

Reston Raiders To Play on National Stage

SPORTS, PAGE 12

Thomas Meloy, a member of the Reston Raiders, squares up a shot during the team's practice Thursday, March 21. The team will compete in the national championship next week.

Sequester's Impact in
Fairfax County? TBD

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SALT Is Voice
For the Voiceless

NEWS, PAGE 3



PROM DRESS GIVEAWAY

Reston Community Center invites teens ages 14 - 18 to shop for a complete prom look at its "prom boutique," located in the Jo Ann Rose Gallery. Choose from hundreds of new and gently used dresses, including top designers. Then complete your look with accessories, shoes, jewelry, handbags and make-up lessons. Participants will be entered in a raffle to win prizes that include restaurant gift cards, flowers, limo service and more. Everything is completely **FREE**.

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To request reasonable ADA accommodations,
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NEWS

A Voice for the Voiceless

Q&A with SALT Coordinator John Horejsi.

On Saturday, Social Action Linking Together (SALT) held its annual Richmond Wrap-Up session in Vienna. One of the most active nonpartisan advocacy groups in Northern Virginia, SALT, has 1,200 members who bring the social, economic and justice teachings of their faith to bear on public policy and legislation. SALT has had an impact shaping public policy for more than 20 years. SALT Coordinator John Horejsi talked with The Connection about some of the group's legislative victories and losses during the 2013 General Assembly "short" session.

For more information, visit www.S-A-L-T.org or contact John Horejsi at jhorejsi@cox.net or 703-938-9535.

Q: What drives SALT's legislative advocacy?

A: "Our activism springs from the principles of faith and responsibility. Our activism on behalf of the vulnerable does not make us better than anyone else—but it does make us very lucky persons. Our appeal is to people of faith: 'Out of the pew and into the lobby. Be a voice for the voiceless.' Involvement in the political field is clearly a part of the vocation and activity of the lay faithful. Advocacy is part of everyone's job description—even if you're retired. By working together we generate sufficient activity to have an impact. Our community activism, to us, is simply democracy in action.

We seek to serve; not to be served. We are not lobbyists, we are service providers. Our service is our advocacy for the neediest. To us advocacy is the ultimate service—'service on steroids.'

Through our advocacy we seek to keep social justice issues front and center at the Virginia General Assembly. Through our advocacy, legislators are made aware that there is a responsibility to the needs of vulnerable people—measuring every policy by how it touches the least, the lost and the left-out among us."

Q: What do you consider some of SALT's most important victories?

In the past, SALT has advocated successfully for many issues, including:

- ❖ repeal of the sales tax for food stamps each year in 19 states, increasing food aid by \$9.5 million in Virginia;
- ❖ securing \$4 million in TANF stimulus funding for emergency assistance to 2,500 Fairfax County families during the recent recession;
- ❖ establishment of a permanent statewide Homeless Intervention Program (HIP) with \$5.3 million funding;
- ❖ persuading the General Assembly to pass the Virginia Income Tax Credit (VITC), which boosts the income of 190,000 low-income workers;
- ❖ making Virginia the first state in the nation to create a system in which 100 percent of child support from the non-custodial parents goes directly to the child and custodial parent rather than to the Virginia General Fund.

Q: What were the most important SALT initiatives this legislative session?

A: "The ban on shackling pregnant inmates and Med-



John Horejsi of Vienna, coordinator of Social Action Linking Together (SALT), testifies in the public hearing of the Fairfax Delegation to the Virginia General Assembly in January 2013.

icaid expansion. While anti-shackling legislation was defeated in the Militia, Prison and Public Safety Subcommittee, there has been progress by SALT and anti-shackling coalition groups to prohibit shackling through the regulatory process. There is still a need for legislation to stop this practice. Protection is still needed for some of Virginia's most vulnerable women from being unnecessarily restrained—a practice that not only violates a woman's dignity, but can detrimentally affect her health and the health of her pregnancy. SALT is currently a partner in this Medicaid Expansion Coalition. Right now, the governor has Medicaid expansion in his hands. He has the ability to veto that provision. Medicaid expansion will provide more than 30,000 Fairfax County residents with access to health care coverage. The expansion is a common-sense policy that will help over 400,000 Virginians. Ultimately, we hope the governor will make the right choice for Virginia and Fairfax County and work toward expanding Medicaid as soon as possible. We would like a clear statement that he plans to expand Medicaid. Every day's delay costs Virginia \$5 million in lost funding.

Q: Describe your experience as an advocate in the General Assembly.

A: "The legislature has become more partisan and contentious. It is no longer possible to get widespread legislator support. In Richmond legislation is passed and defeated when viewed through a partisan lens. Our recent experience is that to hope for any possible success we must enter into coalitions with other statewide groups. SALT has become partners in and out of coalitions to realize success for the EIC Expansion and the Medicaid Expansions."

—VICTORIA ROSS



Voters lined up outside Lake Anne Elementary early Tuesday morning, Nov. 6, 2012. Voters reported about a 45-minute wait at Lake Anne Elementary.

Better Training, More Technology

The bipartisan commission released findings, recommendations regarding long lines on Election Day.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

After learning that dozens of frustrated voters waited for hours in long lines to cast their ballots on Election Day, Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large) called for the creation of a bipartisan commission to figure out why and make sure it doesn't happen again.

At the March 19 Board of Supervisor's meeting, the commission—jointly chaired by Former Board of Supervisors Chairman Kate Hanley and Stuart Mendelsohn, former Dranesville supervisor—released its final report. They recommended additional poll workers, more training and better technology to keep lines moving.

Recommendations encompassed a variety of training, technology, and process improvements, ranging from using more Electronic Poll Books (EPBs) to providing additional parking spaces at polling places.

"I am pleased that the Election Commission has completed its work," Bulova said. "It is important that the county implement measures to reduce long lines, decrease wait times and streamline the election process in Fairfax County. The commission has identified a variety of improvements and efficiencies to ensure access and convenience for voters in future elections."

Additional recommendations included using electronic poll books at every precinct, and asked the county to create a

fund that would pay for upgrading voting equipment. The report also suggested that county officials find larger polling places where voters can form lines inside precincts rather than outside during bad weather.

Voter turnout in Fairfax County on Election Day was at an all-time high in November's presidential election, with 81 percent of registered voters casting their ballots in 2012 compared to 78.7 percent in 2008. In the 2011 state and local elections, just 32 percent of registered voters cast their ballots, while 49 percent turned out for the 2010 congressional contests.

Lines and wait times varied throughout the county's 237 precincts last November. Voters at Vienna's Flint Hill Elementary School reported ample parking and virtually no lines. At other locations, however, lines snaked around elementary school parking lots and through buildings, and it was not unusual for voters to have to wait over an hour.

Election officials said a shortage of poll volunteers coupled with complicated ballot questions and bond issues meant some voters took much longer to finish their ballots.

While the long lines created headaches for many Fairfax County voters, some voters in Prince William County faced five-hour waits before casting their ballots.

A copy of the report can be found at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/electioncommission/election-commission-report.htm>.

THE COUNTY LINE

Sequester's Impact in Fairfax County? TBD

Local leaders say “uncertainty” biggest fallout of sequester so far.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County businesses have been feeling the chilling effect of the \$87 billion across-the-board spending cuts triggered March 1st for several months.

In anticipation of the original “fiscal cliff” deadline at the end of 2012, apprehensive business owners had begun taking preemptive measures, such as tightening budgets, and implementing hiring and pay freezes.

“Small and large companies are taking more conservative approaches to hiring, and government contractors, a large segment of the Fairfax County economy, could see their contracts reduced or terminated,” said Sharon Bulova (D-at-large), chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

But what has rattled Fairfax County businesses is not specific cuts in the sequester, but the uncertainty of what the cuts will be and when they will take effect.

“One of the most impactful effects of sequestration thus far has been the uncertainty that is preventing growth in the local economy,” Bulova said.

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), who is a founding partner of the Fairfax law firm Cook Craig & Francuzenko, said his practice and Fairfax County are hurt by the uncertainty factor.

“The biggest problem in Fairfax County is not the sequester, per se, it’s the uncertainty. If this continues, that’s huge,” Cook said. “Businesses can deal with bad news. They can adjust to declining revenues, increased costs, what have you ... but not knowing what will happen is crippling. Congress and the president can’t do their job, and you and I are going to be paying for this for a long time.”

“From the perspective of business community, businesses are adept when they understand what’s coming. They see a problem; they solve it,” said Jerry Gordon, president of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA), “The uncertainty is driving them crazy. Prime contractors, such as SAIC and Northrop Grumman, they can translate their skill sets to non-federal applications. My fear is for the sub-contractors and the sub-sub-contractors, where a single contract can make or break a business.”

Economic Forecast: Grim and Grimmer

While every state stands to lose, Northern Virginia’s close ties to Washington and the federal spigot have the region squarely in the crosshairs of the sequester.

“With nearly 40 percent of our region’s economy tied to the Federal Government, Northern Virginia will be especially hard hit,” said Congressman James Moran (D-8) in a recent letter to constituents.

While only 1 percent of Fairfax County’s General Fund revenues come from the Federal Government, the human services system in Fairfax County receives 20 percent of its revenue base from federal funding. In 2011, Fairfax procured more than \$26 billion in federal contracts.

“The Washington Area economy has grown tremendously thanks to Federal Government spending. In 2010, total federal spending accounted for nearly 40 percent of the region’s GDP,” said economist Stephen S. Fuller of George Mason University’s Center for Regional Analysis.

The region’s strength is also its “Achilles heel,” Fuller said and warned the area “faces a sea change” as federal spending decreases.

According to economic forecasters, the outlook is grim and grimmer. Most of the fiscal apocalypse, they say, is related to government-worker furloughs, which could begin as early as next week. In addition to eroding consumer confidence, the furloughs could trigger a domino effect that impacts everyone.

“If the feds are furloughed two days a week, no more housing purchases, no more dinners out, everyone hunkers down, consumer housing starts to slow down and things come to a grinding halt and everyone is affected,” Gordon said.

Some economists take the worst-case scenario further. If the sequester lingers, they predict airport-security lines will get longer because TSA agents will work one fewer day every two weeks; fewer commercial planes will fly because of furloughs to air-traffic controllers; prisons will be locked down because Bureau of Prisons staff will be sent home; terrorists may go undetected because fewer FBI agents and counterterrorism analysts will be working.

While Fairfax County has its weak points, Gordon said the county is still entering the sequester from “a position of strength.”

“Our unemployment is only 3.6 percent, far lower than the national average of 7.7 percent,” Gordon said. “We’ve been working toward a diversified economic base for more than 20 years. We are a center of information technology, software development, telecommunications, aerospace and the Internet. Our workforce is highly skilled. We have an outstanding public school system. ... All this has factored into the development of an economy based on technology and professional services. Yes, I think we’re going to take hits, but we’re in a better position than in most communities.”

“From the perspective of business community, businesses are adept when they understand what’s coming. They see a problem; they solve it. The uncertainty is driving them crazy.”

—Jerry Gordon, president of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA)



Danny Vargas, CEO and founder of VARcom solutions, during a 2012 mock debate in Spain.

PHOTO COURTESY OF VARCOM SOLUTIONS

Local Perspective

Small-business owner tackles the sequester.

Raul Danny Vargas has beaten the odds all his life.

The son of Puerto Rican immigrants, Vargas, 47, was raised by a single mother on welfare in Brooklyn. At an early age, he faced poverty and hunger. “We lived in a ramshackle apartment, and there were days when I would eat ice cubes to curb hunger. My mother never learned to read or write, and she didn’t speak English.”

In spite of the strikes against him, Vargas said he was “blessed” with an older sister who encouraged him to stay in school and reach for more.

“I was running as fast as I could. I always tell my children now that the outcome may not be guaranteed, but the opportunity is,” he said.

Never afraid of hard work, Vargas had his first job at 12, selling snow cones from a pushcart on the streets of Brooklyn. “I would scrape shavings from this huge block of ice, and then put it in a cup and pour syrup over it. I remember that vividly. I did every job you can think of. I moved displays in big office buildings, did temp jobs... hard work was the never issue.”

He became the first person in his family to earn a college degree, eventually serving in the Air Force. But he always dreamed of owning his own business and launching a career in politics.

In 2004, after a career in the telecommunications industry, Vargas started VARCom Solutions in Herndon. The award-winning company provides strategic marketing and high-profile public relations services to small businesses and major corporations.

As a small business owner, with 15 to 20 contract employees at any given time, Vargas

thought he had weathered the worst business crisis when the economy shattered in 2008.

But sequestration—and its uncertain ripple effects—are more challenging, both personally and professionally, Vargas said.

“The uncertainty is the stake in the heart,” Vargas said during an interview Monday.

He said he has already noticed agencies, such as the Department of Defense, shelving projects after his company expected to be awarded the contract.

“I would say the issue that we’ve faced is that we’re bidding on something, it’s basically a done deal, and then, as we’re getting close to moving forward, because of the uncertainty of sequestration, the contracts were put on hold, so we can’t keep people on the bench,” Vargas said.

“Those of us just trying to move ahead, and keep the economy humming, are dealing with the headwind of a dysfunctional federal government.”

Vargas is also a politically active business leader. He was appointed by the U.S. Congress as a commissioner on the National Museum of the American Latino Commission and by Governor McDonnell to the Virginia Workforce Council. He also served as chairman of the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce, the first Hispanic to chair a mainstream chamber in the history of Virginia.

His political connections have given him a sobering perspective on the events in Washington.

“Everyone I’ve talked with on Capitol Hill says they are frightened over our fiscal situation,” he said.

“I do agree that cuts need to be made. We need to be able to rein in spending. But this is the most absurd way of going about it. This blind slashing is inefficient. Honestly, I think a 12-year-old with a lemonade stand could do a better job.”

—VICTORIA ROSS

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to reton@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

THURSDAY/MARCH 28

Building Community in Reston: Vernon Walker Nature and Environment. 7-9 p.m., at the Jo Ann Rose Gallery at Reston Community Center, Lake Anne, Reston. Program will focus on the role of Vernon Walker and the history of the Vernon Walker Nature Center; the scope and diversity of Reston's natural resources and recent environmental initiatives. 703-709-7700 or restonmuseum@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 3

Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Presentation. 7 p.m., at Herndon Town Council Chambers, 765 Lynn St., Herndon. Dranesville Supervisor John Foust holds a town hall meeting to give residents an opportunity to learn about and discuss the proposed FY 2014 budget. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb.

ONGOING

Positive Energy Submissions. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., at League of Reston Artists Parkridge 5 Building, 10780 Parkridge Blvd., Reston. The LRA calls for painters and photographers to enter works that interpret "Positive Energy" by April 10; the show opens April 15 and remains through July 12, open Monday through Friday. www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

Arabic-speaking Older Adult Social Visits. Fairfax County needs volunteers who speak Arabic to

provide social visits to an elderly person in Reston for four hours per month. 703-324-5406, TTY 703-449-1186, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices.

The Object Management Group (OMG) announces their quarterly technical meeting for members and interested non-members. The week of Mar. 18, at The Hyatt Regency, Reston. Register online or walk-in registration. www.omg.org/news/meetings/tc/dc-13/info.htm.

The Herndon Senior Center at 873 ceherndon.org, Grace St., Herndon, needs a volunteer musician to play soothing music for participants; piano available. 703-324-5406, TTY 703-449-1186, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices.

Long-Term Care Volunteer Ombudsman Program Needs Volunteers. Ombudsmen advocate for the rights of residents of nursing and assisted living facilities—they also help residents resolve conflict and improve their quality of life. 703-324-5861 TTY 711 or Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Shepherds Center McLean-Arlington-Falls Church Area Needs Volunteers. Varying times, 1205 Dolley Madison Boulevard, McLean. Volunteers who can provide transport to and from medical appointments, act as a companion while shopping at grocery store and pharmacy, make friendly calls to homebound individuals, be handy helpers for minor home repairs and help with yard work and chores are needed. 703-506-2199.



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OPINION

More Obstacles to Transparency

General Assembly puts more information out of public reach, but other factors also limit access.

The first paragraph of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, passed by the General Assembly in 1968, states that all public records “shall be presumed open.”

It doesn't add, “except when we don't want to,” although that provision does seem to be available in many cases. Individual government entities have a variety of ways of making it hard for the public to access public information.

One such way is simply to require that the information seeker file a “FOIA request,” a written request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. Most public information should be readily available, handed over on request. The written query allows the entity, a school system for example, to parse the request to provide as little information as possible. It is a method of foot-dragging, of just hoping that the requestor will give up.

A growing obstacle involves fees. Many government agencies respond to any request for public information with a bill, sometimes for thousands of dollars. The bills can cover staff time to calculate the answers, to locate the data. The staff time involved is already on the public payroll, and charging fees to provide

EDITORIAL

public information to the public when the public is already paying for the existence of the information is double dipping. Again, it's a method designed to discourage access. And it is often effective. And while many citizen groups in our area can cough up \$3,000 or \$6,000 or more for access to the email correspondence of public officials on a decision that affects the public, for example, many cannot. It is inequitable to charge this sort of fee.

The existence of email correspondence between public officials is another concern, allowing for discussion that, while usually FOIA-able, takes place outside the public eye. Local governments could develop a public archive for email correspondence that would do much to enhance transparency and sunshine in the commonwealth, and reduce embarrassment on the part of emailing officials because they would recognize in advance that their email is public.

The Virginia Freedom of Information Act includes an exception that allows police to withhold, without justification, “complaints, memoranda, correspondence, case files or reports, witness statements and evidence.” Police officials in Fairfax, Arlington and Alexan-

dria have adopted what they call a “blanket” approach to using their exemption. That means they have decided to withhold any document they can without any analysis of whether they should. But no public entity should be allowed blanket exemptions. Withholding public information, if it is allowed, should be on a case-by-case basis. Police departments all over the country routinely allow access to police reports, incident reports and many other source documents without harm, documents that police here refuse to allow the public to see.

So with many systemic roadblocks to public access to public information, it is discouraging to say the least to see the General Assembly add significant new obstacles.

The Virginia Coalitions for Open Government reports that the General Assembly passed exemptions that “will limit access to some correspondence of legislative aides, to evacuation plans for hospitals operating under certificates of public need, to certain flight plans filed at regional government airports, to records and meetings of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and to bank self-assessments. All concealed handgun permit applications will now be off-limits, too, thanks to a bill that was radically amended from its original purpose and reported from committee to House floor in less than 24 hours,” limiting public comment.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

RCA—Voice of Reston

BY JOHN LOVAAS
RESTON IMPACT
PRODUCER/HOST



INDEPENDENT
PROGRESSIVE

As I look over the landscape of Reston organizations and civic activity, I am struck by two volunteer-driven spark-plugs of community action—an old friend experiencing a rebirth, Reston Citizens Association (RCA); and a newer one, Sustainable Reston, a child of the Fairfax Coalition for Smarter Growth.

RCA was founded 46 years ago as the Reston Community Association to provide Reston residents with a voice with Reston's corporate developer, Gulf Oil, and the government. It evolved as a Citizens Association and as the developer withdrew, RCA's refined its mission “to promote and protect Reston's founding principles in the political arena by serving as a non-partisan forum for all residents and ... advocate for the community with county and

state government.” In the early days RCA, headed by leaders such as Janet Howell, then an ar-

dent advocate for Reston's incorporation as a town, indeed stood up to the corporate developer after the latter fired founder Robert Simon to assure that Reston's founding principles did not get lost with the visionary Simon. In its early days, RCA had a broad role in a fledgling community short on essential services. RCA took on bringing modest health services and established direct commuter bus service, the likes of which haven't been seen since it was discontinued. The bus took passengers from Lake Anne to downtown D.C. and back, including stops at Rosslyn, the Pentagon, Crystal City, National Airport and a

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A Different Approach

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



COMMENTARY

into doing.

A former Virginia legislator who was removed as a member of the Appropriations Committee by the speaker of the House because of disagreements they had over budget issues was quoted as saying, “he can take away where I sit, but he cannot take away where I stand.” While the legislative process is supposed to be about compromise for the common good, it has become less of that at all levels of government in recent years. Of course, legislators have personal values that dictate the way they think and act. At the same time there are strong pressures from political parties and party caucuses and from highly organized and well-funded interest groups seeking ideological purity that determine political outcomes. All these factors make it increasingly difficult for an individual legislator to be successful in getting significant legislation passed. There is a limit to how much a single legislator can trade, persuade or cajole other legislators

My successful effort on major legislative initiatives has been to take a different approach. From the beginning of my representation of the greater Reston and western Fairfax area it was obvious to me that an adequate transportation system for the region would be one of our greatest challenges. I voted for significant funding increases in 1986 and 2013 that were successful and for other funding enhancements that were not successful. I became convinced early on that the long-term solutions would be in mass transit and not simply roads. The challenge became selling a multi-billion dollar megatransit system that became known first as rail in the Dulles Corridor and now the Silver Line. I knew that I could not do the task alone. I turned to the community at large and the business community by organizing the Dulles Corridor Rail Association (DCRA) nearly 20 years ago. I was alone as a public

SEE PLUM, PAGE 10

Reston
CONNECTION

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FAIRS & FESTIVALS

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 Dedicated to showcasing the very best of the visual and performing arts in the City of Fairfax. At a variety of venues in and around the city. Visit www.visitfairfax.com/category/spotlight.

SATURDAY/APRIL 27

Taste of Vienna. 11 a.m.-8 p.m. at The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. The VVFD will host the 2nd annual Taste of Vienna to showcase the many restaurants that the Vienna area has to offer. Visit www.tasteofvienna.org.

May

FRIDAY/MAY 17-SUNDAY/MAY 19
Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival. At Reston Town Center, the three-day event attracts more than 50,000 patrons and provides an interactive experience to view, purchase, and experience art directly from the artists who have created it. Visit northernvirginiainfineartsfestival.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 18

McLean Day. 10:30 a.m. at Lewinsville Park. Festival and rides will run from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. members.mcleanchamber.org/events/details/mclean-day-2013-430.

SATURDAY-MONDAY/MAY 25-27

Viva! Vienna! Vienna's largest festival, Viva! Vienna!, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Greater Vienna, returns to the historic Church Street corridor for three days of family fun, including carnival rides, diverse food, live entertainment for children and adults and more than 300 vendors selling crafts, services, jewelry, children's toys and books, novelties. Admission to the festival is free, rides are not. Visit www.vivavienna.org.

THURSDAYS-SUNDAY/MAY 30-JUNE 2

Herndon Festival. The Town of Herndon's Parks and Recreation Department hosts the annual Herndon Festival. This is a town-wide event and attracts more than 80,000 people from the greater D.C. area. There is no admission fee to enter the Herndon Festival. Visit www.herndonfestival.net.



PHOTO BY ALEX MCVIEGH/THE CONNECTION
 Guests at the 2012 Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival in Reston Town Center examine a piece by mixed media 3D artist David Burton, made up of various action figures and toys.



PHOTO BY ALEX MCVIEGH/THE CONNECTION
 Scott Ramming and the CrawStickers perform at McLean Day Saturday, May 19, 2012.



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION
 Thousands fill the rides section at the 32nd annual Herndon Festival Saturday, June 2, 2012.



PHOTO BY ALEX MCVIEGH/THE CONNECTION
 There's always a line for the spinning teacups at Viva! Vienna!

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/MARCH 27

Meet Me at the Movies Senior Movie Day. 10 a.m., at the Bow Tie Cinemas, 11940 Market St., Reston. Reston Association presents Oscar-winner "Argo" starring Ben Affleck and Alan Arkin, refreshments and door prizes provided prior to the movie. 703-435-6530.

American Contemporary Music Ensemble: Brutal + Sublime. 8 p.m., at Reston Community Center, CenterStage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The ensemble plays selection of Nico Muhly, Timothy Andrew, Mick Barr, Jefferson Friedman, John Cage and Louis Andriessen. \$15 for residents; \$30 for non-Restonians. 703-476-4500 or www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

THURSDAY/MARCH 28

Beverly Cosham. 2:15-3:30 p.m., at Center Stage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The cabaret singer has performed her act at nightspots across the country and Bob Smith, presidential pianist for Presidents Nixon through Clinton, accompanies her; the second in a series of seven free Thursday afternoon "Meet the Artists" concerts. 703-503-3384 or www.olligmu.edu.
Tuscan Wine Dinner at Il Fornaio. 6:30 p.m., at Il Fornaio, 11990 Market St., Suite 106, Reston. Five courses paired with wine. \$65. 703-437-5544.

FRIDAY/MARCH 29

Lenten Cantata. 7:30 p.m., at Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon. Soloists, choir and orchestra present "The Seven Last Words of Christ," by Theodore Dubois on Good Friday. 703-793-0026 or www.florisumc.org/lentencantata.

SATURDAY/MARCH 30

Tuscan Wine Cooking Class at Il Fornaio. Noon, at Il Fornaio, 11990 Market St., Suite 106, Reston. Three-course lunch with wine and recipes, \$45. 703-437-5544.

SUNDAY/MARCH 31

Easter Brunch at Il Fornaio. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Il Fornaio, 11990 Market St., Suite 106, Reston. Easter egg hunt and Easter bunny visit. 703-437-5544 or www.ilfo.com.

Jimmy's Old Town Tavern 'Plays it Forward' With Fundraising Party

Council for the Arts of Herndon partners with The Music Loft, LLC, to bring donated musical instruments to Herndon-area schools via a used instrument donative drive. From April 1-30, drop off instruments at 730 Elden St., Herndon, at the Herndon Council for the Arts or at The Music Loft, 1141 Elden St., Suite 212, Herndon. Jimmy's Old Town Tavern will also host a Fundraising Party with a live band and cash bar at 697 Spring St., Herndon, on Thursday, April 18, in support of the instrument drive. For more information: 703-689-9535, info@herndonarts.org or www.herndonarts.org.

THURSDAY/APRIL 4

National Symphony Orchestra Rehearsal. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Hunters Woods Shopping Center, Thoreau Place, Lake Anne Plaza, Reston. Attend an open rehearsal of the

National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. Reston Association: \$27; non-members: \$30. 55 years or older: 703-435-6577 or Ashleigh@reston.org.
Write your Memories into Memoirs. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at the

Reston Association, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Whether you are just beginning or already writing your memoirs, this eight-week class focuses on turning life experiences into an engaging story. Reston Association: \$32; non-members: \$42. 55 years or older: 703-435-6577 or Ashleigh@reston.org.

Ali Mushtaq. 2:15-3:30 p.m., at Center Stage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Ali Mushtaq, winner of the 2011 Washington International Piano Artists competition, a forum for all levels of non-professional pianists, plays a concert; the third in a series of seven free Thursday afternoon "Meet the Artists" concerts. 703-503-3384 or www.olligmu.edu.

SATURDAY/APRIL 6

Dance the Blues Away. 8 p.m., at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Rhythm & blues, motion, swing and music-to-remember calls to singles and couples in casual or elegant attire for a night to put ladies and gentlemen in the mood to dance; dance demonstrations precede, light refreshments and wine and beer included with admission. \$10. www.artspaceherndon.org.

Prom Dress Giveaway Boutique.

Noon-6 p.m., at Reston Community Center Lake Anne, 1609 A Washington Plaza, Reston. Teens ages 14 to 18 can shop for a complete prom look at the Jo Ann Rose Gallery boutique event, with hundreds of new and gently used dresses, with top designers pieces in the mix. Accessories, shoes, jewelry, handbags and make-up lessons will be up for grabs as well; enter raffle for restaurant gift cards, flowers and limo service. www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

THURSDAY/APRIL 11

Brian Quenton Thorne and Francis Conlon. 2:15-3:30 p.m., at Center Stage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The tenor and pianist collaborate on works of well-known composers and lyricists; the fourth in a series of seven free Thursday afternoon "Meet the Artists" concerts. 703-503-3384 or www.olligmu.edu.

FRIDAY/APRIL 12

Empty Bowls Fundraiser. 5:30-8 p.m., at Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon. A dinner of soup, bread, beverage and dessert and a bowl handcrafted by a local potter; proceeds go to hunger relief in Northern Virginia. \$20 donation minimum. 703-665-9334 or emptybowls@givingcircleofhope.org.

Trinity Presbyterian Church,

651 Dranesville Road in Herndon, has Sunday Worship Service at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery and childcare are available during worship services. Youth and Adult Sunday School is held Sundays from 9:40-10:45 a.m. 703-437-5500 or www.trinityherndon.org.

St. Anne's Episcopal Church,

1700 Wainwright Drive in Reston, holds Sunday services at 7:45 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and contemporary service at 5 p.m. Nursery, Sunday School and Adult Education available. Morning Prayer on Monday at 9:30, Holy Eucharist Wednesday at 8:15 a.m. 703-437-6530 or www.stannes-reston.org.

FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community, including special holiday services. Send to reston@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday.

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 432 Van Buren St., Herndon offers Holy Week services beginning March 24th with Palm Sunday services at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. A Maundy Thursday Holy Eucharist Stripping of the altar service is on March 28 at 7:30 p.m. On March 29th, the church offers a Good Friday Stations of the Cross service at 12:15 p.m. and a Passion Gospel and solemn prayer service at 7:30 p.m. St. Timothy's will celebrate Easter Sunday, March 31st, with Resurrection/Easter Holy Eucharist

services at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery care will be available at the Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday services for newborns to 3-year-olds. 703-437-3790 or www.saint-timothys.org.

Southview Community Church, 2620 Reston Parkway, Herndon, holds their annual Easter Egg Hunt! Festivities, open to the community, on Saturday, March 30, at 10 a.m. with lunch and activities including crafts, bounce houses, a carousel, a rock wall and a family presentation on the story of Easter. 703-860-880 or www.southview.org.

Trinity Presbyterian Church, 651 Dranesville Road, Herndon, has Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11

a.m. Nursery and childcare are provided and youth and adult Sunday school classes are held prior, from 9:40-10:45 a.m. 703-437-5500 or www.trinityherndon.org.

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston, holds monthly classes for the general public which use Buddhist teachings to practice meditation. www.meditation-dc.org or 202-986-2257.

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

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FROM PAGE 6

official lobbying for Dulles Rail in the beginning, but with the successful work done in advocacy the first phase of the project will open by the end of the year, and almost all public officials heartily endorse it. I had to organize my own pressure group.

When it was clear that Governor McDonnell was not going to support the expansion of Medicaid in Virginia because of his opposition to the Affordable Care Act, I knew that I could not singularly convince him. I joined with advocacy groups, including interfaith groups, to increase pressure on legislators to approve the Medicaid expansion without the governor. Workshops were held throughout the state and I participated in a couple of them. I used my extensive file of email addresses to encourage about 2,500 individuals to call or write the governor and key legislators to express their support. Some legislators got as many as 1,400 emails on a single weekend. Working outside the legislature to bring community pressure worked in bringing about the desired outcome.

As I look at the challenging issue of gun violence I realize it too will require a different approach. That's why I have joined with organized citizen groups in demonstrating on the National Mall and at NRA headquarters supporting universal background checks and a ban on assault weapons. I encourage others to join in this approach as well—to write, phone, and demonstrate to ensure that there is a satisfactory response to this most important issue. There are many different organizations lobbying for sensible gun control. I will continue to work hard to effectively represent my constituents. When the task is too great for a single legislator, I will not hesitate to organize persons in the community and to participate with others who are working on behalf of causes I believe my constituents support. It is a different but effective approach.

Lovaas

FROM PAGE 6

place known just as Building T-7 on a posted schedule. Return service Friday even included cocktails!

Fast forward to 2013. No more buses or cocktails, but we do have public forums for discussion of community issues and we have a public policy voice advocating Reston's interest to a seemingly distant county government. I hope you've seen, for example, recent RCA's Reston 2020 Committee White Papers on the congestion coming with the new Wiehle Metro Station and another on the need to enhance bus service to connect with train service. RCA's excellent analytical work can be seen

at www.Reston2020.blogspot.com. RCA also hosts community forums allowing residents to directly express concerns and suggestions, e.g., improved bus service directly to county officials. This week it hosts another forum to discuss the county-administered Reston Community Center's plans to build a new rec center.

In addition to the work of RCA's Reston 2020 Committee following and reporting on county planning for future development that will dramatically change Reston over time (e.g., doubling in population?) and major new development plans, RCA sponsors televised candidate debates for offices from county school board up to and including our congressional representative, and annually seeks nominations for the Reston Citizen of the Year Award and oversees the selection process to pick the awardee. Another vital RCA operation is the Reston Accessibility Committee, which partners throughout the community to improve access to public and private facilities and activities for people with mobility impairments.

Like any excellent volunteer organization, RCA's success requires participation of quality volunteers. Contact President Mills at cwmills47@hotmail.com to get more info about RCA activities, pick your favorite, and sign up.

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
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SPORTS



Members of the Reston Raiders youth hockey team listen to their coach during practice Thursday, March 21.



PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

The Reston Raiders youth hockey team will play in the national championships next week in Charlotte, N.C.

Reston Raiders to Play on National Stage

Youth hockey team to play for national championship in Charlotte, N.C.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The Reston Raiders youth hockey team will make its first trip to the national championships next week for the first time in 10 years. The team, made up of 14- and 15-year-olds, defeated the Ashburn team in the state championship the first weekend of March.

"We didn't have a great start to the season, but as we rolled along, we picked up steam," said Daniel Audiokhin, who has been playing hockey since he was 4. "As we went into the state championships, we felt pretty confident, and I think we're all feel-



Andrew Demorat, a player on the Reston Raiders, practices at Skatequest in Reston. The Raiders team will compete in the national championships next week in Charlotte, N.C.

ing pretty good going to nationals."

The Raiders play around 50 games per season. Player Sam Shapiro said that the team really gelled after a trip to Florida.

"When we went to Florida, we beat a team from Russia, and they were a really good team," he said. "We figured if we could play them tough, then we could play anyone tough."

The team holds tryouts each May, and plays for most of the year, wrapping up the regular season in February. In addition to regular schedules, the team had the opportunity to play on a few rinks around the country.

"My favorite part of the season was getting to play on the rink at Lake Placid [New York], on the same ice the team in the 1980 Olympics did their 'Miracle on Ice,'" said Billy Shand.

In addition to their regular schedule of games and practices, the team takes time to watch game film, both of themselves and of their opponents.

"I think watching the film really helps us, we can see how the other teams cycle

their players in and out, and get a feel for what they like to do," said Mathew Kassab. "It also helps to watch ourselves, to get a feeling of what we're doing wrong out there."

The team shares the ice at Skatequest in Reston with other age groups and teams from other programs, so time on the ice together is at a premium.

"Once we're all out there playing with each other, that's as close as we're going to get to matching a game situation," said Daniel Silvers. "Coach always has us moving."

The Raiders played a home and home series with the Delaware state champions last weekend, and will travel to Charlotte from April 3 to 7.

"We're really excited, if for nothing else then to play against some really good teams," said Jason Guidi.

The first round will see them facing off against teams from New Jersey, Texas and New Hampshire. If the team does well enough in their pool, they will advance to the later rounds.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

South Lakes Baseball Drops Season Opener

The South Lakes baseball team kicked off its 2013 high school season Friday night, March 15, against its rival, the Herndon Hornets. The stands at Herndon were packed with a large contingent of fans for both teams.

The Herndon Hornets won the cross-town non-district game 2-0. Herndon picked up one run in the bottom of the fourth and another run in the bottom of the fifth to complete all the scoring in this close game.

South Lakes senior Bobby Rae Allen pitched a solid game, going five strong innings. South Lakes junior Terry Petersen came on in relief and pitched a scoreless sixth inning. The Seahawks' play of the game came in the fourth inning. With bases loaded and one out, Allen caught a line drive with a quick relay to sophomore first baseman Kyle King. The Herndon runner was caught off first base for the inning-ending double play. Junior shortstop Jo Jo Lear completed a great double play to King in the fourth inning.

Herndon pitching kept the South Lakes bats quiet in the shutout.

South Lakes lost 13-0 to McLean on

March 20 and beat Thomas Jefferson 5-3 on March 22. The Seahawks are competing in Myrtle Beach, S.C., March 25-29. South Lakes will travel to face Langley on April 2.

— KEVIN DARBY

Herndon Baseball Starts 3-0

The Herndon baseball team opened the season with a 2-0 victory against South Lakes on March 15 and continued winning, beating Broad Run 6-5 on March 19 and Gonzaga Prep 4-0 on March 23 in Myrtle

Beach, S.C.

According to the Herndon High School athletics website, Hornets pitcher Michael Curcio threw a three-hit shutout against South Lakes. Herndon catcher Austin Schnarrs delivered a game-winning double in the bottom of the seventh against Broad Run and Hornets pitcher Karsten Highberg threw a shutout against Gonzaga Prep.

After Herndon's trip to Myrtle Beach, the Hornets will travel to face Park View on Wednesday, April 3. Herndon's next home game is April 12 against Centreville.

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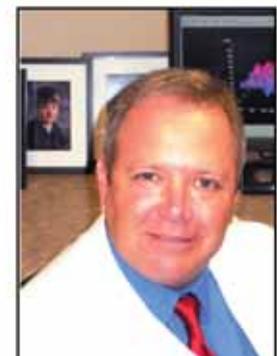
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14.8 Percent



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

That is the percentage of diagnosed lung cancer patients who survive beyond five years, according to The National Cancer Institute's SEER Cancer Statistics Review, 1975-2009, in a graph published in the February 26, 2013 Washington Post's weekly Health & Science section. As a non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) survivor beginning his fifth year post-diagnosis, charting my prospects in such a cold and impersonal manner is both chilling and arguable. "Chilling" in that facts speak for themselves and are hardly made up of whole cloth, to invoke one of the late Jack Kent Cooke's more famous quotes. And "arguable" in that charts, statistics, etc. may very well measure the mean, but it sure doesn't measure the man (this man, anyway). Meaning, from my perspective: sure, the chart is scary as hell, but I'm not sure I'm on it, if you know what I mean? (I know you know what I hope.)

Now whether you believe it or not matters not to me, rather what I believe matters most. And I believe in the individuality of individuals and of the immeasurable characteristics that don't show up on two-dimensional graphs. Since I live in a three-dimensional world, I'm loathe – and quite hesitant, to think that I'm just another terminal patient/number. Now, I don't dismiss such statistics out of hand, obviously, but nor do I take them to heart to determine how I intend on living my life. Certainly I'm not going to ignore them; I'm not a blockhead. But neither do I expect them to affect my thinking, my judgment, my preparation and my attitude. I still believe anything is possible and I'd like to think – and continue to think: "I've lived this long. Certainly I can live a little bit longer" (updated daily).

I have to admit though, that reading articles and seeing charts which offer improving but still extremely discouraging life expectancies, particularly for lung cancer patients (12.3 percent was the previous five-year survival rate, the lowest for all cancers charted in this particular graph) doesn't exactly make my day – or night, for that matter. Somehow, I have to find a way to disassociate myself from that population despite being immersed in its culture every minute of every day. Which when you consider that I have my oncologist's phone number programmed on my speed dial and that the chemotherapy-induced neuropathy in my feet offers constant reminders that I'm not in Kansas anymore (if I were in Kansas, I'm sure the neuropathy would be just as bad), the likelihood of my not feeling the effects of my diagnosis, physical, mental or emotional is somewhere between slim and none. Coping is what it's all about and not taking anything too personally, even though this is all very personal. And though I am keenly aware of my circumstances – as most of you regular readers are, finding a way to not let it define me and/or control me totally, is the challenge with which I am most familiar.

As Popeye the Sailor Man so famously said: "I yam what I yam." And so am I. I'm Kenny-with-cancer. So what else is new?

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

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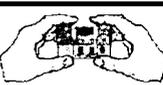
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