

# 'We Have Not Forgotten'

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# A Second-time Finalist

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Local officials unveil a new historical marker at the Frying Pan Meeting House Sunday, April 14.



# Marker Unveiled at Meeting House

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PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

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**McLean resident Kathleen Murphy spoke about losing her brother 11 years ago to gun violence. She was one of several speakers during the April 13 candlelight vigil in Vienna urging Congress to support stricter gun control measures.**



**Sue Langley, a Vienna resident who organized the April 13 candlelight vigil, comforts preschool teacher Raba Letteri, a Lebanese immigrant who attended the vigil with her husband Paul and sons Joseph, 13, and Aaron, 9.**

PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

## ‘We Have Not Forgotten’

### Residents rally in Vienna to support stricter gun control measures.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

Less than six miles from the National Rifle Association (NRA) headquarters in Fairfax, more than 100 people gathered on the Vienna Town Green Saturday, April 13, to urge Congress to support stricter gun control measures.

“We need to send a strong message to Congress that we have not forgotten Newtown. We have not forgotten Virginia Tech,” said Pat Carol of Franconia, who attended the rally with her two teenage children. “... It’s time to demand that (legislators) protect our children, instead of the gun lobby.”

The event was part of a series of rallies this month co-hosted by Organizing for Action (OFA)—a social advocacy nonprofit that supports President Barack Obama—and Mayors Against Illegal Guns, a bipartisan coalition of 900 mayors co-chaired by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Both groups are calling for stricter gun laws, including background checks for all gun sales, gun safety training for all firearm buyers, and a ban on military-style assault weapons.

Vienna resident Sue Langley, a community activist with OFA of Virginia, organized Saturday’s event, which began at 7 p.m. and ended with a candlelight vigil to remember the children of Newtown, and the estimated 32,000 Americans who die in gun-related deaths every year.

“The Senate will be in its final stages of debate this week, and by standing together we’ll make sure

they know how many people are behind them in passing legislation,” Langley said.

**THE EVENT** included remarks from political leaders, gun control advocates and gun violence survivors.

“Eleven years ago my brother was murdered. He was 50 years old, and he had a wife and five children. He was shot during a robbery,” said McLean resident Kathleen Murphy, choking back tears.

“This is personal for me, not politics,” said Murphy, who launched a bid to challenge Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) in this November’s House of Delegates election. Murphy, a mother of six children, implored the crowd to keep the pressure on Congress to support measures such as expanded background checks. “We are going to hold them responsible,” she said.

In an emotional speech Earle Mitchell of Springfield, a retired U.S. Navy supply officer, told the crowd that, as a member of the military, “we were always looking for foreign enemies. The enemy I’m talking about is the NRA headquarters on I-66.”

“It’s been only four months since 26 children died in Newtown, and we’ve had 3,300 gun-related deaths,” Mitchell said. “I have young grandchildren, who all live in Virginia. Newtown could happen here. When will we say ‘enough?’”

The event began with a Franciscan blessing read by John Horesji of Vienna, coordinator of Social Action Linking Together (SALT).

“May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can change what others claim cannot be changed, and do what others claim cannot be done,” Horesji recited.

“From a faith perspective, Second Amendment rights need to be balanced with the Second Com

SEE RESIDENTS, PAGE 10

### VIEWPOINTS

## What motivated you to attend the candlelight vigil?

—VICTORIA ROSS

### Jeanne Bierkan of Vienna

“I came here tonight because I want stronger background checks. I have two boys who grew up here, and I can’t understand why we are still arguing about something that’s just common sense.”



PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

### Bob Hatfield of Vienna

“I’m here to support legislation that’s before Congress. We need to bring Virginia into the 21st century, and see that it’s responsible to have sane gun control measures and respect for the Second Amendment. The two are not mutually exclusive.”



### Raba Letteri of Reston attended the vigil with her husband Paul and sons Joseph, 13, (right) and Aaron, 9 (left).

“I came here from Lebanon to be safe. I saw the hatred and violence between Arabs and Jews. Now everything I hear on the news is about a shooting. I don’t need to wait to lose one of my children to have a voice.”



### Klara Bilgin of Burke with son Alex

“I am originally from Bulgaria. When I travel abroad, people cannot believe that there are 32,000 gun deaths every year in America. They say ‘you don’t have a dictator; you aren’t controlled by warlords, how can this happen?’ We are moving in an awful direction ... we need to demand [measures] to reduce gun violence.”





PHOTOS BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

From left, Kala Quintana and Bill Bouie of the Fairfax County Park Authority Board, Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), Jack Pitzer, president of the Friends of Frying Pan Farm Park and Del. Tom Rust (R-86), unveil a new historical marker at the Frying Pan Meeting House Sunday, April 14.

## Marker Unveiled at Meeting House

**Frying Pan Meeting House has more than 200 years of history.**

BY ALEX MCVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

**M**aria Harper of Herndon has been to Frying Pan Farm Park with her children many times, but until Sunday, April 14, she had never been to the nearby Frying Pan Spring Meeting House.

"I always remembered it as another random old building near on Centreville Road, I didn't realize it had historical significance," she said. "The more I walked around today, the more I learned about the historical figures that were right here on this spot."

The meeting house hosted an open house Sunday to celebrate the unveiling of a new historical marker on the property. The new marker tells the story of Civil War events that transpired on the property.

"Since the days of George Washington, the simple white structure here has been serving the needs of the community," said Bill Bouie, Fairfax County Park Authority board chair. "In 1984, the last trustee of Frying Pan Baptist Church deeded the building adjacent to the cemetery and its original two-acre plot to the park authority for preservation."

In the late 1700s the house was used for church services, burials and prayer meetings. By 1840, the congregation there consisted of 33 white members

and 29 black members, many of whom are buried on the property.

During the Civil War it was used as a hospital for both sides at various times, and several battles took place nearby.

Richard Crouch, a member of the Frying Pan Farm Park board, said that in 1861 and 1862, Confederate soldiers camped in the surrounding woods and fields. Confederate Gen. J.E.B. Stuart and Col. John S. Mosby often stopped there before and after raids and to receive local intelligence.

At least three Confederate soldiers are buried on the property.

"The church was badly damaged during the fighting, and eventually restored by a congregation, which took years to complete," Crouch said.

"This land was granted to a local congregation of Baptists for the purpose of rebuilding what was in those days called a meeting house," said Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill). "Being dissenters from the established Anglican church, Baptists were not allowed to call these sanctuaries churches."

Civil War artifacts and information about gravesites were on display during the open house, and re-enactor John McCaskill told visitors about the 4th Virginia Volunteer Cavalry Regiment.

"I think it's fun to discover a small property on a road I drive on every day that has these old burial sites and such a cool history, going back to even before the Civil War," said Sam Pushan of Herndon. "It's cool that black and white people were able to worship together in the mid 1800s, when I had always assumed things were pretty segregated."



Visitors celebrate the unveiling of a historical marker at the Frying Pan Meeting House Sunday, April 14.



Living historian John McCaskill explains the Civil War history of the Frying Pan Meeting House.



PHOTOS BY NGALULA TSHISHIMBI

Principal Gail Porter and finalist Nishanth Anand stand in front of the Floris Elementary School entrance. This was the second time that Anand qualified for the Virginia National Geographic Competition.

## A Second-time Finalist Floris Elementary sixth grader qualifies for the Virginia National Geographic Competition again.

BY NGALULA TSHISHIMBI  
THE CONNECTION

**N**ishanth Anand is calm and quiet as he talks about competing in the 2013 Virginia National Geographic Bee. Anand is a sixth grader at Floris Elementary School and this year's contest marked his second time as a finalist. The competition took place on Friday, April 5, at Longwood University. It drew competitors from all parts of the state, all hoping to win and be propelled to the national stage.

Anand arrived at Longwood University as a finalist after winning a qualifying competition at his elementary school. A school must register with National Geographic for its students to be eligible. This year was the fourth year of eligibility for Floris Elementary. It was also the second time Anand became a finalist in the statewide competition. He said he was less nervous than the year before but just as excited to be competing again.

While the focus of the bee is geography, Anand has explored a variety of subjects inside and outside of the classroom. Noticing his fascination with science in first grade, Anand's mother found ways to foster his sense of curiosity. At home Anand's parents searched for online games, puzzles and activities and tried to provide resources that were relevant and interesting. "Leave it up to him and he would play videogames for three hours like most boys," says Anand's mother. She believes that it is important for him to have fun but it is equally important that he maintains a balance



**Nishanth Anand is a sixth grader at Floris Elementary School and says that for fun he likes to play Xbox and play basketball with his friends. He likes math and science but says he is interested by facts in different subjects as well.**

and pursues his other interests.

The school environment has also been integral to fostering Anand's educational pursuits. Principal Gail Porter said teachers at Floris Elementary are effective in identifying students' interests and tailoring their lessons and teaching styles appropriately. In addition to the in-classroom experience is the after-school club participation. Anand participates in science and math clubs after school. Last year a geography club monitored by a parent-volunteer helped students to get ready for the school-wide competition. This year the club did not materialize; however, educators and parents alike generally work together to encourage students' extracurricular activities.

The Virginia National Geographic Bee takes place annually and is a precursor to the national competition which takes place May 20-22 in Washington, D.C.

## WEEK IN HERNDON

### Virginia Education Association Honors Del. Rust

The Virginia Education Association recognized Del. Tom Rust (R-86) as a "Legislative Champion" at their state conference last week. He was recognized for supporting public education during the 2013 General Assembly. As a champion of public schools, Rust introduced a center aisle resolution proclaiming the VEA's 150th anniversary.

"For the past 150 years, the Virginia Education Association has worked tirelessly to give each student a high quality public education, while encouraging the student to realize their full potential so that they can be successful after they graduate," said Rust. "This is possible because of the outstanding teachers and staff who are dedicated to the students."

During the 2013 General Assembly session, Del. Rust copatroned bills on allowing school boards to set their school calendar (HB1467 passed in the House, but failed in the Senate), requiring school boards to prohibit bullying in their policies and procedures (HB1871 will become law on July 1), pro-

viding early intervention in reading and math for underachieving students (HB2068 will become law on July 1st), requiring teacher personnel records be confidential (HB1889 will become law on July 1st), and three bills to improve school safety (HB2343, HB2344, and HB2345 which will become law on July 1st).

### Herndon Moms Club Meeting Focuses on Photography

The MOMS Club® of Herndon will host its monthly meeting on Thursday, April 18, from 10-11:30 a.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church (651 Dranesville Road, Herndon). All Herndon (zip codes 20170 and 20171) stay-at-home mothers are encouraged to join and meet other at-home mothers.

Photographer Becky A. Gardner will offer different ideas on creating a photo gallery for your home, finding creative pieces for your gallery, recent trends in photo processing for keepsake gifts and more. Children are welcome to attend all MOMS Club events.

Gardner is a natural light photographer in Northern Virginia, specializing in family, newborn and engagement photography. She specializes in on-location newborn, family and engagement sessions with a combination of both a traditional and lifestyle approach.

For more information or to RSVP contact Tomoko Azuma, membership VP, at Herndon\_moms\_info@yahoo.com.

### Del. Rust in Kidney Walk

On Sunday, April 21, at 2 p.m., Del. Tom Rust (R-86) with volunteers from the Team Rust walk team will join hundreds of residents of the Reston and greater Herndon area for the 2013 Northern Virginia Kidney Walk at Reston Town Center. The National Kidney Foundation's Kidney Walk will help fund the foundation's initiatives in awareness, prevention and treatment of kidney disease and the need for organ donation.

Those interested in volunteering with the Team Rust walk group can call Rust's legislative office at 703-437-9400 or email trust@tomrust.org.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Eric Hepfinger, 14, of Herndon, received his Eagle Scout award on Sunday, April 14. He is pictured with Del. Tom Rust (R-86).**

### New Eagle Scout Helps LINK

Eric Hepfinger is a 14-year-old member of the Boy Scout Crew 878, a freshman at Herndon High School and now, an Eagle Scout. Eric, of Herndon, received his Eagle Scout award on Sunday, April 14, at a Court of Honor held in Reston at which Del. Tom Rust was the keynote speaker. For his Eagle project, Eric organized a food drive on behalf of the LINK food bank in Herndon.

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PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

**Herndon High School art teachers (from left) Kathleen Adams, Shannon Mills, Tammy Morin and Wayne Zink.**

## 'Mind Heart Vision' Exhibit Opens at ArtSpace Herndon

At ArtSpace Herndon on Friday, April 12, there was an artists' reception for the current exhibit "Mind, Heart, Vision." This exhibit shows 86 pieces of art made by Herndon High School senior students enrolled in school art classes. This is the third year that the ArtSpace has hosted this show.

"It is a really stimulating show," said ArtSpace Director Dale McGrath. "We have art of many mediums on display including pop art, photography, sculpture and stop motion animation."

More than 40 students have their artwork on display at the exhibit. Herndon High School art teachers Kathleen Adams, Shannon Mills, Wayne Zink and Tammy Morin were present at the event. Both Zink and Morin were founding members of the annual "Mind Heart Vision" exhibit.

"Every senior is given an opportunity to submit their work," said Morin. "From there we sent the entry work to the jurors. We then take their selections and have them framed and mated. Students have to mat their own work; they actually prepare the artwork for presentation so the gallery can hang it."

Wray Sinclair has several photos taken at Yellowstone National Park on display. "I started photography in middle school ... I started getting more serious about photography in the past two years and I have taken classes in high school with Mr. Zink."

Herndon High School students Maggie Middleton and Wray Sinclair expressed appreciation for the assistance and guidance of-



**Art teacher Tammy Morin outside ArtSpace.**



**Harlon Reece**



**Herndon High School artist Maggie Middleton.**

Harlon Reece. "I think we need to thank the teachers who helped these young artists," said Herndon Foundation for the Cultural Arts President J. Harlon

Reece. The exhibit will be on display at ArtSpace Herndon until Sunday, April 21.

— RYAN DUNN

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# BULLETIN BOARD

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

## WEDNESDAY/APRIL 17

**Fairfax County Department of Transportation Public Meetings and Ask Fairfax.** 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Herndon Town Council Chambers, 765 Lynn St., Herndon. Discuss a Fairfax Connector proposed bus service plan that will coincide with the start of service on the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's new Silver Line. 703-877-5606 or [www.fairfaxconnector.com](http://www.fairfaxconnector.com).

Washington Plaza, Reston. Discuss a Fairfax Connector proposed bus service plan that will coincide with the start of service on the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's new Silver Line. 703-877-5606 or [www.fairfaxconnector.com](http://www.fairfaxconnector.com).

transportation and Metro changes. \$45 for members; \$65. [www.restonchamber.org/events/eventdetails.aspx?EventID=1409](http://www.restonchamber.org/events/eventdetails.aspx?EventID=1409).

## SATURDAY/APRIL 20

**South Lakes Band on the Run 5K and Fun Run.** 8:30 a.m., at South Lakes High School, 11400 S Lakes Drive, Reston. Join the first annual South Lakes Band on the Run for the benefit of the SLHS band program. Team and individual registrations are accepted for the 5K. Fun Run available for kids under 12, and all Fun Run participant will earn a medal. Post-race refreshments provided. Registration required. \$15-\$40. <http://prrracing.racebx.com/> or 571-239-6541

## FRIDAY/APRIL 19

**Transportation/Redevelopment Update and Networking Breakfast.** 7:30 a.m., at Westin Washington Dulles Airport, 2520 Wasser Terrace, Herndon. Area execs, government leaders and commercial brokers hear from real estate industry leaders about which companies will develop from Tysons and Loudoun following

## THURSDAY/APRIL 18

**Fairfax County Department of Transportation Public Meetings and Ask Fairfax.** 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Reston Community Center Lake Anne, JoAnn Rose Library 1609A

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# Value-added Evaluation?

TJ admissions illustrate growing gap between “haves” and “have-nots.”

**M**ore than 181,000 students attend Fairfax County Public Schools. So why do the 480 students who were accepted for next year’s freshman class at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology seem so important?

Fairfax County Public Schools have a single elite magnet school, Thomas Jefferson, and TJ is frequently referred to as the top high school in the country. Dramatic disparity in the makeup of admissions at TJ is an indicator of disparity in early identification of students as gifted and talented, of access to advanced classes and enrichment, and in the basic education that the Fairfax County Public school system offers to all of its students.

❖ Fully 25 percent of students in Fairfax County Public Schools are poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals. Less than one percent of the incoming class at TJ is similarly economically disadvantaged.

❖ White students will make up just 25 percent of the incoming freshman class at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology; 43 percent of FCPS students overall are white.

## Demographics

	FCPS	INCOMING TJ
African American	10.4%	1%
Asian American	19.3%	66%
Hispanic	22.1%	3%
White	43.1%	25%
Subsidized Meals	25%	1%

❖ Asian students will make up 66 percent of the incoming freshman class at TJ; 19 percent of FCPS students overall are Asian.

❖ Hispanic students will make up just 3.1 percent of the incoming freshman class at TJ; 22 percent of FCPS students overall are Hispanic.

❖ Black students will make up just one percent of the incoming freshman class at TJ; 10 percent of FCPS students overall are African American.

The local chapter of the NAACP and a group called Coalition of the Silence, led by former school board member Tina Hone, last year filed a civil rights complaint with the Justice Department alleging that FCPS is essentially running “separate-but-unequal” schools systems.

In a statement this month, Hone recently said there is “stark underrepresentation of Black and Latino students at the elementary and middle school level who are identified as eligible to receive instruction at a Gifted and Talented and/or Advanced Academic Program center. ... Because so few Black or Latino students (or poor students) receive instruction

through these centers and because the instruction in these centers is so robust, the pipeline of talented Black, Latino and poor students who are able to compete successfully for admission to TJ is choked.”

The underrepresentation of poor students is in many ways more disturbing than the racial disparities. While the concept of “value added” has been controversial in teacher evaluations (the sample size is too small for that) FCPS could rightly be evaluated on the value added.

Are its top performing schools really based on the value that relatively wealthy families are able to devote to their children’s education? Books, computers, tablets and more at home, enrichment programs and camps, tutors, and attention from well-educated parents are the main ingredients to FCPS success.

Perhaps it is best to measure the value added by FCPS based on the performance of its poorest students, the 25 percent who qualify for subsidized meals, and who bring the smallest resources from home to the table.

The School Board has named a new superintendent, pending some final details. She is Dr. Karen Garza, currently superintendent of the Lubbock Independent School District, which serves approximately 30,000 students in Lubbock, Texas. Before that she served as the chief academic officer of the Houston Independent School District, the seventh largest school district in the country with more than 200,000 students. She faces tremendous opportunity here in Northern Virginia.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Thinking of History in Real Time

To the Editor,

Letter writer Kiran Hampton asks if she is “the only one alarmed by the presence of high schools named after Confederate leaders?” [“Alarmed By School Names,” Connection, April 10-16, 2013]. In response, I would say, “Why yes, I believe she is.”

History cannot nearly be understood in 20/20 hindsight. To understand that period of our nation’s history you must examine and analyze the issues as if you were present during those times and not from the perspective of a person living a century and a half later. Obscured by today’s political correctness is that the vast majority of people in the South at the time of the Civil War did not own slaves. In 1850, less than 6 percent of white Southerners owned slaves, leaving 94 percent who did not. To presume that some 800,000 young, white Southerners left their homes, families, and loved ones to risk their lives defending the rights of a

small, wealthy minority ignores significant other issues, such as states’ rights, that had not yet been settled in our nascent republic.

If Ms. Hampton would like to participate in a present day history naming issue, I would call her attention to the Navy’s politically-motivated decision to name a ship after the late Congressman John Murtha. The amphibious transport dock ship, now being constructed and scheduled for commissioning in 2015, will be named after a person known for his very public pre-trial condemnation of the Marines involved in the Haditha incident during the Iraq war, as well as his own ethical issues while a member of Congress. Further, all other ships of the class are named for American cities.

As a matter of fact, I would like to see one of the area’s new schools named after Lee’s dependable corps commander James Longstreet, because he became a “reconstructed rebel,” embracing equal rights for the newly freed blacks, unification of the nation and reconstruction.

**Chris J. Krisinger**  
Colonel, USAF (Ret)

### It Wasn’t ‘Good Guys Vs. Bad Guys’

To the Editor:

In a letter regarding local schools named after Confederate generals [“Alarmed by School Names,” Connection, April 10-16, 2013] the author displays an extraordinary lack of understanding of the complexities of the issues leading to the War Between the States as well as a contempt for the courage and sacrifice of those who, often reluctantly, believed that their primary duty was to a sovereign Virginia rather than to what they believed had been conceived as a voluntary union of independent states.

I would ask the author of that letter two questions. First, should the US decide to leave the United Nations, and should the UN General Assembly announce that withdrawal from that body was not to be allowed and call upon other nations to send armies to compel us to remain as members, would we be justified in resisting such compulsion? Second, should we

also cease to honor Washington, Jefferson, and all other such rebels who fought against “their country?”

The War Between the States was the most tragic episode in this nation’s history. It produced examples of nobility, generosity of spirit, and almost incredible courage as well as examples of cruelty, incompetence, opportunism and pettiness on both sides of the conflict. To reduce it to a “good guys versus bad guys” melodrama is to trivialize both history and the individuals who made it.

**Randolph Bragg**  
Alexandria

## Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Send to:

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Alexandria VA 22314  
Call: 703-917-6444.  
By e-mail:  
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# ENTERTAINMENT

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

## WEDNESDAY/APRIL 17

**Taste of Herndon High School and the World.** 6-9 p.m., at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. A festival of food featuring tastes from every continent (except Antarctica and Australia—as of yet) prepared by parents with contributions from local ethnic restaurants; no children. \$10. [www.fcps.edu/HerndonHS/](http://www.fcps.edu/HerndonHS/).

## THURSDAY/APRIL 18

**MOMS Club of Herndon.** 10-11:30 a.m., at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 651 Dranesville Road, Herndon. Photographer Becky Gardner presents ideas for creating a home photo gallery, recent trends in photo processing for keepsake gifts and the like.

**Herndon\_moms\_info@yahoo.com.**  
**Cheaper by the Dozen.** 7:30 p.m., at Herndon High School, 700 Bennet St., Door No. 6, Herndon. The classic story of the uber-large nuclear family and their growing pains. \$10. [www.herndondrama.org](http://www.herndondrama.org).

**Linda Apple Monson and Students.** 2:15-3:30 p.m., at Center Stage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. International Steinway Artist and Distinguished Service Professor Linda Apple Monson of George Mason University's School of Music performs align with several of her piano students; the fifth in a series of seven free Thursday



**Bill Emerson & Sweet Dixie will take the stage on Saturday, April 20, at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Cross Lutheran Church.**

## Banjo Master's New Band Sweet Dixie Plays at Holy Cross

The world renowned banjo master, founding member of The Country Gentlemen and of the Navy's Country Current band during his 20 years in uniform, just picked up a new band, Sweet Dixie. Playing traditional bluegrass heavy on the harmony, with wood and strings, they will take the stage on Saturday, April 20, at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. \$15; children 12-and-under are admitted free of charge. 703-435-8377 or [kd4fue2@verizon.net](mailto:kd4fue2@verizon.net).

Interfaith. [www.nusedfashions.com](http://www.nusedfashions.com).  
**How Familiar the Stranger: Paintings by Morgan Craig.** 6-8 p.m., at the Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market St., Suite 103, Reston. An opening reception and gallery talk for the artist Morgan Craig, who creates large-scale paintings of dilapidated and abandoned interior spaces, often

80 portrays the story of the mermaid who defied the kingdom beneath the sea to live on land for three days and find love. \$7. [www.DisneyMusicals.com](http://www.DisneyMusicals.com).

**Spring Speaker Series: Ambassador Kurtzer.** 8 p.m., at Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, 1441 Wiehle Ave., Reston. Former ambassador to Egypt and Israel, an instrumental party in formulating U.S. policy toward the Middle East peace process, and currently a professor at Princeton University, Kurtzer talks on "Israel and the Middle East in Transition: Domestic and Regional Challenges." 703-435-1226.

## FRIDAY/APRIL 19

**"Half the Sky."** 7 p.m., at the United Christian Parish Church, 11508 North Shore Drive, Reston. This movie shows the oppression of women in developing countries of the world and some of the methods of alleviating that oppression. [jnorton720@comcast.net](mailto:jnorton720@comcast.net).

**The Little Mermaid Jr.** 7 p.m., at Langston Hughes Middle School, 11401 Ridge Heights Road, Reston. A 60-minute musical based on the 2008 Broadway production and the animated film; the cast and crew of 80 portrays the story of the mermaid who defied the kingdom beneath the sea to live on land for three days and find love. \$7. [www.DisneyMusicals.com](http://www.DisneyMusicals.com).

**Reston Art Adventure.** 7-10 p.m. at GRACE, 12001 Market St., Suite 103, Reston. Washington, D.C.-based artist Calder Brannock leads a digital presentation followed by a guided walking exploration of Reston Town Center after which participants return to GRACE to create art by transforming everyday objects into things of beauty; ages 21-plus, registration required, materials and refreshments included. \$20 for Reston residents and GRACE members; \$40 for non-residents. 703-471-9242 or <http://www.culturecapital.com/event.php?id=23094>.

**Annual Community Service and Scholarship Awards Dinner.** 7:15 p.m., at Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. The theme for this year's gala is "Educate to Innovate for a Better Tomorrow." <http://www.nvul.org/>.



**"Foot Prints of Ladies," by My Phoung Nguyen**

## Fine Art Photography Competition Showcases Finalists

The work of 35 finalists in the 2013 Fine Art Photography Competition goes up in the Fine Art Photography exhibit, opening Tuesday, April 23, and up through May 26. The 35 were selected from 76 photographers submitting over 200 entries; juror Barry Schmetter announces winners during the Opening Reception and Awards Ceremony on Saturday, April 27, from 7 to 9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. [www.artspaceherndon.com](http://www.artspaceherndon.com).

afternoon "Meet the Artists" concerts. 703-503-3384 or [www.ollu.gmu.edu](http://www.ollu.gmu.edu).  
**Gals Who Give.** 4:30-7 p.m., at N'used Clothing, 286 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Live entertainment, shopping, socializing and refreshments celebrating the 15 percent of sales from April 18-20th and the \$200 per home closing through July that Realtor Ellen Moyer and store owner Rosemary Edwards will donate to Reston

portraying the ruins of urban dwellings, factories, asylums and penitentiaries. 703-471-9242 or <http://www.restonarts.org/Exhibitions/morgancraig.htm>.

**The Little Mermaid Jr.** 7 p.m., at Langston Hughes Middle School, 11401 Ridge Heights Road, Reston. A 60-minute musical based on the 2008 Broadway production and the animated film; the cast and crew of

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## Kidney Walk

APRIL 21, 2013

RESTON TOWN CENTER, 2:00 PM

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Register today at [www.kidneywalk.org](http://www.kidneywalk.org)

# Residents Call for Stricter Gun Control Measures

FROM PAGE 3

mandment 'to love thy neighbor as thyself.' The Second Commandment also refers to false idols, and we need to question our worship of the Second Amendment," Horesji said.

Del. Ken Plum (D-36) and Purcellville Mayor Bob Lazaro were the only political leaders to attend the event. Lazaro is a member of Mayors Against Illegal Guns.

"There's a Virginia Tech every week in this country," Lazaro said during his remarks to the crowd. "We have background checks for everything. It takes a four-day background check to adopt a dog. We need to demand criminal background checks for anyone purchasing a gun."

Lazaro cited recent independent polls that show more than 90 percent of Americans support background checks for all gun buyers. More than 80 percent of gun owners—including 74 percent of National Rifle Association members—support requiring criminal background checks for anyone purchasing a gun.

Under current federal law, only licensed firearms dealers are required to conduct background checks on potential buyers, according to a report from Mayors Against Illegal Guns. Around 40 percent of U.S. gun transfers are conducted by unlicensed "private sellers" who are not required to conduct a federal check, and who often do business at gun shows and on the Internet—indicating that about 6.6 million guns are transferred in the U.S. every year with no background check for the buyer.

"This 'private sale loophole' a people who are already prohibited from buying guns—including felons, domestic abusers and the seriously mentally ill—to avoid a background check by simply avoiding licensed dealers," according to the report.

Lu-Ann McNabb, a Centreville resident who was instrumental in starting the Angel Fund in memory of Reema Samaha, one of 32 students killed during the April 16, 2007 Virginia Tech shooting, also spoke at the event.

"During Reema's funeral, her mother said to look at her hands, because they were unscathed. But I kissed her forehead, and I could see the exit wound," McNabb said. "How can we continue to let our children be victims?"

Raba Letteri, a Reston preschool teacher, burst into tears after the vigil.

"I came here from Lebanon to be safe. I saw the hatred and violence between Arabs and Jews. Now everything I hear on the news is about a shooting. I don't need to wait to lose one of my children to have



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

**Children hold up a sign—"Remember the Newtown 26"—at a candlelight vigil in Vienna Saturday, April 13, urging Congress to support stricter gun control measures.**

**"May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can change what others claim cannot be changed, and do what others claim cannot be done."**

**— John Horesji, coordinator of Social Action Linking Together (SALT)**

a voice," Letteri said.

**THIS WEEK**, the Senate is expected to consider several gun legislation amendments, including a breakthrough bipartisan agreement proposed by Senators Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) and Pat Toomey (R-Pa.) to expand background checks to online and gun show sales.

"The American people have made it clear where they stand," Langley said. "They want a response to the tragedies caused by gun violence."

For more information on OFA, go to barackobama.com. For more information on Mayors Against Illegal Guns, go to mayorsagainstillegalguns.org.

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## OPEN HOUSES

### SATURDAY/SUNDAY, APRIL 20 & 21

When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses, visit [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com) and click on the "This Week in Real Estate" link. **Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times**

### Centreville

5414 Clubside Ln.....\$449,000..Sun 1-4.....Suzanne Burch.....Century 21..703-328-5606  
6028B Machen Rd.....\$419,900...Sat 1-4.....Helen Hong.....Samson Proprs..703-850-1607

### Chantilly

42344 Astors Beachwood...\$800,000..Sun 1-4.....Chris Pezzana.....Weichert..703-447-1662

### Clifton

13100 Twin Lakes Dr.....\$1,272,500..Sun 1-4.....Marsha & Catie.....Long & Foster..703-618-4397

### Fairfax

5102 Walport Ln.....\$550,000..Sun 1-4.....Kristi Morgan.....RE/MAX..703-909-4462

### Fairfax Station

7713 Stoney Creek Ct.....\$839,950..Sun 1-4..Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert..703-862-8808  
6314 Youngs Branch Dr.....\$729,900..Sun 1-4.....Diana Khoury.....Long & Foster..703-401-7549

### Herndon

12913 Alton Sq.....\$1,600 per month..Sun 1-4.....Chris Pezzana.....Weichert..703-447-1662

### McLean

6641 McLean Dr.....\$774,900..Sun 1-4.....Ann Romer.....Weichert..703-597-4289

### Oakton

10321 Hickory Forest Dr..\$1,389,000..Sun 1-4.....Eileen Summers.....Long & Foster..703-759-9190  
10500 Samaga Dr.....\$998,500..Sun 1-4.....Evelyn Petros....WC & AN Miller..301-229-4000

### Reston

1433 Waterfront Rd.....\$1,125,000..Sun 1-4.....Gene Mechling.....Prudential..703-599-8894

### Vienna

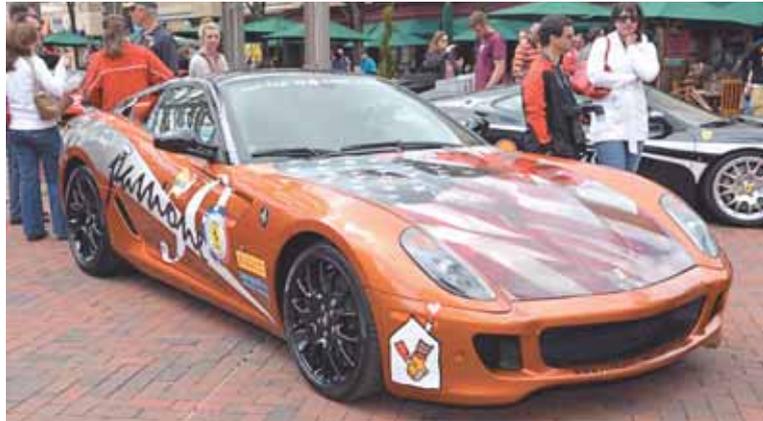
2078 Hunters Crest Way..\$1,695,000..Sun 1-4.....Casey Samson.....Samson Proprs..703-508-2535  
115 Follin Ln, SE.....\$669,000..Sun 1-4.....Mary Kimball....Coldwell Banker..703-938-5600

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Karen Pechacek-Washburn at 703-778-9422 or E-Mail  
the info to [kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com)  
All listings due by Monday at 3 P.M.

# Ferrari Club Event Mixes Cars With Caring

More than 80 cars lined Market Street and filled the Pavilion.

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION



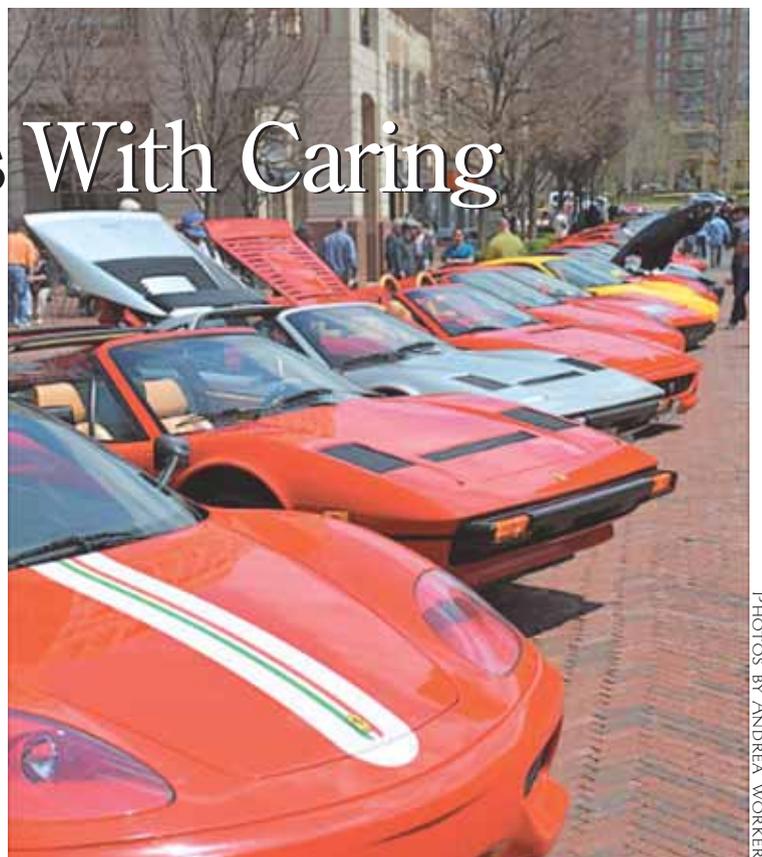
**Ferrari Club of America (FCA) member Jim Taylor's customized Ferrari 599 HGTE made an appearance at the Mid-Atlantic FCA Spring Thaw event on its celebratory relay around the country, stopping at 50 cities in 50 weeks to mark the club's 50th anniversary and to raise money for Ronald McDonald House Charities and the Paul Newman Double H Hole in the Woods Camp.**

The Mid-Atlantic Region of the Ferrari Club of America (FCA) held their annual Spring Thaw gathering at Clyde's of Reston Town Center on Saturday, April 13. The vibrant colors of all those exotic cars and the roar of those super-engines echoing in the valley of Market Street was exciting enough for any car enthusiast, but this year the club provided an added bonus for the viewing pleasure of the crowds. They also teamed up with Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Washington, D.C. to raise funds for the organization.

More than 80 cars lined Market Street and filled the Pavilion, but the crown jewel in this year's collection was undoubtedly the Ferrari 599 HGTE generously

sponsored by FCA member Jim Taylor. The 599, the last one in the series built for the United States, was completely customized to commemorate the club's 50th anniversary. As part of the club's yearlong anniversary celebration, Taylor's car is traveling around the country. With "50 Cities in 50 Weeks" as the motto, the car is making a relay run, handed off to clubs in dif-

ferent regions, appearing at car shows, races, charity events and even stopping at several Ronald McDonald Houses along the route where club activities put smiles on the faces of a lot of youngsters in need of a break from the realities of their illnesses. Throughout the journey, the club is sponsoring events to boost awareness and financial support for both the global



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER

**Ferraris lined up on Market Street at the Ferrari Club Mid-Atlantic Region's annual Reston Town Center Spring Thaw event.**

and regional Ronald McDonald Houses and Charities, as well as the Paul Newman Double H Hole in the Woods Camp, that provides year-round programs for children with life-threatening illnesses. The camp is Taylor's favorite charity. There was no shortage of smiles

at this showing—on faces both young and not-so-young—as the throngs gathered and folks snapped countless pictures of themselves alongside a favorite model that seemed to immediately hit the Facebook, Twitter and Instagram airwaves.

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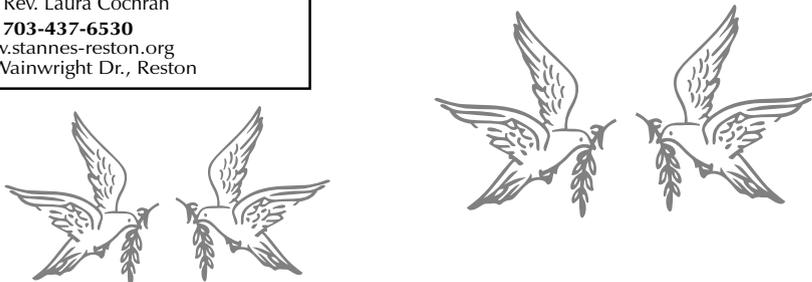
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## Walk with Us!

**5-K Walk to benefit children in foster care**

**What:** 5-K Walk

**When:** Saturday, May 18,  
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1 p.m. (Registration  
from 8 to 8:30 a.m.)

**Where:** Lake Accotink Park  
(rear entrance) 5660  
Heming Avenue,  
Springfield, VA.

**Cost:** \$30 registration fee  
Picnic lunch provided



### Steps to Walk – or Support the 5-K Walk

1. Log on to: [www.fairfaxyouth.org/events.xml](http://www.fairfaxyouth.org/events.xml) to register
  2. Create your own team or join our Fairfax Families4Kids team.
- For more information, visit the Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/fairfaxfamilies4kids.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/fairfaxfamilies4kids.htm) or contact Beverly J. Howard, Fairfax Families4Kids Coordinator, 703-324-7518, TTY 711. Beverly.Howard@fairfaxcounty.gov

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# SPORTS

## South Lakes Baseball Falls to Fairfax

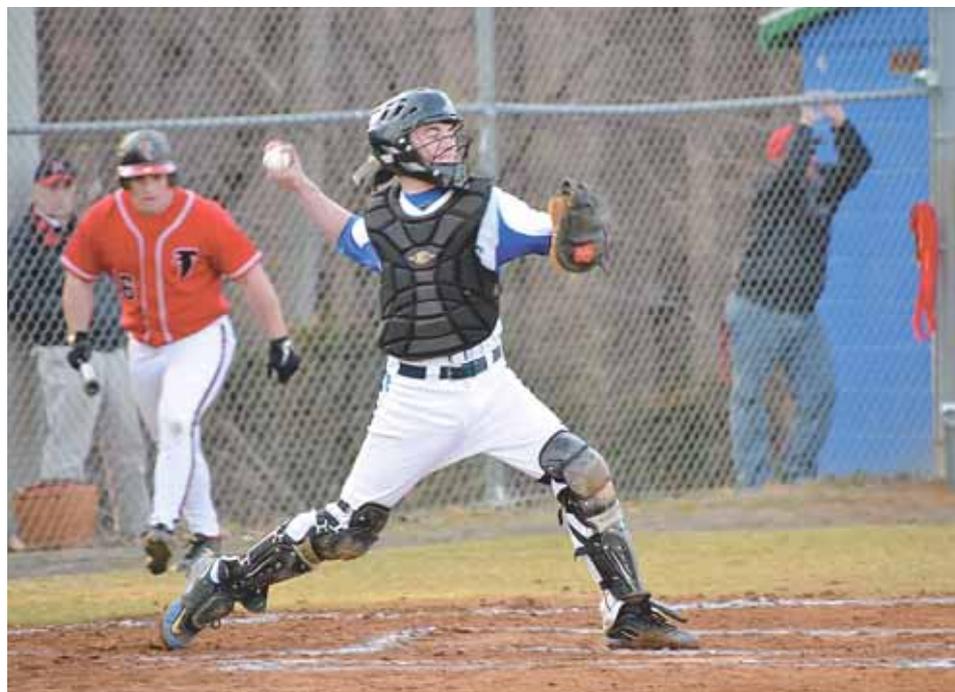
The rain stopped and the fields dried in time for the South Lakes baseball team to take on the Fairfax Rebels at Fairfax High School on Friday, April 12. The Seahawks fell short, 6-2.

The Rebels jumped on top with three runs in the first inning and picked up another run in the second inning. The Seahawks struck with two runs in the fifth inning when Marty Gryski broke up a no-hitter with a single, and Zack McIntyre reached on an error and advanced to second base. Kyle King hit a long sacrifice fly to score Gryski from third, which was followed by a sacrifice fly by Justin Cosing, which scored McIntyre.

The Rebels picked up another run in the bottom of the fifth and again in the sixth inning to complete the scoring at 6-2.

The top defensive plays were turned in by Matt Wojciechowski, with two great catches in the game.

On Tuesday, April 9, South Lakes played its first game with spring weather as the



South Lakes catcher Jared Abelson.

Seahawks faced off against Liberty district foe Stone Bridge in a game on the opponent's turf.

The Seahawks' bats were silent with only two hits, both delivered by Austin Gibbons, against the Bulldogs' Jacob Bukauskas. The Bulldogs struck with four runs in the second inning, one in the fourth inning and two in the sixth to defeat the Seahawks, 7-0.

The Seahawks' defensive play of the game came in the fourth inning when a Bulldogs batter hit a shot into the gap in right-center field. Justin Cosing got to the ball and quickly hit the cutoff, second baseman Jared Abeleson, who then delivered a great throw to catcher Jesse True, who applied the tag to deny an inside-the-park home run.

With the losses, the Seahawks fell to 2-9, including 1-5 in the Liberty District. South Lakes faced Marshall on Tuesday, April 16, after The Connection's deadline. The Seahawks will travel to face McLean at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 19.

—KEVIN DARBY

## Langley's Hot Bats Not Enough to Beat Centreville

Saxons produce 11 hits, 13 runs in loss to Wildcats.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

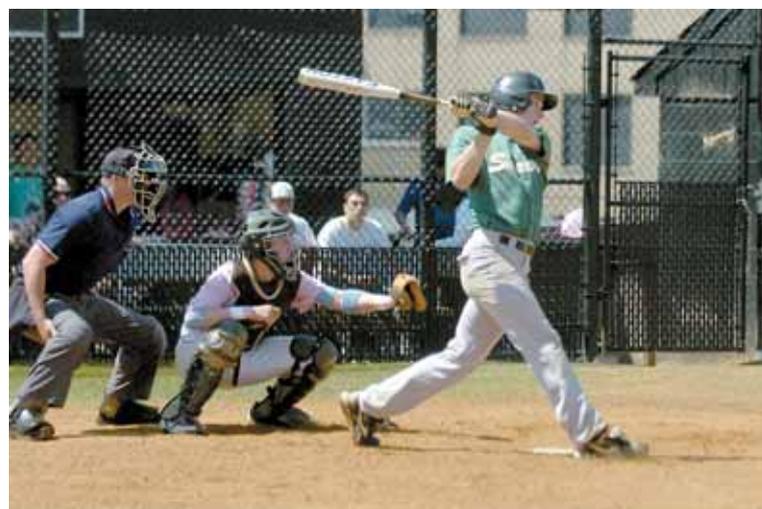
Senior Joseph Aulisi delivered a two-run single in the first inning of the Saturday, April 13, contest against Centreville, helping the Langley baseball team jump out to a 3-0 advantage.

In the third inning, a three-run double by senior Thomas Dungan gave the Saxons a 9-3 lead. Later in the game, senior Bryan Even smacked a two-run homer over the left-field fence.

Langley amassed double-digit runs and hit totals against Centreville. However, the Saxons would need more than their bats to beat the Wildcats.

Centreville defeated Langley 18-13 on April 13 during a battle of teams ranked in the Northern Region top 10 at Centreville High School. The Saxons, ranked No. 8 last week, totaled 11 hits and scored double-digit runs for the third time this season, but the No. 9 Wildcats came roaring back from a six-run deficit to earn the victory.

Centreville finished with 15 hits, including seven of the extra-base variety. Langley pitchers walked



Langley senior Cal Jadacki swings against Centreville on Saturday, April 13. The Saxons produced 11 hits, including one by Jadacki, and 13 runs but came up short against the Wildcats.



Langley junior Nick Casso had one of the Saxons' 11 hits against Centreville on Saturday, April 13.

nine and hit three batters. The Saxons also struggled defensively, including misplaying multiple fly balls.

"We walked [and hit] 12 hitters. That's not going to help the cause," Langley head coach Kevin Healy said. "[Centreville] swung the bats. They came out and they put some pressure on us and we didn't respond very well."

After Langley built a 9-3 lead, Centreville responded with five runs in the fourth and seven runs in the fifth to take control of the game.

Even finished 2-for-3 with a home run and three RBIs, Dungan went 3-for-3 with three RBIs and

**"We're swinging the bats. We hung 13 runs. Defensively, we've got to stop people—that's the big thing for us. I think as a team, we're hitting something like [.300]. Defensively, we just haven't stopped people when we needed to."**

—Langley baseball coach Kevin Healy

Aulisi had two RBIs, but it wasn't enough.

"We're swinging the bats. We hung 13 runs," Healy said. "Defensively, we've got to stop people—that's the big thing for us. I think

as a team, we're hitting something like [.300]. Defensively, we just haven't stopped people when we needed to."

The loss dropped Langley's record to 6-5.

"We're still 3-2 [in the Liberty District] and we control our own destiny in the district," Healy said. "... The ones that count for seeding are still the ones we're focused on and we're in pretty good shape there. [I'm a] little frustrated with this one but you've got to flush and kind of get past it."

Langley dropped out of the top 10 this week, but bounced back with a 6-1 victory against Thomas Jefferson on Monday, April 15, improving its record to 7-5 overall and 4-2 in the Liberty District. The Saxons hosted McLean on Tuesday, April 16, after The Connection's deadline.

Langley will travel to face Marshall at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 19.

# Countdown to College Decision Day

Local college counselors offer advice on making the right choice.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**M**arta Daniels recalls the day when her son Will received his first college acceptance letter.

"He was thrilled," she said. "It was a huge relief to know that he had been accepted somewhere."

But elation soon turned to stress when Will learned that he'd been accepted into all five schools to which he'd applied. "We went from being relieved that he would be going off to college next fall to panicking over whether or not we would choose the best school for Will," said Daniels.

As the May 1 national college decision day looms, the day students must shell out hefty deposits to secure their spots at colleges and universities, students like Daniels are feeling pressure. Most college counselors agree that it's important to make sure the school is a good fit for the student academically, financially and socially, and local counselors share ideas for making the decision less daunting.

They urge students to do a thoughtful assessment of who they are and what they need to thrive in an academic environment. "From community college to the ivy leagues, every school has success stories," said Mike Canfield, director for undergraduate admissions at Marymount University in Arlington. "You can be successful at any school if it is the right one."

Brie Jeweler-Bentz, Psy.D., a psychologist at The School Counseling Group, encourages students to ask, "Where do I want to be geographically? Do I need a large campus or a school with an urban campus? Will I go crazy in a small town? Do I want to paint my face and cheer on my Division I sports team?" The school's political and religious climates matter, she said, as does the local weather.

She also stressed that a school must be a good fit both socially academically. "A big rah-rah school is great, but academically



PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. STEPHEN'S & ST. AGNES SCHOOL

**As the May 1 national college decision day looms, high school seniors like Jack Phillips and Elizabeth Cornick of St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School must decide which colleges they will attend in the fall.**

will the student get lost in a big lecture hall with 400 other students?"

Michael Carter, Ph.D., director of college counseling at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria, said that fit and balance also matter. "Does the student mesh with the school's programs academically and extracurricularly? Is there a good blend academically, socially and extracurricularly so that the student can have balance?"

One way to answer these questions is to spend time on campus. "Sit in the cafeteria, have lunch and look around at the students," said Jeweler-Bentz. "How do the students dress and talk? Do they have piercings, tattoos and nose rings? Does the school click for you? Does it feel like home?"

Randy Tajan, director of college counseling at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac, Md., said students should look at colleges through a new lens, that of admitted student. "What is student life like? What about access to professors? Can you be a

student and an active citizen? They should think about again why they applied to those schools originally."

A school's atmosphere should not be underestimated, said some counselors.

"Given that our environment often affects us, for better or worse, is this school a good fit for my goals and values?" asked Michael Hude, college counselor at The Heights School in Potomac, Md. He said that students should also ask, "Does it foster an environment that will facilitate the type of growth I'd like both to experience [in college] and take with me for the rest of my life?"

Hude said that the cost of the school is an important consideration: "Will I be going into debt? Does the quality of the education and the school's reputation justify the expense and debt?"

Meg Mayo, director of college counseling at Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac, Md., agrees. "I think any type of

**"From community college to the ivy leagues ... you can be successful at any school if it is the right one."**

**— Mike Canfield, director for undergraduate admissions at Marymount University**

scholarship money if awarded should play into a decision," she said. "I really worry about kids coming out of college loaded down with debt and not finding work right away."

Jeweler-Bentz adds the prospective students should take a look at those who have graduated from the institution. "Some schools have amazing [alumni] networks that can hook graduates up with job opportunities," she said. "It's also important to look at statistics on job and graduate school placement to see how good of a job particular colleges do with their students post-graduation."

Canfield said that once a student has selected a school, the next step is to connect. "Plan for orientation," he said. "Learn the process for registration. Check out the school's fan page on Facebook. Some schools host invitation-only closed social media sites."

Students should also start planning for life on campus. "What [activities are] they going to join when they get to campus? Students who are involved in campus activities or have a job on campus that is limited to 10 hours a week are significantly happier and do better in their classes than their counterparts who have neither," said Canfield.



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## A False Sense of Security



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not that there's anything wrong with that; in fact, as a four-year, stage IV, non-small-cell lung cancer survivor, it's amazing to have any security, false or otherwise, whatsoever. And that's the point, really: how amazingly fortunate yours truly is to still be writing columns, if you know what I mean? Moreover, being relatively asymptomatic (as I've mostly been) is all it's cracked up to be, and I say that with utmost respect, sincerity and appreciation. Yet, unless this particular survivor is delusional, incredibly naive (my two main self-preservation/defense mechanisms) or a lucky aberration beyond any statistical reference (within my limited knowledge of such references), one day – sooner rather than later, the other shoe will most likely drop; and you do know what I mean, don't you?

A few weeks back, I published a column entitled, "Definition of Slippery Slope," which discussed the range and depth of emotions a cancer patient/survivor (let's be honest: this cancer patient/survivor) feels waiting to hear back from the oncologist concerning the results of his most recent diagnostic scan ("CT" for me), the results of which will determine your most immediate future (I'd say between living and dying, but that sounds so dramatic). I readily admit though, I can now absolutely appreciate the anxiety many woman feel awaiting the results of their mammogram. Been there, and thankfully, still doing that.

One of my standard answers to queries about my overall health is: "I'm fine until they tell me otherwise;" this column's true context and another place I can go – figuratively speaking (sort of like "Strawberry Fields" and "A Glass Onion") to endure the ongoing stresses and pressures of being a terminal cancer patient who has so far outlived his oncologist's original prognosis: "13 months to two years." Even though living remains the best reward (I did not say revenge), it also exerts the greatest sense of inevitability, if certain statistical measures/references are to be considered (nor did I say, believed).

Not that I want to buy into that "sense of inevitability," but cancer is likely not most persons' favorite word, and presumably one of their least favorite diagnoses – for a reason. Though more and more cancer patients are living longer (see graph referenced in a previous column entitled "14.8 Percent" citing a National Cancer Institute SEER Cancer Statistics Review, 1975-2009), you'd just as soon not take your chances with a malignancy. But sometimes, maybe oftentimes for all I know (and I know very little), diseases/diagnoses really are just a function of chance (nature vs. nurture?) and perhaps so too is surviving beyond the mean (and I don't "mean" unpleasant, either) number of years or months "prognosed" at one's original date of diagnosis (rationalizing is another one of my tools).

I guess what I'm looking for is a guarantee, or at least a fair warning before – you know what (and I'm assuming you know "what" is) But I don't suppose that's realistic, so trying to enjoy the good days and not worry/anticipate the bad days ahead is my M.O.; which I imagine is somewhere between a wish and hope. And in between of course is "a false sense of security," the bane of my existence.

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

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You can see the concentration on Reston resident Cayley's face as she decorates the kite she will assemble and fly during the Saturday, April 6, kite-making class at Frying Pan Farm Park.



The weather was perfect on April 6 for Frying Pan Farm Park's annual kite class. Though temperatures were a little brisk, it was breezy enough to give the families enrolled in the kite class some air-time. Ellie, from Reston, is thrilled to get her kite off the ground.

PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

# Kite Class at Frying Pan Farm Park

The weather was perfect on Saturday, April 6, for Frying Pan Farm Park's annual kite class. Participants made two types of kites and got to play with some huge soap bubbles during the packed workshop. The weather was a little brisk, but breezy enough to give the families enrolled in the class some air time.

—DEB COBB



Gigantic bubbles were also part of the April 6 kite class at Frying Pan Farm Park. Ashburn resident Bhavya takes a moment before she chases and pops the bubble.



Monster bubbles delight the crowd at the Saturday, April 6, kite class held at Frying Pan Farm Park.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATIE AND TONY DE LA PAZ

Claire de la Paz performs Kitri's Variation from Don Quixote, Act One, during An Evening with Classical Ballet Theatre—Classical and Contemporary, held at the Reston Community Center in February 2013. Claire will be performing the same variation in New York.

## Performing In New York

### Classical Ballet Theatre Student performs in international dance finals.

Claire de la Paz, a Classical Ballet Theatre (CBT) student and Herndon resident, has earned one of the highest honors in the dance world—an invitation to compete in the Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) 2013 New York City Finals. Earlier this year, Claire wowed judges with her grace and technique when she performed classical ballet and contemporary variations in the YAGP Philadelphia Regional Semi-finals, where she secured placement in the top three in the Pre-Competitive Age Division. In New York last Friday, April 12, she competed against the best 9- to 11-year-old dancers in the world.

Competition is not new to Claire, a hardworking and unusually focused 11-year-old adopted from Nanping, China. Last year, she and two fellow CBT students made the trip to the New York City Finals in the ensemble division. Claire also is an excellent student in Clearview Elementary's Advanced Academics program, and she relishes playing the piano and flute, singing and reading. She also enjoys expressing herself through crafts and participating in the annual PTA Reflections program, in which she once earned third place in the country for performing her original dance choreography.

For more information about CBT, visit <http://www.cbntva.org>.