Reston-Herndon Little League (RHLL) players march in a parade in Reston Town Center on Saturday, April 22. Pictured here, Coach Brian Dougherty with his team, the AA TAG Muay Thai AL Nationals.

What’s Next for Reston?
Community Outlook, Page 3

‘Private Lives’ at CenterStage
Theatre Preview, Page 12
Hundreds of Reston-Herndon Little League (RHLL) players gathered at Reston Town Center on Saturday morning to celebrate the start of the baseball season. Joined by their coaches, the players wore uniforms provided by the Washington Nationals and were entertained on the parade route down Market Street by two of the Nationals racing presidents — Teddy and Abe. At the end of the parade route, high school players from South Lakes, Herndon, and Madison high schools, many of whom were once RHLL players themselves, greeted the players with high-fives.


South Lakes High School baseball team members came to support Reston-Herndon Little League (RHLL) players.
What’s Next for Reston?

By Fallon Forbush

The Connection

S eptage Study Surfaces

In October 2014, the Fairfax County’s Wastewater Management Program began a Septage Receiving Site Feasibility Study to review the operations of the county’s two septage receiving facilities.

These facilities are used to dispose of septic tank, portable toilet and restaurant grease-trap waste. The study was to assess the future need of the septage receiving program and identify potential sites to replace the facilities serving the northern half of the county, which were aging and becoming obsolete.

The study identified 972 potential sites, but only 76 sites met the team’s minimal stated criteria: a 16-inch sewer line and road access; industrial or commercial zoning or government-owned; greater than 225 feet from the nearest residential parcel; and parcel the size of at least one acre and located outside the floodplain.

However, the county decided not to pursue the construction of a new facility to replace the existing north county site, the Colvin Run Septage Receiving Facility. Instead, the county is permanently closing the facilities serving the northern half of the county.

The high costs of purchasing property and constructing a new facility makes it impractical to recover expenditures through reasonable service fees, according to Supervisor Catherine Hudgins’ office.

The county will continue to rely on alternative disposal options that were instituted during the temporary closure of the Colvin Run Facility, according to Hudgins. These options include the Noman M. Cole Pollution Control Plant, the Upper Occoquan Service Authority facility, and the D.C. Water’s Blue Plains facility.

They have worked effectively and will be able to meet future needs, Hudgins said in a press release.

Reston Community Center Board To Vote On Pool Renovation

The Reston Community Center has been exploring ways to revamp its pool for its community swimmers.

The RCC Finance Committee received a final report from the Hughes Group Architects that examined possible renovation of the Terry L. Smith Aquatics Center during its meeting on Monday, April 17.

“The pool environment is nearly 40 years old,” said Leila Gordon, the community center’s executive director. “We opened in May of 1979.”

It became clear to Gordon and her staff that the cost to maintain the facility over the next two years would be significant. The costs for needed repairs were estimated around $1.2 million, according to Gordon.

“Our pool is not going to be safe pretty soon because all of the systems that it depends on for its public safety and effective operation have aged to the point of their end of useful life,” she said. “Over the next two years, some level of significant capital construction will have to take place at that pool environment.”

Therefore, a conversation with the Reston community about investing in an overhaul and renovation of the pool started in February. Three concepts were originally reviewed.

❖ Concept One: Two bodies of water: One significantly larger pool with lap lanes and another with warmer water for therapy-oriented exercise.

❖ Concept Two: Three bodies of water: Two bodies of water that are similar in size of the center’s existing pool, with an additional third body of water with warmer water for therapy-oriented exercise.

❖ Concept Three: Two bodies of water: Reconfigure and rebuild the center’s existing lap lane pool to separate it into two bodies of water. One would have warmer water for therapy-oriented exercise.

Preliminarily, the Hughes Group estimated costs associated with the first two concepts as being in the $7 to $8 million range and costs associated with the third concept as being in the $3 to $4 million range, according to Gordon.

“We know from years of anecdotal input and feedback, the fact that we just have one body of water now is frustrating across every cohort of swimmer type,” Gordon said.

“We have to set the temperature of this pool at a point that is too warm for people who want a very high-energy or competitive swimming experience and it’s too cool for swimmers who want a more therapeutic, or for the littlest swimmers, just a more comfortable swimming temperature. No one is truly comfortable with the existing temperature.”

Given those factors and budget constraints, the center will be further exploring the third concept. However, a vote of approval is required.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommened that the RCC’s full board pursue the third option. A two-thirds majority of the center’s Board of Governors will be required to allow Gordon to take the steps needed to incorporate costs related to renovation of the pool in its fiscal year 2018 and 2019 budgets and to continue the process of advancing the project.

An approval of the full board would signify the “end of the beginning and beginning of the middle of this process,” Gordon said.

Design considerations and decisions will be handled during regular public meetings of the board in the coming months, according to Gordon.

If the process is put in motion, construction would require approximately nine months of work, with a timeline of closing the pool on June 1, 2018, and re-opening on April 1, 2019.

“We want to time our closed period as closely as possible with the outdoor pool season in Reston,” Gordon said.

The board will vote on whether to continue the process on May 1.

Reston Referendum Will Determine Middle School Renovation

Construction to renovate the Langston Hughes Middle School is planned to begin in 2019, if Restonians vote to approve the work in a bond referendum next year.

“We won’t build it if [the referendum] fails,” said Brad Rauch, an employee of the Fairfax County Public Schools Office of Design and Construction. “We won’t have funding for it.”

Rauch and the Hughes Group Architects presented preliminary designs for the renovation during a community meeting at the school on Thursday, April 20.

“The building is in good shape,” said Aimee Monticchio, the school’s principal. “It just needs a facelift.”

Big plans are in store for the building.

“We’re keeping a lot of the exterior of the building, but the interior is being reconfigured substantially,” said Gavin Myers, a principal of the Hughes Group Architects.

“There’s not much we don’t touch,” Rauch added. “We’re going to replace the flooring, the electrical system, put in a sprinkler system, all new windows, new fresh paint, HVAC. It’s essentially a complete renovation. Everything we touch gets put in brand new.”

Major proposals include:

❖ A new two-story addition with an elevator for the front of the building to house administration offices, a library and science classrooms.
Infant Screening Saves Lives

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

Several weeks ago at the invitation of their leader I spoke to a group of Boy Scouts about government and the responsibilities of citizenship. Talking with me helped the Scouts meet one of their requirements for a merit badge. One of the Scouts asked me about the most important legislation I had ever gotten passed. I told him about multiple issues on which I had worked, but I focused on one that I thought he might know little about but would show the range of issues with which legislators deal. I told him about my work to expand infant screening in the Commonwealth. Prior to my election to office I served on the Fairfax Falls Church Community Services Board. A member of that Board whose adult son was a resident at the Northern Virginia Training Center told me of the great hope there was in detecting health issues in infants at the time of their birth with blood screening. At the time Virginia had only three tests, one of which was for thalassemia. We remembered our conversation after I was elected, and I got new tests added as scientists developed them.

Metabolic disorders that can be discovered from a pin prick of an infant’s heel can lead to early and sometimes simple treatments that can lead to a healthy child and adult. Without treatment numerous medical conditions can develop including severe developmental delays and chronic illnesses. Metabolic disorders affect the chemical processes in your body that must work together correctly for you to stay healthy. I was honored to work on legislation that added most of the 30 tests that are done in Virginia on that same spot of blood from an infant to detect these disorders. Last week I was reminded of the experience that I had working with Dr. Barry Wolf of the then Medical College of Virginia who had discovered that the disorder in which the body is unable to recycle the vitamin biotin can lead to developmental delays in children, hearing and vision loss, breathing problems, and problems with balance and movement. When discovered early such as through a screening test, the disorder can be treated with nutritional supplements that can result in a normal life for the person.

With Dr. Wolf’s research and my legislative proposal, in 1994 Virginia became the first state in this country to begin infant screening for biotinidase deficiency. Since that time every state and many foreign countries have started the screening. The March of Dimes recognized us for that accomplishment. The reminder of this story came from a local doctor in Reston who was a medical student at MCV at the time and knew of Dr. Wolf’s research and my bill. She wrote to us both telling us of a teenage patient she had just met who at birth had been found to have the deficiency but with treatment was living a normal life. She wrote to both of us that “because of researches like you and advocates like you…our world is made a little better for all, and lives are saved for some precious few. That’s something to be proud of.” I hope the Boy Scouts understood why I consider the work on infant screening to be among the most important I have done.
News

Community Outlook

From Page 3

❖ A revamped Hall of Nations to run through the center of the building
❖ Collaborative space and lecture hall with a capacity of 650 chairs
❖ A small kiss and ride addition to the rear of the building that will comply with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act
❖ An outdoor courtyard
❖ Stormwater management upgrades
❖ 60 more parking spaces in the parking lot
❖ A new roof with a Solatube system
❖ All new windows
❖ Expansion of the cafeteria
❖ Expansion of art room

The architects are striving to receive certification from the Collaborative for High Performance Schools, which encourages schools to be built with sustainability standards.

Installing a Solatube system is one way the design is more sustainable than the current building. The tubular devices will be installed throughout the roof to allow natural daylight in. “In the main gym, we’ll have these Solatubes,” said Joe Saunders, a senior associated with the firm. “It will allow us to do what we’re calling daylight harvesting. On a nice great sunny day, we might not even have to have the gym lights on.”

The work will be phased over three years. “Our idea is to build the [new two-story] addition first,” says Rauch. “You’ll have all of that built-in space where it’s basically just a flow chart. Whatever we turn over new to the school, we take inside the building and renovate … Any space that is used every day by every kid, like the gyms and the kitchen and cafeteria, we’ll have to do during the summertime.”
Nursing Camp for High School Students

Campers will get a real-world view of the nursing profession.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

This summer a group of high school students with an interest in health care as a profession will get a chance to experience the real-world work of nurses when they attend a nursing camp at George Mason University.

“Our goal has been to introduce high school students to what nursing is, and what it is not,” said Carol Urban, Ph.D., R.N., associate professor and director, School of Nursing George Mason University. “We find that we have students come to Mason who declare nursing as their major, but have never had any experience with nurses outside of their health care provider’s office or the school nurse. We want to introduce them to nursing as a career, and the many opportunities that exist in nursing beyond working in a hospital.”

The camp will provide small group projects and hands-on simulation to introduce core concepts of nursing. Nursing faculty hope to expose students to the diverse career paths available to those with a degree in nursing.

Urban says that students will be taught healthcare skills, such as how to take a blood pressure and how to check a pulse. “We will provide … time in our nursing simulation laboratory where we have our human simulators,” she said. “(Campers) will have observational experiences in a hospital with nurses and will be given an opportunity to talk with nurses we have on our faculty who have been in unique career fields including a forensics nurse, and a researcher who works globally in sub-Saharan Africa.”

The camp will also expose students to new trends in healthcare. “Healthcare delivery is changing and the camp is exposing the students to the changing healthcare climate,” said Christine M. Coussens, Ph.D., associate dean of Community Engagement in the College of Health and Human Services at George Mason University. “In the newer healthcare models, nurses will have a significant role in how and when healthcare is delivered and they will continue to be leaders for ensuring the health of patients and communities.”

During a typical day at the camp, students will spend several hours in the nursing skills laboratory learning basic skills and techniques. “They may also spend some time in one of our Mason and Partners clinics, learning how nurses care for patients in a clinic setting and how valuable educating patients about their health is to improving their health,” said Urban.

Students will also have an opportunity to engage in a dialogue with nurses to gain insights into real world experience. “They’ll have conversations with nurses about their careers and learning what education and experiences they needed for that kind of a job. For example, what does a forensics nurse do?” asked Urban.

Coussens hopes that students will leave the camp knowing the diversity of options that a degree in nursing can offer. “A degree in nursing opens possibilities for students to work in hospitals, healthcare management positions, policy positions … globally in clinics and with aid organizations, in forensic roles [and] research institutions,” said Coussens. “There are limitless opportunities. A degree in nursing can open doors because of the clinical license and analytical ability.”

Admission to the nursing camp is competitive because of the limited number of available spots.

“We’ve run this camp before and it has been well-received,” said Urban. “Graduates of the camp have said that it really opened their eyes to everything a nurse does, and the great career potential that nurses have. They are amazed at the various opportunities a nurse can have. It also makes them aware that nursing is hard, but rewarding — it isn’t just what you see in the media, it’s real work. But more importantly, they see the passion that nurses have for that work, and the reward of seeing a patient and family member helped by the work that nurses do.”

The camp will run from July 10-14. The cost is $275. For more information, visit chhs.gmu.edu/nursing/camp/index.cfm.

Rock Camp-Learn how to play in a band with like minded musicians in a creative, fast paced, high-energy learning environment. On the final day of camp, record at a professional recording studio in Leesburg! On Aug 17th you will give a live performance on the Herndon town green for Arts Herndon’s Third Thursday’s event!

Mini Camps-Jump start your education on a new instrument or get ahead for the following school year. Classes include, Introduction to violin, viola, cello, Introduction to ukulele, Introduction to guitar, Transition from elementary to middle school strings, Transition from middle school to high school strings.

Private Summer Flex Lessons-Choose 4, 6, or 8 days/times that fit YOUR busy schedule for private lessons. Students that continue with lessons over the summer will not need to “re-learn” the same skills and techniques that they would have otherwise lost during their time off. In fact, most students who study during the summer enjoy substantial gains in their playing ability due to more time and less stress from school.

(703) 956-6563
Fighting Summer Brain Drain

Academic camps keep minds engaged.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

Summer often evokes images of pool splashing and backyard barbequing. For some educators though, warm weather months represent a potential loss of skills acquired during an academic year.

Known as “brain drain,” this concept refers to research that shows that, on average, students lose one to three months of learning when they are not engaged in academic activities during summer months. Academic camps can address this loss of academic skills while allowing children to enjoy summer fun.

“...Students have the opportunity to explore a topic in depth, without juggling competing scholastic demands or intramural activities,” said Dr. Janine Dewitt, professor of sociology at Marymount University in Arlington.

For example, campers at Summertimes Camp at St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School in Alexandria will have an opportunity to choose from a variety of specialized camps ranging from physics and French to zoology and rocket and space science.

“Specialty camps are great ways to try new things, to expand horizons and to challenge yourself,” said Jim Supple, associate dean of students and director of summer programs at St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School. “One of the best things about specialty offerings is that there are so many. Children are naturally curious — specialty camps provide a way for children to learn more about their curiosities and interests.”

Camps at 3E (Explore, Enrich, Enjoy) Summer Camp at Marymount University will explore science through nature and electronic gadgets, mathematics through making boats and geodesic domes, language arts through writing stories, and fine arts through creating dramas and cartoons. The camp will be offered during two sessions: July 10-14 and July 17-21 with half and full day options for students ages 6 to 12.

Ana Lado, Ph.D., camp director and a professor at Marymount, says that the goal is to give students a chance to brush up on, gain or maintain academic skills in a relaxed environment. “Campers will be in small groups with a low camper to counselor ratio and guided by Marymount University Department of Education faculty, students, and alumni,” she said.

“Throughout each week of camp, campers will be able to choose among a variety of projects that pique their interest. Campers will create new social connections, grow academically, and develop physically.”

High school students who want an in-depth study of globalization can attend Marymount’s D.C. Institute from July 9-12. During the camp, named The Global Village, students will live on campus and earn college credit.

“We will talk about how increasing global connections shape our lives today,” said Dewitt. “Students can expect classroom discussions that focus on a series of central questions followed by field trips to area museums and site visits.”

The Heights School in Potomac, Md. will host academic summer camps in science, math, Latin and creative writing. “Parents should approach the choice of camps much in the same way that they approach the choice of schools,” said Rich Moss of The Heights. “It is a mistake to focus on facilities and activities; ethos and values are key.”

For parents concerned about balancing the need to maintain academic skills with the need for downtime, Dewitt says that, “Parents can prevent academic burnout by limiting the number of scheduled activities over the course of the summer, and selecting only those that foster their child’s natural curiosity. Summer courses that allow students the freedom to select different types of learning activities can be both energizing and fun.”
Send entertainment announcements to www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/Artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

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.-6 p.m. through the week at the JoAnne Rose Gallery, Reston Community Center at Lake Anne, 1699 Washington Plaza, Reston. Visit www.iaquaguedreston artist.org for more.

The Art of Resilience. 10-noon on Thursdays through May 11. Reston Middle School, 12001 Market St, Reston. Designed by women for women. $45.

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.Restonlibrary Friends.com for more.

Friday/April 28
Empty Bowls. 5:30-8 p.m. at Floris United Methodist Church , 13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon. Served in a handmade pottery bowl to help you keep 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.givingboxeshouse.org.

Swing Dance Music. 8:30 midnight through 12 midnight at Hilton Washington Dulles Airport, 11869 Park Center Road, Herndon. Swing and romance of the 1950s. $15. Call 703-478-9200 for more.

Saturday/April 29
Spring Fling. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Good Shepherd Episcopal, 2400 Dulles Town Blvd., Herndon. Pony rides, face painting, bouncy castle, ice cream, games, and food. Email HermoNA@goodshepherdicals.com or call 703-653-0377 for more.

SUNDAY/April 30
Art War History. 1-3 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Re-enactors, exhibits and a special guest speaker who focuses on the lives of the common Union and Confederate soldiers who once passed through the area. Call 703-437-9101 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fypspark. for more.

Friday/May 5
Bike Event. 6 p.m. at Trailside Park, 1022 Cvertview Drive. Life is a cycle is a group bike ride that teaches where to bike, commute and the need-to-know essentials of biking for transportation. Registration is $15 before the event, or $5 the day of the ride. Proceeds are donated to the American Heart Association. Visit www.lifecyclebikery.com for more.

Saturday/May 6
Oak Hill Fun Run. 6-10:30 a.m. Oak Hill Elementary School, 3210 Kinnison Circle, Oak Hill. Support the school or earn service hours by running the annual Oak Hill 5K or 5K. Call 703-467-3535 or email OakHilled.Attendance@fcps.edu.

Pet Fiesta. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Reston Town Center. Pet adoption, pet contests and fashion show, exhibitors of pet resources, pet rescue and nonprofit groups. Presented by and benefiting GoodDogz.org. All on-leash pets welcome. Free admission, rain or shine. Visit petfiesta.org for more.

Digital Photography Essentials. 1-5 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. This introductory class is for people with a digital camera who are interested in learning how to successfully use their camera beyond automatic / program modes. Visit www.artspaceherndon.com or call 703-956-9660 for more.

TEDxHerndon Lecture. 2-6 p.m. at Herndon Middle School, 901 Locust St. The theme of this year’s event is “Difficult Conversations.” Visit www.tedxherndon.com for more.

Curator’s Talk. 4 p.m. at the Greater Reston Arts Center, Reston Town Center, 12001 Market St #103, Reston. Curator Holly McCullough talk’s on “Batdul Bailey: The Great Dismal Swamp.” Artwork on view benefiting GoodDogz.org. All on-leash pets welcome. Free admission, rain or shine. Visit petfiesta.org for more.


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Derby for Mental Illness. 5-8:30 p.m. at Hidden Creek Country Club, 1711 Clubhouse Drive, Reston. Guests in their Derby attire will watch the 143rd Run for the Roses, eating hors d'oeuvres, sipping mint juleps, bidding on auction items. The event will support PRS' work that helps individuals and families affected by mental illness in the region recover their lives.$150. Visit www.prsinc.org/raising-the-stakes.

MAY 6-7
Pirate Fest. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sunday at Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. $10.

“Romeo and Juliet.” Various times at Lake Anne Recreation Area, 11301 North Shore Drive, Reston. Produced by AnyStage Theater and performed outdoors. Email anystagetheater@gmail.com for more.

SUNDAY/MAY 7
Artists Reception. 3-7 p.m. at the Reston Community Center in Hunters Woods Village, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Meet artist Norman Krasnegor, and see his art exhibit which will be on display during the month of May. Visit www.redmontart.net/the-collection/.

MAY 9-20
Mind, Heart, Vision Exhibit. Various times at the ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Exhibit showcasing extraordinary artworks of Herndon High School art students embarking upon their senior thesis. Call 703-956-9560 or visit www.artspaceherndon.com for more.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 10
League of Women Voters. 7:30-9 p.m. at Hunter Mill District Community Room B, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. Local LWV members update some long-standing local governance issues. Call 202-263-1311 visit www.lwv-fairfax.org.

MONDAY/MAY 15
Meet the Author. 6 p.m. at Scrawl Books, Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Shirley Melis will discuss her newly published memoir, “Banged-Up Heart: Dancing with Love and Loss.” Visit www.shirleymelis.com for more.

TUESDAY/MAY 16
Religious Freedom Lecture. 1-3 p.m. at Congregation Beth Emet, 12523 Lawyers Road, Herndon. Speaker Bennett Gold will discuss the evolution of religious freedom in the U.S., Jewish Justices, and key related decisions. Adults. Email office@bethemeth.org or call 703-860-4515.

Getting Dirty with Clay. 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Join local ceramic artist, Mercia Hobson, for a night of dirty fun as she guides participants in the fine art of weaving strips of pre-dyed extruded clay over a mold. A Design and Wine Event. Visit www.artspaceherndon.com or call 703-956-9560 for more.
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AMERICAN LOG HOMES IS ASSISTING FINAL RELEASE OF ESTATE & ACCOUNT SETTLEMENT ON HOUSES.

1) Model # 101 Carolina $48,640… BALANCE OWED $17,000
2) Model # 380 Little Rock $39,525… BALANCE OWED $15,000
3) Model # 403 Augusta $44,190… BALANCE OWED $16,590

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**21 Announcements**

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And So It Begins ...

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

The onslaught of radio and television advertising for grass seed and riding mowers. I suppose if I was a responsible homeowner, given the time of the year: spring/April, I might have an interest in such timely offerings. However, since I’m not and since I’m still unable to manage the two acres that I own, affectionately referred to as “Belly Acres,” going on 25 years dating back to May ‘92 when we initially took ownership, the best I can do is borrow my neighbor’s riding mower and spend a couple of hours every two weeks or so to keep the grass below my knees. Cancer issues not totally withstanding.

Actually, aside from having little interest, minimal experience and multiple household maintenance issues (pre-existing conditions), I am the perfect target: a homeowner who can do nothing on his own and needs help all the time for everything. Specifically as it involves my yard, I have grass, trees, bushes, shrubs, daffodils, flower beds, wild flowers, weeds and more. If we were so inclined and wanted to consider purchasing a Lawn & Garden store, I would have to admit that a novice looks experienced compared to me. I need to be taken by the hand—literally—and instructed as if the words being spoken to me were a foreign language. Which of course, they are.

This previous paragraph presumes however that I have a budget and even a passing notion to attempt to improve upon the randomness that characterizes Belly Acres. I can still remember a conversation I had with a local lawn and garden consultant when we first moved in. A gentleman came by and together we walked around the property. After ending up back at the house, he asked me what I wanted to do. I said something like, “I don’t know, you tell me.”

I responded with words I could semi understand but mostly it was unintelligible—to me, so I asked for a clarification.

After grasping the obvious, finally, I asked, “Is that what you’re telling me that I have to hire someone to work for full time for the rest of his life and still the work wouldn’t get done?”

“Yes,” he said.

That’s when I fully understood the problem. I then shared him for his time and he hasn’t revisited the issue since. Talk about pointless. And so, all these years later, the property remains nearly as it was. Oh sure, trees have fallen, branches, limbs, sticks and stones have hit the ground—and house, and together have cluttered up the general appearance. However, any effort beyond paying people to clean up the miscellular yard debris has been lost in the passage of time and in my lack of energy. Tweak in a “terminal” cancer diagnosis and at least for me, pullying weeds, etc., became a fairly low priority.

Still, it doesn’t mean that I don’t pay attention to advertising aimed at homeowners, especially the ones promoting grass seed and riding mowers. Many of which are quite funny and clever. Not quite clever enough to get me off the couch and into a store to spend money on a project, especially one on whose timeline might not match mine. That’s not to say that I’m living like I’m dying so why bother? No. It’s more about common sense and gratification. I don’t need to wait for—anything. Oh sure, I need to plan for tomorrow but not at the expense (pun intended) of today. So not exactly akin to a goal or his money but when you’ve been diagnosed with cancer, priorities change, as do budget/time allowances, in fact, feelings, everything changes.

I don’t mean to imply that I’m a closed book, unable to get out of my own way or incapable of taking the good with the bad. As a regular reader knows, I’m really pretty flexible when it comes to my less than ideal circumstances. Nevertheless, it doesn’t mean that I don’t have my moments. Hearing/seeing these lawn and garden promotions has given me pause though.

Not enough to change my mind but enough to motivate me—to write a column.

Lake Anne Elementary School students form a giant number 50 in the driveway of the school during the Parenting ADHD lecture.

Lake Anne Elementary School Celebrates 50 Years

How many students can say their elementary school principal threw a birthday party for their school?

All of Lake Anne Elementary School’s students can answer enthusiastically that theirs did. Lake Anne’s 50th Anniversary Celebration happened at the school on Friday, April 21.

“We’re calling it the Lake Anne family reunion because we invited everyone to come,” Principal Jill Steward says. “We have all come together to celebrate family and educational excellence. It’s great to have everyone back.”

The festivities included a stage with live entertainment and food trucks. The shirts the parent-teacher association bought for them on the day of the celebration.

Lake Anne Elementary School Principal Jill Steward and the school’s dolphin mascot greet everyone at the front door of the school during the celebration.

John Tozzi, who taught the fifth grade during the 1970s, stands with alumni of the elementary school: Dan D’Alessio ’77, William Frazer ’77, Jimmy Errin ’75; and Paul Williams ’77.

“They were a birthday gift from the PTA,” Steward says. “They were a surprise when they showed up for school today.”

— FALLEN FORBUSH

Reston Connection  April 26 – May 2, 2017  11

July 26 – August 24, 2017

October 8 – November 11, 2017

ONGOING

Sunrise at Reston Town Center offers a monthly Caregiver Support Group on the fourth Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8 p.m. Monthly support group offers a safe place for family caregivers, to meet and develop a mutual support system and to exchange practical information and possible solutions. Learn about resources available in the community and how to manage caregiver related stress. Call 703-955-8950 or email RestonJD@sunriseonliving.com to RSVP.

Exercise for Parkinson’s: Every Monday, 1:15-2:15 p.m. Reston Sports & Health, 11445 Isaac Newton Square, Reston. This program brings together people impacted by Parkinson’s Disease to participate in various physical exercises aimed at improving posture, balance and circulation and increasing strength, muscle control and mobility. Free. parkinsonfoundation.org. Contact Natalie McCall at nmcall@restonsportsandhealth.com 703-904-7606 for more.

Master Gardener Training. The Fairfax County Master Gardener Association offers plant clinics, home turf training or speakers for homeowner’s meetings. Fees vary. Visit fairfaxgardening.org or call Lisa Callahan at 703-904-7606 or email lisa.callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. For more information, call Lisa Callahan at 703-904-7606 or email lisa.callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. For more information, visit www.fairfaxgardening.org or call 703-904-7606 or email lisa.callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Submit a Nomination for Volunteerism & Community Service Awards. The Fairfax County Volunteerism and Community Service Awards is looking to recognize individuals and groups whose volunteer activities contribute to the life and welfare of Virginia citizens. There are a variety of categories for both individuals as well as groups so if you have a special volunteer in your organization or know of a group that should be nominated, please visit the website to get started: http://fairfaxservice.fairfax.gov/volunteering/governors-volunteerism-awards/
Theatre

‘Private Lives’ at CenterStage

Reston Community Players present stylish Noel Coward comedy.

By David Siegel
The Connection

What can make a couple truly happy even after they have all the modern toys the world has to offer? That is what playwright Noel Coward asks in this sparkling comedy of manners and the high-life. “Private Lives.” The Coward comedy will close the Reston Community Players’ (RCP) 50th season.

“We decided to do ‘Private Lives’ because we felt it was the perfect classic play to end our 50th anniversary celebration,” said Jolene Vettese, RCP Board President. “With its sophisticated, yet fiery relationships, witty banter, and classic 1930’s style, it is a gem.”

“Private Lives” begins as two couples find themselves unexpectedly together at the same hotel. One couple, Elyot and Amanda, were once married to each other. “Now they are honeymooning with their new spouses,” said director Adam Konowe. “Then old ‘worldly wise’ for her own good, and unfortunately, she knows it, and uses it to her full advantage.”

Inviting patrons to CenterStage, “We hope the audience will appreciate Coward’s talent for witty dialogue that packs a real punch. ‘Private Lives’ is an amusing play, but it pushes boundaries too,” said Konowe.

Their aggrieved spouses appear, and a circle dance of affiliations ensues.”

“Plays like ‘Private Lives’ may seem flippant; even superficial,” said Konowe. “Look closer and appreciate how Coward skillfully embedded critiques in rapier-like dialogue.”

Characters in “Private Lives” make many witty, self-aware comments like; “I think that few people are completely normal really, deep down in their private lives. It all depends on a combination of circumstances.”

A veteran Reston Community Players cast are featured in “Private Lives.” They include: Richard Isaacs (Elyot), Rachel Hubbard (Amanda), Andy Gable (Victor), Caity Brown (Sibyl), and Lisa Young (Louise).

For Hubbard, “‘Private Lives’ is an amazing story that is part romantic farce and part romantic tragedy. It is the classic ‘can’t live with each other, can’t live without each other’ conflict. And yet, in spite of endless bickering and fighting, one can’t help but find happiness together.”

“Like most of Noel Coward’s works, the light comedy overlays meaningful, thought-provoking questions, which one may mull over long after having seen the show,” added Hubbard.

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