

Reston
CONNECTION

Skate Park Opens at Lake Fairfax

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Josh Harris, 19, attempts a trick at the newly opened Lake Fairfax Skatepark Saturday, Oct. 27.

After the Storm

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Discussing Budget Morality

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Photo by Alex McVeigh/The Connection

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For More Information • Kevin Danaher • RCC's Community Events Director • 703-390-6166 • www.restoncommunitycenter.com



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Photos by Victoria Ross/The Connection

“The attempt to dive into wedge issues wedges us apart. We’re wedged apart about as far as we can go.”
— Timothy M. Kaine

Elections 2012



“[Virginians] deserve a strong independent voice, not an echo.”
— George Allen

Allen v. Kaine for Senate

Voters have stark choice between candidates to replace U.S. Sen. Jim Webb (D).

By Victoria Ross
The Connection

Candidates for U.S. Senate George Allen and his Democratic challenger Timothy M. Kaine have powerful things in common. Both were popular governors of the Commonwealth of Virginia; both have long political resumes; and both men are passionate about the success of their adopted home state.

Now locked in a high-stakes race that could determine control of the U.S. Senate, both candidates are fighting to secure the seat of retiring Sen. Jim Webb (D), spending a record \$55 million-plus on an avalanche of ads to sway swing voters in Northern Virginia and across the state. The message from both candidates is simple: voters have a stark choice.

Kaine, 54, has portrayed himself as a bipartisan bridge-builder who supports gender equality and believes that access to higher education and investing in what he calls the “talent economy” are critical to the success of Virginia and the nation.

Allen, 60, has portrayed himself as the small-business champion, a job creator who will unleash American energy resources and stop defense cuts that could cost 200,000 Virginians their jobs.

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On the Issues

For more: To read more about what the candidates are saying on the issues, go to their official websites at:
www.kaineforva.com/issues
www.georgeallen.com (Click on Blueprint)

JOB CREATION & ECONOMIC GROWTH

KAINE: “I served as Governor of Virginia during the worst national recession in 70 years. But our unemployment rate was among the nation’s lowest, and our median income was near the top. We recruited numerous businesses (MeadWestvaco, Hilton, CSC, SAIC, VW of North America) to move their headquarters from other states to Virginia... First, America needs a commitment to being the Talent Society. Just as Virginia’s innovative investments in education—from pre-kindergarten to post-graduate and workforce training—have turned the state into a magnet for talent, America needs to commit to being the best in the world in educational opportunities. Talented people create ideas, companies and jobs. And great businesses locate in places where they know they can hire talented people. America used to be number one in the world in the percentage of young adults with college or technical degrees. Among developed nations, we are now 12th, and more nations are poised to pass us by. We have to look at reforms—broader early childhood education, more rigorous K-12 curriculums, renewed attention to career and technical education, dramatic efforts to make college more affordable—to return America to tops in the world in educating our population.

ALLEN: “Key to America’s growth is reducing the U.S. tax on job-creating businesses—currently one of the highest in the world—to a competitive 20 percent. With this one policy change, America can begin attracting new investment and expansion in the U.S. and allow U.S. businesses, large and small, to raise wages and create over 5 million more jobs over the next 10 years. The Blueprint further helps the economy grow and create jobs with a tax code that is more fair and simple, including a Flat Tax option for individual taxpayers; new tools to put a check on overzealous regulators; and a focus on educating and training Americans to compete for and succeed in the good-paying, high-skill, high-knowledge jobs of the 21st Century.”

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Photo by Alex McVeigh/The Connection

Sister Marge Clark, a nun who has traveled the United States discussing the place of social issues in public budgeting, speaks at the United Christian Parish in Reston Thursday, Oct. 25.

Discussing Budget Morality

United Christian Parish hosts discussion on intersection of budgets and social services.

By Alex McVeigh
The Connection

The United Christian Parish in Reston hosted a forum featuring one of the “Nuns on the Bus” Thursday, Oct. 25 for a discussion on the intersection of morality and budgets: Sister Marge Clark, one of a group of nuns that have toured the U.S. meeting with elected officials and locals about morality and budgeting.

Clark is the author of the Faithful Budget, which is created by an inter-religious group that determines basic domestic human needs.

“Every year our group has done a reflection on budget, usually in January before the president comes out with his,” she said. “Last winter, we got together and said we need more than our annual reflection on the budget, there are a lot of specific, problematic issues, and we need to direct those to Congress.”

Clark said the group goes about the budget in a better way than the methods used by Congress.

“As a starting point we ask what are unmet needs of this nation? What needs to be done, but can’t be done by individuals, families or local communities?” she said. “That’s what needs to be the starting point of a federal budget. Then we look at how do we get revenue

to get there. But that’s not how budgets are done today. They get together, look at the previous budget, decide how much less or how much more in some areas.”

She cited the last two budgets passed by Congress as an example of poorly planned budgets, citing their cuts to numerous social services. She said it would be better to start from scratch than try to deal with the budgets that were passed.

“We would rather hit the ‘fiscal cliff,’ as they call it, than get a bad deal. And we got a bad deal in December 2010. It has done tremendous harm. We would be willing to allow everything to expire and start over,” she said. “That is not a good thing. We don’t want to lose the child tax credit, we don’t want to lose the [investment tax credit], we don’t want program cuts, we don’t want these things to happen. But a bad deal means all kinds of cuts to domestic programs, and changes to rules, regulations and structures of those programs.”

More than 100 people attended the event, and some said it gave them a new perspective on the way dollars are spent.

“It’s the finest of lines I think, to make something work by the numbers, but also make sure we’re taking care of people who need it,” said George Matthews of Reston. “It can get really po

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Fairfax Station's Tom Wimer Opens Reston Business

There's a new business slated to open in Reston: called Axeo, it's a professional services firm that partners with private sector companies and nonprofit organizations, ranging in size from small start-ups to Fortune 100 firms, to provide practical solutions to human capital and organizational

challenges, including consulting, HR management outsourcing and interim HR leadership. The business is located at 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 303, Reston.

Tom Wimer is the founder and chief executive officer of Axeo. This is his third successful company over a 25-year career as a human resources



CEO and President Tom Wimer of Fairfax Station

leader where he has counseled some of the world's most admired companies, top federal government agencies and nonprofit organizations.

Wimer is considered a trusted leader shaping the future of the HR industry and was the past president and CEO of the award-winning KnowledgeBank, Inc., a DC-based human re-

sources management consulting firm he founded in 2003.

Following today's launch of Axeo in the greater Washington, DC area, two additional offices will open in Chicago and Phoenix in early-mid fall. By year-end, Axeo will serve clients across the United States.

For more information go to: www.axeohr.com.

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- Dale Peak, Administrator, Reston Bible Church

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Budget Morality Discussed

From Page 3

litical, but at the end of the day, if we want to boast that we're the greatest nation on earth, which despite our issues, I think we are, then we have to make decisions about who needs to be taken care of."

Taryn O'Brien of Reston said the issue is so nebulous, that she isn't sure how it can be accomplished.

"There are people who are getting help that genuinely have bad luck, and there but for the grace of God go all of us, but I think it's a little unrealistic to think there aren't people taking advantage of the system," she said. "It's difficult to fathom how those decisions can be made, and who we would choose to give that power, but it is nice that people are having the conversation. It gives me hope."

According to 2011 Fairfax County data, 6.8 of the population, or 73,794 people are living below the poverty line. There are more than 25,000 children (9.7 percent) living in poverty, and more than 6,000 (5.5 percent) of people over 65 in poverty.

Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) said that the County relies on the groups and organizations in communities to help determine needs.

"Our faith communities and nonprofits are some of our largest partners, in delivering and supporting services and partnering with us to add social services," she said. "I consider those major assets for us."

Allen v. Kaine for Senate

From Page 3

WITH LESS THAN A WEEK before Election Day, both candidates have spent time in Northern Virginia, emphasizing their differences.

"I have an Irish temper that I usually keep in check," Kaine said, during an Oct. 18 women's roundtable appearance in Chantilly. "During a debate at the Fairfax Chamber last month, my opponent was asked about the Blunt amendment, the personhood bill. His response was 'I don't know why the other side keeps bringing up divisive social issues.' I kind of got mad at that," Kaine said.

Kaine said Allen and others in the GOP want to take away women's choices, and then "step back from the issues."

"The attempt to dive into wedge issues wedges us apart. We're wedged apart about as far as we can go," Kaine said.

Allen has chided Kaine for his 2009-2011 stint as chairman of the Democratic National Committee, calling him an "absentee governor" and an "Obama clone."

"I want to be Virginia's senator. Tim wants to be President Obama's senator," Allen said during the candidate's fifth and final debate on the campus of Virginia Tech on Oct. 18. "[Virginians] deserve a strong independent voice, not an echo."

During five debates, including one last month sponsored by the Fairfax Chamber, they have clashed

On the Issues

From Page 3

HEALTHCARE

KAINE: "I support the Affordable Care Act as a first step to put patients in charge of their health care decisions and put the brakes on runaway health care costs that were crippling patients and businesses. I am proud that millions of children can now stay on family insurance policies until they are 26, that millions of small businesses are eligible for tax credits to help them purchase insurance for their employees, that millions of seniors are receiving free preventive care and lower prescription drug prices, and that key protections are in place to stop insurance companies denying care to those with pre-existing conditions and from abusing their customers."

Going forward, we have to do more to bring down health care costs while improving the quality of care. The experience of other nations shows that it can be done."

ALLEN: "Repeal Obamacare and replace it with portable, affordable health insurance, including options for personalized Health Savings Accounts. Americans do not want the federal government running their health care."

IMMIGRATION

KAINE: "America is a nation of immigrants. Our strength and international competitiveness has continually been augmented by the skills and talents of people coming to this nation from around the world. But for far too long our immigration system has been broken and for more than a decade Congress has been unable to work in a bipartisan manner to find a way forward that reflects our American values and tradition."

ALLEN: "I have said throughout this debate that we should not reward illegal behavior and this includes allowing individuals who used fraudulent identification or Social Security information to then receive Social Security benefits. I was supportive of [the amendment] and I will support other efforts in Congress to strengthen our security and ensure that only individuals with legal status receive Social Security benefits. If anyone who is here illegally desires the benefits of citizenship they should become citizens legally."

EDUCATION

KAINE: "In the last 60 years, Virginia moved from a low-income, low-education state to one with a dynamic economy that is effective at attracting new businesses, great schools and

over pending defense cuts, tax policy, education and over who has the right prescription to avert the "fiscal cliff" which endangers defense-related jobs in Virginia.

Kaine claims a strong record of bipartisanship, including working with Republican President George W. Bush on strengthening campus security in the wake of the 2007 Virginia Tech massacre. At the final debate, held Oct. 18 on the Virginia Tech campus, Kaine said, "We are all Americans; we are all Virginians."

While meeting with veterans in Fairfax on Oct. 22 at American Legion Post 177, Allen emphasized his record of working on behalf of veterans and their families. "I believe the federal government should lead by example in providing job opportunities for veterans as intended by current veterans' preference hiring laws, as well as the law requiring federal agencies to do business with small firms owned by service-disabled veterans."

BOTH CANDIDATES have tied their campaigns to the national battle for control of the U.S. Senate.

According to Toni-Michelle Travis, a GMU associate professor of government and politics and editor of "The Almanac of Virginia Politics," Kaine's lead in some polls is driven by a strong support among women voters.

"I think this race is still neck-and-neck, but I believe it's a race that will be decided by women in Fairfax County who will vote to protect (their rights)."

a wonderful quality of life. I believe the key to this progress has been our ongoing commitment to expanding and improving educational opportunities in our Commonwealth."

ALLEN: "Public education in America has for too long has been hindered by a federal government that believes Washington bureaucrats know better than parents and local and State school boards how our children should be educated. I believe that education policy should be decided and implemented at the state and local level, where it can be most responsive and accountable to parents and school children."

ENERGY

KAINE: "America's long-term goal should be to expand the use of low polluting forms of energy. It's good for the economy, good for America's security and good for the environment. We need to be on the cutting edge of new clean energy technologies like wind, solar and nuclear power."

ALLEN: "America can and should do more to conserve energy and apply our ingenuity to bring affordable alternative or renewable sources of energy to market. At the same time, let's not forget that we have the most plentiful resources in the world right under our land and water. Reversing current counterproductive energy policies not only will put America on a path toward energy freedom, it has the potential to create over a million new jobs, add over two trillion dollars to the revenue side of the government's balance sheet without raising taxes, promote national security and help preserve our quality of life which is being threatened by skyrocketing gas prices."

ABORTION

KAINE: "I strongly support the right of women to make their own health and reproductive decisions and, for that reason, will oppose efforts to weaken or subvert the basic holding of Roe v. Wade. We all share the goal of reducing unwanted pregnancies and abortions. The right way to do this is through education and access to health care and contraception rather than criminalizing women's reproductive decisions."

ALLEN: "My commitment to protecting innocent human life is firm. I believe that life begins at conception and support legislation declaring the personhood of every individual life. I oppose abortion except in the rare cases where the pregnancy was caused by rape or incest, and when necessary to save the life of the mother."

Commentary

Voting by Default

Take your children with you to the polls; it is a lesson in good citizenship for them.

By Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum
State Delegate (D-36)



As close as this year's presidential election is likely to be in the popular vote, the outcome could be decided by those people who vote by default: they do not bother to vote, allowing the decision to be made by all those who do vote. Although participation in presidential election years often exceeds three-fourths of eligible voters as contrasted to local and state elections in which more than half of eligible voters do not bother to vote, the outcome of a race where candidates are separated by a few percentage points hinges on voter turnout. For those who conscientiously and regularly vote, the myriad of robo-calls and knocks on the door that come the weekend before the election can be really irritating, but they are necessary to ensure that voters get to the polls. You can be sure that all campaigns have shifted this week to a strategy of getting out the vote. It is an act of good citizenship to remind others to vote even if the message is not on behalf of any given candidate.

Many safeguards are in place to ensure that elections are run fairly and that the results are correctly reported. As cumbersome as these requirements may seem to some, we should not let them be a barrier to voting. Identification is required at the polls; for most that will mean showing your driver's license. For others it may mean taking your voter registration card or a utility bill. Be mindful of voters who may be confused because of age or language difficulties by the need for identification and help them

through the process. More information can be found at Are You Election Ready? Both parties are likely to have observers at polling places to ensure that voters are treated fairly. Take your children with you to the polls; it is a lesson in good citizenship for them.

If you are out of town or cannot make it to the polls for specified reasons, there are opportunities to vote absentee. Absentee voting in person is available through Nov. 3 at the North County Human Services Center on 1850 Cameron Glen Drive in Reston. (Monday-Friday, 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.)

As indicated in an earlier column, I will be voting for President Obama and Vice-President Biden, for Tim Kaine for the Senate, and for Gerry Connelly for Congress for the 11th District. I will be voting to support the Fairfax County bond issues and will vote for the Constitutional amendment to change the meeting date for the General Assembly's reconvened session to eliminate conflicts with religious holidays. I will vote no on the amendment related to eminent domain as I believe it unfairly tips the balance between private and public land rights. I respect however you choose to vote, but please do not vote by default by staying home.

Opinion

As Sandy Rolls in, Still Plan to Vote

Variety of choices in political landscape.

Hurricane Sandy means that the week preceding the election will not be what we were expecting. This editorial is being written Sunday night, Oct. 28, as forecasters predict five inches of rain and 65-mile-per-hour winds over the next two days.

With some predicting that power could take a week or more to restore, we have to worry about what the likely condition of the Eastern seaboard will be on Election Day, Nov. 6. Absentee voting in person had been cancelled for Monday, and most government offices were closed in anticipation of the storm. What will this mean for voter turnout, for access to voting places on Election Day?

We don't believe that there are significant numbers of undecided voters in Northern Virginia. There are voters who know who they would vote for if they did vote, but they might not be committed to voting if circumstances are difficult. The outcome of the national election, both who will be president and which party controls the U.S. Senate and by what margin, could depend on voter turnout in Virginia. Make a commitment to have your vote counted, no matter how many days you might be without electricity.

We are not endorsing candidates for elected office this year. We do recommend that voters support local bond questions for investments in libraries, schools, transportation, parks, stormwater management and public safety.

Four years ago in the presidential election of 2008, there were 5,034,660 voters registered in Virginia, and 3,752,858 actually voted. On Oct. 3, Fairfax County reported 723,967 total voters registered. Arlington reported 163,919 total voters. Alexandria reported 104,947 registered voters.

At the top of the ticket, in addition to choosing a president and vice president, Virginians will choose a new U.S. senator. Tim Kaine (D), former governor will face George Allen (R), also former governor and former U.S. senator, to replace U.S. Sen. Jim Webb (D) who is re-

tiring from the Senate after a single term. Webb defeated George Allen six years ago. Connection coverage of the U.S. Senate race is available at www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Election/National/Senate.

Two constitutional questions will appear on all Virginia ballots, one about the use of eminent domain and one about the timing of a particular session of the General Assembly to consider overriding vetoes by the governor of

parts of Fairfax County including Mount Vernon, Lorton and parts of McLean, Tysons and Falls Church.

In the 10th District, Frank Wolf (R), elected to office in 1982, will face Democrat Kristin A. Cabral and independent J. Kevin Chisholm. The 10th district sprawls from McLean to Winchester, and includes Great Falls, Chantilly, parts of Fairfax Station, the Town of Clifton, part of Burke and Springfield.

In the 11th District, Gerry Connolly (D), former chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, elected to congress in 2008, will face Republican Chris Perkins and Independents Joe Galdo, Peter M. Marchetti and Mark T. Gibson. The 11th district now includes the City of Fairfax, the Town of Herndon, Reston, central Fairfax County including parts of Burke, Springfield and Lorton.

In Fairfax County, we recommend that voters support investment in infrastructure based on four bond questions, answering yes to support \$75

million for parks, \$55 million for public safety facilities, \$25 million for library facilities and \$30 million for stormwater and sewer improvements. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/nov_2012_county_bond_issues.pdf

In the City of Alexandria, voters will also choose a mayor; members of the city council and school board. If you are voting by paper ballot, don't forget to vote both sides of the ballot.

In Arlington, voters will choose one member of the County Board and one member of the School Board. Both Arlington boards are made up entirely of at-large members, so both races will appear on all Arlington ballots.

Arlington voters will also decide yes or no on four bond questions, whether to authorize raising \$32 million for public schools, \$28 million for community infrastructure, \$50 million for local parks and recreation, and \$32 million for Metro and transportation. www.arlingtonva.us/departments/voterregistration/forms/Bonds2012ENG.pdf

There is more information on our website under www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Elections/

Stay safe during the storm.

For More Election Information

Fairfax County Board of Elections, 703-222-0776, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/
12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Suite 232, Fairfax, 22035; FAX 703-324-2205; email voting@fairfaxcounty.gov

State Board of Elections, 804 864-8901 Toll Free: 800 552-9745 FAX: 804 371-0194
email: info@sbe.virginia.gov
www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/Voter_Information/Index.html

legislation that was passed by the assembly. See www.sbe.virginia.gov/webdocs/201211ConstitutionalAmendmentsPoster.pdf.

Coverage of the eminent domain question in particular can be found at www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Elections.

In the races for U.S. House of Representatives, it's worth noting that redistricting resulted in significant changes in Northern Virginia in terms of who your U.S. representative will be. If you live in Reston, for example, in the last election you were represented by Jim Moran and the 8th district, now you are in the 11th district where the incumbent is Gerry Connolly. See the map for details. Fairfax County is represented by three Congressional Districts, 8, 10 and 11. Connection coverage of congressional races is available at www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Election/National/Representatives.

In the 8th District, incumbent U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D), seeking his 12th term since being elected in 1990, will face Patrick Murray (R), and two independent candidates, Janet Murphy and Jason Howell. The 8th district includes all of Alexandria and Arlington, plus

Elections 2012—The Best Money Can Buy?

By John Lovaas
Reston Impact Producer/
Host



Independent
Progressive

Nope! The vast majority certainly won't get the best! Elections are awash in cash—incumbents and challengers selling “access” and big contributors buying influence. Our election campaigns—local and national—last longer and cost far more than those in other western democracies. And, fewer of potential voters actually vote—just over half in presiden-

tial elections, maybe half that in Virginia and local elections. Only two parties effectively play in elections at any level. Voting districts, such as our new 11th, are designed to serve incumbents. Money, lengthy campaigns and limited candidate selection discourage participation.

When Restonians go to the polls next Tuesday, we will be voting for

a rep in Congress, a U.S. senator, and the president. It seems like the candidates (all men, except well-qualified but hidden from view Jill Stein of the Green Party) have been campaigning forever. For Congress, we've got incumbent Gerry Connolly who has received \$2.2 million in contributions, 86 percent from large contributors and PACS according to the Center for Responsive Politics (www.opensecrets.org). His Republican opponent, Chris Perkins, has raised \$500,000, while Green Party challenger Joe Galdo and

Independent Mark Gibson have raised \$15 K and \$4 K respectively. The media ignores the latter candidates, treating only Rs and Ds like official candidates—another serious flaw in our decrepit and dysfunctional system.

We'll also select a U.S. Senator from former governors Tim Kaine (D) and George Allen (R)—the “official” candidates—and invisible Independents Kevin Chisholm and Terrence Modglin. Kaine has over \$15 million in campaign cash,

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Reston
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Letters

Four More Years

To the Editor,

Soon I will be among the millions of people waiting to cast my ballot and, as I see it, there is no other logical choice than supporting Barack Obama. I believe great leaders see the bigger picture. Open to information from many areas, they are aware it is not in finding the quick answer, rather the direction and action that must take to

receive the best continuing results in the end. President Obama's foresight has proved to be a stabilizing energy in many areas that were once spiraling out of control. It is amazing the positive progress that has been made in his first term.

The economy was kept from an actual collapse and depression. It is not fully recovered and there is much more to do, but

See Letters, Page 17

Lovaas

From Page 6

80 percent from big contributors and PACs; Allen has over \$13 million, 81 percent from the Koch brothers and other big boys. Of all the candidates on our ballot, incumbent Barack Obama has the highest percentage of small donors giving to his war chest, about 35 percent. Mitt Romney, his shape-shifting opponent, gets only 15 percent from small donors. Obama and Romney each have war chests over \$1 billion. The Center for American Progress reports that one Romney donor, casino magnate Sheldon Adelson, gives \$100 million to Romney. Adelson, most of whose casinos are in Macau, China, stands to make \$2.3 billion from this investment through Romney tax plan provisions favoring offshore enterprises and reduced corporate taxes.

What we are getting is huge, impersonal marketing campaigns yielding precious little

substantive information for potential voters. Are we getting good candidates? Perhaps in a few cases, but rarely. Given time, I can get you a small list of pols with vision and values, but few are the long-term incumbents so typical today. While many pols start out with vision and good intentions to serve all the people, they undergo a metamorphosis over time to become used car sales persons who rarely produce legislation benefiting other than narrow special interests. Most constantly market themselves for re-election, because they've become career pols, elitists who have forgotten why they went to Congress, Virginia Senate, Board of Supervisors, etc. in the first place. Sorry, there are no more citizen legislators.

Our political system has decayed badly. Reasons for decay include the over-sized role of big bucks, deterioration of our fourth estate to shine light on policy-makers, incumbent-designed districts and more. Next time: What can we do?



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Schools

South Lakes Landscaping Project Underway

The South Lakes High School Parent-Teacher-Student Association has revived its Landscaping Committee to support the school staff with yard maintenance and upkeep.

Dozens of students, parents and other volunteers came out Saturday, Oct. 20 to beautify South Lakes' grounds in honor of the Parent-Teacher-Student Association's ongoing Bruce Butler Landscaping Tribute project.

Volunteers dug up grass, moved trees and plants to clean up three beds near the school's entrance. They also tore out high maintenance shrubs to be replaced by a swath of easier-to-maintain Crepe Myrtles.

Pete Murray of Hidden Lane Landscaping and Design, and father of SLHS senior Chris Murray donated project design and supplies. Xavier Desrosiers, owner of Tree60, also contributed his services.



Photos Contributed

The South Lakes High School Parent-Teacher-Student Association (PTSA) did some fall landscaping to their school in honor of the PTSA Bruce Butler Landscaping Tribute project.



The Parent-Teacher-Student Association (PTSA) revived its Landscaping Committee to support school staff with yard maintenance and upkeep.

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

Schools



Photo Contributed

Herndon High School's NJROTC cadets meet US Naval Academy midshipmen. From left to right: Fabio Garcia (HHS Class of 2008), Michael Brown (HHS Class of 2011), John Wilkinson (HHS Class of 2008) and Dustin Pechler (not shown, HHS Class of 2011).

Herndon Cadets Defeat Mid-Atlantic Champions

Herndon High's Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) finished first in the Lee-Davis regional physical fitness meet, where they competed against 12 schools in strength, endurance and speed events. They not only defeated the reigning mid-Atlantic champion, Norview High School, but also displayed the utmost in teamwork and sportsman-

ship. They then celebrated with a trip to the US Naval Academy, where they enjoyed the Navy-San Jose State football game and met four former Herndon Hornets who are now midshipmen at the academy.

For more information about Herndon High's outstanding NJROTC program, please visit <http://www.herndonnjrotc.com/>.

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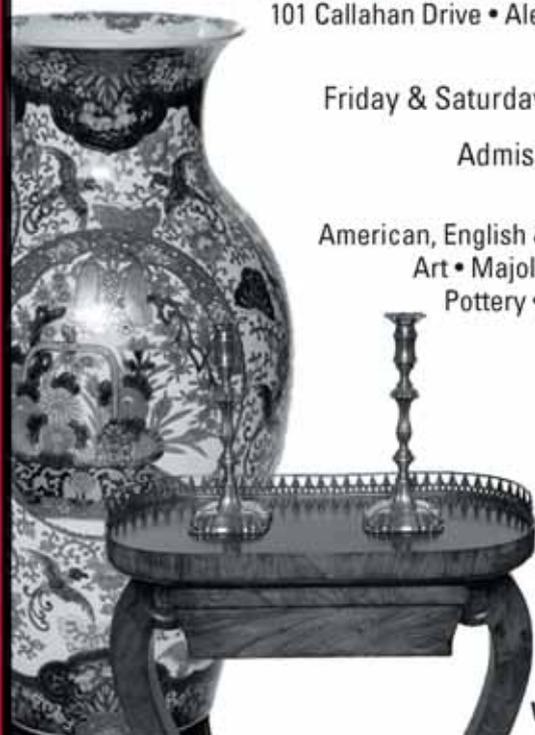
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Proposed Constitutional Amendments

To be voted on at the November 6, 2012 Election

Full text of Amendment [Proposed new language is underlined. Existing language that is deleted is shown as stricken (~~stricken~~)]

1 Article I. Bill of Rights.

Section 11. Due process of law; obligation of contracts; taking of private property; prohibited discrimination; jury trial in civil cases.

BALLOT QUESTION

Shall Section 11 of Article I (Bill of Rights) of the Constitution of Virginia be amended (i) to require that eminent domain only be exercised where the property taken or damaged is for public use and, except for utilities or the elimination of a public nuisance, not where the primary use is for private gain, private benefit, private enterprise, increasing jobs, increasing tax revenue, or economic development; (ii) to define what is included in just compensation for such taking or damaging of property; and (iii) to prohibit the taking or damaging of more private property than is necessary for the public use?

EXPLANATION

Current Constitution and Background

Article I, Section 11 of the current Constitution prohibits the taking or damaging of private property for public uses without just compensation. The power to take private property for public uses is known as the power of eminent domain. If a private property owner and the entity acquiring property for a public use cannot agree on the sale of the property, the property may be taken by eminent domain and the amount of just compensation is decided in a court proceeding.

In a 2005 case from Connecticut, the United States Supreme Court upheld the taking of private property and its transfer to a private business for economic development purposes and also said that states could restrict the use of eminent domain (*Kelo v. City of New London*, 545 U.S. 469). Two years later, the Virginia General Assembly enacted § 1-219.1 of the Code of Virginia and set limits on the use of eminent domain powers. For example, § 1-219.1 provides that no more private property may be taken than is necessary for the stated public use, that the public interest for the taking must outweigh any private gain, and that private property cannot be taken for certain primary purposes such as increasing the tax base, revenues, or employment.

Proposed Amendment

The proposed constitutional amendment continues the approach and concepts set out in § 1-219.1. However, while limits in the Code can be amended by any future General Assembly, the proposed amendment, if approved by the voters, could only be changed by a future constitutional

amendment approved by the voters.

The proposed amendment includes the following:

- The right to private property is a “fundamental” right.
- The taking or damaging of private property must be for a “public use.”
- No more property may be taken or damaged than is necessary for the stated public use.
- A “public service company, public service corporation, or railroad exercises the power of eminent domain for public use when such exercise is for the authorized provision of utility, common carrier, or railroad services.” Elimination of a public nuisance may be a public use. It is not a public use if the “primary use is for private gain, private benefit, private enterprise, increasing jobs, increasing tax revenue, or economic development.”
- Just compensation for property taken is expanded and defined to be “no less than the value of the property taken, lost profits and lost access, and damages to the residue caused by the taking.” The terms “lost profits” and “lost access” are to be defined by the General Assembly, and it has done so by separate legislation that will become law if this proposed amendment is approved by the voters (Chapters 699 and 719, 2012 Acts of Assembly).
- The entity condemning property, known as the condemnor, has the burden to prove that the property is being taken for a public use.

Amend Section 11 of Article I of the Constitution of Virginia as follows:

Article I. Bill of Rights

Section 11. Due process of law; obligation of contracts; taking or damaging of private property; prohibited discrimination; jury trial in civil cases.

That no person shall be deprived of his life, liberty, or property without due process of law; that the General Assembly shall not pass any law impairing the obligation of contracts, ~~nor any law whereby private property shall be taken or damaged for public uses, without just compensation, the term “public uses” to be defined by the General Assembly;~~ and that the right to be free from any governmental discrimination upon the basis of religious conviction, race, color, sex, or national origin shall not be abridged, except that the mere separation of the sexes shall not be considered discrimination.

That in controversies respecting property, and in suits between man and man, trial by jury is preferable to any other, and ought to be held sacred. The General Assembly may limit the number of jurors for civil cases in courts of record to not less than five.

That the General Assembly shall pass no law whereby private property, the right to which is fundamental, shall be damaged or taken except for public use. No private property shall be damaged or taken for public use without just compensation to the owner thereof. No more private property may be taken than necessary to achieve the stated public use. Just compensation shall be no less than the value of the property taken, lost profits and lost access, and damages to the residue caused by the taking. The terms “lost profits” and “lost access” are to be defined by the General Assembly. A public service company, public service corporation, or railroad exercises the power of eminent domain for public use when such exercise is for the authorized provision of utility, common carrier, or railroad services. In all other cases, a taking or damaging of private property is not for public use if the primary use is for private gain, private benefit, private enterprise, increasing jobs, increasing tax revenue, or economic development, except for the elimination of a public nuisance existing on the property. The condemnor bears the burden of proving that the use is public, without a presumption that it is.

Are You Election Ready?

A new Virginia Voter ID law requires one acceptable form of identification to vote. Acceptable forms of ID include:

- ★ Your Voter Registration Card
- ★ Valid Virginia Driver's License or ID Card
- ★ ID Issued by the Commonwealth of Virginia, a Political Subdivision, or the U.S. Government
- ★ Current utility bill, bank statement or government check with current name and address
- ★ Valid Student ID from any institution of higher learning in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- ★ For additional acceptable forms of ID, visit www.sbe.virginia.gov, or call 1-800-552-9745.

Deadline to Register to vote
October 15, 2012

General Election
November 6, 2012

Voter Registration Cards will be mailed to registered voters in late-September. Virginia citizens have until October 15, 2012 to apply to register to vote or update their registration information. If you have questions, please call the State Board of Elections at 1-800-552-9745.





Proposed Constitutional Amendments

To be voted on at the November 6, 2012 Election

Full text of Amendment [Proposed new language is underlined. Existing language that is deleted is shown as stricken (~~stricken~~)]

2 Article IV. Legislature.

Section 6. Legislative sessions.

BALLOT QUESTION

Shall Section 6 of Article IV (Legislature) of the Constitution of Virginia concerning legislative sessions be amended to allow the General Assembly to delay by no more than one week the fixed starting date for the reconvened or "veto" session when the General Assembly meets after a session to consider the bills returned to it by the Governor with vetoes or amendments?

EXPLANATION

Current Constitution and Background

After the end of every legislative session, the General Assembly is required by the Constitution to meet again or reconvene in a "veto" session. The only bills that the General Assembly can consider in a veto session are bills that it had passed during the legislative session and that the Governor has sent back to it with his vetoes or suggested amendments.

The Constitution now requires that the veto session must begin on the sixth Wednesday following the end of each session. The veto session usually lasts for only one day and cannot last more than ten days.

Proposed Amendment

The only change to Section 6 of Article IV, proposed by this amendment will allow the General Assembly to delay the start of the veto session for up to one week. The General Assembly will be able to avoid the possible scheduling of the veto session on a religious holiday such as Passover. The proposed amendment does not change the present limits on the business that can be considered in a veto session or on the length of the veto session.

Amend Section 6 of Article IV of the Constitution of Virginia as follows:

Article IV. Legislature Section 6. Legislative sessions.

The General Assembly shall meet once each year on the second Wednesday in January. Except as herein provided for reconvened sessions, no regular session of the General Assembly convened in an even-numbered year shall continue longer than sixty days; no regular session of the General Assembly convened in an odd-numbered year shall continue longer than thirty days; but with the concurrence of two-thirds of the members elected to each house, any regular session may be extended for a period not exceeding thirty days. Neither house shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn to another place, nor for more than three days.

The Governor may convene a special session of the General Assembly when, in his opinion, the interest of the Commonwealth may require and shall convene a special session upon the application of two-thirds of the members elected to each house.

The General Assembly shall reconvene on the sixth Wednesday after adjournment of each regular or special session for the purpose of considering bills which may have been returned by the Governor with recommendations for their amendment and bills and items of appropriation bills which may have been returned by the Governor with his objections. No other business shall be considered at a reconvened session. Such reconvened session shall not continue longer than three days unless the session be extended, for a period not exceeding seven additional days, upon the vote of the majority of the members elected to each house. The General Assembly may provide, by a joint resolution approved during a regular or special session by the vote of the majority of the members elected to each house, that it shall reconvene on a date after the sixth Wednesday after adjournment of the regular or special session but no later than the seventh Wednesday after adjournment.

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After the Storm

Thousands of residents without power as clean-up efforts continue and residents deal with downed trees, closed roads and schools in wake of Hurricane Sandy.

By Victoria Ross
The Connection

Hurricane Sandy battered the region Monday night, shutting down Fairfax County schools, governments, roads and voting precincts. The mammoth storm made landfall near Atlantic City around 8 p.m., according to the National Hurricane Center, with maximum sustained winds of about 80 miles per hour.

Driving rains and powerful winds knocked down trees and power lines, leaving at least 70,000 people in Fairfax County without power Monday night.

As of 11 a.m. Tuesday morning, Dominion Power reported that

there are 57,000 customers without power County-wide. The Virginia Department of Transportation gave an update at 7 a.m. Tuesday morning, reporting that about 143 secondary roads in Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties remained closed due to either high water, downed trees and/or power lines. The majority of these roads are in Fairfax County. VDOT also reported there were 107 signal outages in Northern Virginia, and to treat these outages as four-way stops.

“Our crews are working throughout the day and night to assess storm damage, remove debris and work closely with emergency responders and utility companies to reopen roads closed due to downed trees and power lines,”



Photo by Victoria Ross/The Connection

Cars enter floodwaters on Hunter Mill Road in Vienna Tuesday, Oct. 30 at 9 a.m. The road was closed until 10 a.m. Tuesday.

said VDOT spokesperson Joan Morris.

VDOT estimates that it will take several days to reopen all roads.

Many residents who were driving this morning said the roads are still slick and there are leaves and debris everywhere.

Last night, Vienna resident Wolf Gottshalk reported he drove down Hunter Mill Road past Hunter Station Road to get to his neighborhood.

“The road was flooded. The bridge is not flooded, but the road on the Hunter Station Road side of the bridge is washed out. I made it through (SUV), but it is very difficult to see and you come up on the water quickly and it is deep,” Gottshalk said.

At 5 a.m. Tuesday morning, Hunter Mill Road was still closed, but the floodwaters had receded and cars were driving around the barriers.

Fairfax County Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large) held several news conferences on Sunday and Monday with County Executive Director Ed Long, giving status updates on the storm, County updates and safety information.

She cautioned motorists to turn back if they are driving and encounter a patch of road that is underwater.

“It may look like you can drive through the water,” she said, “but it’s often deceptive how deep and fast-moving the water is. Don’t

chance it, just turn around.” Tuesday morning, County officials urged residents to stay off the roads to keep them clear for VDOT clean-up crews, utility restoration and public safety personnel.

“Many trees fell across roads last night and by this morning they were largely cleared thanks to their efforts and the planning and preparation that took place before the storm.

There are still areas without power. Please check with your neighbors to make sure they are alright and do not need help,” said Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield.)

Countywide it is reported that 55 trees fell into homes.

“I saw many trees leaning into other trees, structures and wires this morning. Please keep yourself and kids clear of these trees until they have been assessed and dealt with,” he said.

According to VDOT, all interstates in northern Virginia are clear. VDOT officials reminded drivers that HOV restrictions have been lifted today on interstates 66, 95, 395, and the Dulles Toll Road.

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Fast, Funny and Physical

Reduced Shakespeare Company brings treats to Reston's CenterStage.

By David Siegel
The Connection

The Reduced Shakespeare Company will be making its annual visit to Reston's CenterStage to bring its "fast, funny and physical" theater. Priding themselves on making audiences laugh with abridged, irreverent send-ups of the classics and history, this year the troupe is setting its sights on the holidays with "The Ultimate Christmas Show (abridged)."

"Reston audiences have developed a strong and happy relationship with the Reduced Shakespeare Company (RSC) and they look forward to seeing both their favorite and their new shows. It has become a tradition that our audiences and the RSC actors really enjoy," said Leila Gordon, Reston Community Center's executive director.

"Reduced Shakespeare Company shows

have a deft touch with comedy," added Gordon. Additionally, on Nov. 15, they will be doing two workshops with students at South Lakes High School as part of the Reston Community Center Artist Residency program.

Reed Martin, one of the Reduced Shakespeare Company performers said that "the premise of 'The Ultimate Christmas Show (abridged)' begins with the idea that they are part of a Christmas pageant variety show, but because of bad weather, none of the other acts can show up. So they have to put on the entire pageant doing all the various acts."

And from that good-natured premise, the Reduced Shakespeare

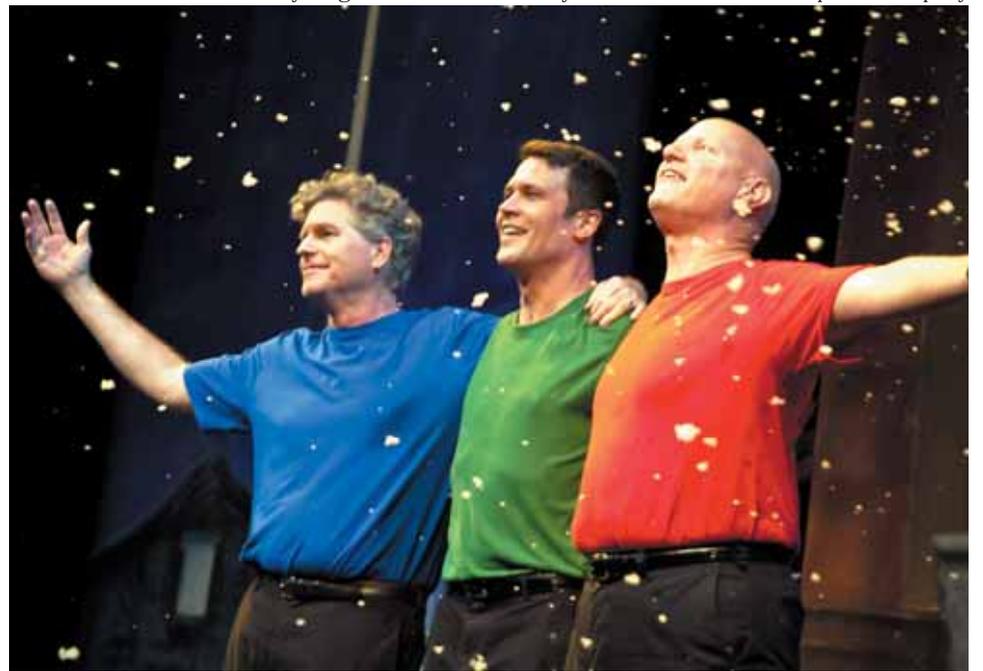
Company develops a new version of the Twelve Days of Christmas that takes into account the traditional and assorted winter holidays including Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanza and Winter Solstice.

"It is all to celebrate the season so the

Where and When

The Reduced Shakespeare Company presents "The Ultimate Christmas Show (abridged)," at CenterStage, Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Performances: Nov. 14 & 15 at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$30. Call 703-476-4500 or visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

Photo by Meghan Moore/Courtesy of The Reduced Shakespeare Company



(From left) Austin Tichenor, Matt Rippy and Reed Martin in the Reduced Shakespeare Company production of "The Ultimate Christmas Show (abridged)."

audience has a great, fun time," said Reed. "There are so many traditions to celebrate."

The audience will participate and have a substantial interactive role. They will be able to give the performers "ideas of what they really, really want for gifts." From those suggestions, the acting troupe will take off into the kind of sharp, smart fun that The Reduced Shakespeare Company is known for.

Reed promised great festive family fun.

After all, he once was a clown with Ringling Brothers/Barnum and Bailey Circus. "There are so many ways to make new versions of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' that the audience will help us."

"For so many people, the holiday season comes along with just as much stress as joy, so we think this is one way we can lighten up for people on that front!" said Gordon. A great time to just be happy.

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE
South Lakes District Community Meeting

Meet your district director and learn about the issues and amenities in your area.

Thursday, November 8, 7-9 p.m.
Reston Association Conference Center, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive
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RSVP: Ha Brock, 703 435-7986 or via e-mail habrock@reston.org




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Entertainment

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

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 31

Brutal + Sublime. 8 p.m., at the Center Stage, Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The American Contemporary Music Ensemble performs for the first time, juxtaposing musical extremes as they play John Cage, Nico Muhly and others. \$15, Reston residents; \$30. 703-476-4500 or www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

SATURDAY/NOV 3

Arts and Crafts Fair. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at Community of Faith United Methodist Church, 13224 Franklin Farm Road, Herndon. Shop for 100 percent handcrafted items made by local artists. 703-620-1977 or beading456@yahoo.com.

Home 4 the Holidays. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. The ninth annual pet adoption event brings 30-plus mixed breed and purebred dog rescue organizations to promote responsible adoption; the event features local pet-related retail exhibitors and activities for children. 571-233-4557. www.home4theholidaysdc.org or www.gooddogz.com.

Shane Gamble. 9:30 p.m., at O'Sullivan's, 754 Elden St., Suite 102, Herndon. The pop-American-Indie artist plays hits off his Sept. 18 eponymous album.

See Entertainment, Page 17



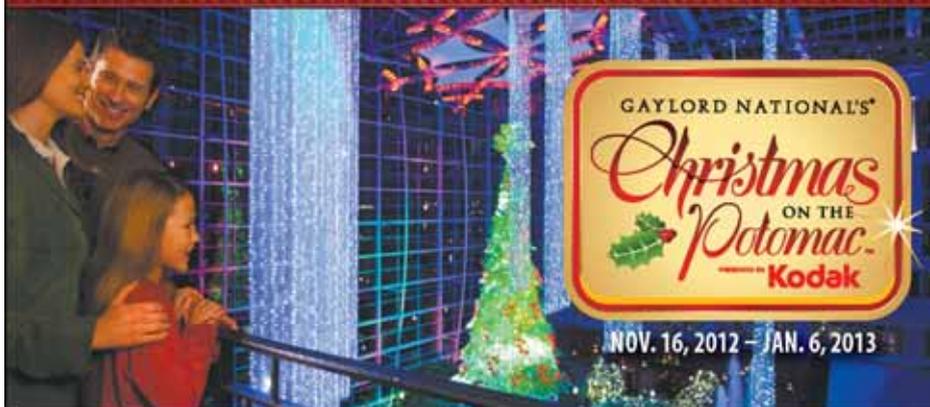
Pianist Michael Brown

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Hands of Time



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

On the one hand, I want to take note every month on the 27th as yet one more notch on my living-with-cancer belt. On the other hand, maybe I don't need a belt to be notching but rather a life to be living. Perhaps it's time, nearly 44 months post-diagnosis – at press time, to stop counting backwards and try more living forwards. It's not as if keeping a running total in my head (as I do), gets me any closer to some sort of finish line where life can begin anew. Hardly. I'm not exactly cancer-free, more like cancer-stalled. Nevertheless, my monthly total does indicate how far I've come, how long I've lived, but it doesn't necessarily translate into how much longer I may live. In fact, it might suggest the exact opposite (only so much time left on the clock, hypothetically speaking), so why bother tracking time? Why not track the future instead? Go somewhere! Do something! Live a lot, not just a little.

Unfortunately, survivability in the terminal cancer world may simply be the means to your end. If you can't beat it, then you can only join it. Although you hope to outlast it, stay one step ahead and try to keep it from catching you. Perhaps I should consider – and embrace – the words of the great Satchel Page: "Don't look back. Something might be gaining on you." Still, for me, totaling up the number of months since I received my official diagnosis/prognosis, gives me confidence that having survived this unexpectedly long (original prognosis was "13 months to two years"; median life expectancy is eight months) somehow means something positive going forward. Not that there's any statistical relationship between the past and the future. As Starfleet Captain, Kathryn Janeway said to her first officer Commander Chacotay on an episode of Star Trek: Voyager: "I swore I'd never let myself get caught in one of these Godforsaken paradoxes. The future is the past, the past is the future. It all gives me a headache." Certainly they weren't discussing cancer, but for me, wondering if counting the months I've lived with cancer might possibly have an effect on the months I have yet to live with/hopefully without cancer is beneficial somehow to surviving, is sort of how I roll. Whereas choosing the alternative approach: not counting and/or considering anything/everything, gives me a headache.

How do I stay ahead of cancer without betraying who I am or compromising my principles? As Curly Howard of The Three Stooges said while harnessed like a horse and pulling a wagon in an episode called "G.I. Wanna Go Home": "If I'm gonna work like a horse, I'm gonna eat like one, too" (as he began eating an extra-large sandwich). However I do this (live with cancer), I have to do it my way, or at least in a way that doesn't make me miserable. Because being miserable is all it's cracked up to be, and having a bad attitude likely fuels the cancer that unfortunately burns inside me. But I never want to think that I've learned all there is to learn to help my body/my mind fight the cancer. Maybe looking forward to potential accomplishments might extend life more than taking stock of previous achievements? On the one hand, those accomplishments (still living 44 months post diagnosis) might breed a certain confidence that bodes well to be well. On the other, focusing on the past may compromise the future?

I hope this column wasn't too confusing. If it was, welcome to my world. If it wasn't, "You're a better man than I am, Gunga Din," (Cary Grant from the movie of the same name).

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

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Entertainment

From Page 14

SUNDAY/NOV. 4

Collector's Choice. 1 p.m., at Greater Reston Arts Center, 1202 Market St., Suite 103, Reston. An art raffle, silent auction and reception support the center; all leave the event with an original work of art donated by participating artists—preview the art Nov. 1-3, noon-8 p.m. \$150. www.restonarts.org.

TUESDAY/NOV. 6

Fall Bazaar. 7 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Herndon Adult Day Care Center, 875 Grace Street, Herndon. The Fairfax County Health Department holds their annual bazaar with rummage sale items, baked goods, ceramics

and crafts. 703-435-8729.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 7

Fall Bazaar. 7 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Herndon Adult Day Care Center, 875 Grace Street, Herndon. The Fairfax County Health Department holds their annual bazaar with rummage sale items, baked goods, ceramics and crafts. 703-435-8729.

The Science of Good Taste—Geology, Wine and Food. 7 p.m., at USGS Headquarters, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Part of the More Tales of the Hydro-illogical Cycle, learn about ancient Egyptians and Greeks' knowledge and relationship to wine, and why wines from different places taste so different. www.usgs.gov/public_lecture_series/.

Letters

From Page 7

now the jobless rate is the lowest in four years. Our national security was a priority. Not only did he lead us out of Iraq, he also found a logical end to our involvement in Afghanistan. And who of us did not feel a sense of peace when Osama Bin Laden was eliminated? Because of his diplomacy and work to be inclusive of other nations we have friendly relations with more allies, who are now willing to take a lead in foreign concerns.

On social issues women now

have more rights to fight for equal pay, and gay men and women in our military do not have to hide behind a cloak of secrecy as to their orientation. Thanks to "Obamacare" my friends with pre-existing conditions and family who could not afford the rising costs can now receive health coverage.

Most of these issues have personally affected me, my friends, family and neighbors. America can only benefit with another four years of Barack Obama's direction.

Dianna Traub
Herndon



William G. Bouie



Lisa Ehrhardt



Gerald Zavala

County Board Names RCC Board Members

On Tuesday, Oct. 16, at the request of Supervisor Catherine M. Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors appointed three Reston residents to the nine-member Reston Community Center Board of Governors: returning Board member William G. Bouie, and new Board members Lisa Ehrhardt and Gerald Zavala.

Bouie, Ehrhardt and Zavala were all appointed for three-year terms expiring in 2015. The appointments were made following the official results of the 2012 RCC Preference Poll. Vote tallies were as follows:

- ❖ Gerald Zavala: 1,201
- ❖ Lisa Ehrhardt: 1,167
- ❖ William G. Bouie: 1,152

Gerald Zavala is a five-year resident of Reston with experience in many civic areas and activities. He is the director of development for the Fairfax County Park Foundation and is a recent graduate of the Leadership Fairfax program, as well as a member of the Lake Anne Elementary Parent Teacher Association and the Friends of Reston Regional Library. Zavala also volunteers

for Reston Interfaith programs.

Lisa Ehrhardt is a 37-year resident of Reston and a previous employee of RCC. She is a professional social worker and diversity trainer with multidimensional experience in the Reston community. In addition to her experience as a former RCC employee, Ehrhardt and her family have participated in numerous RCC programs as patrons. Her experiences as an educator and communicator have focused on celebrating diversity and engaging community members of all backgrounds.

William G. Bouie has served on the RCC Board since 2003, and served as the board chair from 2006 until 2008. He is also the current chair of the Fairfax County Park Authority Board, and vice chair of the board of directors of Initiative for Public Art-Reston. He has also served in formal and informal roles in many other community organizations, including the Wolf Trap Associates Board of Directors, Reston Little League, Reston Youth Baseball, Reston's YMCA Board of Management, the Fairfax County Athletic Council, the Friends of Reston, and the PIT Teen Center Board, among others.

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- **SECURING EQUAL PAY:** They will work to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act to help guarantee women equality in the workplace.
- **PROTECTING OUR SENIORS:** Tim and Mark believe Social Security and Medicare should be strengthened – not cut – and they will work to protect them.

“I need a partner to help me get spending under control and our economy back on track. That's why Virginia needs Tim Kaine in the U.S. Senate.”

Mark R. Warner

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Oakton's Klimkiewicz Repeats as Concorde XC Champ

Madison girls win Liberty District.

By Jon Roetman
The Connection

For the second straight season, Oakton's Allie Klimkiewicz held off Robinson's Macey Schweikert to win the Concorde District girls' cross country championship.

"I wasn't expecting it at all. I wanted to medal; I wanted to get top five. I got to the halfway point and I was in first and I didn't think much of it. It didn't process until the two-mile mark and I was like, 'I'm in first.'"

— Laura Sullivan

After edging Schweikert by three seconds in 2011, Klimkiewicz beat her opponent from Robinson by one second on Oct. 24 at Burke Lake Park. Klimkiewicz finished with a time of 17:36, leading Oakton to a third straight team title.

"I knew she was there," Klimkiewicz said. "I was pretty sure she was close because you can kind of see shadows."

Schweikert finished second with a time of 17:37, helping Robinson to a runner-up team finish and a berth in the Northern Region championship meet, scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 1 at Burke Lake Park. Oakton finished with a score of 40 at the district meet. Robinson finished with 45, followed by Chantilly (72) and Centreville (100).

Hailey Dougherty placed fourth (18:22) for Oakton.



Oakton sophomore Allie Klimkiewicz, seen earlier this season, won her second consecutive Concorde District cross country championship on Oct. 24 at Burke Lake Park.



South Lakes' Ashkan Mohammadi, seen earlier this season, finished fourth at the Liberty District cross country championships on Oct. 24 at Burke Lake Park.



Langley's Jacquelyn Hulett, seen earlier this season, finished 35th at the Liberty District cross country championships on Oct. 24 at Burke Lake Park.

Kristi Carrigan finished ninth (18:56), Briana Stewart was 12th (19:22) and Kara Kendall was 14th (19:24).

Langley's Jessica Miles finished

second with a time of 19:21. McLean's Katie Montgomery (19:28) and Megan McCormack (19:40) finished third and sixth, respectively. South Lakes' Devin

Nieusma (19:56) and Monica Lannen (19:59) were 10th and 13th, respectively.

IN BOYS' ACTION, Oakton

placed fourth, grabbing the final regional berth. Chantilly won the event with a 19. Robinson finished second with a total of 64, followed by Westfield (92) and Oakton (95).

Oakton's top boys' finisher was Jack Stoney, who placed eighth with a time of 15:52. Chantilly's Sean McGorty won the event with a time of 14:38, one minute faster than his nearest competitor.

Later in the day, a pair of Madison harriers captured the individual Liberty District boys' and girls' championships.

Laura Sullivan won the girls' championship with a time of 19:11, helping the Warhawks capture the team title. Sullivan and her coach said they didn't expect such a strong performance. As a freshman last season, Sullivan placed 20th at districts.

"It came out of nowhere," Sullivan said. "I wasn't expecting it at all. I wanted to medal; I wanted to get top five. I got to the halfway point and I was in first and I didn't think much of it. It didn't process until the two-mile mark and I was like, 'I'm in first.'"

"Laura definitely stepped up," Madison coach Craig Chasse said. "That was a surprise. I wouldn't have predicted her winning. If you ask any of the other coaches, I don't think they would have guessed it. They would have guessed somebody else."

Madison's Amanda Swaak finished fourth (19:37). Christina Galiano placed seventh (19:47), Morgan Wittrock was 15th (20:02) and Anna Stone was 22nd (20:17).

In boys' action, Madison's Matthew Calem took home the individual title with a time of 15:43, edging Stone Bridge's Brady Guertin.

"He ran a smart race," Chasse said about Calem. "Nobody in the boys' race really wanted to take the lead, it looked like. They were pretty slow—5:17 at the mile—it's a little hot today; it became tactical ..."

MADISON FINISHED FIFTH, one spot away from a regional berth. Stone Bridge won the team title with a score of 43, followed by Thomas Jefferson (73), McLean (89) and South Lakes (95).

McLean's David Galdo (10th, 16:36) and Lewis Millholland (13th, 16:41) earned all-district. South Lakes' Ashkan Mohammadi (fourth, 16:12), Michael McHugh (11th, 16:39) and Andrew McCool (14th, 16:42) were also all-district.

Marshall's MacKenzie Haight finished third with a time of 16:08.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

News

Local officials and skaters cut the ribbon at the Lake Fairfax Skatepark Saturday, Oct. 27.



Photos by Alex McVeigh/The Connection

Skate Park Opens at Lake Fairfax

New park is 15,000 square feet, offers variety of features.

By Alex McVeigh
The Connection

The Fairfax County Park Authority opened the Lake Fairfax Skatepark Saturday, Oct. 27, welcoming hundreds of skaters to one of the biggest parks in the area. The 15,000 square-foot features a large bowl on one end, and more than a dozen other features made of concrete with steel edges.

"I think this is the best skate park in Northern Virginia by far," said Diego Patrick, 16, of Manassas Park. "It's the concrete plaza skaters all over have been waiting for."

Patrick is sponsored by N8IV Concepts, a skating brand, one of several companies that came out to celebrate the park's opening. More than a dozen members of Infected Skateboards, a company started by brothers Gabe and Julian David, were among the first to try out the park.

"There's so much here, it's like something you'd see in a video game," said Josh Harris, 19. "It was designed really well, and very creatively."

The park was designed by Spohn Rank Skateparks, which is based in California. The streetscape-inspired design features what is known as "skateable art," which includes pieces that have a high aesthetic value, but can also be skated on.

"I think it does a great job of putting out features for skaters of all levels," said Julie Carr of Herndon,

whose son is an active skater. "My son went to a few of the public input meetings, so he wanted to be here today, but I was nervous that it would only be for skaters with years of experience, but he's having a great time."

BMX bike rider Jared Farhan of Herndon said he thinks the large size of the park makes it more accessible to all.

"I like the Herndon park, but it's a bit small, and when I ride my bike around the bowl it can feel a little bit tight, and I get nervous, because if I hit someone, they could get hurt," he said. "But this has a lot more open space, which helps you steer clear of others, and I feel like I have room for all the tricks I need."

The skate park broke ground in June after almost a year of planning that involved several early designs and a change of location within the park.

"We have one skate park already, at Wakefield Park, but we're a big County, there are lots of skaters," said Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill). "We tell the kids not to skate on the sidewalks, to get off the banisters, get off the sidewalks, but we didn't tell them where to go. Now we do, and I think this is a great addition to Lake Fairfax Park."

Lake Fairfax Park Manager Yvonne Johnson said she "strongly recommends" skaters and bikers wear helmets as well as shoulder and kneepads.

The cost of the park was about \$1 million, financed through park bonds. It is located next to the athletic fields and campgrounds.



Josh Harris, 19, attempts a trick at the newly opened Lake Fairfax Skatepark Saturday, Oct. 27.



Skaters try out the newly opened skate park at Lake Fairfax Saturday, Oct. 27.

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gourmet kitchen, wet bar in basement, sun room and solarium, extensive moldings and custom ceilings, 3-sided brick exterior and stone patio, 5BR and 6.5baths on three finished levels

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