

EASTER FUN

PAGE 8



# Oak Hill Herndon CONNECTION

## Easter Egg Hunting At Herndon Pool

EASTER FUN, PAGE 8

**Aqua Egg Hunt, produced by Herndon Parks and Recreation at the Herndon Community Center pool Saturday, April 8, drew 104 children as young as two years of age plus their family members.**

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Welcoming Japanese  
At Fox Mill Elementary

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**NEWS**



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALISON MALZAHN

Mrs. Frost's fifth grade students were thrilled to get a group photo with Japanese teen group Jr. Exile.

**Fox Mill Elementary Welcomes Jr. Exile Japanese Group**

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

The children at Fox Mill Elementary School enjoyed a special treat on the last day of classes before Spring Break – not one, but two performances by teenage singing and dancing group Jr. Exile, then a visit by the 8-member troupe to several of the classes after their last show in the school's gymnasium.

The name "Jr. Exile" really describes these talented and energetic young men, all between the ages of 14 and 18. They are all winners of a thousands-strong audition in their native Japan that saw them win the opportunity to live in New York for three and a half years while they studied all aspects of their craft and learned English, as well. But their good fortune also meant that they had to leave family and friends behind during that time.

"We are kind of like exiles," said band member Ayumu Imazu. "We only get to see our families one time a year, but it has been really worth it. We are so grateful."

So why is a Japanese boy band playing at an elementary school in Herndon? Because Fox Mill Elementary has long been known for its signature Japanese immersion program. Students enrolled in the immersion program learn several of their core subjects in both English and Japanese, and everyone at the school has embraced Japanese culture and traditions.

Fox Mill Japanese immersion teacher Noriko Otsuka Vankeuren initiated the event. A grant from the JCAW Foundation (the nonprofit offshoot of the Japanese Commerce Association of Washington, D.C.) made it possible for Jr. Exile to add the school to its itinerary while they were in the area to perform at the Cherry Blossom Festival and other events.

Jr. Exile seemed especially touched when they were greeted with homemade Japanese meals provided by several mothers of Fox Mill youngsters.

Fox Mill students also honored their visitors by putting on a show of their own.

Then it was back to a few more numbers from Jr. Exile that left the young audience clamouring for more when it was all over.

Once the autographs were signed and the group pictures taken, Jr. Exile visited first, fourth and fifth



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Japanese teen group Jr. Exile wows the kids at Fox Mill ES, where a Japanese immersion program made the visit even more exciting for the students.



A team of Fox Mill boys thanks Jr. Exile by showing off their dance moves. The girls also honored their visitors with a dance routine.

grade classes for more interaction, some more Japanese conversation, and a lot more photos. They received welcome notes and other mementos, made especially for them, and expressed their appreciation for the warm welcome and the opportunity to feel a taste of home in the unlikeliest of places.

Then it was back to a few more numbers from Jr. Exile that left the young audience clamouring for more when it was all over.

"This was the best," said one young Fox Mill gentleman, as he asked to have his tennis shoe autographed by a Jr. Exile member. "This is like Japanese in real life."

He has Risen indeed!



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Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable.

## New Fairfax County Fire Station on Spring Street



April 6, 2017

Game On in Herndon

TOWN OF  
Herndon

Mayor of Herndon Lisa C. Merkel cited many of the town's recent and imminent development projects at Game On in Herndon by NAIOP. Among the construction projects mentioned was the town's new Fairfax County Fire Station located in downtown Herndon.

# Game On in Herndon

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

Nearly two hundred local chapter members of the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP) had the opportunity to hear first-hand accounts of current development projects in the Town of Herndon and Greater Herndon on Thurs. April 6.

The Town of Herndon and Greater Herndon are located minutes between two big market drivers, Dulles Airport and Reston Town Center. Through a panel discussion, key players and speakers — Lisa Merkel, Mayor, Town of Herndon, John Klinke, VP, Stream Realty Partners, LP, Shane Murphy, Partner, ReedSmith LLP, Jeff Tarae, Managing Director, Newmark Grubb Knight Frank and Zach Wade, Principal, MRP Realty — presented updates on current and future activities in the Herndon area. Michael Kitchen, Vice President, Land Development Division, Christopher Consultants, moderated.

Merkel described the Town of Herndon as an authentic small town with a real sense of place, one where the historic downtown is activity central. "If there's something for families, it's downtown," Merkel said. As she cited highlights of the town's recent and imminent development projects, Merkel described a picture of a town stepping into an even more vibrant life.

The first mentioned was the recently opened Fairfax County \$15 million Herndon Fire Station. Next were the downtown urban townhouses Junction Square by Tradition Home, which are nearly sold out, and their street-level retail establishments under construction and offer now.

MERKEL spoke about a critical project in the downtown, final negotiations between the town and Comstock Partners, as Comstock stands poised to begin a major five-acre commercial and residential downtown redevelopment project. The project plans include 280 luxury rental units, 18,000 square-foot of retail space, an 18,000 square-foot arts center, public plazas, art walk and a 771-space public/private parking garage. Merkel described the Comstock project as "the number one priority."

Klinke from Stream Realty Partners told the audience what a great experience it has been transforming the 30-year old Atrium building located at 381 Elden Street in the Town of Herndon into an exceptional space. According to Klinke, the \$5 million renovation has attracted two tenants already, a Fortune 500 company and Fairfax Family Practice Centers. With its 60-person conference room, fitness facility, new facades, atrium space with cafe-style seating and collaboration areas Klinke said, "Tenants can see the value in operating in a good space."

Shane Murphy from ReedSmith reviewed Herndon's development activity. "I've seen a lot of changes in the last 30 years," Murphy said. "Herndon has come into its own. Much of the downtown was destroyed in a fire in the 1920s, and we are filling in the gaps." Referencing Evergreene Homes, Doll Homes and Mitchell Builders, Murphy said Herndon's infill single lot development is very respectful and looks different than others in Northern Virginia. Murphy added he had high praise for Stanley Martin Homes Metro Square conversions of two over two stacked townhouses.

As for future opportunities in the town, Murphy mentioned that when the Tortilla

## Herndon Metro Promenade



IMAGES COURTESY OF TOWN OF HERNDON

The Herndon Transit-Oriented Core (HTOC) is within the town limits at the Herndon Metro Station. Shane Murphy, Partner ReedSmith LLP said they worked to make the proposed design of the Herndon Metro Promenade a pedestrian experience, one that promoted urbanism and flexibility of use.

## Update on development in Herndon and Greater Herndon presented at meeting of NAIOP Northern VA.



PHOTO MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

**Zach Wade, Principal, MRP Realty presented an overview of his firm's development plans for Liberty Park in Greater Herndon.**

Factory located in the Pines Shopping Center closed, vacancies followed. "This will be a redevelopment opportunity in the future for the right price," Murphy said. Murphy cited another opportunity, Horn Motors located across the street from the town-owned land scheduled for redevelopment. Murphy said that the property could be combined with Robert's Carpet that is for sale. "Political leadership will get things done in the next few years," he said.

Jeff Tarae from Newmark Grubb Knight Frank said the toll road area is the most dynamic and active market in Northern Virginia. "A land grab for companies ... Herndon is well-positioned," he said.

Tarae qualified his statement with the company's documentation that showed the number of diminishing large blocks of Class A office space available on the Reston/Herndon Toll Road. The vacancy rate on the

Silver Line Phase 2 in 2014 was 23.7 percent whereas, in 2016, the vacancy rate was lower, 19.70 percent. Also, the average asking price per square foot in 2010 was \$30.27 compared to \$32.29 per square foot in 2016.

Zach Wade of MRP Realty praised Herndon's Mayor and Town Council for their forward thinking. "The future looks bright." Wade described MRP's new project located in Greater Herndon, Liberty Park "It will provide common elements for a community of tenants ... a neighborhood within a building with meeting spaces, lounges and gaming," he said.

JOHN KLINKE, the moderator, brought up the question of parking and the need for walkability. Murphy acknowledged that with Safe Track underway and disrupting Metro service, an increased number of individuals would turn to driving. He expressed thoughts that there may be a need to address that concern with more parking spaces now but added that number should fall later.

Merkel said, "We are mindful of making our town walkable." The town is working with Circulator buses and is willing to "think outside the box" she reported. Murphy added that the W&OD Trail, a paved biking and jogging path that runs directly through the center of Herndon is like a street with its popularity and usage increasing.

Sara Overman attended the program. "I'm very encouraged by the outlook for new and redesign in the Herndon marketplace. I'm excited to see what types of tenants will be attracted. Herndon is already successful, especially with Lisa Merkel's leadership, but I can't wait to see what's coming and be part of it."

# OPINION

## Your Award Winning Papers

**Richmond Times-Dispatch (daily) and the Mount Vernon Gazette/Local Media Connection (non-daily), win the VPA's highest awards.**

Virginia Press Association's highest award, the VPA Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service, went to Local Media Connection/Mount Vernon Gazette for coverage and editorials throughout 2016 relating to police reform in Fairfax County.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch won in the daily category for its series about the death of a mentally ill prisoner, Jamycheal Mitchell, in a Portsmouth Jail.

The judges noted, "The Mount Vernon Gazette covered the complex issue of police reform from February through December 2016, sparked by the shooting of an unarmed man by a Fairfax County police officer. ... The Gazette focused community attention on the case, particularly on the efforts of citizens and representatives of law enforcement agencies working together on reforming police practice. This led to the creation and implementation of a Civilian Review Panel to provide oversight of police policy, procedures and activities. ... The approach of the Gazette in this matter provides a good illustration of the positive role a community newspaper can play when it takes an activist approach to issues of importance to its readers." Editor Mary Kimm and reporter Tim Peterson accepted the award.

Virginia Press Association honored its 2016 award winners on Saturday, April 8, 2017 in Richmond at its annual dinner. The Connection papers, including the Alexandria Gazette Packet, garnered more than 35 awards in many categories, including investigative reporting, education coverage, headline writing, photography, column writing, sports writing, obitu-



PHOTO BY ROBIN MOGLE

**Local Media Connection writers and photographers won 37 Virginia Press Association awards for work in 2016, including the Virginia Press Association Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service. Pictured here from left, John Bordner, Mark Mogle, Mary Kimm, Shirley Ruhe, Tim Peterson, Vernon Miles, Eden Brown, Andrea Worker and Jeanne Theismann.**

aries, environmental writing, food writing, graphics, and more.

Shirley Ruhe was the top award winner, earning seven different awards including two first place awards, one for investigative reporter for her series on sex trafficking.

Other first place award winners include photographer Mark Mogle, who also won two first places; Bonnie Hobbs for General News for her coverage of the rise and fall of the mayor of the City of Fairfax; Eden Brown for Education writing; Tim Peterson for Public Safety writ-

ing and for Sports writing; Joan Brady for Feature Series on foster care alumni success stories; Jeanne Theismann for headline writing; Alexandra Greeley for food writing. Steven Mauren, editor-in-chief, won first place for Editorial Pages in Alexandria Gazette Packet, along with Mary Kimm, cartoonist Steve Artley, and designers Geovani Flores and Laurence Foong.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## 2016 Virginia Award Winners

- ❖ Virginia Press Association Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service, the association's highest award, went to **Local Media Connection/Mount Vernon Gazette** for coverage and editorials relating to police reform in Fairfax County.
- ❖ **Shirley Ruhe**, 1st Place, In-Depth or Investigative Reporting, Arlington, Investigative Series-Sex Trafficking
- ❖ **Mark Mogle**, 1st Place, General News Photo, Wreaths Across America, Arlington Connection
- ❖ **Eden Brown**, 1st Place, Education Writing, Arlington Connection
- ❖ **Shirley Ruhe**, 1st Place, Column Writing, People at Work, Alexandria Gazette Packet,
- ❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, 1st Place, Headline Writing, Alexandria Gazette Packet
- ❖ **Steven Mauren, Mary Kimm, Steve Artley, Geovani Flores and Laurence Foong**, 1st Place, Editorial Pages, Alexandria Gazette Packet
- ❖ **Mark Mogle**, 1st Place, Picture Story or Essay, "Plaid Tidings," Alexandria Gazette Packet
- ❖ **Tim Peterson**, 1st Place, Public Safety Writing, Burke Connection
- ❖ **Bonnie Hobbs**, 1st Place, General News Writing, Fairfax Mayor Caught in Sex-for-Meth Sting, Fairfax Connection
- ❖ **Joan Brady**, 1st Place, Feature Series or Continuing Story, Great Falls Connection,
- ❖ **Alexandra Greeley**, 1st Place, Personal Service Writing, Food Features, Great Falls Connection
- ❖ **Tim Peterson**, 1st Place, Sports Writing Portfolio, Springfield Connection
- ❖ **John Bordner**, 2nd Place, General News Photo,

- Kluge Farewell, Alexandria Gazette Packet
- ❖ **Shirley Ruhe**, 2nd Place, Feature Series, Homelessness, Arlington Connection
- ❖ **Kemal Kurspahic and Staff**, 2nd Place, General Makeup, Fairfax Connection
- ❖ **Marilyn Campbell**, 2nd Place, Personal Service Writing, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
- ❖ **Jon Roetman**, 2nd Place, Sports Writing Portfolio, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
- ❖ **Shirley Ruhe**, 2nd Place, Column Writing, In the Kitchen, Mount Vernon Gazette
- ❖ **Jean Card, Laurence Foong, Renee Ruggles**, 2nd Place, Informational Graphics, Guide to the Parks, Fairfax Station Connection
- ❖ **Shirley Ruhe**, 2nd Place, Personality or Portrait Photo, Vienna-Oakton Connection
- ❖ **Ken Moore**, 2nd Place, Health, Science & Environmental Writing, Great Falls Connection
- ❖ **Kemal Kurspahic, Andrea Worker, Donald Sweig, Ken Moore, Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong**, 3rd Place, Front Page Design, Reston Connection
- ❖ **Shirley Ruhe**, 3rd Place, Personal Service Writing, Arlington Connection
- ❖ **Steven Mauren, Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong**, 3rd Place, General Makeup, Arlington Connection
- ❖ **Shirley Ruhe**, 3rd Place, General News Photo, Arlington Connection
- ❖ **Eden Brown**, 3rd Place, General News Writing, Arlington Connection
- ❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, 3rd Place, Personal Service Writing, Obituaries, Alexandria Gazette Packet
- ❖ **Steve Artley**, 3rd Place, Illustrations, Editorial



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES

**Mary Kimm and Tim Peterson accepted the Virginia Press Association Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service.**

- Cartoon, Alexandria Gazette Packet
- ❖ **Vernon Miles**, 3rd Place, Feature Writing Portfolio, Alexandria Gazette Packet
- ❖ **Jon Roetman**, 3rd Place, Sports Writing Portfolio, McLean Connection
- ❖ **Jean Card, Laurence Foong, Renee Ruggles**, 3rd Place, Informational Graphics, Guide to the Parks, Mount Vernon Gazette
- ❖ **Tim Peterson**, 3rd Place, General News Writing, Mount Vernon Gazette
- ❖ **Laurence Foong**, 3rd Place, Informational Graphics, Real Estate Map, Great Falls
- ❖ **Mary Kimm**, 3rd Place, Editorial Writing, Great Falls Connection
- ❖ **Ken Moore**, 3rd Place, Education Writing, Great Falls Connection
- ❖ **Ken Moore**, 3rd Place, Feature Writing Portfolio, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection

Oak Hill & Herndon  
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# County Ready to Implement Next Phase of Diversion First

BY SUPERVISOR JOHN C. COOK  
(R-BRADDOCK DISTRICT)



COMMENTARY

**F**airfax County continues to make substantial progress on a program called “Diversion First.” This program provides treatment instead of incarceration for people with mental health issues or developmental disabilities who come into contact with law enforcement for low-level offenses. With Diversion First, an officer can identify a suspect as needing supportive services, and can bring him or her to the Community Services Board (CSB) instead of making an arrest. Instead of making an arrest, officers bringing low-level offenders to the CSB saves the County money, time, and resources. Last year, 375 people were diverted from arrest into treatment- which represents a huge accomplishment. This is not the only opportunity for diversion, however. The County is now pursuing the next phase of the Diversion First program, with a focus on making diversions after this initial contact with law enforcement.

Imagine you or I were arrested for a low-level crime, such as trespassing or disorderly conduct, on a Saturday night. We may be held until Monday or Tuesday. We could then probably post a bond for a few hundred dollars and be released. People with mental illness or developmental disabilities, however, often have troubled employment histories, and do not have that money. They are often detained for months awaiting trial.

During this time, the County is paying approximately \$200 per day to hold them, all while their mental state is deteriorating. By their next hearing date, these individuals have often spent as much or more time in jail awaiting their day in court than if they had been found guilty of the original charges, resulting in a release based on “time served.” They leave in a worse condition than when they entered. Eighty percent of the time, they will repeat their criminal behavior.

Diversion First breaks this cycle. It pro-

vides judges with a treatment alternative at the bonding hearing, when the judge can offer “supervised release” instead of bail. Supervised release requires mandatory treatment, with supervision by a trained probation officer. The person gets treatment and can recover. Then they can be released from criminal charges later if treatment is successful.

Studies show this treatment alternative can reduce the reoccurrence of criminal activity to as low as 20 percent. That means a 60 percent reduction in crime (from 80 percent to 20) from this population. Literally hundreds of crimes can be prevented each year. With jail costing around \$200 per day, and treatment only a few thousand dollars per year, over time the County will save significant funds.

This program is a win-win. Treatment improves lives. Crime will be reduced. Taxpayers will save long-term money. We must continue the progress of Diversion First by implementing these new avenues for diversion. This will allow the County to direct resources more efficiently, allow the Police to save time, and help people with disabilities improve their lives.

LETTERS

## Offended by ‘Snide Remarks’

To the Editor:

I am offended by the continual snide remarks in his column made by John Lovaas about President Trump. You are supposed to be a community newspaper – not a political rag – unless I am mistaken. I would like you to find one of your publications that made a similar nasty comment about former President Obama. If you can, then I will back off. If you can’t, then I rest my case. You are not being fair and balanced.

**Lynn Pacenta**  
Reston, VA

## Who Needs to Apologize?

To the Editor:

On March 22, the Virginia Republican Party made it their business to demand an apology from AG Mark Herring for attending a town hall at a Falls Church Mosque. They are following the campaign strategy of Donald Trump — empowering hate and intolerance in Northern Virginia.

And it seems to be working. Since March 22, three separate hate incidents occurred here in Northern Virginia. A home was ransacked and a Koran was vandalized. In another instance someone spray painted swastikas on a building, and in a park, boulders were defaced with derogatory graffiti and words.

It is not Herring who needs to apologize – it is the Virginia Republican Party who owe us an apology and to change their campaign strategy from fear and loathing to one with positive ideas to improve Virginia and the lives of Virginians.

**Diana Smith**  
Reston

# Sense of Impending Changes

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



COMMENTARY

**N**early two hours of the eight-and-a-half-hour reconvened session of the House of Delegates of the General Assembly were taken up last week by speeches from retiring members and acknowledgement speeches by others about their service and achievement. The length of the tribute time was driven in large part by the fact that eight members, all of whom are Republicans, are retiring. Heading the list is the Speaker of the House followed by a senior member who chairs the important Courts Committee. For some like the Speaker the longevity of service was a key factor. Others cited family and financial concerns. Another one or two may re-appear running for another office. Legislative service that is considered part time with a low level of remuneration but takes full time commitment always has some turnover, but the number this year is significant.

Another factor that may have influenced some decisions is the sense of changing political winds in the Commonwealth.

Never in my years of service have I gotten as many phone calls, postcards and emails as I have this year. Traditional groups have gotten re-energized, and many new groups have formed. Activism is in the air. For me, it has been reassuring. As a progressive, I feel less like I am speaking into the wind and more like there is a force of people behind me. For years I worked on the redistricting issue almost alone and now thousands of people are contacting their legislators asking that they support redistricting reform. The public has become keenly aware of the adverse impact that gerrymandering has had on the legislature.

The signs of change were evident in the reconvened session last week. While the House of Delegates did not respond favorably to my plea that we approve an amendment by the Governor to expand Medicaid, there was discussion by majority party leaders in the House and Senate that a new group is going to be looking at how medical services can be expanded to the poorest in our state. I continue to be

amazed at the argument that leaving \$40 billion on the table in federal dollars could somehow be considered “fiscally responsible.”

The majority party may have felt somewhat humbled by the fact that the legislature upheld 40 vetoes of bills by the Governor extending the record of his administration to 111 with none being over-ridden. Of course, a two-thirds vote is required, but in the House only a couple of deflections by Democrats would have made an override possible. The vetoes by Governor McAuliffe have kept Virginia out of the news with crazy legislation that has passed in other states.

Certainly there is also an eye to November with 77 Democrats lining up to challenge 49 Republican incumbents. As that number is reduced by primaries and conventions, it leaves hotly contested races that could dramatically change who is in charge in the House and/or the attitude of those left in charge. Democrats have challengers to incumbents in the 17 districts held by Republicans that were won by Hillary Clinton. For those who continue to ask what they can do, there is a clear sense emerging that much can be done this year to put Virginia on a more progressive track.

## Write

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

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# HomeLifeStyle

**Remodeler David Foster (left) talks with a homeowner browsing in the recently-opened Design and Selection Center, which is holding an Open House on April 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Open House will feature three seminars, access to representatives from major home improvement product manufacturers, a raffle and chef-prepared hors d'oeuvres.**



**Major vendors and manufacturers participating in the Design Center have increased substantially. Options for cabinet facings, plumbing fixtures, surface materials, tile and flooring are part of the permanent display. Foster designers are regularly exposed to new products and materials.**

## Design Center Educates Homeowners with Remodeling Plans

**Open House, April 22, will feature three seminars, industry experts and new showroom.**

BY JOHN BYRD

**F**oster Remodeling Solutions will launch its new 3,270-square-foot Home Design and Selection Center in Lorton with an open house on Saturday, April 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The event will include seminars on a variety of topics ranging from kitchen and bath design to "How to Plan a Successful Remodeling," to steps entailed in introducing "Aging-in-Place" modifications into the home. Seminar presenters are recognized experts in their respective specialties. Representatives from top manufacturers will also be on hand to answer questions about specific products, appliances and emerging technologies. Several manufacturers also will be contributing new products as raffle items.

Visitors can arrive as early as 10 a.m. and browse the newly-expanded Design and Selection Center. Chef-prepared hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served



**Three full-size kitchen displays are now on view in the Lorton showroom. The 3,270 square foot Lorton showroom is one of the largest home improvement product expositions in northern Virginia.**

throughout the day.

There will be several full-sized kitchen and bathroom designs on view, vignettes featuring cabinets, vanities, flooring and lighting, even a full-sized outdoor courtyard which spotlights break-through materials and styles being applied to roofing and siding.

"Our goal is to make it easy for attendees to find answers to an array of home improvement questions in a single day," said David Foster, who has operated Foster Remodeling Solution for over 34 years. "We encourage attendees to come prepared with ques-

tions, drawings and photos, and to bring interested friends and neighbors. All of the offerings are free and open to the public."

### Design and Selection

There are three design consultation rooms that allow homeowners to review in-progress design details of a home improvement on a flat screen television.

"Home improvement is a very dynamic industry," Foster said. "You have to stay ahead of changing technologies and evolving practices. We're expanding methods for



**A home laundry with mudroom features has proven popular in northern Virginia homes.**

PHOTOS BY SUZY FOSTER

bringing ideas to homeowners that have already proven successful. ... This Open House will be more of an exposition than we've offered in the past; we're building on what we've learned about local homeowner interests."

The three one-hour seminars will be held at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. so that interested parties can attend all three without conflict.

❖ Design consultant Sean McLarty, a veteran remodeler with 33 years of professional experience, will provide tips on "Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling" at 11 a.m.;

❖ Dory Clemens, a space planning specialist, will conduct a seminar at 1 p.m. on "Aging-In-Place" applications. The session will focus how to assess which modifications to your home are most appropriate for near-term and foreseeable needs;

❖ At 3 p.m., Chris Arnold, whose 25 years of remodeling experience embraces every facet of the industry, will discuss "How to Plan a Successful Remodel," including best options for financing a project.

Interested parties can register for the show room opening and for individual seminars online at [www.fosterremodeling.com](http://www.fosterremodeling.com), or by calling 703-350-1371.

*John Byrd (byrdmatx@gmail.com) has been writing about home improvement for 30 years.*

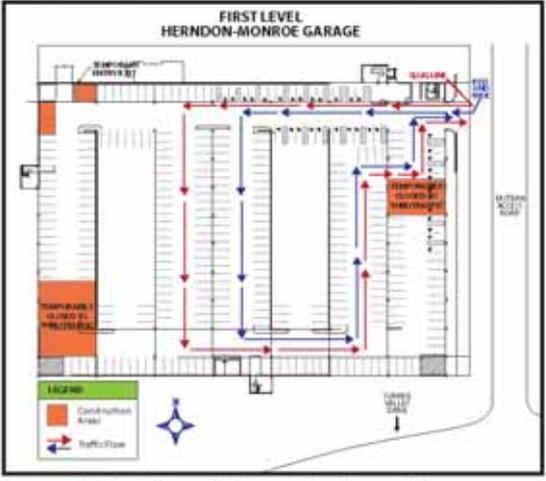


**The April 22 event will feature three seminars: Kitchen and Bath Design, Aging-in-Place Strategies for the Home and How to Plan a Successful Remodel.**



**Herndon-Monroe Garage Service Announcement**  
**Portions of Garage Closed**  
**Approximately April 17-June 9, 2017**

Portions of Herndon-Monroe Garage will be closed beginning approximately April 17. Construction work will be occurring in multiple locations on the first floor. This work will be scheduled to avoid the morning and afternoon rush hours. Exercise caution when entering and exiting the garage, and watch for new traffic patterns.



**FIRST LEVEL HERNDON-MONROE GARAGE**

For more information on this project, please visit:  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot) or call 703-877-5600, TTY 711

Portions of the garage will be closed from April 17 to June 9.

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## Herndon-Monroe Garage Service Announcement

Effective Monday, April 17, multiple areas on the first floor of the Herndon-Monroe Garage will temporarily close to through traffic, resulting in new traffic patterns for slug line and kiss and ride users. The effort is part of the county's preparation for Metro's Silver Line Phase II expansion. Construction is scheduled to conclude by June 9.

In a separate effort, the elevator at Herndon-Monroe Parking Garage will be out of service April 24-27 to install new doors.

The Fairfax County Department of Transportation advises patrons to use caution during construction and be on the lookout for new traffic patterns to ensure safety for all this spring.

## Arts Herndon Wins Grant

BY FALLON FORBUSH  
 THE CONNECTION

The Herndon Town Council awarded a \$5,000 grant to Arts Herndon on Tuesday, March 28.

The money was given to the town by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and its Local Government Challenge Grants Program. Through the program, the commission will match up to \$5,000 of funds given by independent town, city and county governments to arts organizations.

"The one stipulation that we always want to make sure we follow is the requirement to award equal amounts of money to arts organizations in the community through our fiscal 2018 budget process," Cindy Roeder, the town of Herndon's director of Parks and Recreation, said during the council meeting.

This means Bill Ashton, Herndon's acting town manager, will be allocating a total of \$10,000 to nonprofit organizations for arts activities in his proposed fiscal year 2018 budget.

The grant was unanimously approved by the council with two abstentions.

Councilmember Grace Wolf Cunningham is an unpaid commissioner for the Virginia Commission for the Arts and Councilmember Signe Friedrichs is executive director of Arts Herndon.

They both disqualified themselves from discussing and voting on the matter because of these conflicts.

While the town council is undecided on how the other \$5,000 of grant monies will be allocated, it will hold two public hearings on next year's budget on Tuesday, April 11, and Tuesday, April 25, both at 7 p.m. in the Herndon Council Chambers.



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# Easter Egg Hunting At Herndon Pool

Children swim and dive for eggs during the Aqua Egg Hunt produced by Herndon Parks and Recreation Department.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

It seems there's an elusive Easter Bunny on the loose and he has a great sense of humor. On Sat., April 8, lifeguards at the Herndon Community Center pool once again found hundreds of brightly colored plastic eggs left in the staff office. The eggs have appeared there regularly for the past six years, so the Community Center was prepared.

Weeks before, the Herndon Parks and Recreation Department that operates the community center and pool had opened registration for an Aqua Egg Hunt, meaning "water egg hunt". Children were invited to register for the event and join other children in their age group for an egg hunt at the indoor pool.

Before the start of the event, parents and children shared why they came. Vita Alhambra brought her son Kendal, 5. "We came this year because we did it last year and we had a blast." When asked how many eggs he'd get, Kendal said, "Twenty eggs. Maybe more."

Ryan MacMichael and his wife Huyen brought their two children, Ramsey, almost 5, and Rasine, 10. Huyen said that the reason they came is that they like sensory exploration experiences that combine motor skill development with curiosity. The fam-

ily had never been at the community center before and had heard about the Aqua Egg Hunt through Dulles Mom's Club.

As the children and parents or guardians gathered on the pool deck, Kerstin Severin, Aquatic Service Manager Town of Herndon, explained how the event would work. There'd be two types of plastic eggs that went into the pool, ones that float and ones that sink. There would be nothing inside the eggs because food cannot be consumed in the pool or on the pool deck. Each child would receive a mesh collection bag. The child could be accompanied in the water by a parent or if needed, a lifeguard if the parent did not want to go in the water or the child needed special assistance. The kids would swim and if they wished, dive to collect as many plastic eggs as possible in the time allowed. When the time was up, the children would exchange the eggs for a goodie bag.

By late afternoon 104 children, ages two through sixteen, had participated in the event. As the last group finished, the pool opened to all participants and their families for a recreational swim until 6 p.m.

To learn more about upcoming events offered by Town of Herndon Parks and Recreation including the annual Easter Egg Hunt, scheduled rain or shine, Sat. April 15, beginning at 9:30a at 777 Lynn Street, visit [www.herndon-va.gov](http://www.herndon-va.gov).



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

**Mary Severin, a swim instructor at the Herndon Community Center pool, gives Neil Chawat his bag of treats after he completed the Aqua Egg Hunt. Inside were toys and nut free sweets.**



**Quinn Schupp, 4, shows off the bag of eggs she retrieved at the Aqua Egg Hunt held at the Herndon Community Center pool.**



**Ayu Kiti Pulavati, 3, needed arm floaties to keep her swimming away and gathering plastic eggs at the Aqua Egg Hunt. While some of eggs were weighted and sank to the pool floor, many eggs floated on the top of the water for the younger children to grab.**



**Although this was Johnathan Vilpros', 2, first time in the water, he fearlessly plucked a sack full of plastic eggs out of the pool while swimming away with Dad at the Aqua Egg Hunt. Johnathan agreed to dump his bounty in the basket in exchange for receiving a treat bag.**

# CALENDAR

Send announcements to [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## ONGOING

**“First Blooms” Art Show.** through April 30 at Reston Art Gallery Studios, Lake Anne Village Center, 11400 Washington Plaza W # B, Reston. Dorothy Donahey presents her latest works in the show “First Blooms.” Visit [www.restonartgallery.com/](http://www.restonartgallery.com/) for more.

**Lake Anne Exhibit.** Deadline is June 2 to enter photographs for the Lake Anne show. The exhibit runs from June 5-July 2 and is free and open to the public 9 a.m.-8 p.m. throughout the week at the JoAnne Rose Gallery, Reston Community Center at Lake Anne, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Visit [www.leagueofrestonartists.org](http://www.leagueofrestonartists.org) for more.

**All-comers’ Group Fun Run at Potomac River Running.** Tuesdays and Thursdays. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. For beginners or competitive runners, come out for a fun, low-key run that is safe and social. Call 703-689-0999 [potomacriverrunning.com](http://potomacriverrunning.com).

**Over-40 Softball League.** A Fairfax-based league is looking for enough players to form another team. Players must be at least 40 years of age to be eligible. All games are doubleheaders - played on Sundays at Bready Park in Herndon between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. If interested, email [skeduman@aol.com](mailto:skeduman@aol.com) for more information.

**“A Bird in the Hand”** through spring 2017 Reston Town Square Park, 11990 Market Street, Reston Town Center. See and explore Patrick Dougherty’s monumental public art sculpture made from tree saplings. Presented by GRACE in collaboration with IPAR. 703-471-9242 [restonarts.org](http://restonarts.org)

**Teen and Adult Art Classes**  
**ArtSpace Herndon** Every Monday from 5:30-8:30 p.m. 750 Center Street, Herndon. Drawing and Mixed Media with Melanie Stanley - During Fall and Winter of 2016. Cost: \$45/class. The class will use a variety of techniques for drawing, painting, mark making, and collage using fine arts tools and materials. Students will be taken down a creative path to learn to use drawing tools and brushes more effectively. Register by emailing Melanie, and she will send you the supply list and payment options/information: [ridingfree2@gmail.com](mailto:ridingfree2@gmail.com). 703-956-9560. [www.artspaceherndon.com](http://www.artspaceherndon.com).

## DEADLINE APRIL 15

**Food For Neighbors.** Great Harvest Bread Co. in Herndon will give \$2 to Food For Neighbors for every Honey Bunny purchased to support a program started by Herndon High School parents to distribute food to students in need on Fridays through a Weekend Snack Program. Visit [www.foodforneighbors.org](http://www.foodforneighbors.org) for more.

## APRIL 11-MAY 6

**The Art of Resilience.** 10-noon at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. An exhibit showcasing the artwork of Azriel and Irene Awret. Reception April 29, from 7-9 p.m. Visit [www.artspaceherndon.com](http://www.artspaceherndon.com) or call 703-956-9560 for more.

## THURSDAY/APRIL 13

**Color Me Happy.** 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Turn loose the inner artist in this adult coloring session. Coloring pages, pens and pencils provided. For adults, free. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library)

## EASTER FUN



## Easter Eggs-Stravaganza At Roer’s Zoofari,

**On April 15-16, it’s the Easter Eggs-Stravaganza, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at Roer’s Zoofari, at the corner of Hunter Mill Road and Baron Cameron Drive in Vienna. Egg hunts, safari tours, and more. Participants in the Easter Egg hunt are asked to bring their own basket. Call 607-757-6222, or visit [www.roerszoofari.com](http://www.roerszoofari.com) for more.**

### EASTER EVENTS IN THE AREA

#### FRIDAY/APRIL 14

**Good Friday.** noon-3 p.m. meditations with organ accompaniment; 7:30 p.m. mass at St. John’s Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Call 703-356-4902 or visit [www.stjohnsmclean.org](http://www.stjohnsmclean.org) for more.  
**Good Friday Services.** Noon-3 p.m. at Dranesville Church of the Brethren 11500 Leesburg Pike, Herndon. The service will be the Seven Last Words of Christ featuring six half hour services

with six local clergy. Email Rev. Kelly at [tkelly@stfrancisgreatfalls.org](mailto:tkelly@stfrancisgreatfalls.org) for more.

#### SATURDAY/APRIL 15

**Easter Egg Hunt.** 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Bring a basket and hunt for candy and eggs filled with treats, win door prizes and visit the Easter bunny. \$10. Call 703-324-8569 for more.  
**Egg Hunt.** 9:30 a.m. at 777 Lynn St., Herndon, behind the Herndon



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

## International Easter Banquet Held in Herndon

**At the 2017 International Easter Banquet in Herndon, more 350 adults and 50 children attended from 48 countries. A group from Reston Bible Church prepared Easter eggs and coordinating the egg hunt, ESOL directors from several locations helped with communications, and individuals from the Open Door Presbyterian Church participated as well.**

for more.

#### SATURDAY/APRIL 15

**Egg Hunt.** 9:30 a.m. at 777 Lynn St., Herndon, behind the Herndon Municipal Building. Story readings, coloring mural, tattoo shack, petting zoo, photo-op with Easter Bunny, instrument “Petting Zoo” brought to you by Bach to Rock. \$9 in advance or \$10 at the event. Visit [herndonva.gov/](http://herndonva.gov/) for more.

Locust St., Herndon. Presentations followed by cake and ice cream. Visit [www.fcps.edu/HerndonMS/](http://www.fcps.edu/HerndonMS/) for more.

#### FRIDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 21-23

**Guys and Dolls.** Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m. at Herndon High School Auditorium, 700 Bennett St., Herndon. (Enter the school through Door #6.) Cast and crew from Herndon High put on a musical comedy following a ragtag gambler, his showgirl fiancée, a high-rolling heartthrob, and a modest missionary, as their lives intersect. \$15. Visit [www.herndon-drama.org](http://www.herndon-drama.org) for more.

#### MONDAY/APRIL 17

**Herndon Poetry Group.** 7-8:30 p.m. at the Herndon Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Poetry Planet: A Community Poetry Reading. April is National Poetry Month, join the community to appreciate poetry together. Free. Visit [tinyurl.com/hnqb8n3](http://tinyurl.com/hnqb8n3) to sign up.

#### SATURDAY/APRIL 22

**Spring Fling Vendor Sale.** 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Herndon High School Cafeteria, 700 Bennett St., Herndon. Items for sale include arts & crafts, costume jewelry, clothing, books, cosmetics, household items and more. Call 703-810-2200 for more.  
**Earth Day Gathering.** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Greater Reston Arts Center, Reston Town Center, 12001 Market St #103, Reston. Celebrate Earth Day with free eco-friendly family art making and exploration in the gallery. Families will make art with upcycled and recycled materials, storytelling by Marcia Wines, and refreshments. Free. Visit [www.restontowncenter.com](http://www.restontowncenter.com) for more.

#### THURSDAY/APRIL 20

**Dollars and Sense Discussion.** 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Monthly book group discussion focuses on business leaders and markets. April’s book is “The Everything Store: Jeff Bezos and the Age of Amazon” by Brad Stone. For adults, free. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library) for more.

#### FRIDAY/APRIL 21

**Learning Ally Celebration.** 9-10 a.m. at Herndon Middle School, 901

Municipal Building. Story readings, coloring mural, tattoo shack, petting zoo, photo-op with Easter Bunny, instrument “Petting Zoo” brought to you by Bach to Rock. \$9 in advance or \$10 at the event. Visit [herndonva.gov/](http://herndonva.gov/) for more.

**Holy Saturday Silent Retreat.** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Free. Spend a day in noble silence, meditating and creating a space to be still and listen. Day will be spent alternating between sitting and walking meditation with some

periods of stretching. Only a small fraction of meditation practices will be guided. Call 703-281-1767 or register online at [unitysilentretreat.eventbrite.com](http://unitysilentretreat.eventbrite.com).

#### SUNDAY/APRIL 16

**Easter Sunrise Service.** 6:30 a.m. at Great Falls Park, 9200 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Hosted by Great Falls Area Ministries. Contact Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church 703-759-3509 for more.

**Meet the New Draft Horses.** 1-3 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Welcome Jeff and Charlie, the park’s new team of Belgian Draft horses. Call 703-324-8662 for more.

[www.artspaceherndon.com](http://www.artspaceherndon.com) or call 703-956-9560 for more.

**Love Maria.** 4-8 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Evening includes award nominated film “Woman in Gold.” Gregor Collins, author of “The Accidental Caregiver” will be present to speak about his experiences caring for Maria Altmann and to sign his book, available for purchase. Visit [www.artspaceherndon.com](http://www.artspaceherndon.com) or call 703-956-9560 for more.

#### APRIL 26-30

**Gently Used Books and Media Sale.** 5-8 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. All proceeds go to support the Reston Regional Library and the Fairfax County Public Library system. Visit [www.RestonLibraryFriends.com](http://www.RestonLibraryFriends.com) for more.

#### APRIL 24-JUNE 12

**Women’s Training Program.** 6:30-8 p.m. at South Lakes High School, Seahawks Drive, Reston. Reston Runners Women’s Training Program. Runners, walkers, run/walk intervals and Fresh Start, for women who need a more gentle start to working out. Designed by women for women. \$45. Email [wtp@restonrunners.org](mailto:wtp@restonrunners.org) for more.

#### THURSDAY/APRIL 27

**Family Challah Bake.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Congregation Beth Emeth, 12523 Lawyers Road, Herndon. Evening of challah making, dinner and dancing. Enjoy kosher pizza, salad & dancing while the challah rises. Email [Office@bethemeth.org](mailto:Office@bethemeth.org) or call 703-860-4515x101.

#### TUESDAY/APRIL 25

**Spring Flower Bouquets.** 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. This Tess Rollins workshop will teach participants to brighten up a space with paper flowers and the art of working with paper. A Design and Wine Event. If possible please bring a mini glue gun, otherwise all supplies are provided. \$35. Visit

#### FRIDAY/APRIL 28

**Empty Bowls.** 5:30-8 p.m. at Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon. Food served in a handmade pottery bowl to keep as a reminder that there are those in the community with empty bowls. All proceeds will be donated to “Food for Others,” the largest distributor of free food directly to the hungry in Northern Virginia. \$25 for adults in advance/ \$30 adults at the door/\$15 for children under 12. Visit [www.givingcircleofhope.org](http://www.givingcircleofhope.org) for more.

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-William Van Horne

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-Dagobert Runes

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**21 Announcements**

**ABC LICENSE**  
MRITICOM LLC trading as Pista House, 2316 Hunters Woods Plaza, Reston, VA 20191. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine & Beer/Mixed Beverages Restaurant on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.  
Madhav Voleti (Owner).  
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

Light tomorrow with today!  
-Elizabeth Barret Bowling

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**21 Announcements**

**ABC LICENSE**  
Madanji, LLC trading as Flippin Pizza, 11130 South Lakes Dr, Suite #F, Reston, VA 20191. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Beer on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.  
Pratik Patel, owner  
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

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## Exercising A Demon



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Last night, between 9:30 p.m. and 10:15 p.m., I traveled back in time — without leaving my bedroom and without the use of a Time Machine. I went back approximately 41 years to the fall of '73, to my sophomore year in college at The University of Maryland. A group of us decided to go see one of the most talked about movies of the year: "The Exorcist." Talked about because it was filmed locally here in Georgetown and because it was said to be scary as h---

I believe we saw the movie at the old KB Cinema located on Wisconsin Ave., NW, adjacent to Rodmans. I could be wrong but there's no one to ask, so you'll just have to take my word for it. I remember little else about the evening, other than my return back to my dorm room, #103, at Cumberland Hall in College Park. Though I had a roommate, he had gone home for the weekend so I was all alone. And that is what I remember most, closing the door, shutting off the lights, sitting on my bed and staring into the darkness and seeing Linda Blair's face (from the movie) and being extremely uncomfortable being by myself so soon after having seen the movie. I had a difficult night. I don't remember if I had any nightmares however, but, it was a miserable experience trying to fall asleep. I have not seen "The Exorcist" a second time, in its entirety or in any pieces until last night, despite it being a movie readily available on cable, especially around Halloween.

I would say I saw the last 45 minutes. I saw Linda Blair tied up in her bed. I saw Linda Blair turn her head completely around. I saw projectile vomiting from her mouth. I saw her fiery, yellow eyes and her face all torn up with scars and scabs. I saw her bed shake. I saw her bed levitate. I heard the demon inside her growl, screech, curse and speak backwards and verbally attack all the priests held sacred. I heard the bells chiming in the movie score. I saw plenty but not enough to justify the fear that engulfed me all those many years ago. Having watched the movie again (and having slept peacefully through the evening), it almost feels as if I've survived a rite of passage somehow, faced off against my past and come out reasonably healthy — all things not considered.

Nevertheless, I have no interest in seeing "scary" movies. I guess I don't see the point or rather the point pales in comparison to the fact that I've been diagnosed with cancer: now that's scary. Moreover, having lived over 40 years since having seen "The Exorcist," a few other scary things have happened in life which places a movie in context; it's only celluloid (sort of), it's not real. So I've learned a few things and probably unlearned a lot more. I wouldn't say watching the movie tonight was an epiphany-type moment when the light came on and I realized what I had been missing or perhaps realized what I've been getting. Granted, it's only a movie, and one that's over 40 years old, but it's a movie/experience/ affect that had stuck with me for a long time, and now I'm free of its tentacles.

It reminds of another movie I saw as a young boy, when I was under 10 years old, it scared the h--- out of me and did give me nightmares: "Invaders From Mars," released in 1953. The Martians landed in a field just within view from a little boy's bedroom window in his family's farmhouse. I remember his wide eyes at seeing the light off in the distance. I remember the music. I remember the Martians having a device that made the ground disappear and then reform. I remember the Martian leader's head being carried around in a goldfish-type bowl of something. I don't remember the plot. I just remember being frightened. It wasn't until "The Exorcist" 15 or so years later that I had been similarly scared. And it wasn't until 35 years after seeing "The Exorcist" when I was once again so scared that I had trouble sleeping, and had nightmares, and experienced everything else associated with fear that your life may actually be coming to an end: my non-small cell lung cancer diagnosis in late February 2009. Having survived more than a few years now past my original "13 month to two-year" prognosis, maybe I am ready to go see another scary movie? After all, I could probably use the diversion.

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

## THEATRE PREVIEW



PHOTO BY JEFF THOMAS/COURTESY OF RESTON COMMUNITY CENTER

Reed Martin, Teddy Spencer and Austin Tichenor in Reduced Shakespeare Company "William Shakespeare's Long Lost First Play (abridged)."

## Healing Power of Laughter

Reduced Shakespeare Company returning to Reston. Where and When

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

A three decade love affair between Reston and the internationally renowned Reduced Shakespeare Company (RSC) continues. The RSC returns to Reston's CenterStage with its own, very original comic work, "William Shakespeare's Long Lost First Play (abridged)."

"Reston is the RSC's home away from home. We've performed in Reston every year since 1987," said the RSC troupe of actors. "Then in 2014 Reston CenterStage produced the Reduced Shakespeare Company 'Extravaganza' in which we performed seven different RSC shows over two weeks. As a result of all this, we have a strong relationship with Reston audiences and many deep friendships with the staff of Reston CenterStage."

Written and directed by Reed Martin and Austin Tichenor, "William Shakespeare's Long Lost First Play (abridged)" is blended together bits of The Bard's works performed by three actors.

The conceit of the production is that "William Shakespeare's Long Lost First Play (abridged)" was "discovered" in a treasure-filled parking lot in Leicester, England, next to a pile of bones that didn't look particularly important. There it was, an ancient appearing manuscript supposedly written by the than 17-year-old William Shakespeare. It was his first work; long

Reduced Shakespeare Company presents "William Shakespeare's Long Lost First Play (abridged)" at Reston Community Center, CenterStage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Hunters Woods Center, Reston. Performances, Friday, April 21, at 8 p.m. and Saturday, April 22, at 8 p.m. Tickets: Reston \$25/\$50 non-Reston. Call: 703-476-4500 or visit [www.restoncommunitycenter.com](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com). Note: Contains some occasional bawdy language and mild innuendo. RSC gives its show a PG rating.

thought lost.

The comic work lifts off as the tale of an unexpected feud between two of Shakespeare's most precious, jester-like characters, the sprite Puck from "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and Ariel the spirit in "The Tempest." The dispute between Ariel and Puck leads to a wit-filled rivalry with plenty of bedlam. Many characters from other Shakespearean plays will appear and take sides. The dozens of characters are all portrayed by just three actors.

Why did the "Long Lost First Play" need to be "abridged"? In good fun, the RSC troupe indicated that the play was originally 100 hours, but was reduced in size for a 90 minute performance.

CenterStage audience can expect the RSC to break theatrical boundaries to build a personal relationship between performers and audience. At times anything can happen as the actors "talk" directly to the audience and ad lib.

The Reduced Shakespeare Company actors plan to be in the Reston CenterStage lobby after the performance to meet-and-greet the audience. The troupe put it this way; "one of the most satisfying things that happens is when folks tell us that they've had a difficult time lately and that our show has helped them feel better. Laughter is healing."

# The Louder The Better at Percussion Works

Free after school programs at Herndon and Clearview El. Schools: Bucket drumming brings community together.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

Family and friends gathered Friday evening, March 31 at Herndon Elementary School to watch a bucket drumming performance by 50 boys and girls from Clearview and Herndon Elementary Schools. The evening performance was the finale of the students' eight-week after school courses called Percussion Works.

Mathew Foehrkolb sat front and center to watch his daughter Grace, 7, perform. Asked what his reaction was when Grace asked if she could join a drum class, Foehrkolb replied, "My first reaction was to say, not at home, right?" Grace had been in dance before. "She had good rhythm. I thought this might be a good way to get some energy out."

Laura Readyoff is the owner of The Music Loft in Herndon. She developed Percussion Works in 2013. According to Readyoff, after she put her thinking cap on, she spent considerable time trying to come up with a music program that might eventually reach all children in Herndon.

Readyoff had a list of criteria. The program had to incorporate only one form of music. It had to be something all students, including those with special needs and those for whom English is a second language, would be successful doing and enjoy. It had to build life skills such as cooperation, respect for others and the ability to work in a group. It also had to enhance academic performance in the classroom, the development of language and math, as well as fine and gross motor coordination. On



Bucket drummers from Herndon Elementary School perform for family and friends. The program was designed to reach everyone at a universal level. According to Laura Readyoff who founded the program at Herndon and Clearview Schools, percussion is something everyone can participate doing, no matter the educational background or skill set.



The evening performance showcased the bucket drumming skills of children from Clearview Elementary School (pictured above) as well as children from Herndon Elementary School. The after school programs not only taught drumming, but life skills such as respect for others and cooperation.

top of that, there had to be no reading of notes.

Readyoff came up with the idea to promote the art of bucket drumming. The buckets would be inexpensive and they offered a bit of "street credibility."

She offered the course in free afterschool programs funded by a grant from the Nelson J. and Katherine Friant Post Foundation to Arts Herndon.

"Every child can play a bucket with sticks," Readyoff wrote in a press release. "Percussion Works would provide high-caliber learning opportunities and fun for all," she said.

According to Readyoff, initially, the pilot program was only for second and third graders but she had to revise her business plan and extend the program into the upper grades. "The kids didn't want

to give it up. They were heartbroken," Readyoff said.

Brooke Taheri from Clearview can attest to that. Before the performance began, Taheri said, "This is my fourth year in percussion."

"It's about inclusion," Readyoff said. "Students can join at any time."

Readyoff and teacher Kyla Wilcox take 30 children per class. Asked about classroom management for a group of children holding sticks Readyoff said, "For those that need a special outlet to shine, I give them something very specific to do, so they are focused on the task."

During the performance, both schools played on 5-gallon buckets donated by Home Depot. Herndon Elementary School opened with their drumming composition of "Crazy Little Thing Called Love" by Queen. Readyoff conducted. Clearview Elementary performed Bruno Mars' "Uptown Funk," led by Wilcox.

For their finale, Readyoff announced the children were going to teach the audience a "body percussion" song. The children jumped off the stage. Under Readyoff's direction, they rubbed their hands together to make a sandpaper sound. They dragged their shoes over the floor to make a scraping sound and clapped their bodies to create different timbres of sounds. In the end, the parents and children all were laughing.

For more information about After School Bucket Drumming Programs contact Clearview Elementary at [www.fcps.edu/ClearviewES](http://www.fcps.edu/ClearviewES) and Herndon Elementary School at [www.fcps.edu/HerndonES](http://www.fcps.edu/HerndonES).

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



Young and old delighted when the combined bucket drummers' ensembles surprised the crowd and asked them to join them for a 'body percussion' song. The ensembles' families and friends had as much fun as the children.

PHOTOS BY STEPHEN READYOFF

WEEK IN HERNDON

## Empty Bowls Fundraiser Returns April 28

Empty Bowls 10th Anniversary fundraising event will be held on Friday, April 28, 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon. Tickets are \$25 for adults in advance, \$30 adults at the door, \$15 for children under 12.

For a small donation, guests receive a supper of soup, bread, beverage, and dessert, as well as a handmade pottery bowl to keep as a reminder that there are those in the community with empty bowls. There will be entertainment and a raffle with great prizes add fun for the evening.

All proceeds will be donated to Food for Others, the largest distributor of free food directly to the hungry in Northern Virginia.

For more information and to buy tickets online visit [www.givingcircleofhope.org](http://www.givingcircleofhope.org).

### 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.

**HAVEN of Northern Virginia** offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. Contact 703-941-7000 or [www.havenofnova.org](http://www.havenofnova.org) for schedules and registration information.

**The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the Jewish Outreach Institute** offer the Mothers/Parents Circle, an umbrella of free educational events and resources. Jewish rituals, ethics and the creation of a Jewish home, regular meetings and group Shabbats and holidays. Participants include Sha'are Shalom, Congregation Beth Emeth, Temple Rodef Shalom and the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. [ShalomDC.org](http://ShalomDC.org).

**Epiphany United Methodist Preschool**, 1014 Country Club Drive, N.E. in Vienna, is now enrolling 3- to 4-year-old students. 703-938-2391 or [www.epiphanypreschool.com](http://www.epiphanypreschool.com).

**Hope Fellowship Church** will temporarily be meeting at Hyatt Place, 21481 Ridgetop Circle, Sterling. Sunday worship services are Sundays at 9:30 and 10:45 a.m., a Bible Study is on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. and a weekly prayer conference call is Thursdays at 9 p.m. The public is invited to join a Bible believing, multi-ethnic/multi-cultural congregation, with Bible-based sermons and uplifting music. 703-599-3527 or [www.hopefellowshipchurchloudoun.org](http://www.hopefellowshipchurchloudoun.org).

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



Students from Clearview Elementary School perform their bucket drumming compositions for "Can't Stop the Feeling" by Justin Timberlake. It was the same song chosen by Herndon Elementary School students. "It was a teachable moment," Readyoff said. "Two different groups learning the same song came up with two entirely different rhythmic ideas and concepts."

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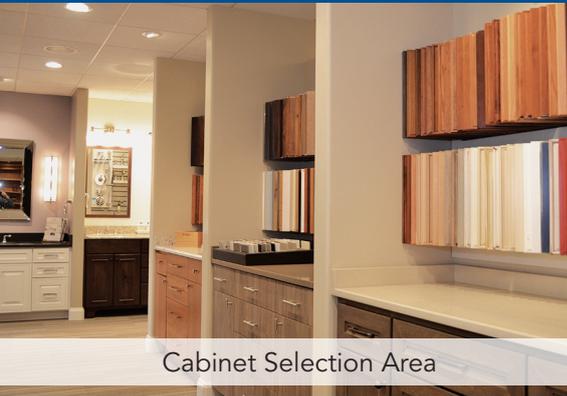
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