

From right, South Lakes UPS Store owner Hal Berens hands books collected through the Toys for Tots Literacy Program to Lake Anne Elementary School Principal Brendan Meuney Friday, Feb. 10.

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**Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) speaks at a meeting about the redevelopment of the Crescent Apartments at the Lake Anne Community Center Wednesday, Feb. 8.**



PHOTO BY  
ALEX McVEIGH/  
THE CONNECTION

## County Opens Proposal Process for Crescent Apartments

**Requests for proposals are aimed to enhance affordable housing, aid in Lake Anne revitalization.**

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

**F**airfax County has started exploring opportunities to redevelop the Crescent Apartments, a 181-unit complex located just northeast of Lake Anne. The county began accepting Requests for Proposals Feb. 9.

“What we’re looking for are people who want to create a high-quality development here. We want to keep housing options, including citizens who are seniors, we want to keep housing opportunities for those who have more modest incomes,” said Barbara Byron, director of the county’s Office of Community Revitalization. “We want to make sure the area is really pedestrian and bicycle oriented. And we want to, more importantly from my perspective, bring more people to Lake Anne, so the people who own the retail establishments and restaurants can thrive where they have been having some struggles recently.”

The county purchased the Crescent Apartments in 2006 to be used as affordable housing. The process that has begun is just the first step in a multi-year process which will not affect current residents now or in the near future. There will not be any construction or redevelopment for at least several years.

Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) said the goal of the process was not to take away affordable housing, but to enhance it and the area around it.

“We want the community and particularly the residents of Crescent to know that we’re trying to preserve as well as expand affordable housing,” she said.

**ACCORDING TO THE COUNTY**, up to 935 residential dwelling units could be constructed in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan. Ideally, they would like to see adjacent landowners and developers work jointly in the process.

The development opportunities are made possible by the Public-Private Education and Infrastructure Act of 2002. John Payne, deputy director for Real Estate and Development of the department of Housing and Community Development pointed to projects

such as the HOT Lanes and Metro development as an example of what could be done.

“These are public-private partnerships, new ways for people to understand how to finance projects that wouldn’t otherwise take place,” he said. “That allows us to say to the private sector, if you have a better way of doing something, or a better idea of how to finance something, or some way to manage a project that might be needed by the community, you bring your idea forward, and we’ll evaluate it.”

Payne said that as Reston has evolved, Lake Anne has turned into more of a destination than ever, and redevelopment would be one way to take advantage.

“We’ve seen some of the other village centers to move towards a more suburban model, and I think everybody embraces the fact that the historic character of this village center and its location on the lake is a unique feature and needs to be vibrantly infused with people being part of the community and enjoying it,” he said.

**AT A PUBLIC MEETING** at the Reston Community Center Lake Anne Wednesday, Feb. 8, locals had mixed feelings about what the county discussed. Harold Bedford said he thought the redevelopment plans might spell the end of Lake Anne as he knows it.

“I hear a number as big as 935 potential units, and even though that’s the max, that would be devastating to what has been built here at Lake Anne over the past 40 years,” he said. “I’m all for supporting these businesses and making sure this is a special place. But that many new residents, buildings, parking spaces and the construction that would come with it could drive people so far away that they’d never come back.”

Others saw it as a necessary evolution to help bring Lake Anne into a more modern age.

“Lake Anne itself is beautiful, but you take a look around and it almost seems like a relic from another time,” said Stephen Espinoza. “It’s a great place to bring people from out of town, or to walk around and look at our past, but that’s not helping people who are trying to make their living here. If it’s to become a true, self-sustaining commerce center, then some changes have to be made, and we’re going to have to trust the county to do it in the smartest way. I know Cathy, as a Restonian, won’t let anything happen that will change this place for the worse.”

Updates on this and other revitalization efforts at Lake Anne can be found at [www.fcrcv.org/lakeanne](http://www.fcrcv.org/lakeanne).

## Romney Addresses Technology Council

**Presidential hopeful speaks on importance of innovation.**

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Northern Virginia Technology Council welcomed Republican presidential hopeful Mitt Romney Friday, Feb. 10 at the Hyatt Regency Reston. The former Massachusetts governor spoke about his experiences in the world of business and the importance of allowing innovation to flourish.

“What are we going to do to encourage innovation to reside here? We cannot be number 40 or 41 on the table of innovative environments. We will lose innovation, and it will go elsewhere,” he said. “I look at what’s happening and say we’re going to have to make dramatic, bold, creative change to how our nation interacts with our government, or else we’re going to find ourselves eclipsed by other nations.”

Romney advocated for a change in the tax structure that would encourage business ventures.

“We right now have corporate taxes that are the highest in the world. This doesn’t make a lot of sense if you’re trying to encourage people to take risks,” he said. “I’d bring those rates down dramatically.”

He also called for government regulators to take a different viewpoint when it comes to their job, that they should see it as their responsibility to encourage the private sector, as opposed to killing all potential risk.

“If you’ve been in an enterprise, and the culture is ‘if you’re wrong mister, you’re going to lose your job,’ you’re never going to see innovation,” he said. “We have a government that basically says there is basically never any risk whatsoever.”

He pointed to the California-based company Solyndra as an example of what has gone wrong. In 2009, it received more than \$500 million in support from the government.

“I’m not going to be critical because Solyndra went out of business, any venture capitalist knows you make terrible mistakes from time to time. But

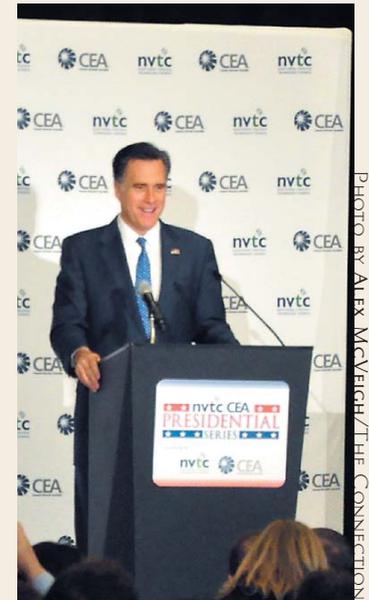


PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

**Republican presidential hopeful Mitt Romney speaks about the importance of innovations Friday, Feb. 10 at the Hyatt Regency Reston.**

when they put \$500 million in Solyndra, they thought they were encouraging solar energy in this country, but they did the opposite,” he said. “When they put their \$500 million into Solyndra, the other 100 entrepreneurs in this country working on solar energy just lost any potential to get capital.”

Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell was at the event, and he introduced Romney. He praised the former governor’s variety of experience, saying Romney has “a profound understanding of the technology community and its importance to the overall prosperity of our nation.”

Other attendees at the event said they were similarly impressed by the skill set Romney brings to the table.

“If we tasked headhunters with selecting a president based on relevant management and government experience, financial and budget acumen, leadership and integrity, they would identify Mitt on their own as a leading candidate,” said Gary Shapiro, president and CEO of the Consumer Electronics Association.

The event was the NVTCT’s latest in its Presidential Series. Former candidate Herman Cain spoke in November.

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## NEWS



PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Staff from the South Lakes UPS Store, Reston elementary schools and other community groups at the UPS Store Friday, Feb. 10 after owner Hal Berens presented \$10,000 worth of books to Lake Anne, Terraset and Forest Edge Elementary Schools, as well as Reston Interfaith.

# UPS Store Helps With Costs of Learning

Store presents \$10,000 worth of books to local schools and learning centers.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

There were piles of extra packages around the UPS Store in the South Lakes Village Center Friday, Feb. 10. The stacked white boxes weren't being shipped around the country, instead they were filled with books destined for local learning centers.

The store helped collect \$10,000 worth of Scholastic books through the Toys For Tots Literacy Program, which were distributed to Terraset, Lake Anne and Forest Edge Elementary Schools as well as Reston Interfaith. This is the fifth year of the program, which has collected more than \$25,000 worth of books for local schools. "We're doing this because reading is a fundamental need, and it needs to start at the elementary school level," said Hal Berens, owner of the UPS Store, which served as the distribution center. "The key is to get the books and get them into schools where they can be used."

Ellen Curry, principal of Terraset Elementary, says the school has been lucky enough to be a recipient of the program since it began at the UPS Store.

"It's always very rewarding this time of year when you give out the books and see the smiles on the students' faces and knowing that many of them don't have access to books of their own at home," she said.



South Lakes UPS Store owner Hal Berens presents a certificate of appreciation to employee Jessica Alexander for her assistance in helping collect \$10,000 for children's books, which were given to local schools and learning centers Friday, Feb. 10.

Abby Kimble of Reston Interfaith, said the books they received will help children in need.

"Reston Interfaith serves a lot of children dealing with homelessness transitional housing," she said. "Having a few books to call their own brings a sense of joy to them that a lot of us take for granted."

School Board representative Pat Hynes (Hunter Mill) said these kinds of fundraising efforts are essential these days.

"This kind of partnership is critical in tight budget times, and things are tight for everyone now, which isn't easy for the kids," she said. "We're always trying to put additional focus on early literacy, and this helps us do it."

Berens gave a credit to his staff as well.

"We couldn't do anything without the staff here, they're the ones out there, asking for donations and making it work," he said.

# OBITUARY



**Barbara Parkinson**

## Barbara Parkinson, 67, Longtime Connection Employee, Dies

Barbara Jean Parkinson, 67, of Sterling, Va., died Feb. 7, 2012 at her residence. Born on Sept. 17, 1944 in New York she was the daughter of the late Charles and Elizabeth Lundy. Ms. Parkinson was a member of Cornerstone Chapel in Leesburg, Va.

Barbara attended Michigan State University where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Music. During her college years she was a member of the singing group known as The Jills. Being a Music major in college she had a talent and love for music. She also played the piano and enjoyed singing.

She worked for Connection Newspapers for many years.

Barbara enjoyed and loved spending time with her grandchildren and doing crafts with them.

Barbara was passionate about her faith and enjoyed sharing it with others.

She is survived by her son Mark Parkinson and his wife Rachel, of Purcellville, Va.; daughter Jennifer Daughtry and her husband Jay of Sterling, Va.; brother Wayne Lundy of Loveland, Ohio; and five grandchildren.

A graveside service was held on Friday, Feb. 10, 2012 at Ebenezer Cemetery, in Round Hill, Va. with Pastor Mike Emerson officiating.

Memorial contributions can be sent to the Cornerstone Chapel at [www.cornerstonechapel.net](http://www.cornerstonechapel.net).

Please visit [www.hallfh.com](http://www.hallfh.com) to express online condolences to the family.



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# OPINION

## Saving the Bay: A Good Investment

Cleaning up the water that runs into the Chesapeake Bay will help create jobs and economic activity in Virginia.

A plan to raise \$300 million in bonds to upgrade wastewater treatment plants around the commonwealth stalled in a House of Delegates committee last week, a setback in meeting EPA requirements to clean up the water that leads to the Bay. Money is tight, lawmakers say, although an identical plan cleared the Senate.

Let's be clear that part of what we're talking about by delay is continuing to allow raw sewage to run into Virginia's waterways every time it rains.

This is like deciding to let the toilets in the house overflow rather than spend money on the plumber. Not only is it unhealthy and unpleasant, it also makes Virginia less attractive for tourists and eco-tourists.

Upgrading the sewage treatment plants will

generate jobs, but also upgrade the quality of the water Virginians depend on for drinking, household and business use and recreation.

More than 30 years of "saving" the Chesapeake Bay has accomplished about half of what needs to be done. The bay is primary attraction for tourists in Virginia, and is the basis for many jobs. The investment in the health of the bay is a jobs bill for Virginia.

Aside from upgrading the treatment plants, states in the Chesapeake Bay watershed will need to find ways slow the pace of stormwater runoff, do better with erosion control, change some agricultural practices to keep "fertilizer" from rushing into waterways every time it rains, and more. Efforts made upstream by other states will also benefit Virginia's water-

ways. There are new green and more cost effective ways to go about many of these tasks.

The mission will also need the continued involvement of individuals and organizations who are dedicated to the Chesapeake Bay.

It's an investment that will pay dividends for Virginia.

### Pet Connection

Send us photos of your pets this week for inclusion in next week's Pet Connection. Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans. Please identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description of your pet, include address and phone number, and email to: north@connectionnewspapers.com

## Community Engagement, Transportation Dominate Agenda

Chairman reflects on Board of Supervisors retreat.

BY SHARON BULOVA  
CHAIRMAN, FAIRFAX COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



ing our growing minority and immigrant community, as well as our younger generations, was identified as a challenge and will be the subject for future Board discussion.

On Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 6-7, Board of Supervisors engaged in a two day Strategic Planning Retreat. The retreat, held at the Lorton Arts Workhouse Center, was an opportunity for board members to engage in some informal, in-depth discussion of our respective district issues, as well as countywide opportunities and challenges. Our location, the site of the former Lorton Prison, served as an impressive example of revitalization and historic re-use in the South County area of Fairfax County. The old prison buildings, built at the beginning of the 20th century, are now home to artists' studios and performance arenas. If you haven't visited, I hope you will do so. During a tour of the studios at lunchtime, I chatted with several of the artists and vowed to return to purchase some original artwork.

The importance of Community Engagement was woven throughout all topics during our two days. The board recognized that we make the best decisions when we have the community at the table with us. Some examples of especially successful community engagement have been our Community Dialogues on the Budget, Neighborhood College sessions, the Parks Listening Tours, and our use of new social media using online chats and surveys. Engag-

❖ Day One of our Retreat included a presentation by Fairfax County's Financial Advisor, Public Financial Management, (PFM Group) on how the Rating Agencies view us. We were described as having "Gilt Edged" ratings, which we're very proud of and which saves us millions of dollars when we sell bonds to pay for County and School facilities. Board members were complimented on our disciplined fiscal stewardship and adherence to the 10 Principals of Financial Management that guide budget decisions. The presentation sparked discussion about how large or small the county's liquid reserves need to be. Rating agencies would like them to be larger. Budget watchdogs question whether we have too much "cushion" that should instead be used to reduce the tax rate, or fund more services. More discussion of adequate vs. inadequate reserves will be subject to future discussion.

❖ Transportation played a major role on our agenda during both days. Each Board member spoke to the need to identify creative, multimodal solutions to traffic

congestion within their districts and throughout Fairfax County. With less and less funding coming from the federal government and the state, local governments are pressured to assume more responsibility for transportation - for capital, operation and maintenance. A great deal of discussion took place both days about a new Board of Supervisors Four-Year Transportation Plan that will be developed during upcoming Board Transportation Committee meetings, as well as potential sources of new revenue to support it.

Our Board continues to be concerned about plans at the state level to "devolve" the maintenance of neighborhood and secondary streets to the localities. Without sufficient state investment, our streets have deteriorated to an alarming degree. Assuming this responsibility without sufficient funding will result in a significant cost to local taxpayers.

❖ The topic of Transportation was coupled with a presentation on our Financial Outlook as we undergo a sluggish recovery from the Great Recession and as we face additional major Capital and Operational Challenges to support our growing and changing community. Bottom line, we have more needs than anticipated revenue. Both opportunity and challenges will result from future economic development and from the redevelopment of older parts of Fairfax County. The presentation was extremely valuable in setting the stage for this Board's challenges as we begin this four year term.

❖ The second day of our retreat ended with a discussion of planning and development - The Next

Planning Horizon. When Fairfax County experienced its earlier periods of growth we were a community of farms and villages. The early planning process involved Annual Plan Reviews, later changed to Area Plan Reviews. Early planning called for everything (residential, retail, commercial) to be separated from each other. The pattern requires us to get into our car in order to get almost anywhere. Newer development strategies call for more mixed use, "walkable" communities and more connections of pedestrian, bike and transit modes of transportation.

As Fairfax County matures, our growth and development will involve more Redevelopment and Revitalization of our older commercial and industrial area. Retreat discussion on this topic dealt with how we can adopt better tools for this pattern of development, and how best we can engage our community in the process. The development of a Next Planning Horizon process will take place during the next months at the Board's Revitalization Committee.

❖ Education continues to be our number one priority. Throughout the retreat Board members expressed that they are looking forward to meeting with members of the School Board at a full day retreat on Saturday, Feb. 25. A number of areas for collaboration (human services, transportation, sharing capital facilities) were suggested for discussion at that venue. As we continue to struggle with fiscal challenges and changes, it is critical that we forge an effective working relationship with our partners on the School side of the aisle.

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## OPINION

# The Other Bills

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

**B**y the time it adjourns in early March the General Assembly will have considered more than 2,500 bills and resolutions. About half will have passed. News sources will have focused on a dozen high priority issues that include restrictions on abortions, expanding gun rights, limiting access to voting, telling the schools what they must do, and budgeting for the next two years. So what are all the other bills?

Many bills before the legislature can be termed "housekeeping" measures. These bills repeal obsolete sections of the Code, make corrections to Code references and other details in laws that were previously passed, and update existing laws. These bills could be termed technical corrections in that they do not establish new policy but rather make changes that are needed in laws that are already on the books. These bills are handled fairly routinely and quickly, but they do constitute part of the workload of the House and Senate. A consent calendar in both houses allows these measures to be voted on in a block.

Another large group of bills could be classified as "local" bills in that they pertain to one or more localities. Virginia has the "Dillon Rule," meaning that local governments have only those powers granted to them by the state legislature. As a result, each local government has a charter of powers that can be amended as conditions in the localities change. For example, many local governments have had authority in the past to hold their elections in May. Faced

with limited participation in their elections, those localities have been coming to the legislature to change the date to November. Each change requires a separate bill. At the same time, many powers are denied to local governments, such as limitations on the kind of taxation, land use, etc. I believe more powers should be delegated to local governments, but there is a strong reluctance on the part of many incumbents to give up any of their powers.

"Agency" bills refer to specific agencies, departments, or other units of state government and their powers. Some of the bills seem like micromanagement as the legislature puts controls on the executive by the powers and authorities granted to the executive branch. Memorial resolutions honor citizens of note who have passed away, and commending resolutions recognize individuals and organizations for their noteworthy contributions to others. Then there are the bills that affect individuals and make the news. With the shift in power in Richmond, there has been a sharp increase in many social agenda bills that you have been reading about and that I have been voting against.

Please let me know how you think I should be voting on measures of importance to you. I will be available for "Community Hour" conversations on Feb. 18 at the following times and locations: 9 to 10 a.m. at the JoAnne Rose Gallery, Reston Community Center at Lake Anne, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston; 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Dominion, 3072 Centreville Road, Herndon; and 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at Flint Hill Elementary School Cafeteria, 2444 Flint Hill Road, Vienna.

## COMMENTARY

# Devolution - A Dirty Word?

BY JACK KENNY  
PAST PRESIDENT, REPUBLICAN CLUB OF  
GREATER RESTON

## A DIFFERING POINT OF VIEW

**I**t must be if a mere mention of it would send the majority of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors headed to the General Assembly session with their hair afire - at taxpayer's expense. To devolve: the act of transferring responsibilities from one entity to another. In the context of state vs. local government, the state is reassigning responsibilities to the local government. The Commonwealth of Virginia operates under the Dillon Rule (All authority resides in the General Assembly except those actions the GA has specifically assigned to local governments). Thus, one may understand the panic of local elected officials who face the prospect of providing for whatever responsibilities the state assigns local government.

Actually, more responsibility and authority residing at the local level should be a good thing. Our Founding Fathers recognized the source of government and wrote the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution clearly specifying the powers of government. Why then should our local Board of Supervisors be so alarmed? The answer is taxes.

If the state government devolves responsibility to local government, then one would expect the taxes collected for that purpose should also come back to the local government. Oops? For most of the post-WWII years, Virginia has been governed by those

believing in a redistribution of wealth. Some of it sound and making sense: funds to allow the poorer sections of the state to develop industry and roads (RT 58?) to have the economic base with which to fund their own services. We have a court order redistributing funds regarding K-12 education. Thus, through a complicated formula, the wealthy Northern Virginia tax base supports the funding of elementary education in the poorer sections of Virginia. We Restonians are firmly convinced that we only get back some \$.18 to \$.23 cents on every dollar we send to Richmond.

No wonder the hair is afire. We now have a situation where the Supervisors and School Board are in complete control over our own K-12 education. The state can no longer mandate any standards unless it can demonstrate it is justified by some provision that contributes to the support of services. Ever hear of unfunded mandates? Can we do away with the State Board of Education? The SOLs? The insatiable thirst for more education dollars now becomes a very local consideration.

The question remains: How will the Northern Virginia delegation to the General Assembly, after years of allowing a redistributing our wealth (or being powerless to stop it) now engineer the return of those dollars we have been sending downstate? We have seen, time and again the lack of local political pull to bring more of those dollars home. What goes around, comes around.

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### 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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Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

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13138 Kidwell Field Rd...\$366,900...Sun 1-4...Arjun Bukke...Samson Props...703-200-3199

2660 Reign St...\$549,900...Sun 1-4...Linda Hemmer...Century 21...571-220-4912

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## Woodbridge

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

# Education • Learning • Fun

## Making the Grade

Local school officials offer strategies for strengthening study habits.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

When Jackie Jackson's son brought home his report card recently, the Centreville mother of three was shocked.

"His grades had fallen to an unacceptable level," said Jackson. "Getting my son to do his homework has always been a battle, but during the winter break when there was no school, we got out of our routine and haven't been able to get back on track."

Children with low grades and poor study habits can be a source of stress for some parents. Educational experts say that there are effective techniques that can improve learning practices.

Starting a dialogue is a good first step. "In terms of academic success, it is key that there is open communication between parents, students

and teachers," said Lizabeth Borra, School Counselor at Potomac Elementary School in Potomac, Md. "We want to work as a team to teach students the tools to be life-long learners. In order to do so, we must set expectations and work together."

Experts say that one of the best ways to improve academic performance and decrease battles over completing homework assignments is to develop a daily schedule that includes time for studying and relaxation. "Set up a regular time to do homework; routines develop into habits," said Borra. "Establish a regular procedure; study for a length of time, have a short break, and return to studying."

Once the schedule is in place, work to maintain it and hold children accountable. "Consistency helps establish a pattern. When it is done on a regular basis it becomes second nature," said Valerie

Garcia, principal, Blessed Sacrament School in Alexandria. "When a student is personally responsible they understand accountability and they understand the consequences if they don't follow through. Those consequences can end up being a less than desirable report card."

Create a study environment with minimal distractions. "The best way to help children is to have a quiet place in the home for homework," said Dr. Marjorie Myers, principal, Key Elementary School.

Support children, but avoid over involvement. "If parents help too much, children become dependent on them and don't develop their own sense of responsibility for getting their homework and studying done," said Myers. "Let them get a 'C' or a 'D' on a test and show them that if they ... study ... and pay attention in class, they can change

those grades to 'A's' and 'B's.' It's their responsibility to learn and the intrinsic reward of earning that grade on their own is extremely valuable for future academic success."

There might be times when a child needs extra help. "If parents are concerned that their child may have difficulty learning they should contact the teacher," said Borra. "Teachers are well trained in working with students that have many different learning styles."

Organization is critical, particularly for older students. "Plan ahead," said Leila Sidawy of Georgetown Learning Centers in Great Falls and McLean. "A great way to do that is to get a planner. This is important especially for students who have multiple activities that they are juggling like sports or clubs. Having a planner can help them stay on top of their assignments and avoid procrastination.



Students at Francis Scott Key Elementary School in Arlington practice math skills. A quiet study environment can help students improve their grades.

The planner should include test dates, project due dates and after school activities. Getting organized will help a student feel more in control.

"Note taking is a crucial, but often overlooked aspect of academic success," said Sidawy. "Make sure students take good notes and keep them organized by date or subject, and include headings on the notes as well as relevant chapters or page numbers. After class, students should review the notes to help solidify the material."

Educators encourage parents to stay optimistic. "Maintain a positive attitude regardless of how challenging an assignment may appear," said Borra. "Prioritize studying and homework. Help your child understand the purpose of learning and that they will do it throughout their lives."

## Reston Residents Nominated for Western Web Series

### Husband and wife, Paul Awad and Kathryn O'Sullivan, in competition for Best Web Series.

BY AMIEE FREEMAN  
THE CONNECTION

Awards for drama, directing and acting tend to bring to mind the Oscars and Emmys, Hollywood and Broadway, not the Internet and Reston. Nonetheless, the web series, "Thurston," created by Reston residents, husband and wife, Paul Awad and Kathryn O'Sullivan, has been nominated for the 3rd Annual Indie Soap Awards for Best Web Series in the drama category. Awad has been nominated for Best Director in the drama category and actress Catherine Frels, who plays Maggie Callaway, has been nominated for Best Actress in the drama category.

"Thurston" tells the story of the residents of a remote mining town in the Kansas Ozarks and their struggle for survival. O'Sullivan, a theater professor at the Manassas Campus of the Northern Virginia Community College, wrote the screenplay for the series; Awad, an instructor in video and film-making at The Art Institute of Washington, D.C., directs and films the series.

"We were thrilled to be nominated. We didn't know anyone

could find us, so it was a bit of a surprise," said O'Sullivan.

The line between televised entertainment and online entertainment has been blurring in recent years. With the growing popularity of using smart phones and tablet computers for entertainment, the number of online, original shows, such as "Thurston," has increased. Plus, so many soaps and actors have left TV and gone to the web. Websites like blipTV.com and VBCV.com function like online TV stations, airing new, original shows, including "Thurston." O'Sullivan and Awad said they have been very impressive by the quality of work on the web.

"Through doing this series we have discovered this community of people who are doing really high-end work, and they have millions of viewers all over the world. That is the most attractive thing about a web series. You can create content and immediately be available to audiences," said O'Sullivan.

**THE IDEA** for "Thurston" came about as a result of a television show. Awad said he and O'Sullivan were watching a TV program about



The cast and crew of "Thurston" on set in Wytheville, Va. Screenwriter Kathryn O'Sullivan, and Director Paul Awad are to the left. "Thurston" has recently been nominated to an award for best original web series.

the hey-day of Westerns and thought, "why don't we do a Western." Awad was also interested in the idea of a web series. Ironically, he was not too interested at first in watching shows over the Internet. However, both he and O'Sullivan were intrigued by the accessibility of web programming and by the quality of shows that are on the web.

Once Awad and O'Sullivan decided to go forward with a Western web series, their next challenge was finding a location that could

pass for a western town of the late 1800s and that is in driving distance of Washington. After doing a bit of research O'Sullivan discovered Wytheville, Va., in the southern part of the state, about 5 1/2 hours from Washington. As recently as the early 1980s, Wytheville was a western theme park, complete with a dusty main street and faded clapboard buildings.

"It was quite the thing in its day. Johnny Cash and several other big country and western stars played there. They used to have staged

gun fights and performances. The townsfolk were very excited to have us come down and shoot 'Thurston' there," said O'Sullivan.

During the first episode, the backstory for the town is shared in a brief exchange between Sheriff Nate Hart, played by Steven Quartell, and a mysterious stranger, played by Regen Wilson. The town's founder, Garrett Thurston, anticipated the coming of the railroad, established the town and attracted a significant number of people and businesses. As often was the case in the settling of the West, the railroad did not come through. The plague, however, did and a number of residents died. The town and its residents were all but forgotten.

"Everyone has a secret in Thurston," said O'Sullivan. "The first three episodes focus on Maggie Callaway, who is running from an abusive relationship. Next three episodes will focus on the sheriff. The story is told in these little arcs where secrets are revealed."

O'Sullivan and Awad used their extensive connections to cast actors in the series. Awad describes Frels, a Master of Fine Arts graduate student at George Washington University, as a nice TV/movie star, "very old school," he said.

Two of O'Sullivan's former theater students are cast in the series. Bob Martin, of Sterling, plays

Garrett Thurston and dies within the first minute of episode one. "He was so great. Traveling all the way to Wytheville, only to die early in episode one," said O'Sullivan.

Garry Westcott, of Alexandria, another former student, plays U.S. Marshall Perry Robinson. Westcott, said O'Sullivan, "had a secret life in the '80s as a Clint Eastwood impersonator. It was great having someone so experienced with Westerns."

O'Sullivan even cast her father, James O'Sullivan, who also has a theater and writing background. In addition, NVCC adjunct professors Lisa Nanni-Messegee and Todd Messegee serve as production manager and assistant director/set photographer, respectively, and one of O'Sullivan's current students, Nicholas Barry of Fairfax, is a production assistant.

"Our actors have been great. They are so excited to be in a Western. We are so lucky," said O'Sullivan.

**ON FEB. 21**, a large "Thurston" entourage will attend the Indie Soap Awards red carpet ceremony in New York City; Frels will be an awards presenter.

To watch the first three episodes of Thurston or to learn more about the series, see Thurston's website: [www.thurston-series.com](http://www.thurston-series.com). To learn more about the Indie Soap Awards, see the website: [www.welovesoaps.net](http://www.welovesoaps.net).

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### THURSDAY/FEB. 16

**Broadway Cabaret.** 7:30 p.m. Herndon High School Auditorium, 700 Bennett St., Herndon. [www.herndonodrama.org](http://www.herndonodrama.org).  
**Gregory Alan Isakov with Jeffrey Foucault.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. A blend of punk folk, Americana, and Celtic music. \$18. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).  
**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.  
**Book Discussion.** 7 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. The Forgotten Garden by Kate Morton. Adults. 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.

### FRIDAY/FEB. 17

**Broadway Cabaret.** 7:30 p.m. Herndon High School Auditorium, 700 Bennett St., Herndon. [www.herndonodrama.org](http://www.herndonodrama.org).  
**"Earth and Sky."** 8 p.m. Waddell



**"Shark" by Michael Auger. "Alternate Realities: Four Views from the Edge" highlights alternate views of reality by visionary artists Michael Auger, Jennifer Beinhacker, Todd Gardner, and Emily Greene Liddle. There will be an Artist Reception on Sunday, Feb. 19 from 3-5 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon, and the exhibit will be open from Feb. 16-March 11. [www.ArtSpaceHerndon.com](http://www.ArtSpaceHerndon.com).**

Theater, 1000 Harry Byrd Highway Sterling. Taking Flight Theatre Company's season opener. \$15. [www.tfttheatre.org](http://www.tfttheatre.org).

**America's National Parks: Through the Artist's Lens.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap

Road, Vienna. A sampling of photographs from 88 national parks, accompanied by soprano Melissa Shippen Burrows, mezzo-soprano Jamie Van Eyck, tenor David Portillo,

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11

  
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Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our *A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun* pages, the third week of every month.

Questions? E-mail [sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com)

Suggestions? E-mail [mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)

**THE CONNECTION**  
NEWSPAPERS

# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 10

baritone Alex Tall and pianist Kim Witman. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

## SATURDAY/FEB. 18

**Broadway Cabaret.** 7:30 p.m. Herndon High School Auditorium, 700 Bennett St., Herndon. [www.herndondrama.org](http://www.herndondrama.org).

**"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).

**Speidel, Goodrich, Goggin & Lille.** 7:30 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Guitar-backed harmonies. \$22. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**Penguin's Playground.** 11 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join Puppeteer Bob Brown for an Awesome Arctic Adventure exploring a Super-Secret Playground, hidden at the very bottom of the world. 703-689-2700.

**Buckley's Story: Lessons from a Feline Master Teacher.** 2 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Ingrid King, author and former veterinary hospital manager, talks about her book. 703-689-2700.

**Spring Consignment Sale.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Chantilly High School, 4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Clothing, shoes, toys, books and more for the whole family. Sponsored by Fairfax County Mothers of Multiples. Free admission. [www.fcmmom.org](http://www.fcmmom.org).

## SUNDAY/FEB. 19

**Virginia Chamber Orchestra: Baroque to Jazz.** 4 p.m. Ernst Community Cultural Center,

Northern Virginia Community College Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Music Director Emil de Cou presents Handel's Two concerti grossi from the Twelve Grand Concertos, Opus 6; Tchaikovsky's Andante Cantabile from String Quartet Opus 11, No. 1; Edvard Grieg's Holberg Suite; Duke Ellington's Solitude and Leroy Anderson's Jazz Pizzicato and Jazz Legato. Reception to follow. Adults \$20, seniors \$18, students free. 703-758-0179 or [www.virginiachamberorchestra.org](http://www.virginiachamberorchestra.org).

**Artist Reception.** 3-5 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. "Alternate Realities: Four Views from the Edge," with Michael J. Auger, Jennifer Beinhacker, Todd Gardner and Emily Greene Liddle. Exhibit open Feb. 16-March 11. [www.ArtSpaceHerndon.com](http://www.ArtSpaceHerndon.com).

**"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).

## TUESDAY/FEB. 21

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

**Baby Steps Storytime.** 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Interactive storytime. Age 12-23 months with adult. 703-689-2700.

**Director's Choice Book Club.** 7 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Sam Clay, Director of Fairfax County Public Library, leads a monthly book discussion group. Beach Music by Pat

Conroy. Adults. 703-689-2700.  
**Folk Club of Reston/Herndon: Small Potatoes.** 7:15 p.m. Back Room at The Tortilla Factory, 648 Eldin St., Herndon. The folk duo of Jacquie Manning and Rich Prezioso. \$11-\$12. [DAHurdSr@cs.com](mailto:DAHurdSr@cs.com).

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 22

**Small Wonders.** 10:30 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Short stories. Age 13-23 months with adult. 703-242-4020.  
**Preschool Storytime.** 11 a.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Stories, songs, and rhymes. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-437-8855.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 23

**Before Reston: History of the Railroad, 1853-1968.** 7 p.m. Reston Community Center Lake Anne, 1609A Washington Plaza, Reston. Ron Beavers and Paul McCray will discuss the 1853 creation of the Alexandria, Loudoun & Hampshire Railroad, the land purchased by Benjamin Thornton, what happened to the Thornton property after the Civil War and the creation of the W&OD trail. Free admission. Donations appreciated. 703-709-7700 or [restonmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:restonmuseum@gmail.com).

**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.

## BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to [herndon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:herndon@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 19

**The Origin of Life, Oxygen, and the Earth's Climate.** 12:45 p.m. Fairfax Unitarian Church, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Recent scientific results indicate that life on earth is much older than previously believed, but also that life barely survived numerous environmental catastrophes.

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 22

**Business Education Series: The 7 C's of Leadership.** 10 a.m. Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, 1763 Fountain Drive, Reston. With Bill Collins of FocalPoint Coaching. The defining characteristics of a leader, the mindset leaders bring to problem solving and the seven behaviors successful leaders exhibit. Members free, non-members \$10. 703-707-9045 or [www.restonchamber.org](http://www.restonchamber.org).

## SUNDAY/FEB. 26

**Is Religion an Adaptation or an Aberration?** 12:45 p.m. Fairfax Unitarian Church, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Outdated explanations for religion arising from primitive fear or malfunctioning reason are getting replaced with sophisticated theories about religion's role.

## MONDAY/FEB. 27

**Beating the Sugar Blues.** 7 p.m. The Women's Center, 127 Park

St., N.E., Vienna. \$25-\$35. Ways sugar is negatively affecting your health, tips to eat foods you enjoy and understanding how lifestyle affects cravings. 703-281-4928.

## TUESDAY/FEB. 28

**Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce February Network Night.** 5:30-7:30 p.m. Smiles at Reston Town Center, 1861 Explorer St., Reston. \$15-\$40. 703-707-9045.

## THURSDAY/MARCH 1

**Adoption Information Meeting.** 7 p.m. Adoptions Together, 457 A Carlisle Drive, Herndon. Adoptions Together facilitates the adoption of school-aged children from foster care. 703-689-0404 or [www.adoptions-together.org](http://www.adoptions-together.org).

## SUNDAY/MARCH 4

**Wealthism.** 12:45 p.m. Fairfax Unitarian Church, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. The term "wealthism" describes the inadvertent or purposeful influence toward consolidation of wealth and power in a smaller and smaller minority of people.

## FRIDAY/MARCH 9

**Friday Forum Business Networking.** 7:30 a.m. Sheraton Reston Hotel Syrah Restaurant, 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Business professionals focused on generating business for members through qualified referrals. New group being formed. Meeting free and open to all, breakfast available for purchase. Meetings every Friday. 703-802-0334.

## 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.



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# South Lakes Wrestling Breaks Through for Third Place District Finish

**Forrest brothers, Ryan and Josh, both gain individual Liberty titles.**

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

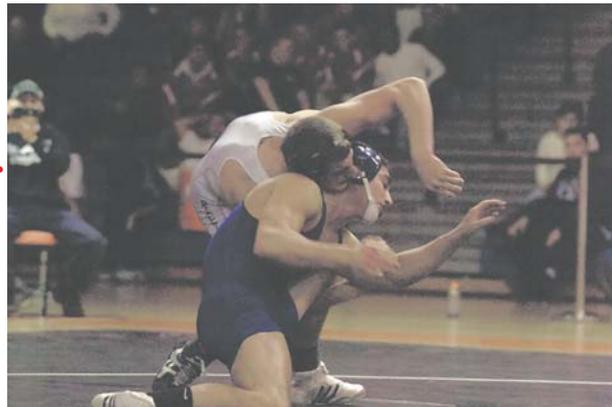


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**South Lakes' Ryan Forrest (bottom) wrestles in the 160 region finals match versus South County's Brett Stein last Saturday night at Hayfield High School. Forrest, who won his fourth Liberty District crown two weeks ago, lost a tough 5-3 decision to Stein but is still headed to the state tournament.**

The South Lakes High wrestling team put together its best postseason showing in recent memory when the Seahawks earned a third place team finish at the recent Liberty District Championships. The two-day event (Friday and Saturday, Feb. 3-4) took place at Langley High School.

More recently, at last Friday and Saturday's (Feb. 10-11) 30-team Northern Region Championships at Hayfield High School, South Lakes finished 12th overall in the team standings. Ryan Forrest of South Lakes finished second in the region at his 160 weight class.

At districts, the accomplishment of a third place team showing was a watershed moment for a Seahawks' program which has made an almost complete turnaround during head coach Bruce Hall's five years in charge of the program. During his first year as head coach (2006-'07 season) South Lakes had just four fulltime varsity wrestlers.

But in each season since the Seahawks have increased roster size and gotten better and better. Last year, South Lakes went an outstanding 19-6 in regular season dual meets before a disappointing showing at districts partially tarnished an otherwise good season. This year, the Seahawks did not have as good a dual meet record as a year ago, but they still finished over the .500 mark in dual matches and began the postseason with a breakthrough showing at last weekend's districts.

"This year we had a winning record but not a great record," said Hall. "We had injuries. But at the district tournament, almost everyone was back."

South Lakes scored 144 team points at districts to garner the third place position, behind champion Langley (216.60) and second place Marshall (192).

Those teams behind South Lakes were fourth place Fairfax (138.50), fifth place Madison (134.50), sixth place Jefferson (114), seventh place Stone Bridge (100), and eighth place McLean (93).

**SOUTH LAKES** had two individual champions with the Forrest brothers capturing titles - Ryan at the 160 weight class and Josh at 170.

Ryan, a senior who won his fourth career district title, defeated Stone Bridge's Josh Toal by major decision, 21-9, in the 160 championship match. Forrest is the lone

South Lakes wrestler in program history to win four district crowns.

"He looked good," said Hall, of Forrest's showing at districts. "On a scale of 10, he's probably [wrestling at] an eight or nine right now."

Hall went on to say Forrest's ultimate postseason competition could come at the upcoming state tournament in a few weeks if he gets a chance to wrestle a three-time state champion from Hopewell High (Central Region).

Ryan's brother, Josh, won his 170 district finals match over Langley's Gabe O'Neal by a first period pin.

Josh, who finished third at districts last year at 130 weight class, missed about two months of this season due to a concussion. Since his return, Hall has brought Forrest along slowly. The wrestler has been using Everlast boxer head gear, with the backing and permission of the local Referee Association, in order to better protect his head and help prevent any recurring concussion issues.

Josh Forrest is much physically bigger this year than a year ago. He put together an outstanding district tournament showing.

"He's gotten bigger and he and Ryan are now about the same size," said Hall. "Josh is a stud."

South Lakes earned one second place finish at districts - that coming from heavy-weight Alex Smurda, who reached the finals before losing to Marshall's Matt Crawford on a second period pin.

Two South Lakes wrestlers - Mike Shoebottom (195) and Devon Johnson (138) - gained third place finishes. Shoebottom won his consolation match for third place over McLean's Noah Cherry. Johnson won his consolation finals match over Connor Legan of Stone Bridge.

Shoebottom, who became eligible to wrestle on Feb. 1, wrestled at a heavier weight class than he is used to but still came away with an impressive showing. Meanwhile, Johnson, a senior and a First Team All-District defensive back on the football field last fall, concluded his district wrestling career with a solid district tournament outing.

South Lakes had two other wrestlers qualify for regionals in Eric Dismuke (182)

and Chris Maginniss (145), who both finished fourth in their respective weight classes.

Dismuke, who wrestled at 170 weight class all season, moved up to 182 at districts.

Seahawks missing region bids but earning top six medals at districts were: Abdul Raufi (fifth place at 113 class), Terry Petersen (sixth at 120), Matt Kelly (sixth at 126), Tim Kim (sixth at 152), and senior Owen Wolfe (sixth at 220).

So, in all, 12 South Lakes wrestlers earned top six medals with seven of them qualifying for regionals.

One disappointment at districts for South Lakes was junior Kevin Argueta (106 weight class) not being allowed to compete at districts due to officials' decision for medical reasons. Argueta went 24-7 this season and, according to Hall, would have been the wrestler to beat at districts in his weight class.

Hall said Argueta handled his misfortune at districts like a champ.

"We probably would have finished second [in the team standings] if Kevin had been there," said Hall. "The kid who won the tournament [at 106] from Marshall [Christian Valencia] was pinned by Kevin this season. Kevin could have very well been the 106 pound champion this season. The good news is that he is a junior and will be back

next year. He's a great kid and took it well. He helped me during the entire tournament."

The 144 team points by South Lakes at districts was a team record.

South Lakes' wrestling future beyond this season looks bright as just four Seahawks will be lost to graduation this spring, meaning a majority of team members will likely be back next school year.

**AT REGIONALS**, Ryan Forrest made it all the way to the 160 finals where he lost a 5-3 decision to South County's Brett Stein. Forrest, the top seed from the Liberty District, won three straight matches to reach the title match - victories over Herndon's Dan Walker, West Potomac's William Rupp, and Robinson's Jonathan Simmons, 6-2, in a semifinals round match. Forrest was the lone top six place finisher for South Lakes at regionals. He will next go on to compete at the Virginia State AAA championships.

**FROM HERNDON HIGH**, Gabe Pike earned a sixth place medal in the 126-pound weight class at regionals. Pike, the top seed from the Concorde District, won his first two matches at regionals - wins over Hayfield's Ziad Adiyeh and Woodson's Mitchell Kohlhas before falling into the loser's bracket with a loss to Mount Vernon's Cody Marino. He then lost his next two matches to finish sixth overall.

At the Concorde District Championships two weeks ago, Pike captured the 126-division title. There, Pike won his semifinals bout versus Centreville's Jerry Cowman by a first period pin. Then, in the championship match, he defeated Oakton's Eddie Gerow, 4-2.

Other top four place finishers at districts for Herndon were: fourth place Jared Nielsen (103 division); fourth place Sean Pike (132); and fourth place Andrew Healy (220).

## SPORTS ROUNDUPS

**The Herndon/Loudoun Volleyball League**, sponsored by i9 Sports, is holding its Spring 2012 Registration. The next registration dates are for Wednesdays, Feb. 22 and 29. The developmental skills league program is open to all children ages 7 thru 14 and is being headed up by former college volleyball standout Jowita Snowden. For more information or to register, visit [www.i9sports.com](http://www.i9sports.com) or call 571-225-5494.

**Registration for Reston Youth Association's (RYA) Flag Football League** is now open for Spring 2012. RYA Flag Football is coed, non-contact flag football designed for boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 16. All teams

will practice once a week followed by a game on Saturday. Registration fees are \$75 for the first child and \$65 for a second child. Registration includes a team jersey and a set of flags for each child. Please visit <http://restonseahawks.org/Registration> to register your child today.

**The i9 Sports Youth Flag Football League** is offering early bird discount registration for the spring 2012 season on Wednesday, Feb. 22 and Wednesday, Feb. 29. Enrollment is expected to fill up quickly as the fall season saw more than 1,000 youngsters ages 4-to-14 participate. Early Bird discounts are available now. For more information or to register visit [i9sports.com](http://i9sports.com) or call 571-225-5494.

## THE COUNTY LINE

# Fairfax County Considers Meals Tax Referendum

Revenue would be earmarked for transportation projects.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

Last week, it looked as if the Virginia General Assembly might give Fairfax County something it has craved for years: the ability to generate new revenue through user fees, such as tax on restaurant meals, which would drive down the County's reliance on property taxes.

"We had heard rumblings that the state might give us the authority to do that," said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee), chairman of the board's transportation committee. "That's how we started talking about a meals tax that would generate revenue for transportation upgrades."

But when McKay and several other supervisors went to Richmond last Thursday to review the bills coming out of the Virginia General Assembly, they spotted the stick that came with that carrot.

"Yes, they were saying, we'll give you this authority, but you also have to take responsibility for maintaining your roads," McKay said. "The other shoe dropping was basically the sound of devolution... That's what really infuriated me."

Virginia is one of three states in the country where the state, rather than local counties and municipalities, have the responsibility to maintain substantially all public roads. McKay said the pending legislation would transfer that maintenance responsibility to the County (a process known as devolution), but not return to the County any of the state tax revenues that currently pay for that maintenance.

"It's time for Fairfax County to stop being the state's ATM machine," McKay added. "The state continues every year to suck more money from Northern Virginia... We're not going to let the state off the hook for its responsibility to maintain our roads."

Rather than relying upon the Commonwealth to grant the County additional taxing authority to address anticipated budget shortfalls, Supervisors are now considering asking voters to approve a meals tax through a referendum. Such a referendum would not require additional authority from the General Assembly.

**A VOTER REFERENDUM** on a meals tax is an idea that gained bipartisan support during a two-day retreat for the board held last Monday and Tuesday, Feb 6-7, at the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center.

Although similar referendums have failed in the past, supervisors say voters might approve the tax if they were assured the revenue would go directly to a specific list of transportation improvements, such as widening roads and building interchanges to reduce gridlock.

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) said a 4 percent tax on restaurant meals - something that Vienna, the City of Fairfax and Alexandria already do - could generate up to \$80 million a year over the next de-



Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large) reviews goals during the Board of Supervisors retreat, held Feb. 6-7 at the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center.

**"It's time for Fairfax County to stop being the state's ATM machine."**

— Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee)

cade. He said there is also a potential \$150 million on the table from a list of transportation-related fees the board discussed in 2007.

"We had a pretty robust discussion of what it would take to meet our transportation needs," Cook said. He said the sobering financial picture presented by County Executive Tony Griffin revealed a \$300 - \$400 million gap "between what we need in Fairfax and what we would get under current law and budgets."

"If voters approved a meals tax referendum, we could start to close that gap. It's worth having a serious discussion about this," Cook said. But Cook stressed he has not come down one way or the other on the meals tax referendum, but he does want it to be part of the discussion.

"We have to wait and see what ends up passing in Richmond, We need to step back and let state have its session," Cook said. "There's all sorts of things flying around - an index tax, whether there's devolution or not - and we need to have a hand on the spoon stirring the pot. I have not endorsed it or rejected it."

**CHAIRMAN SHARON BULOVA** (D-at-large) said a meals tax could be a source of funding for road maintenance, education or tax diversification.

But Bulova also noted the precarious success rate of similar referendums in the past, when voters rejected tax increases in 1992 and 2002.

"A lot has changed since those referendums failed," Bulova said. "In my heart of hearts, I think we should have a meals tax because everyone around us has it. It levels the playing field."

Senator Chap Petersen (D-34) said even though Vienna and the City of Fairfax have 4 percent meal tax, "the board needs to really lobby the issue in order to get passage."

Bulova agreed, saying that community engagement is key to the success of any referendum.

"There's no way I would support putting a meals tax to a referendum without it being clearly defined. And we would have to have, if not support, then at least neutrality from restaurant associations."

"There was agreement on the board that this was the beginning of the discussion not the end," Bulova said. "Transportation funding is parked in future transportation meeting and budget committee meetings. We don't have an action plan yet."

# Wolf's Crusade

Book tells his experiences with human rights violations around the world.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

As a public servant for more than 30 years, Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) has had his share of experiences. But it was a trip to Ethiopia in 1984 that he calls a "life changing experience," because it opened his eyes to human rights violations around the globe.

Since that trip, Wolf has traveled to the Sudan, Kabul, Romania, Beijing and more, witnessing some of the worst cruelty human beings are capable of. His travels inspired his recent book, "Prisoner of Con-

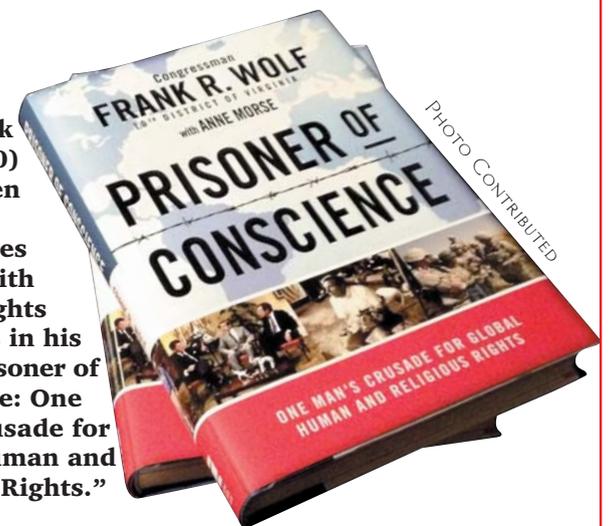
easier now than it's ever been, but the problem is at times there seems to be less interest."

Wolf's experiences don't all stretch back to ten, twenty, thirty years ago. He recalled going to Beijing for the 2008 Olympics to meet with some religious leaders, and found they had been recently attacked. Other situations haven't changed much either.

"The genocide in Darfur is still going on," he said. "You go over there right now, there would be women living in the same camps as they were the day I went there five years ago," he said.

He said he is frustrated at

**Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) has written about his experiences dealing with human rights violations in his book "Prisoner of Conscience: One Man's Crusade for Global Human and Religious Rights."**



science: One Man's Crusade for Global Human and Religious Rights," which tells the story of his efforts to bring these crimes to light.

"During the '80s, it seemed like there was always strong bipartisan support for human rights," Wolf said. "But I noticed at the end of the Bush administration, that really waned and during the beginning of the Obama administration the same thing happened."

Wolf said he has noticed the change that social media has brought about, especially with the uprisings in the Middle East over the last year, but he said it's a mixed blessing.

"We're almost hitting an information overload," he said. "It's very hard now for governments to keep things quiet, a lot what we're finding out about what's taking place in Syria is because of social media. If we want to be engaged and change these governments, I think it's

times with current attitudes towards human rights issues.

"There's less of a concern with these issues in the administration, and less of a concern in congress in both political parties," he said. "I'm really not seeing progress for some reason, maybe it's the economy... but I'm just not seeing it now."

Wolf says his experiences have shown him that it is possible to enact change when it comes to exposing human rights violations, but that it will take a shift in attitude from the way things are currently going.

"The Declaration of Independence says all men are created equal, and have a right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," he said. "I think when we advocate and speak out, it really can make a tremendous difference to people all over the world, as we would want someone to do if we were in the same situation."

# "Diseased"



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

But not sickness. Not health, either, as last week's column ended. At least that's the way I characterize my having stage IV lung cancer. And I don't know if I'm splitting hairs here, since I've never worked in a salon, although I do get my hair cut regularly; but I have been accused of speaking double-talk. Double entendres and unnecessary redundancies I will admit to, though. Nevertheless, the characterization seems to help me navigate the occasionally treacherous waters that a terminal patient undergoing chemotherapy – again, can expect, both mentally and of course, physically. It's a game – to me, anyway; how to spin something so terribly unexpected: diagnosed with cancer at age 54 and a half, despite being a lifelong non-smoker from an immediate family with NO cancer history, into something manageable. And for those who know me – or read my columns regularly enough, I think you would admit I manage it reasonably well, something which I am quite proud of, by the way.

And as I continue to psych myself up for the inevitable chemotherapy-related changes – and challenges – ahead (infusions three through six are still ahead), I am eager – sort of, and of course, grateful for surviving this long, post-diagnosis, to have yet another opportunity to slay the dragon (shrink my tumors) again. It sure beats the alternative – no opportunity because, well, you know: I wouldn't be here writing this column, or anything else for that matter.

But writing I am, and hopeful I remain. Next week's column will be my three-year anniversary column. When initially diagnosed, back in February, 2009, I was given a "13-month-to-two-year prognosis" (life expectancy), and not given too much hope, if truth be told. Oncologists are not in the business – from what I had been told previously, and have now experienced for myself, of "blowing any sunshine up your skirt," to invoke a quote from M\*A\*S\*H's Lt. Col. Henry Blake (the recently deceased McLean Stevenson); honesty for which I asked and have thankfully always received. I'd rather know what I'm up against and work to overcome it than resign myself to its inevitability. And so far, given my post-diagnosis status, (still typing), I would say it – or something in combination with it, is working.

Although I don't expect the next 10-12 weeks of enduring chemotherapy to be very pleasant, it is nonetheless the best option available to me, given my rather limited knowledge of the subject. However, I am confident and comfortable in my oncologist's steady hand and ongoing concern as he continues to encourage me treating forward. We get along pretty well, although sometimes my Kenny-speak (unintended though it may be) is perplexing to him, so now what he does to interpret what he thinks I'm asking, is to speak back to me in words and phrases which he's comfortable using, and then await my reply. It's a tiny bit of a process – for which obviously we both have time, but it assures us that we're in complete understanding with what one another is trying to say. Given the fact that I've now outlived my original, worst-case prognosis: 13 months, by almost two years, I would say that whatever the doctor and I are doing, however we're communicating, it's working. I mean, I'm still alive. So onward and upward we go.

My next fact-to-face appointment with my oncologist is scheduled for February 24th, a week following my next CT Scan, the first scan since I will have re-started this "second line" of chemotherapy; another crossroads moment to be sure. "Progression" started this, perhaps regression (shrinkage) can end it? Two infusions in, four more to go. I still don't feel anything. But then again, I rarely have.

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

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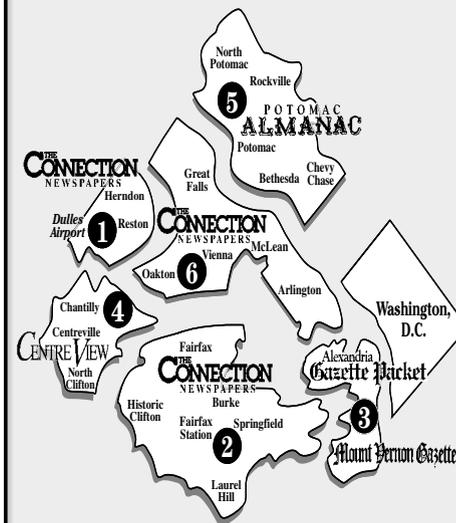
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21 Announcements 21 Announcements

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**Barbara Jean Parkinson, age 67**

of Sterling, VA, died February 7, 2012 at her residence. Born on September 17, 1944 in New York she was the daughter of the late Charles and Elizabeth Lundy. Ms. Parkinson was a member of Cornerstone Chapel in Leesburg, VA. Barbara attended Michigan State University where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Music. During her high school years she was a member of the singing group known as The Jill's. She worked for Connection Newspapers for many years. Barbara enjoyed and loved spending time with her grandchildren and doing crafts with them.

She is survived by her son Mark(Rachel) Parkinson of Purcellville, VA; daughter Jennifer(Jay) Daughtry of Sterling, VA; brother Wayne Lundy of Loveland, OH; and five grandchildren.

A graveside service was held on Friday, February 10, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. Ebenezer Cemetery, Round Hill, VA with Pastor Mike Emerson officiating.

Memorial contributions can be sent to the Cornerstone Chapel at [www.cornerstone-chapel.net](http://www.cornerstone-chapel.net).

Please visit [www.hallfh.com](http://www.hallfh.com) to express online condolences to the family.

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.  
-Werner Heisenberg

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The future comes one day at a time.  
-Dean Acheson

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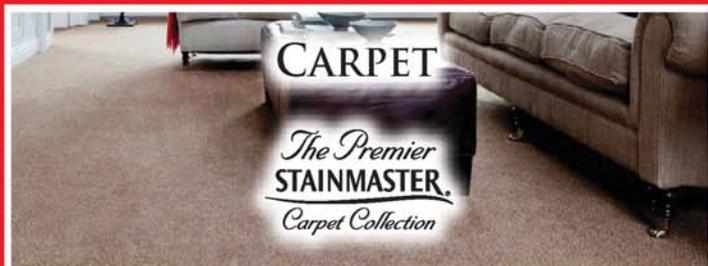
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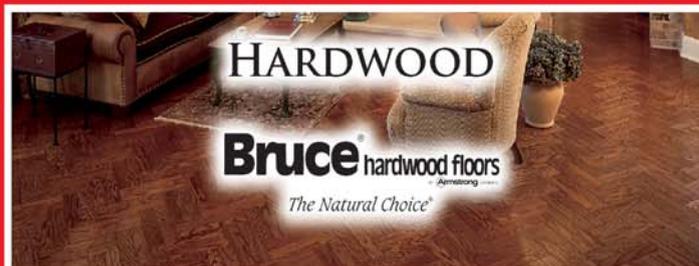
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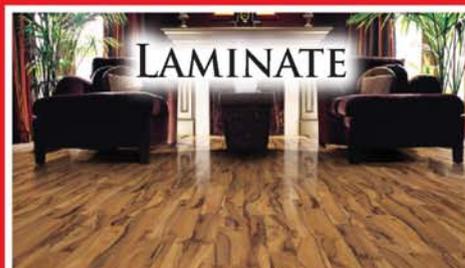
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