

# Reston CONNECTION

## Inside PET CONNECTION

# Meet Lexi

PET CONNECTION, PAGES 1-4

This cute Pomeranian, named Lexi, is the unofficial mascot of the Spirit Open Equestrian Program. When not at Spirit, Lexi is the treasured companion of Dada Suvak, of Reston, the executive director of Spirit. Lexi is shown with her friend Elizabeth at Frying Pan Farm Park in Herndon.

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# Libraries Promote Summer Reading

## Fairfax County program encourages students to read.

BY RYAN DUNN  
THE CONNECTION

Every summer, the Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL) offers a summer reading program for children ages preschool-12th grade. This year the 2014 program began on June 20, and will continue until Aug. 30. "It is a fun program, children are encouraged to participate," said librarian Dorota Jakubowska, children's services manager at Reston Regional Library located on 11925 Bowman Towne Drive.

"All of the activities are very similar to last year," said Katie Strotman, Deputy Director for the Fairfax County Public Library. "The theme itself is different but the idea of children reading for pleasure and to keep up their skills stay the same year to year." According



**Mary Dunn, a library information assistant who works at Herndon Fortnightly Library. This year the 2014 Fairfax County summer reading program began on June 20, and will continue until Aug. 30.**

to online reading logs, approximately 58,149 books have been read by children in the FCPL reading program. (This number is from



PHOTO BY RYAN DUNN / THE CONNECTION

**Jen C. Morton, the children's librarian at Herndon Fortnightly Library. If a child in the Fairfax County summer reading program completes their log of books, they receive a coupon book prize containing free and discounted offers from local businesses.**

the reading logs that are submitted online and not in the library branches.)

at the nearest Fairfax County library by Aug. 8.

The FCPL has divided readers into age groups. Each age group

**ONE NEW FEATURE** of this year's program is a teen cover art contest for students in rising grades seventh – 12th grade. In this contest, participants can submit one entry of a book cover with redesigned original artwork, but must include the book title and author in the design. Entries must be submitted via email, mail, or dropped of

is designated a suggested reading list, and a required number of books to read by Aug. 30. Children from birth to grade six read 15 books, and children in grades 7-12 read 8 books. If the child completes their log of books, they receive a coupon book prize containing free and discounted offers from local businesses. Having prizes encourages children to complete the program, and work towards a specific goal.

David and Isaac Kim, sons of Grace Kim turned in their reading logs to the Reston Regional Library for their rewards. Kim's sons attend Providence Elementary School in Fairfax, and the family has enjoyed patronizing several of the county libraries. "We hear about this reading program through the school," said Kim. "I did not let them include any comic books."

"We are thrilled every year to work with the schools on this important program that encourages kids to read for fun but also helps them maintain the reading skills they worked so hard to attain dur

SEE READING, PAGE 13



## Congratulations to all of the Outstanding Principals listed below.

They have been rated highest by our memberships in those schools

Fairfax County Federation of Teachers  
Teachers Care!

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:

Bonnie Glazewski  
(Oak View)

Jesse Kraft  
(Providence)

Michael Macrina  
(Island Creek)

Suzanne Montgomery  
(Laurel Hill)

Lindsay Trout  
(Terraset)

### MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Penny Gros (Glasgow)

### HIGH SCHOOLS:

Teresa Johnson  
(Chantilly)

Nardos King  
(Mt. Vernon)

Michael Yohe  
(Falls Church)

Jeff Yost  
(Woodson)



**THANK YOU TO ALL  
OF OUR MEMBERS WHO  
RETURNED THE SURVEY**

## Wiehle-Reston East Opens for Riders

**Fairfax County holds open house at Reston garage.**

BY RYAN DUNN  
THE CONNECTION

**F**airfax County held an open house at the Wiehle-Reston East Garage on July 19 to show potential Metro riders access and parking options. Attending the event were elected officials including U.S. Congressman Gerald Connolly (D-11), United States Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy Peter M. Rogoff, Virginia state senator Janet D. Howell (D-32), Del. Ken R. Plum (D-36), Del. Tom D. Rust (R-86), Supervisor John W. Foust and Chairman for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova. "We are so delighted to celebrate this opening," said Maggie Parker, Comstock Partners' director of communications.

Comstock Partners built the garage, paying 23 percent of the \$90 million price tag. The company picked up a 99-year ground lease to build a 1.3 million-square-foot mixed-use development above and around the site. "As a chamber, we believe in public-private partnerships," said Reston Chamber of Commerce Board Chair Karen Cleveland. "Without Comstock Partner and Fairfax County partnering for this project, this would not have happened," said Cleveland.

Wiehle-Reston East will be the end of the Silver Line for at least five years, when Phase 2 will take passengers to Reston Parkway, Herndon, Dulles International Airport and Loudoun County. "I think overall it is a very good thing for Reston," said Ken Knueven, President of the Reston Association. "Short term issues will have to be sorted out, but the long term goal of a metro to Dulles International Airport is a wonderful plan."

**THE STATE OF THE ART** transportation facility at Wiehle-Reston East is poised to bring economic benefits and ease the transportation needs of Northern Virginia. A group of local bicycle enthusiasts including Supervisor Cathy Hudgins biked to the event. Reston founder Robert "Bob" Simon also attended the event.

"Let's thank Fairfax County staff and Comstock Partners, LC for the tremendous accomplishment in completing this project," said Supervisor Hudgins. "This is the beginning of a new changed Dulles corridor."

"This week marks another turning point for Reston, Tysons and the Dulles Corridor," said Congressman Connolly. "With the opening of the Silver Line, commuters will have new choices for getting to and from the jobs centers here in Fairfax County that are driving the economies of the Commonwealth and the National Capital Region...This is a glorious day, I look for-



PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN/ THE CONNECTION

**Dozens of bicyclists rode to the ribbon cutting ceremony held at the Wiehle-Reston East garage on July 19. The garage has a bike room that is the first of its kind for Fairfax County. There will be vertical and regular parking, as well as room for oversized bikes or bikes with trailers.**



**Local delegates and officials pause before cutting a ceremonial ribbon at the Wiehle-Reston East garage on July 19 in Reston. From the left are Supervisor John W. Foust, Virginia state senator Janet Howell, Del. Ken Plum, U.S. Congressman Gerald Connolly, Supervisor Cathy Hudgins, Chairman for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova, Supervisor John Cook, Supervisor Pat Herrity and Del. Tom Rust.**



**Chairman for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova, Supervisor John W. Foust, Delegate Tom D. Rust (R-86), and Reston founder Robert Simon attended the July 19 open house at Wiehle-Reston East garage.**

ward to riding the rail with you one week from now."

United States Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy Peter M. Rogoff said the project was a model for the country. "This project has been underway for so long," said Virginia state senator Janet Howell. "I can promise you we are going to fight to keep the tolls low."

Commuters using the Dulles Toll Road have been some of biggest investors of the Silver Line. Commuters are vulnerable because tolls are the one share of the Silver

Line project's funding formula not capped at a fixed dollar amount or percentage of the final tab. The result has been five years of increased toll charges that spiked a common round trip from \$2.50 to \$7. Had the Silver Line not received federal loans as well as \$300 million in state grants, toll road users were about to cover more than half, 52 percent, of the line's costs.

"We really are at the next phase to use rail as a mass transit medium," said Del. Ken Plum. "This garage is transformational to the Dulles corridor," said Del. Tom Rust.

"With the opening of the Silver Line we will have access to a network of transportation options," said Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova.

The Reston-Wiehle East Station features Fairfax County's first enclosed, secure bicycle parking facility with a capacity for over 200 bicycles. Bulova presented Supervisor Hudgins with the first bike locker key at the Reston station. The bike room is secure and membership only. It includes fix it stations and air pumps for biker's convenience. "We are hoping it will encourage more people to bike," said Charlie Strunk, Bicycle Coordinator for the Fairfax County Department of Transportation.

Smaller bike stations are planned for the future Silver Line stations at Herndon Monroe and Innovation Center near the Fairfax/Loudoun county line. "We are excited about the bike room," said Bruce Wright, Chairman of the Fairfax Advocates for Better Bicycling (FABB). "We think a lot more people will ride to the station than drive." Bicycle related groups including FABB, the Reston Association Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee, and Green Lizard Cycling store had booths at the event.

There was a ceremonial ribbon cutting at 10 a.m. Visitors were then free to visit and tour the facility. A Fairfax Connector store will be in operation at the Wiehle-Reston East station to offer schedules, fare media, and information about the traveling options in the Northern Virginia region.

SEE COUNTY, PAGE 9

# Paycheck Gender Wars?

Across Northern Virginia, men pull larger paychecks than women; disparities larger than national average.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

When Lola Arce de Quintela first moved to Oakton 20 years ago, she noticed something about the way men and women arranged their professional careers around their family lives in Northern Virginia. Men took high-powered jobs with large paychecks, while women often dropped out of the workforce to take care of growing families. If women had full-time jobs, she says, they would often select positions that were not as demanding so they could focus their time and attention on their children while husbands and fathers pulled in six-figure salaries.

"The other women who live on my block are teachers," said de Quintela, a freelance translator. "Their husbands are attorneys or they work for the World Bank."

On a national basis, women make 77 cents for every dollar men make. But here in Northern Virginia the disparities are greater, especially in wealthier areas. Nowhere is this trend higher than 22124, the suburb of Oakton, where the average median income for full-time female workers is \$77,000. The men in that ZIP code pull in almost \$130,000. That means women who live in Oakton and are full-time, permanent workers earn 60 percent of what men earn.

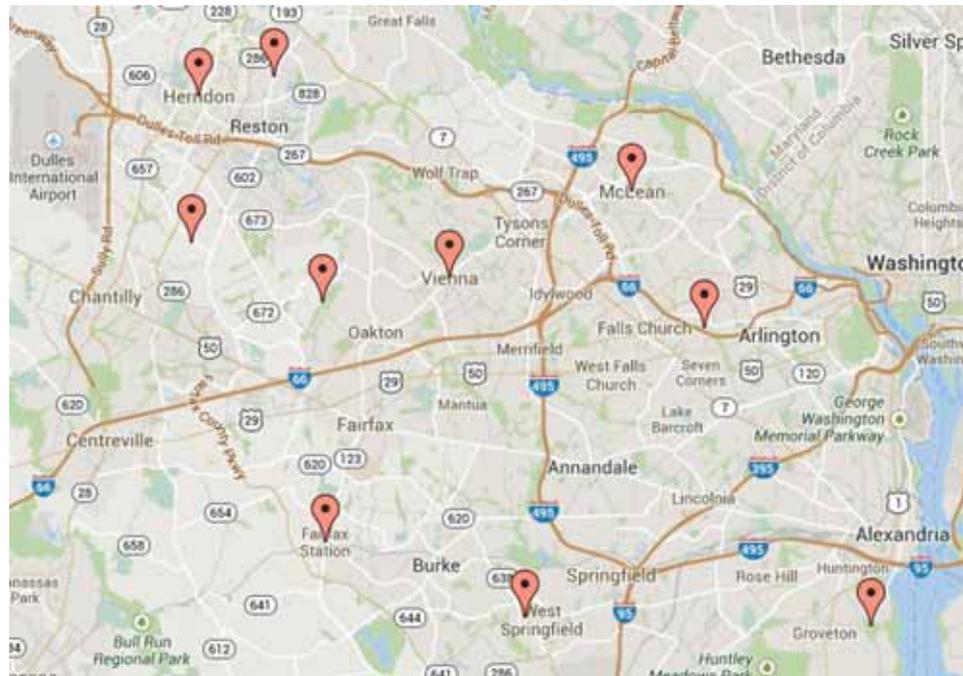
"It's very difficult to have a family and raise kids when you have two people with high-powered careers that demand a lot of time and attention," said de Quintela. "So a lot of women tend to find work that's more flexible and not as demanding, which means they earn less money. It's a trade off."

**CENSUS RECORDS** show disparities tend to be greatest where people earn the most money. In the Fairfax Station ZIP code 22039, for example, the average annual male median salary is \$134,000. That's one of the highest in Northern Virginia. By contrast, women in this area earn \$86,000 a year. That's still a high salary for the region, but women who live in Fairfax Station earn 64 cents for every \$1 the men who live there make.

Demographers say some of this may be explained by a concept they call "labor force attachment," which essentially means that women are less attached to the labor force than men.

"Given the traditional understandings about who cares for children or aging parents, what we often see is that women take

zip code	location	median female salary	median male salary	percentage women's median salary is of men's
22124	Oakton	\$77,421	\$128,808	60%
20171	Herndon	\$63,577	\$104,495	61%
22205	Arlington	\$70,755	\$115,729	61%
22152	Springfield	\$57,177	\$93,125	61%
22039	Fairfax Station	\$86,085	\$134,133	64%
20170	Herndon	\$49,325	\$74,714	66%
22102	McLean	\$71,113	\$105,995	67%
22182	Vienna	\$86,875	\$127,994	68%
22307	Alexandria	\$65,243	\$93,883	69%
20194	Reston	\$78,398	\$111,942	70%



**"If you're looking at why men are earning more, it's because in those cases women who might have a higher earning potential are not in the labor force, they are staying home to raise a family."**

—David Versel, senior research associate at the Center for Regional Analysis

on those roles," said Annie Rorem, policy associate in the demographics research group at Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia. "We often see differences in female and male earnings that are related to, although I would not necessarily say caused by, family structure."

This trend is less evident in ZIP codes where salaries are lower, and the roles are

even reversed in some of areas with the lowest salaries. In Bailey's Crossroads, for example, women earn \$59,000. But men earn \$46,000, the lowest salary of any Fairfax County ZIP code. That means men earn about 22 percent less than women here, a phenomenon that indicates workers here are attached to the labor force in a way that's different from people at the top of the earnings scale.

"What we are probably seeing in Bailey's Crossroads is women who are nannies of families that make a lot of money," said Veronique de Rugy, a senior research fellow at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. "They make a lot more money than their male counterparts who are working in construction or putting up drywall."

**ACADEMICS WHO** look at these numbers say the imbalance of salaries between men and women can be explained by looking at how the genders participate in the labor force differently. A recent study by the George Mason School for Regional Analysis concluded that Arlington County has the highest labor force participation rate for women in the region while the District of Columbia has the lowest. Meanwhile, suburban areas of Fairfax County have much lower female participation rates than urban areas such as Arlington or Alexandria.

"If you're looking at why men are earning more, it's because in those cases women who might have a higher earning potential are not in the labor force, they are staying home to raise a family," said David Versel, senior research associate at the Center for Regional Analysis. "That's obviously less true than it was a generation or two ago, but that's the easiest way of looking at this."

Although the disparity between salaries earned by men and women are glaring, researchers who look at the data warn not to jump to conclusions about gender inequality. These numbers show that men and women who live in the same ZIP codes earn different salaries, it does not say that they receive different salaries for doing the same work. They probably say more about how women and men approach the labor force differently than how employers choose to compensate their employees.

"This doesn't necessarily mean that we are talking about any active gender inequality in the sense of discrimination or men and women being paid different amounts for the exact same labor," said Rorem. "One thing that's important to keep in mind when you are looking at all full-time year-round workers is that one thing you don't pick up is experience between workers."

## Eight FCPS Students Win College-Sponsored Merit Scholarships

Eight Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) graduates from the class of 2014 have been named winners of college-sponsored scholarships by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC).

Recipients of college-sponsored scholarships from the NMSC, with their probable career fields in parentheses, are:

- ❖ Celia Islam of Vienna, Marshall High School (medicine), National Merit George Washington University Scholarship.

- ❖ Brian Clark of Burke, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and

- Technology (TJHSST) (engineering), National Merit Case Western Reserve University Scholarship.

- ❖ Adam Friedman of Fairfax, TJHSST (environmental science), National Merit Emory University Scholarship.

- ❖ Nicholas Jones of Round Hill, TJHSST (aerospace engineering), National Merit University of Central Florida Scholarship.

- ❖ Thomas Lunn of Potomac Falls, TJHSST (international relations), National Merit Bowdoin College Scholarship.

- ❖ Timothy Ruiter of Centreville, TJHSST (biomedical engineering), National Merit

- University of Georgia Scholarship.

- ❖ Vishal Talasani of Alexandria, TJHSST (economics), National Merit University of Chicago Scholarship.

- ❖ Tony Xiao of Herndon, TJHSST (film production), National Merit Vanderbilt University Scholarship.

College-sponsored Merit Scholarships provide between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study at the institution financing the scholarship. Nationwide, approximately 7,600 students have won Merit Scholarship awards in 2014.

# WEEK IN RESTON

## RCC Announces 2014 Preference Poll Schedule

Reston Community Center (RCC) has announced dates for its 2014 Preference Poll to fill three seats on its Board of Governors. The Board of Governors is a nine-member body responsible for overseeing the operations of RCC. All residents of Small District 5, age 18 or older, are eligible to run for appointment to the RCC Board of

### SCHOOL NOTES

Send school notes to north@connectionnewspapers.com by Friday.

**Kacey Hirshfeld**, a senior at South Lakes High School, was one of 59 Virginia students awarded scholarships through the Comcast Foundation's annual Leaders and Achievers Scholarship Program. The program, one of the Foundation's signature community investment initiatives, recognizes students' leadership skills, academic achievement and commitment to community service. Comcast, joined by Attorney General of Virginia Mark Herring, recognized the students at a special event held Thursday, May 22, at the State Capitol.

**Five Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students** have received national awards for their writing from the Scholas-

Governors. This year's Preference Poll will fill three positions for three-year terms on RCC's Board of Governors. Candidates must complete a Candidacy Statement during the Candidate Filing Period in order to have their names placed on the Preference Poll ballot. A full schedule of key dates is available below.

#### Key Dates

- \* Aug. 1-15: Candidate Filing Period
- \* Aug. 15: Candidate Orientation & Photos
- \* Sept. 8: Preference Poll Candidates Forum
- \* Sept. 13: Ballot Voting Begins
- \* Oct. 2: Deadline for mail ballots
- \* Oct. 3: Deadline for online or walk-in ballots

For more information on the 2014 RCC Preference Poll or Board of Governors, visit [www.restoncommunitycenter.com](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com) or call 703-476-4500.

tic Art and Writing Awards. Three of the students received Gold Medals, the highest form of recognition.

Aline Dolinh of Oakton High School received the American Voices Medal, the equivalent of the best of show award, for her poetry, "Accent Marks, Exorcism, Model Minority, Second-generation."

#### National winners include:

\* Melissa Halbrook of Woodson High School, Gold Medal for humor, "Kim Jung-Un's New Clothes."

\* Emma Hastings of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST), Gold Medal for short story, "Sight Without Vision, Vision Without Sight;" and Gold Medal for writing portfolio, "I Sing Of."

\* Jean Jeon of Herndon High School, Silver Medal for novel writing, "Strain."

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Each bedroom has an en suite bathroom



\$635,000

25814 Aythorne Ln, South Riding  
4 bed, 3.5 baths, 2 car garage  
Backs to woods



\$389,999

13956 Antonia Ford Ct, Centreville  
4 bed, 3.5 baths, 2 car



\$339,000

43428 Postrail Sq, Ashburn  
3 bed, 3.5 baths



\$330,000

6728 Emmanuel Ct, Gainesville  
3 bed, 2.5 baths



\$392,750

15923 Greymill Manor Dr, Haymarket  
3 bed, 2.5 baths, 2 car



\$335,000

595 Edmonton Ter NE, Leesburg  
2 bed, 3 Full Ba, LL Den



\$449,300

533 Gentlewood Sq, Purcellville  
4 bed, 2.5 baths, 2 car



\$495,000

42728 Keiller Ter, Ashburn  
4 bed, 3.5 baths, 2 car



\$359,900

547 Edmonton Ter NE, Leesburg  
3 bed, 2Fba, 2Hba, 2 car



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# OPINION

## Tragic Consequences

Money lost by refusal to expand health coverage, but also life, health and livelihood.

The Virginia General Assembly's refusal to expand Medicaid, extending health coverage to as many as 400,000 Virginians has resulted in the loss of about \$1 billion in direct payments.

But that understates the loss, failing to calculate the cost of the lost health

EDITORIAL

of thousands of Virginians. Consider one relatively young man, treated by the Health Wagon, who is losing his vision to untreated diabetes because he has no health coverage, his diabetes went undetected for years and can't afford monitoring or medicine. Once diabetes begins to take its toll, it cannot be reversed. Once the man is blind and unable to work, he will likely be covered by Medicaid because he is permanently disabled.

The Centers for Disease Control says chronic illnesses are "the nation's leading causes of death and disability, leav[ing] in their wake deaths that could have been prevented, lifelong disability, compromised quality of life, and burgeoning health care costs. ... Heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, obesity, and arthritis are among the most common, costly, and preventable of all health problems."

Consider the hundreds or thousands of Virginians who are not receiving routine care or screenings of any kind, whose cancer or high blood pressure or heart disease or diabetes, or even mental illness, rob them over time of their ability to work, to care for themselves or their families. Many will die of illnesses that could have been prevented or treated. The human toll is incalculable, unbearable and unnecessary.

It is unfair that health coverage depends on what state you happen to live in, that an ideologically driven General Assembly can determine your fate. If you are poor and live in a state that has chosen to accept expansion of health care with Medicaid, you have health insurance, for example in the bordering states of West Virginia, Kentucky and Maryland. But if you are poor and live in Virginia, or one of the other states that has refused to expand Medicaid, you are out of luck, out of health and possibly out of life.

Business groups and chambers of commerce around Virginia, including the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, support the expansion of Medicaid in Virginia under the Affordable

Care Act. One persuasive factor for the business community is that expansion would create an estimated 30,000 jobs and pump hundreds of millions of dollars into Virginia's economy. Hospitals support expanding Medicaid which would offset many of the costs of caring for uninsured populations.

In Virginia, Medicaid eligibility for adults without disability is almost nonexistent, limited to parents with incomes below 51 percent of poverty, or about \$11,900 a year for a family of four, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. Adults without dependent children remain ineligible regardless of their income.

Under the Affordable Care Act, people with incomes 100 - 400 percent of poverty qualify for subsidies on their health insurance premiums when they purchase coverage through a Marketplace. Because the Affordable Care Act envisioned low-income people receiving coverage through Medicaid, people below poverty are not eligible for Marketplace subsidies. As many as 400,000 adults in Virginia fall into the coverage gap because they don't qualify for Medicaid under Virginia's rules, among the most stringent in the nation, but earn less than the poverty rate, so not enough to qualify for subsidies.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## Billion-Dollar Give-Away!

BY KENNETH R. "KEN"  
PLUM

STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

COMMENTARY

By the time you are reading this column Virginia will have reached the milestone by having refused to accept a billion dollars of monies paid by Virginia taxpayers to close the coverage gap for 400,000 working poor Virginians who cannot afford health insurance! A \$1,000,000,000 is a lot of money! We get to this point by the Republican majority in the General Assembly refusing to pass a plan for Medicaid expansion that would bring more than \$5 million dollars a day to the state, produce as many as 30,000 new jobs in the health care industry, insure as many as 400,000 of the working poor, and enhance the quality of life for Virginia's workforce and their families.

What is the alternative proposed by the Republicans? Speaker of the House Howell was quoted last month as saying that House Republicans propose to help the uninsured through "free clinics and com-

munity health centers and through expanded hospital services." Hospital representatives are saying that they need the Medicaid money in order to expand services. One hospital in the state has closed, and others report financial stress. The free clinic serving this region is reported to be in economic difficulties.

Last week Stan Brock's Remote Area Medical (RAM) set up its mobile clinic in Wise County, Va., as it has been doing a weekend a year for more than a decade. More than a thousand people who do not have medical insurance or access to regular medical services show up and stand in line for hours to be seen by one or several of the more than a hundred medical care professionals who volunteer each year to run this free clinic. Brock who achieved fame for his television series Wild Kingdom has described health care needs and services in the Appalachian region that

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## Why Can't Everyone Be Cool?

INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

BY JOHN LOVAAS  
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST

Part One of Two.

It is summertime again. Around Lake Anne, the Reston Lake Anne Air-conditioning (RELAC) controversy is stirring again among homeowners forced to use the antiquated chilled water system to cool their homes. Because the system works OK for some but not for others, RELAC continues to be a source of grief and tension among neighbors in lovely Lake Anne.

When it was introduced in the 1960s, RELAC's chilled water A/C was an innovative concept, providing quieter A/C than systems with conventional outdoor condenser units of that era. Environmentally conscious residents liked that concept. And, the RELAC cooling is said to have been comparable to the conventional A/C of the time. That was then, this is now. In the 50 years since the RELAC system was installed, conventional central air systems technology has dramatically improved. They cool far more effectively and efficiently than the 1960s versions. Meanwhile, RELAC's equipment remains

unchanged, except that it is much older. Conventional A/C units are now smaller and much quieter than 50 years ago. For example, I cannot hear my next door neighbor's unit turn on although it is barely 20 feet from our door. Furthermore, the aged RELAC system is less friendly to the environment because many users must run the system continuously in hot weather and run fans and dehumidifiers. RELAC's new local owners are trying to improve the service, but they lack the millions of dollars needed to replace miles of pipes, buy modern chillers, etc essential to catch up after 50 years of zero investment and minimal maintenance. Those that could have already fled the RELAC system in favor of conventional A/C. This includes businesses, the Reston Community Center/Lake Anne facility, and about 30 residential owners who've left RELAC with the required exemptions based on doctor certified need for cooler, drier (healthier) air to breathe. The developer leading Lake Anne's redevelopment told me on Reston TV recently that they do not intend to connect any new homes or busi-

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CONNECTION

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## Calling Reston 'Home'

To the Editor:

In response to Mr. Simon's recent letter as a concerned resident of Reston [Where Are Your Kids? – Reston Connection, July 2-8, 2014], I can assure him my children are not indoors twiddling their thumbs but are outside enjoying all that Reston has to offer including swimming pools, nature camps, free entertainment shows, walking/scooting/biking around the lakes and even the Farmers Market every Saturday. Indeed, to their great delight, you came up to chat with them a few weeks ago as you were on your way to mail some letters. They even pointed at your photo in Reston's Used Book Store yesterday and declared with great excitement, "That's Mr. Simon!" You may not hear it often enough, but as people who moved to this area "for a few years" nearly 14 years ago, we are lucky to call Reston "home" and to have such a wonderful environment for our children to enjoy. Thank you!

**Nicola Caul Shelley**  
Reston

## Lovaas

FROM PAGE 6

nesses to RELAC. When I asked why, he said diplomatically, "it's not very good." Many feel it is time to do away with the monopoly status of RELAC, i.e., to let individual homeowners choose to either remain with RELAC or to install conventional A/C. In fact, a petition with more than the requisite signatures needed for a referendum of the 343 affected homeowners has been sent to the Reston Association requesting they conduct a referendum. The issue to be decided is simply whether or not the homeowners can have the right to choose the home cooling that they wish. It may have been reasonable to accord this innovative system monopoly protection for a reasonable period of time to prove itself in the market place. It has had 50 years—that seems more than enough.

I expect that if voters decide to allow choice, some will leave the system in a few years in order to get better cooling. Others will stay—because they are content with RELAC service and/or because they don't want to pay the \$4,000 to \$8 thousand dollars it is likely to cost to change to conventional A/C. A referendum held about 7 years ago was narrowly defeated by a vote of 130 to 100. The campaign was nasty at times.

*Next Time: What has changed since the last referendum and what RA might do to provide affected homeowners with better, independent information before the vote.*

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# Numbers Indicate Stable Housing Market

**June home listings climb, with slight dip in sales; average, median prices continue to inch up,**

**T**he Northern Virginia market recorded increased inventories, providing buyers with more choices. Nonetheless, buyers are challenged by affordability and accessing credit.

The June market in Northern Virginia continues the trend of sales numbers coming in just under those from one year ago at this time, but the signs of a stable market have led to an increase in sellers planting signs on their lawns.

"It is all about managing expectations," said Lorraine Arora, Managing Broker at Long & Foster Real Estate in Springfield. "Some buyers are nervous. When houses are priced correctly, homes will sell."

Arora explained that since there was no activity in winter months, there was pent up demand for this region's early spring season. Now, she explained, prices are higher but not all sellers are getting their full price. Buyers are less willing to engage in bidding wars.

The housing affordability may continue to be a challenge in the region, said Mary Bayat, 2014 chair elect of the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors. "While the slightly rising home prices indicate

an improving market, people are just not making quick decisions to buy." Bayat, a broker/owner of Bayat Realty in Alexandria, also noted that the current tight mortgage regulations have been a drag on buyers' loan process. She noted that mortgage standards are under scrutiny by industry and housing groups at this time.

The Northern Virginia Association of Realtors reported on June 2014 home sales activity for Fairfax and Arlington counties, the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church and the towns of Vienna, Herndon and Clifton.

A total of 2,174 homes were sold in June 2014, a 12.90 percent decrease below June 2013 home sales of 2,496.

Active listings continued to show an increase this month compared with 2013. Listings were up 47 percent over last year, with 4,777 active listings in June, compared with 3,247 homes available in June 2013. The average days on market for homes in June 2014 was 30 days, an increase of 25 percent compared to the 24 days on market for homes in June 2013.

Average home sale prices increased slightly this June to \$580,013. This is up 3 percent compared to June 2013, when the average price was \$563,223.

The median sold price of homes this June, which is \$505,000, rose by 1 percent compared to the median price of \$499,900 in June 2013.

The 2,047 new pending home sales in Northern Virginia in June is a decrease of 9.62 percent compared with 2,265 contracts that were pending in June of last year.

## FAITH NOTES

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

**Vajrayogini Buddhist Center,** Unitarian Universalist Church, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston, holds weekly classes starting Sept. 12, Thursdays 7-8:30 p.m., for the general public which use Buddhist teachings to practice meditation. \$12. 202-986-2257 or [www.meditation-dc.org](http://www.meditation-dc.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](http://www.stannes-reston.org).

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

## Plum

FROM PAGE 6

includes Southwest Virginia as being like that of a third-world country.

The General Assembly majority has been able to stymie efforts by the Governor to get a plan for Medicaid expansion approved. While the legislature is still in special session, it is not expected to meet again until Sept. 22. There is little optimism that there will be a change of heart on the part of Republicans as the national organization Americans for Prosperity threaten a primary challenge to anyone who breaks rank. Two senior Republican committee chairs were defeated in primaries in the

last election cycle by Tea Party Republicans as was House Majority Leader Congressman Eric Cantor defeated this year. Unfortunately the desire to keep one's legislative seat seems stronger than the moral call to do the right thing and provide health care to people who need it.

The billion-dollar give-away is money paid by Virginians under the Affordable Care Act that goes to Washington and is not returned because of the legislature's refusal to act. Write to your friends, family, and colleagues and encourage them to contact their legislators to support legislation that will keep \$5 million a day that will add up to another billion dollars by early next year in the state for the benefit of Virginians.

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# County Holds Open House at Reston Garage

FROM PAGE 3

**THE BUS STATION** at Wiehle-Reston East features 10 bus bays on the north side of the Toll Road, and five bus bays on the south side of the Toll Road. In addition to Fairfax Connector service, Washington Flyer will operate its Silver Line Express from the north side, and Loudoun County Transit will operate bus service from the south side.

When Phase 1 of the Silver Line opens

July 26, Wiehle-Reston East will be the only onsite parking garage at the five new Metro stations in Phase 1. The garage was built as a public-private partnership by Comstock and Fairfax County. The county owns the commuter garage, and Metro will collect parking fees. Rates will be the same as at other Metro garages in the county: \$4.85 per day; \$65 a month for reserved parking; and \$75 a year for using the secure bike room. The \$75 fee includes a one-time \$15

registration fee and \$60 for the first year's annual membership.

The 3,300-space garage in Reston opens at 9:30 a.m. on July 26. Parking will be free that day as it will be on all weekends. Two thousand three hundred of the spaces are public spaces so those will not change. Comstock owns the other 1,000 spaces. They are available now but will go away when there are leaseholders in the buildings on the plaza.

"We will finally be one step closer to connecting our nation's capital with its premier international airport, a vision first mentioned in a 1962 federal transportation report," remarked Congressman Connolly. "That report spoke of a 'Super Rail' connection between downtown and Dulles Airport. The proposal for what would become the Silver Line wasn't far off, and I would venture to say that what we see before us today is more than 'super' - it's stupendous!"

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Visitors and artists mill around the studio for the opening of the Greater Reston Arts Center's member exhibit.



Brian Kirk discusses his rust print Rondel at the opening of Greater Reston Arts Center's member exhibit.

# GRACE Artist Member Exhibit

Exhibit runs through Aug. 23.

BY REENA SINGH  
THE CONNECTION

Local talent is on display in Reston for the next month.

Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) restarted its Artist Member Exhibition on July 17 to thank their members for supporting local art.

"We moved into this space in 2006," said GRACE associate curator Erica Harrison. "I don't think there was a member show after 2006."

The exhibit will be in the studio until Aug. 23.

That evening, GRACE announced that the show would take place every other year.

"We wanted to reintroduce it as a continued commitment of the community," said GRACE Board of Directors chairman Robert Gouldie. "It's a part of who we are."

He told the artists that the art community is the roots of GRACE.

"You're part of our soul," he said.

About 50 works of art were submitted. Juror Helen Frederick chose works that represented a range of mediums - including rust and graphite powder, as well as works that have not been seen at GRACE's studio.

"I was pleased with the range of art," said Harrison. "Some of those are breaking some boundaries. It's really nice."

Reston abstract artist Connie Slack has been involved with GRACE since the 1970s.

"I've been watching the organization grow, and I love being involved," she said. "I think the show is wonderfully diverse and exciting. It's really well, well done."

Her painting "Smooth Jazz" was on display at the exhibit. Smudges of blue and purple and broad strokes of black and white melted bright red background. Slack said she liked color. Her outfit, also heavily red with other colors splashed all over, told that story before she did.

"I paint from my experiences and I paint intuitively," she said. "I also listen to music



PHOTOS BY REENA SINGH/ THE CONNECTION

Artist Catherine Day discusses her piece while juror Helen Frederick looks on at the Greater Reston Arts Center's member exhibit.

while I paint. I was listening to smooth jazz, light jazz, when I painted it. It has elements of landscape."

McLean artist Catherine Day had her prints featured on the cover of the exhibition pamphlet. Her work, a double piece featuring hands and crumpled sheets, told of a very personal story.

"My work always seems to be about memory and loss," she said.

In 2012, her father died. She wanted to find a way to capture his presence with her love of photography.

"It struck me that the marks on the bed,

the lines, were the visual traces of his absence," she said. "I photographed his hand and my hand. I photographed his absence."

The photographs were printed on silk organza and hung so they fluttered away from the wall rather than in a frame.

"The people here are so wonderful," said Day. "This area is just filled with people making art. It's a very vibrant area."

GRACE is located at 12001 Market Street in Reston and is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

For more information, visit [www.restonarts.org](http://www.restonarts.org).

Send announcements to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com). The deadline is the Friday prior to the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## TUESDAY/JULY 22 – SUNDAY/JULY 27

### Vacation Vistas: Painting the Travel Experience.

9 a.m.-9 p.m. Jo Ann Rose Gallery, 1609 Washington Plaza N, Reston. Christine Lashley will exhibit watercolor and acrylic paintings with her students. 703-476-4500.

## TUESDAY/JULY 22-FRIDAY/AUG. 15

**To the Beach.** 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Hunters Woods Exhibit, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Acrylics by Karen A. Pida. 703-476-4500.

## THURSDAY/JULY 24-SATURDAY/AUG. 23

**Greater Reston Arts Center Artist Member Exhibition.** 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market Street Suite #103, Reston. Come see the first of what will become a biennial exhibition highlighting the talents of our artist members. 703-471-9242.

## FRIDAY/JULY 25

**Summer Songs Campfire.** 7-8:30 p.m. WNC Campfire Ring, Soapstone Drive, Reston, between Glade Drive and Lawyers Road. Listen for nature's sounds and discover who is making them through stories, songs and fun activities; all ages. \$6-\$8. Reservations required by July 22 at 703-476-9689 and press 5.

## SATURDAY/JULY 26-THURSDAY/AUG. 14

**To the Beach.** 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Hunters Woods Exhibit, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Come see acrylic paintings by Karen Pida. 703-476-4500.

## SATURDAY/JULY 26

**Nature's Symphony.** 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Play a game of name-that-sound, go on a sound walk listening for bees buzzing and birds calling while collecting natural sound makers; ages 3 to 5. \$7-\$9. Reservations required by July 23 at 703-476-9689 and press 5.

### Family Fun Entertainment Series at Reston Town Square Park.

10-10:45 a.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Come see bagpiper Robert Mitchell for music and fun featuring the Great Highland Bagpipes, Small Pipes, Percussion and more. 703-579-6720.

### Cine Classics at Bow Tie Cinemas.

11 a.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Classic films back on the big screen. 703-464-0816.

### Reston Concerts on the Town Series – Incendio.

7:30-10 p.m. Reston Town Center Pavillion, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Spanish guitar, flamenco and Latin fusion. 703-579-6720.

## SUNDAY/JULY 27

### Exercise Series with Athleta and Reston Town Center.

10 a.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Enjoy various fitness classes including yoga, pilates, self-defense, cardio and core strength. 703.668.0256.

### Sunday Bourbon and Blues Brunch at McCormick and Schmick's.

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. A southern-inspired bourbon brunch featuring live blues music performed by local artists. 703-787-7766.

### Cine Classics at Bow Tie Cinemas.

11 a.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Classic films back on the big screen. 703-464-0816.

## MONDAY/JULY 28-AUG. 25

### Oil Paintings by Morgan Johnson Norwood.

9 a.m.-9 p.m. Jo Ann Rose Gallery, 1609 Washington Plaza N, Reston. A contemporary artist, Morgan Johnson creates paintings that evoke images of stones to trees to human cells and nerve endings. 703-476-4500.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

# CALENDAR



View fine art by the 11 artists of Reston Art Gallery & Studios (RAGS) at ArtSpace Herndon from July 29 – Aug. 24.

FROM PAGE 10

p.m. 703-481-8156.

## MONDAY/JULY 28

**Patch Pals.** 10 a.m.-12 p.m. The Dandelion Patch, 1810 Library Street, Reston. Children are invited to write letters to our U.S. Military troops, which will be distributed through AMillionThanks.Org. Please RSVP to 703-689-2240.

**Diggers.** 2:30 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Tracey Eldridge presents this interactive musical celebration of the creatures who sleep under our feet. All Ages. Sign up each child and adult separately. 703-689-2700.

## TUESDAY/JULY 29- SUNDAY/AUG. 24

**Riches from RAGS Exhibit.** ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Fine art by the 11 artists of Reston Art Gallery & Studios (RAGS). www.artspace.org.

## WEDNESDAY/JULY 30

**Whale of a Tale.** 7 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Family stories of our gentle giant friends of the deep. All ages. 703-689-2700.

**Wednesdays at the Opera in HD Series at Bow Tie Cinemas.** 7 p.m. Bow Tie Cinemas, 11940 Market Street, Reston. Giacomo Puccini's "Manon Lescaut" is presented by The Royal Opera. 703-464-0816.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 2

**Family Fun Entertainment Series at Reston Town Square Park.** 10-10:45 a.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Come for Tracey Eldridge's Music and Motion, interactive games teaching kids about sharing, teamwork, leadership and compromise. 703-579-6720.

**Cine Classics at Bow Tie Cinemas.** 11 a.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Classic films back on the big screen. 703-464-0816.

**Reston Concerts on the Town Series - Jeffery Broussard & the Creole Cowboys.** 7:30-10 p.m. Reston Town Center Pavillion, 11900 Market Street, Reston. It's a jambalaya from the bayou with Louisiana zydeco, high-energy blues. 703-579-6720.

## SUNDAY/AUG. 3-WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 3

**"Past and Present" Reston Art Gallery and Studios Exhibit.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Reston Art Gallery & Studios, 11400 Washington Plaza, Reston. Come meet the artist at the opening reception August 3 from 2-4

## SUNDAY/AUG. 3

**Exercise Series with Athleta and Reston Town Center.** 10 a.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Enjoy various fitness classes including yoga, pilates, self-defense, cardio and core strength. 703-668-0256.

**Sunday Bourbon and Blues Brunch at McCormick and Schmick's.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. A southern-inspired bourbon brunch featuring live blues music performed by local artists. 703-787-7766.

**Cine Classics at Bow Tie Cinemas.** 11 a.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Classic films back on the big screen. 703-464-0816.

## MONDAY/AUG. 4

**RCO Summer Reading Sessions.** 7:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. Sunset Hills Montessori School, 11180 Ridge Heights Road, Reston. Wondering what it would be like to play with the Reston Community Orchestra? Looking for a chance to play between seasons or semesters? Is that musical instrument collecting dust but keeps calling you back? Come out and play! See why Reston loves its symphony orchestra. All classical musicians are welcome at RCO's Open Rehearsals. \$10 adults, \$5 students. Sign up at HYPERLINK "http://restoncommunityorchestra.org/free-concert-series/open-rehearsals/" http://restoncommunityorchestra.org/free-concert-series/open-rehearsals/.

**Mr. Knick Knack! Children's Performance.** 10:30-11:15 a.m. Reston Town Center Pavillion, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Unique, heart-centered music for kids! 703-579-6720.

## FRIDAY/AUG. 8

**Darden Purcell.** 8 p.m. NextStop Theatre Company, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Dr. Purcell is a Northern Virginia based jazz vocalist. \$20/25. nextstoptheatre.org or 866-811-4111.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 9

**Keri Staley.** 8 p.m. NextStop Theatre Company, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. A Herndon Native and current Fairfax County High School Choral Director Keri has graced stages up and down the east coast fronting big bands, as a featured back up vocalist and leading lady. NextStop presents her solo cabaret premier! \$20/25. nextstoptheatre.org or 866-811-4111.

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# SPORTS

## Langley Grad Collier to Play Basketball at Denison University

**Q&A: Collier enjoys listening to Nas, watching Will Ferrell movies.**

**A**s a senior, Garrett Collier was an all-region wide receiver on the highest-scoring offense in Langley football history. He was also a defensive back and an all-conference kick returner and punt returner. A broken collar bone knocked him out of the final game of the season, but Collier played a significant role in helping the Saxons finish 9-3, including a playoff victory over Battlefield.

While Collier had a strong senior season on the football field, his future is on the hardwood. An all-conference basketball player at Langley, Collier signed to play hoops at Denison University in Granville, Ohio. Collier, a three-year varsity football and basketball player at Langley before his 2014 graduation, recently participated in a Q and A via email with The Connection.

❖ **Connection: What made Denison University the right fit for you?**

**Collier:** I developed a solid relationship with the coaching staff, it had the perfect balance of strong academics and social life, a beautiful campus, and I just felt at home when I visited.

❖ **Connection: What is your major?**

**Collier:** Economics.

❖ **Connection: At what age did you start playing basketball? When did you realize playing college basketball was a possibility for you?**

**Collier:** As early as I can remember. From a very early age, I always wanted to play college sports, I just wasn't sure if it would be basketball or football.

❖ **Connection: You were also a standout football player at Langley. Did you give any thought to playing football in college? If so, when did you make the choice between football and basketball?**

**Collier:** I didn't expect to have the [senior] season I had in football, so I didn't give much thought to playing in college. By the time I received interest, I had already committed to Denison.

❖ **Connection: You broke your collar bone during football season, correct? In which game did you break it?**

**Collier:** I broke it during our regional quarterfinal game against Stonewall Jackson.

❖ **Connection: How long were you out? How difficult was it to miss time?**

**Collier:** I had surgery a couple days after the game, and was out for about six weeks. I missed the first 10 games of basketball, which was difficult for the team because we were so young. The slow start hurt some of the younger players' confidence, and I believe that was a big reason we weren't able to be as successful as we wanted to.

❖ **Connection: What is your favorite memory of playing high school basketball? What is your favorite football memory?**

**Collier:** My entire junior year basketball season was one great memory in itself. I could say the same about this past football season, but I'd say



CONNECTION FILE PHOTO

**Garrett Collier (22) was a standout on the basketball and football teams at Langley.**

getting revenge on Chantilly and smashing cross-town rival McLean.

❖ **Connection: If you could go back and change one thing about your high school athletic career, what would it be?**

**Collier:** I wouldn't have let [Wakefield's] Re'Quan Hopson shoot the buzzer-beater 3-pointer that knocked us out of regionals [in 2013].

❖ **Connection: What are you most looking forward to about the transition from high school to college?**

**Collier:** The step up in competition and the freedom of living on your own.

❖ **Connection: Who is your favorite music artist? Why?**

**Collier:** Nas. No explanation needed. The Rolling Stones are also a favorite.

❖ **Connection: What is your favorite movie?**

**Collier:** 'Pineapple Express,' any Will Ferrell movie and 'Django Unchained.'

❖ **Connection: Do you play video games? If so, which one is your favorite?**

**Collier:** FIFA is life.

❖ **Connection: What is your favorite hobby outside of basketball and football?**

**Collier:** I love to golf and just hang out with friends.

❖ **Connection: What location is the farthest you have traveled from the Washington, D.C. metro area?**

**Collier:** Russia.

❖ **Connection: Are you a pro sports fan? If so, who are your favorite teams?**

**Collier:** All D.C. sports teams. HTTR.

— JON ROETMAN



PHOTOS BY RSTA

### Final Regular-Season Meet

**Lake Audubon's Bryce Onozuka and Newbridge's Grant Tremaine compete in the boys' 15-18 butterfly during the final RSTA regular-season meet of the season on July 19.**



**Ellie Crump (Lake Audubon) and Martha Carro (Newbridge) swim in the girls' 15-18 backstroke on July 19.**



**Kaliyana Haering (Lake Audubon), Megan Slater (Newbridge), and Taylor Panneck (Newbridge) swim in the girls' 11-12 breaststroke on July 19.**



**Bridget Brennan competes during the final RSTA regular-season meet on July 19.**

# NEWS Reading

FROM PAGE 2

ing the school year,” stated Mary Mulrenan, marketing director for Fairfax County Public Library. In addition to rewards for reading, the local libraries have organized a number of free events for children to attend, many of which focus on a reading theme.

**EVENTS** at the Reston Regional Library include a musical event by Tracey Eldridge for preschoolers and children on Monday July 28 at 2:30 p.m. On July 30 at 7 p.m. there will be a reading of family stories on whales. Reston Regional Library will hold a children and teens used book sale at the library from Aug. 21-24.

“I think there are a few more readers this year, but that may be because there are more people in the community,” said Herndon Fortnightly Library assistant branch manager Tommie Cason. “The reason we have this program is to keep kids reading throughout the summer,” said Mary Dunn, a library information assistant who previously taught at Fairfax County Public Schools. Some upcoming events at the Herndon li-



**Reston Regional Library's children's reading section at 11925 Bowman Towne Drive in Reston.**

brary include a Children's Science Center, which will be held on July 30 at 11 a.m. The Children's Science Center will conduct hands-on, science-based activities on animals, creative engineering and forensic science.

“We are happy to say we have lots of kids participating,” said Jen C. Morton, the children's library at Herndon Fortnightly Library. Some popular books at the Herndon library have included “The One and Only Ivan” by Katherine Applegate and “The Fault in Our Stars” by author John Green. “The kids are reading what they enjoy,” said Morton.

“There is still a lot of summer left, we have lots of programs and prizes and we encourage students and kids to come into the libraries and continue reading through the end of the summer,” said Katie Strotman. The FCPL's service area spans both the county and Fairfax City, serving nearly half a million registered users. The library system is the largest in Virginia in terms of population served. Fairfax County library has been celebrating its 75th anniversary this year with events held throughout the year.

Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/srp/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/srp/).

## Nieman Promoted to Litigation Manager

National workplace law firm Jackson Lewis P.C. has announced that shareholder Matthew F. Nieman has been elevated to Litigation Manager of the firm's Washington, D.C. Region office, which is located in Reston.

Nieman represents employers in a broad spectrum of labor and employment law matters, including discrimination, wage and hour, questions related to the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act of 1994 (“USERRA”), and workplace drug-testing issues.

Prior to entering private practice, Mr. Nieman was in public service as an active-duty U.S. Army Judge Advocate (“JAG”) at Fort Benning, Ga. and at Camp Liberty, Baghdad, Iraq. Nieman received a Bachelor of Science in Industrial & Labor Relations from Cornell University in 1998, along with a commission as a Distinguished Military Graduate of the U.S.

Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps. After clerking for the Williamsburg/James City County, Virginia Common-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Matthew F. Nieman**

wealth Attorney's Office throughout law school, he earned his Juris Doctor degree from the William & Mary School of Law in 2001.

Nieman is a member of the state and federal bars of Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, and the Courts of Appeal for the First, Fourth, and D.C. Circuits. He is the immediate past President and Legislative Liaison of the Dulles Chapter of the Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM) and a member of the Board of the Cornell Club of Washington.

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## A Battle— Hopefully Not to the Premature Death

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



One of my ongoing major concerns is the origin of the miscellaneous symptoms I irregularly experience. Obviously I don't want to think they're cancer-related, so assessing them becomes minding what potentially matters. Moreover, since I don't want to believe the cancer is actually harming me, convincing myself that what I feel might be important to share with my oncologist is almost a fool's errand. Though I've been in this situation going on nearly five and one half years now, I am still stubborn and stupid about my reality. And though I further realize that pretending doesn't work, and denial is hard to maintain when you receive chemotherapy every three weeks, still, accepting the various symptoms as cancer has been too scary for me to consider; so I haven't/don't.

Perhaps it's the treatment (I tell myself constantly), and the cumulative effect on my body of non-stop chemotherapy every three weeks for five-plus years, save for a year when I was able to take a "targeted therapy" pill, Tarceva, at home every day, that is manifesting itself? As I may have joked, being a cancer patient is all it's cracked up to be. In one delivery system or another, I have been receiving treatment for almost 64 months. It seems only logical that my body would at some juncture begin to feel the effects from that kind of long-term exposure, though my lab work doesn't necessarily reflect it, other than for the kidney and liver issues with which you regular readers are familiar. I would imagine there has to be some wear-and-tear-type fatigue. I mean, 64 months of fairly toxic materials swirling around in your blood system and interacting with all your organs; not exactly a recipe for normalcy. It can't be one big happy family in there, if you know what I mean. There has to be some disagreements. So far, however, apparently not; at least as indicated by my labs and scans, which if certain levels changed would likely warrant a retreat of some kind.

Perhaps what I feel is simply my age. How would I know? I've never been this age before; but certainly it's possible, maybe even probable. For all I know, this is what age 60 feels like. Maybe all that I feel – and all that I worry about – is simply the aging process, and this allows me to rationalize away my worst fears. Or, and this is the worst-case scenario, the age symptoms could be masking the cancer symptoms, and yours truly continuing to do nothing about either is way past pretending and denying; it's almost irresponsible, and disrespectful even, to the efforts being made – by myself and others, to keep me alive. After all, keeping a stage IV, non small cell lung cancer/terminal patient alive for as long as I've survived doesn't exactly happen by accident. Stage IV lung cancer is a killer, almost always, and one's amazing good fortune shouldn't be taken for granted.

Shouldn't I be paying closer attention here? If I feel something, shouldn't I allow my oncologist the opportunity to evaluate me? Who am I, a writer/salesperson, to determine what is medically significant (cancer-related), and what is not (age-related)? As I've said a hundred times in my life, I know about two things: sports and chocolate, neither of which has much to do with cancer and its treatment. Concerning science and medicine, I know very little. Usually at least, I know enough to follow directions. Therefore, if I've been told to do something (by my doctor/health care team), maybe it's time I did. It's likely to be important living forward, especially considering I've reached an age no one expected me to be.

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

## BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com) by the Friday prior to the following week's paper.

### THURSDAY/JULY 24

**ESL for Advanced Students.** 10 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Conversational group. Adults. 703-689-2700.

**ESL Pronunciation and Speaking for Intermediate Students.** 1 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Adults. 703-689-2700.

### FRIDAY/JULY 25

**ESL for Beginners.** 10 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Conversational group. Adults. 703-689-2700.

**Let's Talk - ESL for Intermediate Students.**

11 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Conversational group. Adults. 703-689-2700.

### MONDAY/JULY 28

**ESL for Intermediate Students.** 10 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Conversational group. Adults. 703-689-2700.

**ESL for Intermediate Students.** 11 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Conversational group. Adults. 703-689-2700.

**NOVA Blood Drive.** 12 p.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center Street, Herndon. Make a lifesaving appointment today. <http://www.inova.org>. 1-866-BLOODSAVES.

**ESL for Intermediate Students.** 4:30 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Conversational group. Adults. 703-689-2700.

### TUESDAY/JULY 29

**ESL for Beginners.** 10 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Conversational group. Adults. 703-689-2700.

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## SPECIAL PULLOUT TAB

# Community & Newcomers Guide

## August 27, 2014

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Solomon Dixon and Alycia Adams rehearse a dance at the Herndon High auditorium. Choreography plays a big part in the August production of the musical "Hello Dolly!"



PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN / THE CONNECTION

Rising Herndon High junior Nathan Burns rehearses with Courtney Leipertz who has the role of Dolly Levi. The production dates of the "Hello Dolly!" musical are Aug. 1, 2, and 3 at Herndon High.

# Herndon High Presents 'Hello Dolly!'

Musical performances set for Aug. 1, 2 and 3.

BY RYAN DUNN  
THE CONNECTION

The first week of August the Grand Musical Theatre Experience returns to Herndon High School with a production of the musical "Hello Dolly!" Last year, the production was of "Bye Bye Birdie." To promote the production, members of the cast sang several songs during an intermission at Herndon Friday Night Live on July 18. Directing the production is Herndon High drama teacher Zoë Dillard. The Grand attracts students from schools across the area, ranging from rising seventh graders to recent high school graduates.

Dana Van Slyke is musical director for this production, with her husband Jim Van Slyke directing the concert musicians. Dana Van Slyke works at Herndon High as the school choral director. Launched in 2009, Herndon High School's Grand Summer Theatre has auditions in May and rehearsals begin in July. Camp day typically runs Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., and includes sessions in acting, dance/movement and singing.

"This is my first time doing 'Hello Dolly!'" said Dana Van Slyke. "It is a wonderful classic and one of the fun things are the big music numbers which include the whole crew." In addition to a cast of over 50 persons, there will be a full pit orchestra of Herndon High students and adult community members. "We have a great cast," said Solomon Dixon who graduated this year from Herndon High. "Everybody is perfect for the parts they have. I am excited to be part of this." Dixon intends to study performing arts at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Choreography plays a big part in this production. For two weeks Colby Dezelick planned out the cho-

reography moves with the cast. "Colby was in the first Grand Summer Theatre production," said Dillard. "It is exciting to see kids who were in this program when it began now participating as staff." Helping with the dance moves is rising senior at Chantilly High Alycia Adams. "I help people remember the dance steps," said Adams.

The story of "Hello Dolly!" is a meddlesome widow who strives to bring romance to several couples and herself in 1890s New York City. Cast as antagonist Horace Vandergelder is rising Herndon senior Drew Lytle. "Horace's way of life has made him a bitter old man who does not believe in love," said Lytle. "This production puts him in situations where there is room for a lot of comic relief."

Playing Dolly Levi is Courtney Leipertz. "The musical is about a woman who is struggling to be the person she used to be," said Leipertz. A recent graduate from Freedom High School in South Riding, Leipertz intends to study music education at James Madison University. Playing Ermengarde is Allie Lytle, a rising freshman at Herndon High. "I think it is a great musical and I believe as a cast we will definitely be able to put on a great show," said Lytle. "The musical is more of a comedic drama, you will definitely be laughing during this show."

Cast as Cornelius Hackl is rising Herndon High junior Nathan Burns. "I am really enjoying this role because of the new challenges it brings as a singer," said Burns. "When we are all on stage it looks amazing... also the younger kids make the production so much more fun for the energy they bring to the stage."

"I love working with the students and with Mrs. Van Slyke," said Ms. Dillard. "She is a musical surgeon and always does such a great job. I have really enjoyed collaborating with her."

Performances of "Hello Dolly!" will be Aug. 1 and 2 at 7:30 p.m. and Aug. 3 at 2 p.m. at the Herndon High auditorium. For more information on Herndon High drama and the summer theatre production visit [www.herndondrama.org](http://www.herndondrama.org).



PHOTO BY REENA SINGH / THE CONNECTION

The town preservationist position on Historic Preservation Review Board will give advice on how to complete projects within the historic district.

## Town Preservationist Wanted in Herndon

Position has been vacant for most of the year.

BY REENA SINGH  
THE CONNECTION

A seat on the town's Heritage Preservation Review Board has been vacant for most of the year.

The town is seeking a historic preservationist with three to five years of education and experience as soon as possible to give advice on preserving Herndon's small town charm.

"It's always the hardest position to fill," said town Development Program Planner Ray Ocel.

He said it's the only position on the board that can be filled by a person outside of Herndon. To qualify, he said, the applicant should have both work experience and education in fields like architectural history, art history or preservation. Someone with an educational background is preferable, said town planner Bryce Perry, because the position will be to provide advice to the town on zoning issues within the historic area.

"It's not a big part of the town, but it's the downtown area and several of the older neighborhoods," he said.

In total, the HPRB is in charge of the zoning for approximately

200 properties within Herndon, he said.

The last two big projects approved by the board include replacing the downtown fire station and a 17-lot single family subdivision that is currently under construction.

"They review a number of single family homes as well," said Ocel.

The last historic preservationist, Kirstin Falk, left because she moved out of the area, he said, and served the position for years. A term for a resident is three years while the term for a nonresident is one year.

"We'd like to fill the position as soon as possible," said Ocel. "It's a seven member board, and we have six members serving now. Fortunately, right now, we don't have any big projects, so we have some time."

Board members are paid \$100 per month.

The person appointed is obligated only to the time during HPRB meetings, but Perry said more time to gather information and ask questions about the properties are welcome.

"The time commitment is minimal, but they are committed to two meetings a month," he said.

Applications can be found online at <http://herndon-va.gov/> or at the town clerk's office located at the Herndon Municipal Center. For more information about the position, contact the town clerk at 703-435-6804.



# PET CONNECTION

## Dog Training With Heart

**DogBedienc**e uses positive reinforcement to form good habits.

BY REENA SINGH  
THE CONNECTION

**B**odie spends Friday evening wandering in and out of stores at Reston Town Center, padding his way around iPods and dusting the walls with his fluffy tail.

The 5-month-old Bernese Mountain Dog was undergoing an obedience training session from DogBedienc trainer Michael Peer, a police officer that turned his passion for dogs into a part-time job.

In the past three years, he has professionally trained more than 1,000 dogs - and that's outside of the 30 years he has owned dogs and 8 years he's trained police dogs.

"I just do it so often that I know what the dog needs," said Peer, of Reston. "My goal, obviously, is to have the owner be able to handle a dog better."

Bodie, the black, brown and white fluffball, was not a hard-to-handle type of dog. As he trotted on the sidewalk, he elicited coos from pedestrians both young and old. However, Peer said over the years, he has gotten calls from people hoping to correct their dog's aggressive behavior. He has been bitten several times, including once on the stomach. He does not let aggression deter him from his work, however. He uses a trail mix-like bag of treats to win over the trust of the dog, then uses the treats to reinforce positive behavior while ignoring negative behavior.

Peer said his training technique is different because he does not use prong, shock or choke collars, which he said could create a more aggressive dog if used incorrectly.

"I handle the dog first, then I let the owner use the techniques to handle their dog," he said. "Half of what I do is build up the confidence of the owner. I get so many, you wouldn't believe, that are just shaking in their boots."

Bodie's owner, Irelynn Legler, said the family had a Bernese Mountain Dog who recently passed away. They chose the breed because they are good family dogs, but knew Bodie would get a lot bigger, a lot stronger, and possible a lot more stubborn with age.

"I wouldn't necessarily say there are corrections needed," said Irelynn, Herndon. "We have three young boys and want them to be able to walk him as well."

Her husband, Brian, talked about the last dog's training experience.

**"My goal, obviously, is to have the owner be able to handle a dog better."**

— Michael Peer

"We did dog training for the last one as well," he said. "We did group classes and it was a horrible idea. We did one-on-one sessions after that."

Michael gets a lot of dogs that previously had group obedience classes, which he said are distracting.

The first session is usually a 2 hour session at the owner's home, but later sessions can be out in public depending on the dog's needs. He employs the help of his 15-year-old son Brett and right-hand dog Rogue to help with behavioral issues. No matter what age, says Brett, "old dogs can learn new tricks."

To find out more about DogBedienc, visit <http://www.dogbedienc.com> or call 571-437-4200.



PHOTOS BY REENA SINGH/ THE CONNECTION

**Trainer Michael Peer shows dog owner Irelynn Legler, Herndon, how to walk her dog to keep control and keep the dog relaxed.**



**Bodie, a 5-month-old Bernese Mountain dog, stops before crossing the street.**



**Trainer Michael Peer shows dog owner Irelynn Legler, Herndon, how to use treats to get her dog comfortable with different surfaces.**

Reston  
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Patrick of Reston, has been coming to the dog park since it opened 13 years ago.



PHOTOS BY CAROLINE BURR/THE CONNECTION

## Enjoying Summer at Reston's Dog Park

Restonians and their dogs socialize at one of Reston's many community facilities.

BY CAROLINE BURR  
THE CONNECTION

Not even the hot summer weather can keep dogs and their owners from frequenting Reston's Baron Cameron Dog Park. While many make the trip to the Reston's only open-air, off-leash dog park a handful of times a year, many others make it part of their daily routine. While the Fairfax County Park Authority has always welcomed leashed dogs in its parks, the Baron Cameron Park has given dogs an opportunity to enjoy free play and interaction within a designated fenced in area for both large and small dogs since September 2001.

Dog park visitors bring their dogs at their own risk and a sign posted reminds them it is important to keep dog barking under control. Patrick of Reston has been coming to the park since it opened 11 years ago. Years ago there were people who monitored the park and "gave gentle reminders," he said. The culture since then has been established,



Sign welcomes dog owners to the Reston's Baron Cameron Dog Park.

and "if you couldn't get your dog under control, you were expected to leave," said Patrick.

With recent concerns from homeowners along Wiehle Avenue who are not happy with the noise the dog park brings, some dog owners question how much noise can really be heard over Wiehle Avenue traffic. Some asked to what degree homeowners could distinguish the source of noise. Karen of Sterling expressed that "sometimes dogs bark a little louder, but overall, some owners need to be more on top of their dogs." Karen said she comes to the park about three times a week, which is important to her because people need to exercise their dogs.

SEE FRIENDS, PAGE 3



PHOTOS BY JOAN BRADY/JOANBRADYPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Baby photos of future assistance dogs

## Puppies Destined for Important Work

Red, donated and/or rescued for assistance dog training by paws4people.org, these "baby pictures" will be shared with the children and veterans matched with each dog.

But until then, the puppies will receive comprehensive training. Training begins at the Training Center in Wilmington, Del. The specific training is proprietary, but includes learning how to navigate different surfaces and challenges and how to handle stress. At around 6 weeks, they curl up in a transport van and make the drive to the Puppy Development Center, currently in Georgia. There, they continue with socialization training as they work students who are autistic at the Lionheart school, with both puppies and students getting more comfortable with new situations and people.

At 16 weeks, they pile back into the van and are met by inmate trainers at Lakin Correctional, in West Virginia. It is here that the core of "command set" training happens. Each dog will learn 110 commands before being matched with a "client."



After 12 - 15 months of socialization and command training, they will each be matched with either a child or a veteran. From that point, the puppies will be trained specifically to meet their new "handler's" needs.

During that specialized training, the dogs remain in prison. These pictures will help the newly matched children and adults get through that initial separation.

Read more about paws4people assistance dogs at [joanbradyphoto.wordpress.com](http://joanbradyphoto.wordpress.com)

— JOAN BRADY

*Joan Brady is a professional photographer; mentor and advocate for current and former foster children; volunteer with paws4People, Fairfax Families4Kids, and others; and a resident of Great Falls. Reach her at [joan@joanbradyphotography.com](mailto:joan@joanbradyphotography.com)*



Joan Brady and the paws4people puppy named JOAN

# PET CONNECTION



Three dogs playing in the off-leash, open-air dog park.



Stella of Herndon frequents the dog park to visit her dog friends.

PHOTOS BY CAROLINE BURR/THE CONNECTION



Geoff of Great Falls, former resident of Reston, comes back to the Reston dog park even after moving to Great Falls.

## Making Friends at the Dog Park

FROM PAGE 2

Geoff, former Reston resident, who previously lived on the athletic field side of Baron Cameron Park now lives in Great Falls. He noted the diversity of the people who come to the park and described the off-leash dog park as something of which people of Reston are proud. "This kind of facility is very Restonian," he said. "Reston is very community ori-

ented... and the dog park is a good mixing ground for all types of people with a shared interest." A popular hotspot for dog owners of Reston and other neighboring communities, people find the time to socialize in an environment that brings all types of people together who have one broad similarity. Patrick of Reston remembers people who have even started relationships at the park, and even a "couple of marriages that have definitely started" there.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Sharon Bulova with her cats. 'Animals add so much to your life!' - Bulova says.

## Becoming Best Friends

Frodo and Sam have become best friends - sort of. My husband and I adopted Frodo from Home Alone Cat Rescue several years ago. He is part Maine Coon and part American Bobtail, with a funny short tail. He may have been mistreated by a previous owner because he is afraid of everything, especially ceiling fans. He quickly became comfortable in our home as an "only cat".

We adopted "Sam" in September of 2012. She was an adorable tabby kitten, part of a feral litter living outside of a restaurant in Washington D.C. Lee District School Board Member Tammy Kaufax and her two high school aged kids, Halle and Matthew, were fostering the litter as part of a school project.

Tammy showed me a photo of the kittens in August of 2012 during the Springfield Bridge Walk and I fell in love with the smallest kitten with tiger markings. As soon as Sam had gained enough weight to be adopted we brought her home as a companion for Frodo.

It took a few weeks for the two cats to get used to each other, but now they play together and chase each other around all the time. They are so cute together, especially when Sam hides behind the bedroom door and ambushes Frodo when he walks into the room. Animals add so much to your life!

— SHARON BULOVA, CHAIRMAN,  
FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



### A Good Citizen

Abby is an 8-year-old Sheltie, an AKC Therapy Dog and Canine Good Citizen, who lives in Great Falls with Kathi and Dan Baker. Abby loves people and most of all visiting with residents at the Sunrise Assisted Living in Reston. Abby and Kathi volunteer there with Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc. It is the highlight of her week to go and check on all her friends.



**Magic and his sister, Nell in “Dad’s” chair. They are part of the Linda and Don Rutledge family in Reston.**

**This cute Pomeranian, named Lexi, is the unofficial mascot of the Spirit Open Equestrian Program. When not at Spirit, Lexi is the treasured companion of Dada Suvak, of Reston, the executive director of Spirit. Lexi is shown with her friend Elizabeth at Frying Pan Farm Park in Herndon.**



## Meet Joey

Meet Joey, our 17-year-old Maine Coon cat. We adopted Joey several years ago from a family with young children and we like to think that we are Joey’s retirement home. We offer him a safe, quiet living environment and enjoy spoiling him rottenly. He is an indoor cat, but does like to go out on our porch to get some sun from time to time. He also likes to lie on tissue paper, and explore new boxes. Joey’s favorite toy is a tennis ball.

— HEATHER GOLDEN,  
HERNDON



**Joey and Heather Golden of Herndon.**



**Lauren, of Reston, with her dog, Fresco, going for a ride.**

## Fresco, a Great Fit

Fresco was adopted from the SPCA of Northern VA in April of 2012. He was a gentle old soul and came and sat next to us at the adoption fair. My daughter looked at one of the staff members after we filled out an application and said, “I Love Fresco.” The couple behind us were placing an application on Fresco also and

said, ‘How can we compete with that and withdrew their application.’ Even at almost 6 years old at the time he showed us he was no old man. Loves to go on walks, run in the ocean and loves his people. Fresco has been a great fit for our family!

— MELISSA, RESTON



**Lauren, Roger and Melissa, of Reston, with their dog, Fresco.**



**Shannen Prindle, of Oak Hill, and her friend Riga Sargent with pet Shamrock at the Outer Banks.**