record of devising all manner of tests to block voting by African-Americans, Republicans seem to be at it again. Despite the fact that there are no known organized efforts at fraudulent voting, Republicans in Virginia (and other states) propose to "protect" the process by creating new hurdles for people

INDEPENDENT  
PROGRESSIVE

attempting to vote. They currently have more than a dozen bills to do so in the hopper in the swamp. In an environment where we continue to experience distressingly low voter participation in elections, the Republicans are working to further depress voting, especially by certain people.

Another non-existent threat being dealt with by the Republicans is the menace of equal rights for gays and lesbians. While they are eligible to fight and die for us in our armed forces (many thousands of whom are station-

ed right here in Virginia), they certainly should not have the right to marriage or to non-discrimination in employment. Next we can expect Republicans to propose adding sexual preference checks as prerequisites to voting.

It seems the Republicans are out to restrict rights and regulate the behavior of millions of Virginians, but not for everybody. If you like to drink alcohol and carry it in open containers when travelling in your car or truck, that's OK. And, gun owners it turns out are God's chosen ones. Watch Republicans writing a boatload of bills to make it easier to obtain, carry, and presumably use more and more deadly firearms. One new one strikes down the outrageous law limiting Virginians to just one new AK-47 per month. Indeed, how can one build a statewide militia if you can't properly arm them?

And, we run around the world teaching others how to govern!

# OPINION

## Access for Home Schoolers to School Activities

Families who home-school their children in this area take a burden off crowded schools, and off taxpayers who pay on average between \$12,000 and \$16,000 per year per child in school depending on where in Northern Virginia.

There is no reason to deny students who live within a school's boundaries access to the extracurricular activities of that school. While a proposal making its way through the Virginia General Assembly would address home schoolers' access to sports, home schooled stu-

dents should also be able to take some classes in school without having to be enrolled as a full-time student.

There is good reason to change the "bright white line" of student or non-student in public schools, all or nothing. Students have a variety of educational needs. Students need flexibility and often need several different educational contexts to create success.

Of course these students should be subject to all the same requirements as any other student in trying out for a spot on a team or in

the school play or band.

Some local school officials have said it's not fair, homeschooled students don't have to work as hard at their studies as public school students, so they would have an unfair advantage in extracurriculars. First, many homeschoolers work harder than the average public school students. And second, by this reasoning, perhaps coaches should consider some sort of weighted assessment of course load when deciding who should be on the team.

Public schools should be committed to providing the best solutions for all students.

## Suppressing the Vote And Other Action in Richmond

While all Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria senators voted against a bill that forces voters to provide one of a short list of identification in order to vote, the bill passed 20-to-20. Here's how: 02/06/12 Passed Senate (20-Y 20-N); 02/06/12 Senate: Chair votes Yes

Senators George Barker, Adam Ebbin, Barbara Favola, Mark Herring, Janet Howell, Dave Marsden, Chap Petersen, Toddy Puller and Dick Saslaw voted against the bill, which "eliminates the provision that allows a voter to sign a sworn statement that he is the named registered voter he claims to be in lieu of showing identification." Instead such a voter must cast a provisional ballot if he cannot provide a required

form of identification, and provisional ballots are counted the next day when a committee determines eligibility.

A Commonwealth of Virginia voter registration card will no longer count as one of forms of identification that a voter can present to demonstrate that he is a qualified voter, but a separate bill would add concealed handgun permits to the list of acceptable forms of identification to vote

### One Gun a Month Not Enough?

Virginia's long standing law restricting gun

purchases to one a month was overturned this week.

In the Senate, all Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax senators voted against the repeal. In the House of Delegates, Barbara Comstock and Tim Hugo voted in favor of eliminating the restriction. Three Republicans joined all the Democrats from our area in voting against lifting the one-gun-a-month restriction: Dave Albo, Jim LeMunyon and Tom Rust voted against the repeal along with Bob Brink, David Bulova, David Englin, Eileen Filler-Corn, Mark Herring, Mark Keam, Ken Plum, Mark Sickles, Scott Surovell and Vivian Watts.

— MARY KIMM

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Keeping Dulles Rail On Track

To the Editor:

Henry Ford once said that you should not find fault, but find a remedy, because anyone can complain. I believe this principle describes our efforts over the last year to reduce the cost of Dulles Rail and keep it moving forward.

Opponents to this critical project continue to suggest we halt progress in order to study any possible effects. Doing so would not only delay the project but would end up costing Fairfax County taxpayers and Dulles Toll Road users

more in the long run, the very scenario these opponents use to justify their opposition. In order to protect taxpayers and commuters, I have worked with our County staff and our funding partners over the last year to successfully reduce the cost of Dulles Rail by over \$700 million all while keeping the project on track. We chose to find remedies instead of faults.

For example, in April I made the case for an aerial station at Dulles International Airport by "walking the walk" — showing people the

short distance between the proposed underground station and the aerial station. Moving the station above ground led to a cost savings of \$330 million. Our County staff worked with their counterparts in Loudoun County and officials from the state and federal government over the summer to identify over \$300 million in additional savings. Our work is consistent with Ford's principle.

Stopping the progress we have fought so hard to achieve also goes against our Board's stated commitment to "vigorously pursue economic development and revitaliza-

tion opportunities." Even the most vocal opponents of Dulles Rail cannot ignore its economic development potential.

Complete preliminary engineering estimates on Phase 2 are due out soon. When they are released, our Board will have 90 days to approve our continued commitment to this ambitious project. Rail to Dulles remains my number one transportation goal.

**Sharon Bulova**  
Chairman  
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

## Support Funding Alzheimer's Project

To the Editor:

Today, 5.4 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease, including 130,000 Virginia residents. By 2050 as many as 16 million Americans will have this disease that slowly steals memories, independence, autonomy and so much more

Now the nation's sixth leading cause of death, Alzheimer's is unmatched in the scale of its devastating human and economic impact. There is no other chronic disease that affects so many without a way to cure, prevent or even slow its progression.

One in three Americans know someone with Alzheimer's. There are nearly 15 million family mem-

bers and friends providing care for a loved one with Alzheimer's and dementia, including more than 422,000 Virginians.

Beyond the sheer numbers of lives touched by the disease, the financial impact on our nation is staggering. Alzheimer's cost the nation \$183 billion today. That amount will soar to \$1 trillion by midcentury. Medicare costs will increase nearly 600 percent and Medicaid nearly 400 percent — if we do nothing.

The National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA), signed into law in January 2011, requires the creation of a national strategic plan to address the rapidly escalating Alzheimer's disease crisis and will

coordinate Alzheimer's disease efforts across the federal government. The Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services, created by NAPA to coordinate federal agencies conducting Alzheimer's-related care, services and research, met in mid-January to review the first draft framework of a National Alzheimer's Plan.

This is an historic moment. We need a meaningful allocation of resources in the President's upcoming budget if we are committed to finding a cure. Our nation's leaders must follow through and fulfill their commitment with a strong plan supported by the necessary resources to alter the course of Alzheimer's.

Alzheimer's won't wait. I invite you to take action today by sign-

ing our petition to President Obama at [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org). Urge the President to take the next bold step forward in the fight against Alzheimer's and fulfill the promise of the National Alzheimer's Project Act passed unanimously by Congress more than a year ago. Tell him millions of families are counting on him to fulfill the potential of NAPA when he releases his upcoming Budget Request.

Now is the time to create a world without Alzheimer's. Families won't forget.

**Susan Kudla Finn, PMP**  
President and CEO  
Alzheimer's Association  
National Capital Area Chapter  
Fairfax

## Reston CONNECTION

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# NEWS

## Best of Reston

FROM PAGE 3

### LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Graceful Spaces and Reston Little League won the Civic and Community Organization Award.

Jean Boston, Karen Hale and Anne Strange, who run Graceful Spaces, use their skills to assist families in need.

"These three long time Restonian women utilize their talents and their love for interior design and feng shui to assist families to regain self-sufficiency as they transition from living in a shelter to home ownership," Redpath said. "They integrate simple living with style, charm and environmental stewardship."

Reston Little League consists of more than 700 boys and girls, and has seen its share of success on the field, with one of their teams winning the Virginia State Championship in 2011. They have been around for more than 40 years, and feature more than 450 parent volunteers who serve as board members, umpires and coaches.

"At the core of their mission is love of baseball, respect for community and teaching lessons of sportsmanship," said Mark Ingrao, chair of the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce. "Regardless of skill level or ability to pay, this volunteer organization has offered boys and girls the chance to play baseball for 40 years."

Wee Play was awarded the Small Business Leader for this year. It consists of a 3,000 square foot gym and indoor playland for children, and owner Kathy Brennan opens the studio weekly to students at the Laurel Learning Center and children at the Embry Rucker Shelter.

The Corporate Business Leader for this year was Dominion Power, for their corporate philanthropy efforts. They support the Girls Excelling at Math and Science program at Dogwood Elementary School, the Future Renewable Energy Effort project at Rachel Carson Middle School and contributed a \$10,000 grant for clean up projects along the W and OD Trail.

"We are very fortunate to live in a place where there are so many people and so many good works to nominate," Redpath said.

**THE EVENT** will raise money for Reston Interfaith, and this year's goal is \$400,000. As of Thursday's event, they had raised \$215,000. More information on the event can be found at [www.restoninterfaith.org](http://www.restoninterfaith.org).



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Photo by Kenneth M. Wyner

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## Home Life Style

Designers say subtle home accents like valentine-themed small glass hearts can be used to express affection for family and friends.



PHOTO BY  
MARILYN CAMPBELL

# Valentine's Day Décor

In honor of Cupid's day, share ideas for sweetening a home or dining table.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Whether planning a dinner party for friends, a romantic meal for two or a breakfast surprise for children, local designers say simple accents can create a festive atmosphere on Valentine's Day. First on the list of suggestions: originality.

"I feel that things like oversized balloons and little

bears with stuffed hearts have been overdone so much that I would maybe stay away from those," said Angela Phelps of Le Village Marche in Arlington. "Look for things that are more creative."

One way to make guests or family feel special is with lightly scented conversation heart candles and soaps. "They're cute and quirky," said McLean resident Penelope Bell of the Dandelion Patch in Reston, Vienna, Leesburg and Washington, D.C. "I would put them in a powder room for guests if you're having a Valentine's Day gathering. You could display them in a small soap or cylindrical glass vase."

Designers say subtle home accents can be used to express affection. "You can display Valentine's-themed glass plates that can be used to hold candy

SEE DÉCOR, PAGE 9



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# Home Life Style Décor

FROM PAGE 8

or a little glass heart," said Judy Philactos of Periwinkle in Washington, D.C. Small glass hearts can be grouped or scattered on an accent table as an expression of love.

Phelps recommends Valentine-themed vintage postcards, which can be used for more than correspondence. "[These] glittering greetings are fun for decorating as well."

Philactos strings lace-trimmed, heart-shaped Valentine's Day cards to make a garland that can be hung on a mantle to add burst of color. She also loops a ribbon through the cards and hangs them on a metal photo tree to create a Cupid-worthy accent piece.

Decorative candles can create an air of romance or festivity. "I've used pink, lightly scented bubbled glass candles," said Phelps. "If you put three or four of those together, I think they look really, really nice."

When it comes to the table, Phelps suggests moving beyond red.

"I think if you are decorating a table for a romantic dinner, you can never go wrong with candles or fresh flowers," said Phelps. "You can do a white theme with little bits of red. [Valentine's Day table settings] don't always have to be all red, and it doesn't always have to be roses."

Floral designer Gerry Rogers of Petal's Edge Floral Design in Alexandria says floral options are plentiful. "February is a great time of year for flowers. We're starting to get a lot of spring flowers back in," said Rogers "Things like anemone and tulips and sometimes even peonies and sweet pea. Gerbera daisies can be a playful or colorful choice, and orchids are great for someone who likes something a little more exotic."

Potomac-based floral designer Evelyn Kinville suggests looking to nature for inspiration. "You can create an arrangement that looks like you went out for a walk in a woody area and found some nice vines and grasses," said Kinville of Behnke's Florist in Potomac. "You can mix those with roses or hydrangeas. These arrangements make nice accents for end tables or coffee tables."

There is an abundance of choices for even for the youngest celebrants. "Valentine's-themed cupcake liners are nice for children," said Phelps. The cupcakes can be displayed on a wide-rimmed, footed cake plate and tied with a colorful ribbon.



Accents for creating a festive atmosphere for children on Valentine's Day are plentiful.

PHOTOS BY MARILYN CAMPBELL



Designers use Valentine's Day cards to make garland and ornaments creating a Cupid-worthy accent piece.

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# Home Life Style

In this BOWA project in Great Falls, a gallery was designed to display the owner's extensive motion picture poster collection.



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Classic car gets a classic space as part of this whole house BOWA renovation in Arlington.



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The 7,000-gallon salt water aquarium in this BOWA renovation in McLean required extensive structural reinforcement and a crane to set it in place.

## Remodeling: An Opportunity To Follow One's Passion

### Adding that personal touch.

BY JOSHUA BAKER  
SPECIAL TO THE CONNECTION

Having remodeled thousands of projects over the past 25 years, our clients' reactions tell us that some

of the most successful projects often address a specific passion or interest. Folks seem to be spending more and more time at home not only working, but also enriching their lives through personal interests. To that end, today's remodeling design often includes

developing new areas for pursuing a variety of passions. Here are some local examples:

A breakfast room addition was carefully planned to also function as a bird watching area. The foundation was specially designed to allow the existing trees to remain

in close proximity, and great care was taken to preserve the surroundings during construction. A professional arborist was engaged to manage the health of the trees in the six months prior to construction to ensure the addition had an almost treehouse feel.

There are a wide range of car enthusiasts each with his (or her) own specifications. Some garage additions, whether attached or detached, are effectively museums. One such addition was designed as an antique car barn, including four-inch thick, rough wood floors, and

individual bays for each piece of art. Other garage projects are focused on automobile maintenance and repair. These often have automatic lifts, similar to your local repair shop, which allow for easy access and even provide additional storage. One Great Falls garage was designed and built so that a father could share his knowledge and interest in cars with his sons.

Sports fanaticism often drives remodeling design. Sometimes, modestly designed trophy areas for displaying family victories are included. Other times, whole rooms pay homage to (most often out of town) favorite college or professional sports teams. Real stadium seats, painted murals of favorite scenes, and custom flooring made to look like ball fields are all a part of the fun.

Are salt-water aquariums your thing? While they aren't for everyone due to the significant maintenance, technology and investment required, some homeowners find the colors and peaceful setting captivating. For one local enthusiast we installed a 7,000-gallon live coral reef. The weight of the aquarium required the floor be reinforced with steel beams, a crane was needed to set the glass tank, and a separate control/filter room was added.

Many designs incorporate a trend towards enjoying and collecting wine. A very efficient and relatively inexpensive approach is to purchase specialized wine refrigerators. These vary in size from small under-counter units, appropriate for a kitchen or bar area, to large full-size units most often installed in unfinished areas of the basement. For the wine aficiona-

dos, fully conditioned wine rooms with custom-made wood racking for storage have become common in luxury homes. And for a really nice touch, these rooms are designed to include a tasting area or even full-size dining areas, similar to many stylish restaurants.

Art collections, whether pop or classical, often drive remodeling design decisions. For example, hallways are widened to create galleries and sophisticated specialty lighting is installed, based upon the type of art work, natural light etc.

One such project in Great Falls involved creating a generous gallery to feature original antique movie posters.

So the questions remains, what's your passion? By working closely with an experienced design build remodeler who has access to a whole host of specialty designers and experts, your dreams of an at-home museum, sanctuary, tasting room, etc. may well be within reach.

Joshua Baker is founder of Bowa Builders.



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The homeowners' team loyalties were reflected in this Potomac, Md. home theater renovation by BOWA.

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**Canoe Making**- Learn to build a wood strip canoe. First night we will go over the steps in constructing your own using the wood strip. A wood strip canoe will be available. Second night will be making the strong back on which the canoe is built Third night we will start laying on the wood strip planking Subsequent weeks will be planking the canoe and then fiber glassing the vessel. By the end of the course you will know everything and maybe have patterns for a wood strip canoe of your own. Limited to five students and will be taught at various locations in Reston. 6 lessons on Tuesday nights beginning at 7:30-9:30 in late February \$160

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## Home Life Style

# House on a Hill

Contemporary in Oakton transformed into welcoming southern colonial.

BY JOHN BYRD  
 SPECIAL TO THE CONNECTION

Herndon, Ala. is a pretty small town—yet it has three historic districts and more homes in the national register than most places twice its size. Growing up in such a community, Gina Jones is understandably attracted to welcoming porches and grand foyers—hallmarks of the antebellum style.

Alas, when Jones, an Internet publisher, relocated to Northern Virginia ten years ago, the place that came closest to suiting her family's needs was an Oakton contemporary—one of four on a private drive at the top of a hill.

Jones adapted to her new setting just fine. But after occupying the house for a few years, certain shortcomings became apparent.

"I was looking for a larger master bedroom, a guest room... and I really wanted a front porch and a foyer," Jones recalls. "The foyer was important in my childhood home. It's where the house begins"

The practical problem with the last part of the vision, however, was the steeply sloping grade immediately outside the existing front door. The more Jones learned about her home's inherent site problems, in fact, the more the search for new square footage became concentrated on the rear elevation.

"We wanted to stick to our budget," Jones recalls "so the remodeling proposals we received were all focused on the back of the house."

It was at this juncture that Jones met Sonny Nazemian, president of Michael Nash Kitchens and Homes.

"Sonny plan's not only made our new façade feasible—but actually created more square footage than we'd thought we could afford," Jones explains. "Naturally, we were thrilled with that."

The existing front patio served as a 14-foot by 26-foot template for a two-level enclosure.

The lower level now accommodates a spacious foyer with ten foot ceilings, a first level guest room and a full bath. On the second level, the project co-opted one of three existing bedrooms to form a substantially larger master bedroom suite.

Best yet, the new site plan permits a top item on the wish list: a 25-foot-long, two level front porch that, Jones says, evokes the graciously welcoming

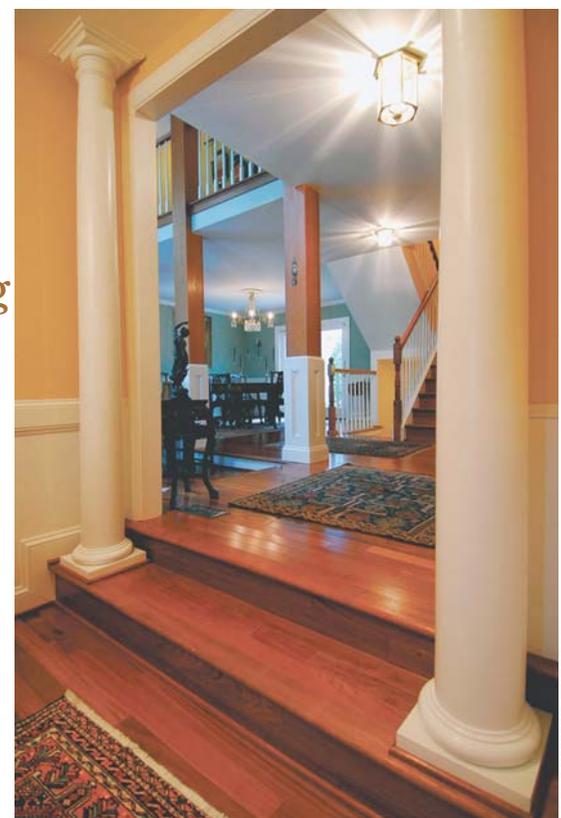


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Two Doric columns on either side of a stair accessing the main living area are both decorative and structural.**

facade of her childhood home.

Inside, the new interior faithfully explores late 18th century decorum in detailing appropriate to several period collectibles and antiques.

Beginning with an Adam-style front door bordered by sidelights and a Palladium window, the foyer is embellished in hardwood flooring, crown molding and embossed knee high panels. Two Doric columns on either side of a stair accessing the main living area are both decorative and structural.

Adjacent to the foyer, the new first level addition provides for a home office that doubles as a guest suite with a private entrance. The suite includes a full bath finished in Brazilian slate-tile, granite countertops and cherry cabinetry.

Upstairs, the new front-facing master bedroom is more than double the size of its predecessor.

The master suite opens out onto the upstairs porch with a stunning view of wooded acreage abutting the property.

In a corner of the master suite, Nazemian installed a gas fireplace, elevating it for visibility from the bed.

"It's a Bed and Breakfast fireplace," Jones said, "and it's also an effective heat source."

The master bath features a double vanity and soaking tub, a walk-in shower and heated floors and towel racks.

"It's the details that make the whole house so cohesive," Jones said.

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# Local REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

## Top Sales, December 2011



**1** 7826 Swinks Mill Court, McLean — \$4,000,000



**10** 11510 Hemingway Drive, Reston — \$925,000



**2** 9695 Mill Ridge Lane, Great Falls — \$3,106,367

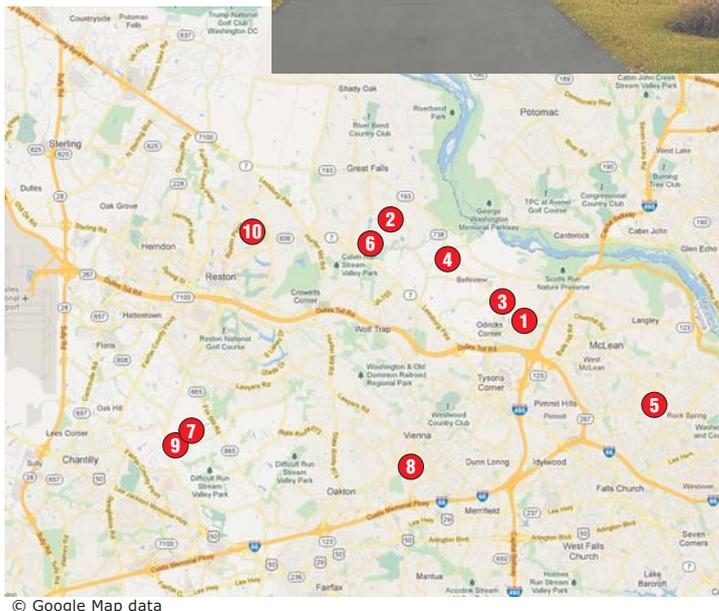


**3** 8100 Spring Hill Farm Drive, McLean — \$3,000,000

**4** 8891 Olson Court, McLean — \$2,025,000



**8** 504 Stephen Circle, Vienna — \$1,216,500

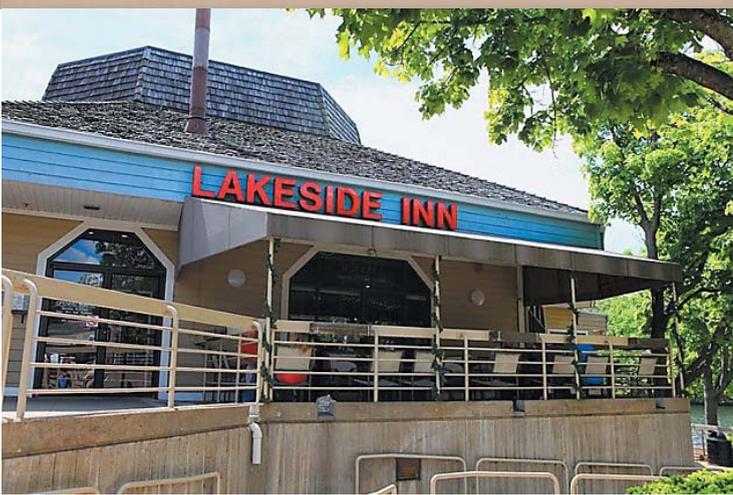


Address	BR	FB	HB	....	Postal	City	.....	Sold Price	...	Type	.....	Lot AC	Postal Code	.....	Subdivision	.....	Date Sold	
1 7826 SWINKS MILL CT	6	..	7	.	3	.....	MC LEAN	\$4,000,000	.....	Detached	.....	1.13	..	22102	.....	SWINKS MILL	.....	12/07/11
2 9695 MILL RIDGE LN	5	..	5	.	1	.....	GREAT FALLS	\$3,106,367	.....	Detached	.....	2.02	..	22066	.....	THE LANE AT FOUR STAIRS	..	12/21/11
3 8100 SPRING HILL FARM DR	5	..	5	.	3	.....	MCLEAN	\$3,000,000	.....	Detached	.....	0.84	..	22102	.....	SPRING HILL FARM	.....	12/30/11
4 8891 OLSON CT	5	..	5	.	2	.....	MCLEAN	\$2,025,000	.....	Detached	.....	1.72	..	22102	.....	BRYAN POND	.....	12/27/11
5 1949 MASSACHUSETTS AVE	6	..	5	.	1	.....	MC LEAN	\$1,750,000	.....	Detached	.....	0.50	..	22101	.....	FRANKLIN PARK	.....	12/14/11
6 1093 MILL FIELD CT	5	..	4	.	2	.....	GREAT FALLS	\$1,612,500	.....	Detached	.....	0.83	..	22066	.....	COLVIN MILL RUN	.....	12/16/11
7 12312 WESTWOOD HILLS DR	4	..	4	.	1	.....	OAK HILL	\$1,240,410	.....	Detached	.....	1.00	..	20171	.....	RESERVE AT OAKTON	.....	12/09/11
8 504 STEPHEN CIR	5	..	4	.	1	.....	VIENNA	\$1,216,500	.....	Detached	.....	0.30	..	22180	.....	VIENNA WOODS	.....	12/30/11
9 12315 WESTWOOD HILLS DR	4	..	3	.	1	.....	HERNDON	\$1,172,249	.....	Detached	.....	1.35	..	20171	.....	RESERVE AT OAKTON	.....	12/28/11
10 11510 HEMINGWAY DR	3	..	3	.	1	.....	RESTON	\$925,000	.....	Townhouse	..	0.05	..	20194	.....	RESTON	.....	12/08/11

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## ENTERTAINMENT

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

### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 8

**Evening of One Act Plays.** 7:30 p.m.  
Herndon High School Auditorium,  
700 Bennett St., Herndon.  
[www.herndonrama.org](http://www.herndonrama.org).

### THURSDAY/FEB. 9

**Mountain Heart.** 8 p.m. The Barns at  
Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna.  
Bluegrass with rock, gospel, jazz,  
R&B and blues. \$22.  
[www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**Mystery and Adventure Mini Book Sale.** 10 a.m. Reston Regional  
Library, 11925 Bowman Towne  
Drive, Reston. 703-689-2700, TTY  
711.

**One-on-One Computer Tutoring.** 2  
p.m. Oakton Library, 10304  
Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn the  
basics of the Internet, **Word and  
Excel.** Call for appointment. Adults.  
703-242-4020.

**One-on-One English Practice.** 2 p.m.  
Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven  
Place, Oakton. Call for appointment  
with an ESL volunteer. Adults. 703-  
242-4020.

**Bedtime Storytime.** 7:30 p.m. Oakton  
Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place,  
Oakton. Stories and songs. Age 2-5  
with adult. 703-242-4020.

**eBook/eReader Instruction.** 7:30  
p.m. and 8:15 p.m. Oakton Library,  
10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton.  
Learn about library eBooks and how  
to access them with your compatible  
device. Call for appointment. Adults.  
703-242-4020.



**Adopt A Senior Lab on Sunday, Feb. 12 from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at PetSmart, 11860 Spectrum Center, Reston. Meet older dogs available for adoption from Lab Rescue of the Labrador Retriever Club of the Potomac. 703-796-0656 or [www.lab-rescue.org](http://www.lab-rescue.org).**

**Toddler Storytime.** 10:30 a.m.  
Reston Regional Library, 11925  
Bowman Towne Drive, Reston.  
Stories, songs and fingerplays. Age 2-  
3 with adult. 703-689-2700.

**Book Discussion Group.** 7:30 p.m.  
Reston Regional Library, 11925  
Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Call  
for title. Adults. 703-689-2700.

### FRIDAY/FEB. 10

**Virginia Opera: Orphée.** 8 p.m.  
George Mason University's Center for  
the Arts Concert Hall, 4400  
University Drive, Fairfax. The

Virginia Premiere of Philip Glass's  
Orphée, based on Jean Cocteau's  
reimagining of the myth of Orpheus  
and Euridice. Sung in French with  
English supertitles. \$44-\$86. 888-  
945-2468 or [www.gmu.edu](http://www.gmu.edu).

**Dry Branch Fire Squad.** 7:30 p.m.  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090  
Sterling Road, Herndon. Roots  
bluegrass music. \$15. 703-435-8377.

**The Vagina Monologues.** 8 p.m.  
GMU Harris Theatre, 4400 University  
Drive, Fairfax. Proceeds will benefit  
the Mason

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 15

## THE LANGLEY SCHOOL summer studio



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## Reston Association Board of Directors Election

### Important Dates

March 5, 2012- Ballots mailed/online voting begins [www.reston.org](http://www.reston.org)  
March 14, 2012 7 p.m. Candidates' Forum, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive  
March 30, 2012, 5 p.m. Deadline to return ballots to counting agent

### Three seats open:

One South Lakes District Director  
Two At-Large Directors

*Residential property owners and renters are eligible to vote  
in the election. Results will be announced at the  
Annual Members' Meeting, Tuesday, April 10, 2012*

### Details or Questions:

Cate Fulkerson [cate@reston.org](mailto:cate@reston.org) or 703-435-6512.



# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 14

**Victims of Violence fund and Dating Abuse Stops Here (DASH).** \$25 at <http://cfa.gmu.edu/calendar/867>. 703-993-8892 or [sas.gmu.edu](mailto:sas.gmu.edu).

**Chicago City Limits.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Improvisational comedy. \$24. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**Mystery and Adventure Mini Book Sale.** 10 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. 703-689-2700, TTY 711.

**Gottaswing's Annual Have a Heart Hop.** 8:30-11 p.m. Washington Dulles Hilton, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon. Silent auction and swing dancing. Music by the Rock & Roll Relics. \$20 per person. Proceeds benefit the Lucky Dog Animal Rescue and The Honor Flight Network. [info@luckydoganimalrescue.org](mailto:info@luckydoganimalrescue.org) or 202-741-5428.

**"Earth and Sky."** 8 p.m. Waddell Theater, 1000 Harry Byrd Highway Sterling. Taking Flight Theatre Company's season opener. \$15. [www.tfttheatre.org](http://www.tfttheatre.org).

## SATURDAY/FEB. 11

**Reston Contra Dance.** Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Beginners' workshop 7:15-8 p.m., dance 8-10:45 p.m. Music by the June Apple Band. Partner not necessary. \$9 including workshop. [anote20@gmail.com](mailto:anote20@gmail.com).

**Jimmy Lange Boxing.** 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$35-\$500, available at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) and 703-573-SEAT. Accessible seating is available at 703-993-3035. [www.jimmylangeboxing.com](http://www.jimmylangeboxing.com) or [www.patriotcenter.com](http://www.patriotcenter.com).

**Arlo Guthrie: Boys' Night Out.** 8 p.m. George Mason Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With his son Abe Guthrie, his grandson Krishna Guthrie, and longtime collaborator Terry a la Berry. Tickets \$24-\$48 at 888-945-2468 or [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

**Chicago City Limits.** 7:30 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Improvisational comedy. \$24. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

## FAITH NOTES

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

**Floris United Methodist Church,** 13600 Frying Pan Road in Herndon, has worship services at 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Sundays, with a Latino service on Saturdays at 7 p.m. Floris UMC has been ministering to Herndon and the surrounding community for more than 100 years, and numerous opportunities are available to worship, grow, and serve. 703-793-0026 or [www.florisumc.org](http://www.florisumc.org).

**Vajrayogini Buddhist Center,** Brown's Chapel, 11450 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston, will hold monthly classes for the general public beginning. Gen Kelsang Varahi, an American Buddhist nun, will teach 'Living Meditation: Meditation for Relaxation,' teachings and guided meditations that will give students an ability to learn how to relax their body and mind. \$12. [www.meditation-dc.org](http://www.meditation-dc.org) or 202-986-2257.

**St. Anne's Episcopal Church,** 1700 Wainwright Drive in Reston, holds Sunday services at 7:45 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and contemporary service at 5 p.m. Nursery, Sunday School and Adult Education available. Morning Prayer on Monday at 9:30, Holy Eucha-

**The Vagina Monologues.** 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. GMU Harris Theatre, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Proceeds will benefit the Mason Victims of Violence fund and Dating Abuse Stops Here (DASH). \$25 at <http://cfa.gmu.edu/calendar/867>. 703-993-8892 or [sas.gmu.edu](mailto:sas.gmu.edu).

**Irish Ceili Dance with the Bogwanderers Ceili Band.** 7-11 p.m. Frying Pan Park Visitors Center, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Lessons 7-7:30 p.m. Newcomers welcome. No experience or partner required. \$15, half price under age 18 or students. Maximum \$35 per family. 703-631-9179.

**Mystery and Adventure Mini Book Sale.** 10 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. 703-689-2700, TTY 711.

**Reston's Two Divas.** 6 p.m. Reston Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza, Reston. Celebrate Black History Month with an evening of jazz with song stylists Beverly Cosham and Menda Ahart, with Felicia Kessel-Crawley on keyboard. 703-709-7700 or [restonmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:restonmuseum@gmail.com).

**"Earth and Sky."** 8 p.m. Waddell Theater, 1000 Harry Byrd Highway Sterling. Taking Flight Theatre Company's season opener. \$15. [www.tfttheatre.org](http://www.tfttheatre.org).

## SUNDAY/FEB. 12

**Virginia Opera: Orphée.** 8 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The Virginia Premiere of Philip Glass's Orphée, based on Jean Cocteau's reimagining of the myth of Orpheus and Euridice. Sung in French with English supertitles. \$44-\$86. 888-945-2468 or [www.gmu.edu](http://www.gmu.edu).

**DASH at Dulles 5k Mall Walk.** 9 a.m. Dulles Town Center, 21100 Dulles Town Circle, Fairfax. A fundraiser for Dating Abuse Stops Here sponsored by Dulles Town Center's Dulles Dashers Mall Walkers Club. Created in memory of Siobhan Russell, a Franklin Farm resident murdered by her ex-boyfriend. \$15. [www.datingabuselstopshere.com](http://www.datingabuselstopshere.com).

**Chocolate Festival.** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Floris United Methodist Church,

rist Wednesday at 8:15 a.m. 703-437-6530 or [www.stannes-herndon.org](http://www.stannes-herndon.org).

**Adult Sunday school** will be held 9:30 a.m. Sundays at the Washington Plaza Baptist Church at Lake Anne Village Center. The group is studying the Gospel of Mark. Services follow at 11 a.m.

**HAVEN of Northern Virginia** offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. Contact 703-941-7000 or [www.havenofnova.org](http://www.havenofnova.org) for schedules and registration information.

**The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington** and the Jewish Outreach Institute offer the Mothers/Parents Circle, an umbrella of free educational events and resources. Jewish rituals, ethics and the creation of a Jewish home, regular meetings and group Shabbats and holidays. Participants include Sha'are Shalom, Congregation Beth Emeth, Temple Rodef Shalom and the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. [ShalomDC.org](http://ShalomDC.org).

**The Baha'i community of McLean** holds a weekly fireside, a meeting of discussion, devotion and fellowship, at 7500 Box Elder Court in McLean, at 8 p.m. every Friday. An opportunity to learn about the Baha'i faith. 703-556-3400.

13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon. Children's games and inflatables, silent auction, children's Valentine card-making room, pizza, subs, hotdogs, salads and drinks, chocolate treats and more. 703-793-0026 or [www.florisumc.org/chocolate](http://www.florisumc.org/chocolate).

**Al Petteway & Amy White.** 4 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Traditional and original Celtic and Appalachian music. \$15. 703-759-3309 or [www.oldbrogue.com](http://www.oldbrogue.com).

**Mystery and Adventure Mini Sale.** 10 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. 703-689-2700, TTY 711.

**Adopt A Senior Lab.** 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. PetSmart, 11860 Spectrum Center, Reston. Meet older dogs available for adoption from Lab Rescue of the Labrador Retriever Club of the Potomac. 703-796-0656 or [www.lab-rescue.org](http://www.lab-rescue.org).

**"Earth and Sky."** 7 p.m. Waddell Theater, 1000 Harry Byrd Highway Sterling. Taking Flight Theatre Company's season opener. \$15. [www.tfttheatre.org](http://www.tfttheatre.org).

## MONDAY/FEB. 13

**Mystery and Adventure Mini Book Sale.** 1-4 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. 703-689-2700, TTY 711.

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

**Lapsit Storytime.** 10:30 a.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Stories, songs, and rhymes. 0-11 months with adult. 703-437-8855.

**Small Wonders.** 11:30 a.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Stories, songs, and rhymes. 12-23 months with adult. 703-437-8855.

**Frying Pan Farm at Reston Regional Library.** 3 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Meet the farm rabbit. Learn about groundhogs and other ways to forecast the weather. Enjoy a craft and games. Age 6-11. 703-689-2700.

**Epiphany United Methodist Preschool,** 1014 Country Club Drive, N.E. in Vienna, is now enrolling 3-4-year-old students for the 2010/2011 school year. Contact 703-938-2391 or [www.epiphanypreschool.com](http://www.epiphanypreschool.com).

**Hope Fellowship Church** will temporarily be meeting at Woody's Golf Range, 11801 Leesburg Pike, Herndon. Sunday Worship Services for the Southern Baptist church are at 10:45 a.m. The public is invited to join a Bible believing, multi-ethnic/multi-cultural congregation, with Bible-based sermons and uplifting music. 703-599-3527 or [www.hopefellowshipchurchloudoun.org](http://www.hopefellowshipchurchloudoun.org).

Knitters needed the first and third Wednesdays of the month, at 7 p.m., at **St. Timothy's Episcopal Church,** 432 Van Buren St., Herndon. The church's Shawl Ministry is offering free knitting instruction while providing shawls, blankets and other knitted items for people in need. No cost and yarn can be provided. E-mail [shawl@saint-timothys.org](mailto:shawl@saint-timothys.org) or visit the Pastoral Care page at [www.saint-timothys.org](http://www.saint-timothys.org).

Nondenominational **Christian businessmen** meet for prayer, Biblical discussion and fellowship 7 p.m. Fridays at Anita's, 1051 Elden St., Herndon and 12 p.m. Thursdays at 555 Grove St., Suite 200, Herndon. Call 703-795-1257.

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The Rev. Jacqueline Thomson  
The Rev. Denise Trogdon  
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[www.stannes-herndon.org](http://www.stannes-herndon.org)  
1700 Wainwright Dr., Reston

To Highlight your Faith Community, Call Karen at 703-917-6468

**Herndon United Methodist Church**  
[www.HerndonUMC.org](http://www.HerndonUMC.org)

**Sundays**  
8:30 AM Sanctuary, Traditional Worship Service  
10:00 AM Garden, Traditional Worship Service  
11:00 AM Connection, Contemporary Worship Service

**other weekly services**  
5:30 PM Saturdays: Relax & Renew, Casual Worship Service

701 Bennett St., Herndon, VA  
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# President Comes to Area, Announces New Initiative

FROM PAGE 3

Herndon, said he hoped President Obama go another term to complete his plan.

"You just can't replace his energy. I woke up at 4 a.m., because I was really excited to see the president. My mother knows real estate, and I've seen these big empty houses all over Northern Virginia. It's scary to think about buying a home here," he said.

During his speech, Obama also blasted predatory lending practices, and vowed to tighten regulations.

"(The American people) were hurt. By lenders who sold loans to people who they knew couldn't afford the mortgages ... and banks that packaged those mortgages up and traded them to reap phantom profits, knowing that they were building a house of cards."

"It was wrong. It was wrong," the president said to nods and a buzz of agreement in the audience. "It triggered the worst economic crisis of our lifetimes. And it has been the single biggest drag on our recovery from a terrible recession. Crushing debt has kept millions of consumers from spending."

He said his plan will allow responsible homeowners to refinance at a lower rate, saving hundreds of dollars each month. "Or you can choose those savings to rebuild equity in your homes, which will help most underwater homeowners come back up for air more quickly," he said.

**THE PRESIDENT** made it clear that his "aggressive plan" was not designed for those who have been irresponsible.

"This plan, like the other actions we've taken, will not help the neighbors down the street who bought a house they couldn't afford, and then walked away and left a foreclosed home behind...It's not going to help those who bought multiple homes just to speculate and flip the house and make a quick buck, but it can help those who've acted responsibly," he said.

He veered off script, and entertained the audience, when he recalled how confusing it was when he and First Lady Michelle Obama bought their first home.

"Now, think about it...How many of you have had to deal with overly complicated mortgage forms and hidden clauses and complex terms? I remember when Michelle



PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

**Sam Mayo of Herndon said – as a future homebuyer – he was pleased to hear President Obama's plans for making the process simpler for responsible homebuyers.**

and I bought our first condo — and we're both lawyers," he said, triggering laughter from the audience. "And we're looking through the forms and kind of holding it up... reading it again... 'What does this phrase mean?' And that's for two trained lawyers."

The president then held up a single sheet of paper.

"So this is what a mortgage form should look like. This is it," he said to loud applause and cheers. "Now that our new consumer watchdog agency is finally running at full steam, now that Richard Cordray is in as the Director of the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau, they're moving forward on important protections like this new, shorter mortgage form. Simple, not complicated. Informative, not confusing. Terms are clear. Fees are transparent."

After a pause for effect, the president took another shot at Congress to cheers from the audience: "This, by the way, is what some



**Kerri Wilson, CEO of Reston Interfaith**

of the folks in Congress are trying to roll back and prevent from happening."

He called the housing crisis "personal," saying it struck at the heart of what it means to be middle class in America. "Our homes, the place where we invest our nest egg, place where we raise our family, the place where we plant roots in a community, the place where we build memories," he said.

He ended his speech with an appeal to Congress. "I urge Congress to act. Pass this plan. Help more families keep their homes. Help more neighborhoods remain vibrant. Help keep more dreams defended and alive. And I promise you that I'll keep doing everything I can to make the future brighter for this community, for this commonwealth, for this country."

Quincy Springs, a Fairfax resident with the County's Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, said the president was presenting Americans with an "opportunity."

"So many people have experienced job loss, foreclosures and other hardships. He has the right plan, and he doesn't get the good credit he deserves," Springs said.

Claudia Lupoletti of Burke said she thought Obama struck the right tone in



**Quincy Springs, with the Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, said he thought President Obama does not get enough credit for his plans.**

sending a serious message to lenders.

"I'm very happy to hear that he is going to hold lenders accountable and not just homeowners," Lupoletti said. "He's right about the paperwork. We bought our first home in New York City and it was an all-day process with hundreds of complex forms. I think this is long overdue," she said.

"It is inspiring to see the president move forward to implement a federal response to the mortgage and foreclosure crisis," said Dean Klein, Director of the County's Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, who attended the event with Pat Harrison, Fairfax County's Deputy Director. "(The crisis) has impacted so many individuals and families in our community and nationally."

Congressman Gerry Connolly (D-11) issued a brief statement after the president's speech: "I welcome President Obama back to Northern Virginia. His strong commitment to the economic recovery is obviously heartfelt and I proudly support him in that effort," Connolly said.

## Keeping People in their Homes

Within the Connections for Hope facility is the office of Martin Rios, Reston Interfaith's Certified Housing Counselor.

"Keeping people in their homes, by any means possible, is the ultimate goal of Reston Interfaith," said CEO Kerri Wilson.

In the past 2 1/2 years, Wilson said Rios has helped more than 150 homeowners in crisis, with about 70 percent remaining in their homes.

For those still in discussion with lenders, Wilson said there is hope that the process will move faster in the future. Reston Interfaith recently received full authorization to access and input mortgage loan modification requests through HOPE LoanPort, which is an online tool created by the Treasury Department specifically for Housing Counselors.

"The paper trail has been decreased greatly, saving weeks and months of waiting since all paper-

work is now scanned and uploaded directly to loan servicers," Wilson said. Hundreds of underwriters are part of HOPE LoanPort; in addition, there are options to escalate cases when a decision is not reached in a reasonable timeframe.

Reston Interfaith continues to address housing issues by partnering with the Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) to provide an Introduction to Homeownership class. This

## Reston Interfaith addresses housing with 'Connections for Hope.'

class is designed to take the mystery out of the home buying process and help home buyers prepare to make important decisions about purchasing a home.

Local experts in the field of home buying are involved in the training, and they provide answers to questions from class participants. Completion of this class is required by borrowers in order to become eligible for all VHDA loan programs. Classes are offered monthly at Connections for Hope

office in English and Spanish.

"Now more than ever, Reston Interfaith is proud to provide these essential services at no cost to persons living in northwestern Fairfax County. Many people facing foreclosure pay thousands of dollars for guidance and then end up losing their property," said Wilson.

For more information about Reston Interfaith's housing programs, call 703-956-6722.

—VICTORIA ROSS

# District Indoor Track and Field Championships Completed

South Lakes boys win Liberty ahead of second place Langley; Oakton girls capture Concorde crown.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

The South Lakes High indoor track and field teams were victorious on both the boys' and girls' sides at the recent Liberty District championships, held over two days at the Prince George's County Sportsplex in Maryland. The first day of postseason competition took place on Friday, Jan. 27. The second and final day of action was held last Thursday, Feb. 2.

Next up are the Northern Region boys' and girls' championships, set to take place next week on Saturday, Feb. 18 at Wakefield High School in Arlington. The Virginia State AAA championships are scheduled for Feb. 24-25 at Bethel High School in Hampton.

At districts, the South Lakes boys, the dominant Northern Region program over the years in both indoor and outdoor (spring season) track, won the meet with 144 points, well ahead of second place Langley (66 points) and third place McLean (65). Rounding out the district field were Jefferson (63), Marshall (53), Madison (45), and Fairfax (29).

South Lakes individual champions were: Armando Drain (both the 300 and 500 dash events), Jacob Grundahl (1000), Rashaan Jones (both the high jump and long jump events), and Corey Gilmore (triple jump).

The Seahawks' 4x200-meter relay team of Zac Parker, Brian Brinson, Aeron Thai, and Connor Metcalf finished in first place.

Other first place winners at the meet were: Kenneth Bowden of

Madison (55 dash); Haight Mackenzie of Marshall, who won both the 1600 and 3200 running events; Ed Cai of Jefferson (55-hurdles); Logan Besougloff of Langley (pole vault); and Scott Lafoon of McLean (shot put).

The Madison 4x400 relay team of William Doran, Austin Kolko, Bowden, and Joaquin Alzola finished in first place.

The Jefferson 4x800 relay of Michael Wattendorf, Kyler Blodgett, Andrew O'Shea, and Jacob Zucker finished first as well.

**ON THE GIRLS' SIDE**, South Lakes won the Liberty team title with 142 points, finishing ahead of second place Madison (82.33) and third place Langley (70). The fourth through seventh place team finishers were Jefferson (63.50), McLean (59.83), Marshall (25.33), and Fairfax (22).

South Lakes' Danielle Hale had a spectacular meet, winning four events - the 55 dash, high jump, triple jump, and long jump events. Other first place Seahawks were: Naimah Coleman (300); Aya Abdelhalim (55-hurdles); and Sumiya Yates (shot put).

The South Lakes' 4x200 relay team of Coleman, Kristin Tran, Abdehalim, and Danielle Hale finished in first place. Also, the Seahawks' 4x400 relay of Coleman, Haley Vaughn, Claire Nieuwsma, and Grace Gillen took first place.

Other individual district girls' champions were: McLean High's Hannah Dimmick (500); Jefferson's Katherine Sheridan (both the 1000 and 3200 events); McLean's Madalyn Harper (1600); and Langley's Meigan McNanus

(pole vault).

McLean's 4x800 relay team of Madalyn Harper, Alexa Tabackman, Megan McCormack, and Hannah Dimmick took first place.

**THE CONCORDE DISTRICT** indoor championships took place over two days (Thursday, Jan. 26 and Thursday, Feb. 2) at Prince George's County Sportsplex.

On the girls' side, the Oakton High team captured the district crown with 149 points, finishing ahead of second place Robinson (119) and third place Herndon (64). Rounding out the six-team field were Chantilly (57), Westfield (42), and Centreville (31).

Individual first place finishers for the champion Oakton team were Allie Klimkiewicz (1600 and 3200 races) and Meghan Jean-baptiste (55-hurdles and high jump).

The Oakton girls' 4x200 relay team of Annachristina Clements, Christianne Butters, Danielle Fitzgerald, and Meghan Jean-baptiste finished in first place.

Herndon High's Carina Peter won three events - the 55 dash, long jump, and triple jump.

**ON THE BOYS' SIDE** at the Concorde championships, Westfield, which began second day action in third place, came through to capture the team title with 117 points, edging second place Chantilly (113). Oakton (92) garnered third place, while the fourth through sixth finishers were Robinson (55), Herndon (46), and Centreville (42).

Oakton's Michael McNamee won the 1000 race and was second in the 1600. Herndon's Austin Miller was first in pole vault.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

## A 'Terrific Season' For South Lakes Boys

This has been a terrific boys' basketball season for the South Lakes High boys' team, which entered this week 13-6 overall. The Seahawks won Liberty District home games last week over Fairfax and Marshall. They were scheduled to conclude the regular season with a pair of district home games this week - versus Madison on Tuesday, Feb. 7 and at Stone Bridge this Friday night in Ashburn. The district tournament is set to begin next Tuesday, Feb. 14.

# Oakton Sweeps at Swim Championships

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

The Northern Region swim and dive championships concluded this past Saturday night at the Oak Marr Recreation Center. Oakton High captured both the boys' and girls' team titles.

On the girls' side, the Cougars, in the 24-team field, finished first with 245

points. West Potomac (190) and Langley High Schools (181) finished second and third overall. Rounding out the top five teams were Madison High (162) and Lake Braddock Secondary (155.5).

Other local schools competing on the girls' side included South Lakes (11th place), McLean High (15th), and Herndon (19th).

First place individual girls' finishers included: Langley's Abi Speers (50-

freestyle); Jefferson's Emily Saitta (dive); Oakton's Laura Branton (100-butterfly); Oakton's Janet Hu (100-free and 100-back); and Herndon's Jenna Van Camp (100- breaststroke).

**OAKTON WON** the boys' team title with 281.5 points, besting runner-up Woodson (250) and third place Madison High (217). Jefferson and West Springfield finished fourth and fifth. In all 24 teams competed

in the region boys' championships.

Other competing schools included 10th place Marshall High (91 points), 11th place Langley (88), 14th place Herndon (69), and 15th place McLean (47).

Individual first place finishers included: Marshall's Cyrus Hashemi (200-free and 100-free); Jefferson's Andrew Seliskar (200-IM and 100-fly); Madison's Evan Owens (50-free); Jefferson's Stephen Seliskar (100-back).

# Back On The Juice...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

The chemotherapy juice, that is. Going forward now, every three weeks until I've completed six infusions, finishing sometime around mid May barring any foreseen – and previously experienced blips (meaning delays): levels, counts, readings, etc., that would compel my oncologist to stop the treatment and await results of a retest. If past is at all prologue, inevitably, one of the required pre-chemotherapy blood and urine labs will indicate that my body needs a little "R and R:" recuperation and regeneration of something or other that the chemotherapy destroyed on its way to attacking and hopefully shrinking the tumors. As a result, I will be off schedule to allow my body to settle back to reasonably abnormal (given the severity of the treatment, "normal" is hardly in play anymore). However, it's a process – of fits and starts – one with which I'm familiar so I'm not too concerned about it. Otherwise, I'll be reclining in a Barcalounger at The Infusion Center watching the I.V. drip its cancer-fighting poison into my arm.

However, since this six-time infusion is a repeat performance, I wonder if "reasonably normal" is somehow more problematic the second time around. My oncologist agreed with our decision to re-start because he said/recommended it by saying: "Since it worked so well the first time, we'll probably just do the same thing." "Worked so well" means the tumors shrank and my body tolerated the treatment (not a guarantee, however; one time, I witnessed another chemotherapy patient have a seizure because his body couldn't handle the drug with which he was being infused so they had to stop his treatment). So I'm not taking anything for granted. Nor am I particularly eager or excited. I am however, cautiously optimistic that once again I can survive the ordeal, and make no mistake about it, chemotherapy can be an ordeal.

Certainly knowing what to expect is a big help. Originally, the anxiety of all the treatments, all the appointments, all the pills and all the potential side effects; not to mention the emotional disruptions an out-of-the-blue terminal diagnosis can cause, created a sense of foreboding and negativity that took a little (make that a lot) of time and effort to navigate. But we did, and as we prepare to climb this emotional and physical (not literal) mountain once again, the experience we gained from the initial treatment three years ago has led to significantly less stress for this round (round two).

As with round one, there are no guarantees. I will be "CT-Scanned" in mid February – after two infusions, to assess the effect of the first two chemotherapy treatments. No doubt, waiting for those results will be stressful. However, I'm not sure if indications after only two infusions are significant – good or bad, it's simply prudent at that juncture. Still, we will be hanging on the oncologist's every word, every inflection on every syllable, when he tells us the results – trying to interpret and discern the true meaning of his doctor-speak. Having endured this process many times over the past three years certainly will help us now. However, given the seriousness and life-changing (you'll note I didn't say "life-ending") nature of the conversation, there's only so much one can do to prepare. It's really more about bracing yourself. It's a difficult and emotional moment, almost akin to an out-of-body experience, if there is such a thing.

And after three years of being treated for, and living with, a terminal diagnosis (stage IV lung cancer; there is no stage V), I sort of recognize the various crossroads when I approach them. All you can do is whatever you need to do to get through it. At that moment, there are no rules; it's just instinct and self-preservation. Be true to yourself. It's your life (or death, to be honest); go live it, in health and especially in sickness.

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

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