



PET DANDER.
POLLEN. GET THE
ALLERGENS OUT!

IN-PLANT ORIENTAL RUG CLEANING

Have 2
Rugs
Cleaned
And Get
The 3rd
Cleaned
FREE!
Save up to 35%

Or
Take...
15% Off

In-Plant Cleaning
of One Rug

Any Type
of Rug, Any
Price Level,
We Have a
Solution for You!

703-836-1111 | JoeHadeed.com | FREE PICKUP & DELIVERY! *Hurry! Offer Expires 5/5/19. Get the third rug of equal or smaller size for free. Not valid w/any other offers.

Oak Hill
Herndon
CONNECTION Habitat for Humanity®

WELLBEING
PAGE 6

Herndon ReStore Opens

NEWS, PAGE 2

Herndon Farmers Market: Open for Business

NEWS, PAGE 7

Meal Tax Increase Is on the Menu

NEWS, PAGE 3

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

OPINION, PAGE 4 ♦ **ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8** ♦ **CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10**

New homeowner, thanks to Habitat NOVA that operates the local ReStores, Yishak Sabore (third from left) stands between his two children, Eldana Shanka, 12 and Amanuel Shanka, 18. Joining them are (left) Herndon Councilmember Jennifer Baker, Supervisor John Foust (D- Dranesville), Herndon Vice Mayor Sheila Olem and Jon Smoot, Executive Director of Habitat NOVA.

ATTENTION POSTMASTER:
TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
REQUESTED IN HOME 5-2-19

U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PRST STD EASTON, MD PERMIT #322

MAY 1-7, 2019

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

SPRING SEASONAL MENU

from CHEF TONY'S TEST KITCHEN

Glory Days
GRILL

Available for a Limited Time!

CHEESESTEAK EGG ROLLS



PEPPERED-BACON WHITE CHEDDAR BURGER

FEATURING
A BRISKET-SHORT RIB BURGER BLEND

MORE SELECTIONS!

Southwest Chicken & Rice Bowl
Short Rib Grilled Cheese
Braised Short Rib Entrée

Roasted Asparagus
Bacon-Wrapped Asparagus
Southwest Chicken Sandwich
Chicken & Cheddar Quesadilla

Impossible Burger
Spring Spinach Salad with Grilled Chicken
Salted Caramel Cookie

AVAILABLE AT ALL NoVa, MD, and WV RESTAURANTS | GLORYDAYSGRILL.COM

Nothing is as Beautiful as Spring!

Bloom to Life at Tall Oaks Assisted Living



Affordable Junior Studio Assisted Living Apartments Starting at Only \$3,995!

Quality Assisted Living Care + Countless Amenities

= The Best Value of the Season

*Pricing includes Level I Care.

Contact our friendly team today.
Call 703-834-9800 and discover just how wonderful worry-free senior living can be!



703.834.9800
12052 N. Shore Dr.
Reston, VA 20190
www.TallOaksAL.com

A Family Company

Tall Oaks
ASSISTED LIVING
RISING TO NEW HEIGHTS

Coordinated Services Management, Inc. Professional Management of Retirement Communities Since 1981

NEWS



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Jon Smoot, Executive Director of Habitat NOVA cuts the ribbon signifying the official opening of Herndon ReStore at 311 Spring Street, Herndon. With him, Herndon Councilmember Jennifer Baker, Vice Mayor Sheila Olem and Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) and other supporters look on.

Herndon ReStore Opens

Purchases and contributions help local affordable housing challenges.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Alexandria has one. Chantilly has one. Now the Town of Herndon has one too. On Saturday, April 27, Rev. Dr. Jon F. Smoot, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity NOVA (Habitat NOVA) stood outside the nonprofit organization's third home improvement store and donation center, Herndon ReStore located at 311 Spring Street. In his hands, Smoot held a large pair of scissors. Beside him, Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), Town of Herndon Vice Mayor Sheila Olem, Councilmember Jennifer Baker, ReStore staff members and supporters gathered. They were there to celebrate the official opening of Herndon ReStore with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

During remarks, Smoot said when individuals and businesses support Habitat NOVA ReStores, they help build strong and stable families and communities investing in the future. "Everyone wins when shopping at ReStore. The customer saves money by purchasing (new and gently used items) at 50 percent - 90 percent off retail prices, Habitat for Humanity receives 100 percent of the proceeds for building new homes for local families in need and we all benefit when items are recycled, rather than ending up in the landfill," he said.

Foust, whose district encompasses Herndon, McLean, Great Falls, and portions of Vienna and Falls Church, said, "I feel the greatest challenge is delivery of housing that is affordable throughout the region."

In the crowd, Yishak Sabore of Herndon and his children, Eldana Shanka, 12, and Amanuel Shanka, 18, watched and listened. Sabore's wife Sosena could not attend. Last year, the dual-income family could not escape the stresses of rent increases, overcrowding and of being shut out of affordable market options. The four shared a one-bedroom/one bath apartment with no dedicated study space or private sleeping areas according to Habitat NOVA. However, because of the family's commitment to work with Habitat NOVA and other volunteers as build participants and learn about finances, mortgages and maintenance, the family received an affordable mortgage and a new home. Last year, the family moved into their own four bedroom, two and a half bath home in Herndon complete with energy-saving mechanicals. Smoot said the family would only pay the principal on the mortgage. "Tomorrow is the first anniversary of owning our home. It is a big difference to own," said Sabore.

Hendon ReStore is located at 311 Spring Street, Herndon. For more information visit www.habitatnova.org/restore/restore-locations or call 571-306-0908.

Meal Tax Increase Is on the Menu

Herndon Town Council votes down opposition.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Come July 1 of this year, Town of Herndon residents and visitors to the town will pay an increased meals tax of three-and-three-quarters percent total. That's on top of the 6 percent state sales tax.

Residents in neighboring Fairfax and Loudoun counties voted down referendums for meals taxes when they appeared on local ballots.

At the April 23 Herndon Town Council Public Session, in a vote of 5-2, the seven-member council increased the meals tax percentage rate to three and three-quarters percent from two and one-half percent effective July 1, 2019. According to the town, revenue generated by the tax would fund ongoing capital improvements, Herndon Police Department operations, a pedestrian walkways project, an assistant town attorney position and restoration of Parks & Recreation programs. Councilmembers Baker and William "Bill" McKenna voted against the amendment. "Raising a tax rate is never an easy decision," said Merkel.

OPPONENTS of the meals tax increase included John Boylan, President and CEO of the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce; its members are in the Town of Herndon and surrounding areas and Kristen Murphy, General Manager of the Washington Dulles Airport Marriott Suites Hotel in the Town of Herndon. During the public comments portion of the public hearing, they and others argued the tax unfairly singled out the food, beverage and hotel industries in the town as a revenue source, and even at the current rate of 2.5 percent, it negatively affected town businesses compared to similar businesses outside the town where there was no meals tax. "We need to think about how this affects businesses...The restaurants are the places we want to support," said Boylan. "By being located in the Town of Herndon, I am in a significant disadvantage against other large hotels in the area," said Murphy. "My customers already have to pay an additional 6.5 percent in taxes for occupancy tax and meals tax, which currently exists."

According to town records, in 2011, the council increased the meals tax from 1.5 to 2.5 percent. At that time, the town told restaurateurs partial funds generated by the increase in the meals tax would be used to promote the town's restaurants and dineONHerndon campaign.

"There was no increase in my business, as a result," said Murphy. "On this occasion, you are saying it is being used for ongoing capital improvements, which will certainly



Welcome to the TOWN OF HERNDON



Lisa Merkel, Mayor of the Town of Herndon prepares to vote for the meals tax increase.



John Boylan, President and CEO Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce tells the Herndon Council that he thinks they really need to look at how to tighten expenses rather than increase the meals tax.



Dave Richardson of the Town of Herndon shares his opposition to the proposed meals tax increase during the Town Council Public Hearing held April 23.



Kristen Murphy, General Manager of the Washington Dulles Airport Marriott Suites Hotel in the Town of Herndon, provides her comment against the proposed meals tax increase.

SCREENSHOTS OF
HERNDON GRANICUS

not directly increase my business either," she said.

By approving the ordinance, the town would not need to raise additional revenue, source funding elsewhere or reduce proposed expenditures to support certain suggested items on the FY2020 Budget. Dave Richardson of the Town of Herndon said, "Town residents are still paying some of it...I ask that you, please look harder at this."

Merkel explained funding through the meals tax increase would offset revenue dependence on the "volatile" Business, Professional and Occupational License (BPOL) tax.

Merkel recounted a day this spring, during the budget season when Town Manager Bill Ashton said the town was "about a million dollars in the hole for BPOL. And this traffic project was going to be two million dollars more than they thought. That was a really terrible day," Merkel said.

Ashton said in a statement that the reasons why BPOL fluctuates, in addition to businesses coming into the town or leaving, is that the way the tax is structured under the law creates different assessment levels based on how the business activity is categorized. "A shift in the business category may affect the BPOL tax receipts. Also, when a business moves to Herndon, they are required to estimate and pay BPOL against their projected first two years of gross receipts.

After two years, their gross receipts actuals are compared against the estimate, and their payment is adjusted accordingly," Ashton said. If the business can prove they miscalculated their gross receipts or were paying in the wrong category, Ashton said that they were entitled to a rebate, which the town had to pay.

SUPPORTERS for the meals tax increase argued the meals tax increase would give the town a new and reliable source of revenue and reduce its dependence on the unpredictable BPOL rate. Also, as a revenue stream, the meals tax would not rest solely on residents as an increase in personal property taxes would. Businesses and visitors to the town benefitted from town services such as its police force, roads, water, and sewer and would support some of the weight of additional funding for town projects and needs. "You do benefit by the sewer, the water, everything in this town like everybody else does," said Councilmember Signe Friedrichs.

Councilmember Pradip Dhakal added: "We also understand our citizens deserve a better quality of life, better infrastructures and we must move forward to better position ourselves. ... Another thing is we looked at many other options like real estate taxes, meals taxes, cutting expenses or increasing the revenues and what we found and agreed is this impacts our taxpayers' money less because Herndon is 44 percent business."

OPINION

Black or Blue: Lessons Learned from How Virginia Democrats Handled the Ralph Northam Debacle

Let's get something straight, this is not a blackface controversy, this is a KKK controversy.

BY KOFI ANNAN
PRESIDENT, FAIRFAX COUNTY NAACP

During a 1960 speech to a mixed audience in New York City, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "There is a pressing need for a liberalism in the North which is truly liberal." While Virginia is a southern state, it gets bluer with each election, therefore we should take heed to MLK's words, which essentially challenges liberals to fight the gravitational pull to the right on issues of civil rights and equity. It is difficult to see both the election of Ralph Northam, his subsequent actions, and the actions of the party to protect him as anything but the party signaling to the center-right that they have their back and are willing to sacrifice a few black voters if need be.

Liberals have long sought to convince African Americans that they alone can shield us from conservative's intent on rolling back the hands of time. And African Americans normally respond to that message, having never wavered in our loyalty for the last half century. Every election cycle we make or break elections in favor of the Democratic Party, even though for the most part we get marginal improvement in our quality of life overall, and in many measurable ways we actually regress. Our average collective net worth remains a fraction of whites, our employment rate remains half that of whites, our neighborhoods are still gentrified in the name of progress, predominantly black public schools are still underfunded, we still make up 40 percent of the nations' incarcerated, and school administrators still consistently dole out harsher punishments to our kids compared to their white counterparts, even in districts dominated by Democratic Party leadership. A report from the Institute for Policy Studies, released to coincide with what would have been MLK's 90th birthday, demonstrated that over the past few decades, black wealth actually fell by 50%.

On the other hand, Republicans haven't presented a particularly appealing message to African Americans voters at any point during this time period either, and even less so during the Trump Administration, which uses racism and xenophobia to collect votes as effectively as any administration in recent history. However, what's more intriguing is the possibility that Democrats like Northam view Trump's success as a reason to shift focus on securing the white middle-class vote even if that means sacrificing some of the African American vote, or at least taking the black vote for granted. Afterall, the politics of "fear the racist Republican" is a lot easier to sell today than it was just a few years ago. This might explain why presidential favorite Pete Buttigieg felt comfortable proposing that he would undo decades of work to expand voting rights to those convicted of crimes, who are disproportionately represented

by minorities.

This certainly appears to be the case in Virginia. Most of us are familiar with the controversy surrounding Governor Northam and his possible Ku Klux Klan (KKK) affiliation by now, right? Perhaps I shouldn't assume. Maybe you were one of those that ignored the Klan member in the photograph, and instead saw this incident as a [less harmful] 'blackface' controversy that could be explained by innocent cultural insensitivity. But let's get something straight, this is not a blackface controversy, this is a KKK controversy. A lot of people - including the governor - would rather focus on the person in blackface because it's a slightly more tolerant form of white supremacy, and conveniently ignore the terrorist next to the individual in blackface. But the governor should not be let off the hook that easily. The KKK is America's original domestic terrorist group (despite what the laws say), having killed well over 4,000 Americans that we know of, and our governor either is or was associated with them. Let that sink in, particularly as we still mourn the loss of another group of innocent lives at the hands of other terrorist groups in New Zealand a few weeks ago, Pittsburgh, Charlottesville, and most recently Sri Lanka. The leader of the Democratic Party in Virginia has yet to offer a sensible explanation for why a terrorist was in his yearbook, and the Democratic Party is okay enough with this that they're now openly not only defending him but trotting him out at political fundraisers.

To most the case against Northam seemed open and shut, and his resignation seemed inevitable. One would imagine that an elected official who represents the party which prides itself on its diversity, that routinely secures over 90% of the African American vote, and counts on that constituency to win key battleground territories in a purple state that was red just a few elections ago, would certainly recognize that defending the governor is not a hill worth dying on and step aside as quickly and as gracefully as possible.

Well we're now approaching May and not only has Northam refused to step aside, but even more unfortunate the Democratic Party has begun to rally around him in a show of solidarity. First came the slow drip of messages of appreciation from members of the General Assembly for one bill after the other on social media. Then the ridiculous Michael Jackson impersonation story that once seemed straight out of a bad SNL skit became the official party line. As for the "Coonman" nickname in his VMI yearbook that never received a formal explanation from the governor? Well one explanation floated to me by a Democratic member of in the Virginia House of Delegates - who happened to be African American - was an even greater insult to our intelligence, and full of even more racist stereotypes. According to the delegate the governor's nickname stemmed

from the fact that he had a lot of black friends due to his love of basketball.

As if insulting our intelligence wasn't bad enough, many within the Democratic Party felt it necessary to go after those amplifying the call for the governor's resignation. Following a protest led the Fairfax County National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) at a Democratic fundraiser where the governor was scheduled to attend, Democratic Party loyalists and leaders alike attacked the NAACP for doing the very thing the organization was founded for - standing up against racism. Its members were described as "troublemakers" and "bullies"; and the nation's oldest and most successful civil rights organization is described as a "fringe element" by one party leader.

One of the talking points coming from Virginia's Democrats is that "the governor isn't going anywhere, so we might as well work with him." This intentionally alleviates the burden of responsibility from the rest of the party leadership, because it makes them seem powerless, when in reality they really don't want to challenge him anyway. As the reaction to the protests demonstrated, real challenges to the governor will not be looked upon favorably by the Democratic Party. If they'll publicly assassinate the NAACP, one could only imagine what private pressure is being placed on African American legislators who dare break ranks. This likely explains the deafening silence and acquiescence from most black elected officials on this issue.

Not enough black leaders (elected and community leaders alike) stand with the black community on principle when it matters most; and if they can't stand on principle when it comes to the KKK, when will they? If they can't break ranks with the party now, when will they? Black leaders stood next to Hillary Clinton when she called our youth "super predators", and they stood next to Bill when he doubled down on Reagan's mass incarceration policies. We're often told that the solution is electing more African American to office; but if this is the best they can do when faced with a such a clear-cut choice in a time of crisis, then their true value to the African American community is questionable.

If these officials don't have what it takes to tackle overt headline-grabbing racism within their own ranks, how can they be trusted to tackle systemic racism that doesn't make headlines. The numbers highlighting African American wealth decline speak for themselves. They can't.

Share The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. Send to:
Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314
By email: editors@connectionnewspapers.com
Online:
www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/contact/letter
Letters must be signed. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.
Read more Opinion and letters online at
www.ConnectionNewspapers.com
Comment on FaceBook
www.facebook.com/connectionnewspapers

Oak Hill & Herndon
CONNECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

@HerndonConnect

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

NEWS DEPARTMENT:
herndon@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Mercia Hobson
Community Reporter
mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Worker
Contributing Writer
aworker@connectionnewspapers.com

Jean Card
Production Editor
jcard@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk
Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment
Advertising
703-778-9431

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,
Ali Khaligh
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

SATURDAY/MAY 4

Dementia Care Support. 10-11 a.m. at Hunters Woods at Trails Edge Showroom, 2254B Hunters Woods Plaza, Reston. Dementia Care Support Group - 1st Saturday of the month. Distinguish between normal aging and dementia, understand different types of dementia, the impact of changes to the brain and how family caregivers can best cope with these changes. Free. Call 703-708-4047 or visit www.integracare.com.

Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group. 2-4 p.m. at Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Meets the first Saturday of the month. All are welcome. RSVP for available seating. Call 301-263-0616 or visit www.dcpnsupport.org for more.

District Supervisor Candidate Meet and Greet. 4-6 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Meet the candidates who are running for the Fairfax Board of Supervisors: Dranesville District; Hunter Mill District; Providence District; and Sully District. Free. RSVP at www.eventbrite.com/o/naacp-fairfax-county-12397167937.

SUNDAY/MAY 5

Low Cost Rabies Vaccine Clinic. Noon-2 p.m. at Mount Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria. Cost is \$15 per pet, cash and check only. Dogs, cats, and ferrets may be vaccinated at the clinic. Dogs must be on leashes; cats and ferrets must be in carriers. All

pets will receive a 1-year rabies vaccination. To obtain a 3-year vaccine, bring pet's rabies certificate (not tag) showing the current rabies vaccination expiration date. 2019 county dog licenses will be sold for an additional \$10 per license. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter/communityassistance/rabiesclinics for more.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 8

Workshop: Google Ads. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Bleevit Interactive, 12110 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 600, Reston. Bleevit Interactive is hosting a workshop to provide small businesses with an improved understanding of Google Ads and the importance of measuring and reporting digital marketing initiatives. Free, with complimentary lunch and beverages. Space is limited. bit.ly/smlbiz2019.

Fairfax County Park Authority Board Meeting.

7:30 p.m. in the Herrity Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 941, Fairfax. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/boardagn2.htm or call 703-324-8662.

FRIDAY/MAY 10

Nomination Deadline. The Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for their annual Awards for Chamber Excellence (ACE). These awards are given to members who demonstrate excellence in their business practices, are leaders in their industry, and support the mission of the Chamber. Visit www.restonchamber.org.

Grant Application Deadline.

Audubon Society of Northern Virginia has funds available to help make an idea to improve habitat for birds and other wildlife come true. Applicants

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

Remodeled Home Tour in North Arlington!

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MAY 4TH & 5TH - 11AM TO 4PM DAILY

3607 N Vernon Street, Arlington, VA 22207



Showcasing a 2-story addition, enlarged eat-in kitchen, master bathroom, and more!

Parade of Homes

Tour this extensive renovation and enjoy gourmet hors d'oeuvres along the way!

Major Remodels • Additions • Kitchens + Baths
Basements • Outdoor Spaces
703.425.5588 | SunDesignInc.com

SUN DESIGN
ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN-BUILD FIRM



This is more than great rates

This is more savings for wherever you're going.

Platinum Savings Account

2.10%

Annual Percentage Yield for 12 months with new money deposits of at least \$25,000 and a minimum daily account balance of \$25,000 or more¹

Guaranteed Fixed-Rate CD

2.40%

Annual Percentage Yield for an 11-month term with new money deposits of at least \$25,000²



Talk to a banker for details. Offer expires May 31, 2019. Business owner? Ask about our business savings rates.

Offers available in AR, CT, DC, FL, GA, MD, MS, NC, NJ, NY, SC, TX and VA. Portfolio by Wells Fargo® customers are eligible to receive an additional bonus interest rate on these accounts.³

1. To qualify for this offer, you must have a new or existing Platinum Savings account and enroll the account in this offer between 03/25/2019 and 05/31/2019. This offer is subject to change at any time, without notice. This offer is available only to Platinum Savings customers in the following states: AR, CT, DC, FL, GA, MD, MS, NC, NJ, NY, SC, TX and VA. In order to earn the Special Interest Rate of 2.08% (Special Rate), you must deposit \$25,000 in new money (from sources outside of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., or its affiliates) to the enrolled savings account and maintain a minimum daily account balance of \$25,000 throughout the term of this offer. The corresponding Annual Percentage Yield (APY) for this offer is 2.10%. The Special Rate will be applied to the enrolled savings account for a period of 12 months, starting on the date the account is enrolled in the offer. However, for any day during that 12 month period that the daily account balance is less than the \$25,000 minimum, the Special Rate will not apply, and the interest rate will revert to the standard interest rate applicable to your Platinum Savings account. As of 02/15/2019, the standard interest rate and APY for a Platinum Savings account in AR, CT, DC, FL, GA, MD, MS, NC, NJ, NY, SC, TX and VA with an account balance of \$0.01 and above is 0.05% (0.05% APY). Each tier shown reflects the current minimum daily collected balance required to obtain the applicable APY. Interest is compounded daily and paid monthly. The amount of interest earned is based on the daily collected balances in the account. Upon the expiration of the 12 month promotional period, standard interest rates apply. Minimum to open a Platinum Savings account is \$25. A monthly service fee of \$12 applies in any month the account falls below a \$3,500 minimum daily balance. Fees may reduce earnings. Interest rates are variable and subject to change without notice. Wells Fargo may limit the amount you deposit to a Platinum Savings account to an aggregate of \$1 million. Offer not available to Private Banking or Wealth customers. 2. Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is effective for accounts opened between 03/25/2019 to 05/31/2019. The 11-month New Dollar CD special requires a minimum of \$25,000 brought to Wells Fargo from sources outside of Wells Fargo Bank N.A., or its affiliates to earn the advertised APY. Public Funds and Wholesale accounts are not eligible for this offer. APY assumes interest remains on deposit until maturity. Interest is compounded daily. Payment of interest on CDs is based on term. For terms less than 12 months (365 days), interest may be paid monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or at maturity (the end of the term). For terms of 12 months or more, interest may be paid monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually. A fee for early withdrawal will be imposed and could reduce earnings on this account. Special Rates are applicable to the initial term of the CD only. At maturity, the Special Rate CD will automatically renew for a term of 6 months, at the interest rate and APY in effect for CDs on renewal date not subject to a Special Rate, unless the Bank has notified you otherwise. 3. Due to the new money requirement, accounts may only be opened at your local branch. Wells Fargo reserves the right to modify or discontinue the offer at any time without notice. Minimum new money deposit requirement of at least \$25,000 is for this offer only and cannot be transferred to another account to qualify for any other consumer deposit offer. If you wish to take advantage of another consumer deposit offer requiring a minimum new money deposit, you will be required to do so with another new money deposit as stated in the offer requirements and qualifications. Offer cannot be combined with any other consumer deposit offer, except the Portfolio by Wells Fargo \$500 offer, available from March 25, 2019 until May 31, 2019. Offer cannot be reproduced, purchased, sold, transferred, or traded. 3. The Portfolio by Wells Fargo program has a \$30 monthly service fee, which can be avoided when you have one of the following qualifying balances: \$25,000 or more in qualifying linked bank deposit accounts (checking, savings, CDs, FDIC-insured IRAs) or \$50,000 or more in any combination of qualifying linked banking, brokerage (available through Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC) and credit balances (including 10% of mortgage balances, certain mortgages not eligible). If the Portfolio by Wells Fargo relationship is terminated, the bonus interest rate on all eligible savings accounts, and discounts or fee waivers on other products and services, will discontinue and revert to the Bank's then-current applicable rate or fee. For bonus interest rates on time accounts, this change will occur upon renewal. If the Portfolio by Wells Fargo relationship is terminated, the remaining unlinked Wells Fargo Portfolio Checking or Wells Fargo Prime Checking account will be converted to another checking product or closed.

© 2019 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. All rights reserved. Deposit products offered by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. Member FDIC. NMLS ID 399801

Cinderella

SKYE BALLET CENTER

May 19th 2019, 1 & 5 pm
South Lakes High School Theater
Tickets at <https://skyeballet.ticketleap.com> skyeballet@gmail.com

**ANY TYPE OF RUG, ANY PRICE LEVEL,
WE HAVE A SOLUTION FOR YOU!**

Now Servicing Every Type of Rug from
Machine Made Synthetic to the Finest
Handmade Silk. We Bring the Same Quality
to Everyone with Our Multi-Pricing Level
Menu that will Match Your Rug.

**POLLEN. PET DANDER.
GET THE ALLERGENS OUT!**

FOR EVERY 2 RUGS CLEANED GET THE 3RD FREE!

We Have Developed a New Formula that Removes Most Pet Stains and Odors!

3 Rugs = 1 Cleaned FREE! • 6 Rugs = 2 Cleaned FREE! • 9 Rugs = 3 Cleaned FREE! On & On

*Hurry! Offer Expires 5/5/19. Valid on Express or Signature Rug Cleaning Services. Get the third rug of equal or smaller size for free. Not valid w/any other offers.

JUST 1 RUG? IN-PLANT RUG CLEANING
Expires 5/5/19. Valid on 1 rug. Not valid w/any other offers.

15% Off

IN-PLANT RUG RESTORATION
Expires 5/5/19. Not valid w/any other offers.

10% Off

WALL-TO-WALL CARPET STEAM CLEANING OR
HARDWOOD FLOOR CLEANING & POLISHING
Expires 5/5/19. Not valid w/any other offers.

20% Off

HADEED SINCE 1929
Oriental Rug Cleaning & In-Home Services

FREE PICKUP &
DELIVERY!

535 W. Maple Ave.; Vienna, VA
4918 Wisconsin Ave.; DC/MD
3206 Duke St.; Alexandria, VA

6628 Electronic Dr.; Springfield VA
3118 W. Moore St.; Richmond VA
330 N. Stonestreet Ave- A; Rockville, MD

703-836-1111 | JoeHadeed.com

*Available in MD, DC, & VA. Min. order required, some restrictions apply.
Doesn't include breakables. Call for details.

WELLBEING



COURTESY PHOTO

Schar Cancer Institute rendering.

Schar Cancer Institute Opens to Patients May 13

Institute becomes a landmark for health care and research in Fairfax County

The Inova Health System will usher in a new level of medical treatment and patient care when the Inova Schar Cancer Institute opens to patients May 13 on its Merrifield campus.

"The Schar Cancer Center raises the already-high level of health-care facilities in Fairfax County," said Catherine W. Riley, interim president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority. "As part of the Inova Center for Personalized Health it can make Fairfax County a destination for world-class research and clinical work."

Dedication ceremonies took place Wednesday, April 24, for the \$150 million center for care and research that is anchoring the 117-acre Inova campus, fulfilling a vision that began with the acquisition of the former Exxon Mobil site. The institute was made possible, in part, by a \$50 million contribution from Dwight Schar and wife Martha, whose legacy will extend beyond Fairfax County-based NVR home builders.

MEMBERS OF THE SCHAR FAMILY were joined by others, including U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy and wife Marcelle, political commentator Cokie Roberts, and Lara Hopewell, a local hockey mom-turned-crusader for cancer research — all cancer survivors. Also participating in the ceremonies were U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova and Inova CEO Dr. Stephen Jones. The ceremonies featured more than 100 cancer patients and their family members, who became the first to walk through the front door of the newly dedicated facility.

"We are so fortunate in Fairfax County to have access to such world class medical care and treatment," said Bulova, who presented a proclamation from the Board of Supervisors congratulating Inova. "We have amazing facilities, doctors and cutting-edge technologies that are right here, literally in our own backyard, and that is so incredibly valuable."

Riley echoed the importance of having a first-class cancer facility in the county, offering residents the highest quality care without requiring them to travel, often hundreds of miles for treatment. She also emphasized the importance of the research that will take place at the facility, creating a new horizon in the

diversification of Fairfax County's workforce.

"We're very excited about the research and development aspect of the Schar Institute and the ways in which it will help diversify our local economy," Riley said. "It will attract new doctors and scientists. In partnership with facilities like the University of Virginia Medical School, those researchers will be applying for new grants and developing the kinds of programs that will make Fairfax County known as a medical research and development center."

"We are so fortunate in Fairfax County to have access to such world class medical care and treatment."

Sharon Bulova, Chairman, County Board of Supervisors

DURING THE DEDICATION, Jones announced that Dr. John Deeken, who had been serving as acting president of the Inova Schar Cancer Institute, is named permanently to the president's role. Deeken said the institute would continue stress its "patient-first" philosophy, building on its ability to provide one-stop care through teams of doctors, nurses, therapists, researchers and specialized counselors.

"The vision and the spirit is that the patient is at the center of everything we do," said Deeken, who previously served as COO of the Inova Translational Medicine Institute. "Fundamentally, that's the difference in the model of care at Inova."

"This is the culmination of years of effort in planning and design and recruiting – to make real what we'd hoped to have for all the patients in Northern Virginia, which is expert care close to home. Nobody in Northern Virginia should think they need to go to Houston, New York or Baltimore to get world-class cancer care. We have it right here."

NEWS

Herndon Farmers Market Opens

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The magic of the ten Fairfax County Farmers Markets and the USDA's encouragement to, "Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food," is that the middleman is missing. If market shoppers want to know if the strawberries are pesticide and chemical free, grown in the field rather than a hothouse

or certified organic they ask the farmer standing in front of them for a first-hand account.

On Thursday, April 18, the 2019 Herndon Farmers Market operated under Fairfax County Park Authority opened. The Connection reached out to Hala Elbarmil, Program Assistant Fairfax County Farmers Market and John Dudzinsky, Herndon Farmers Market Manager to learn more about the markets and to the market vendors to learn

about their farming practices such as pest and disease control, fertility systems, seed sources and environmental and social impacts.

The Herndon Farmers Market is located in the 700 block of Lynn Street. It runs weekly every Thursday now through Nov. 14, 8 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

According to the county, the market aims to improve the health of citizens, support local food producers and protect the environment. Like the nine other county markets, the one in Herndon is strictly producer-only.

That means farmers and producers must come from within 125 miles of Fairfax County and may only sell what they raise on their farms or make from scratch.

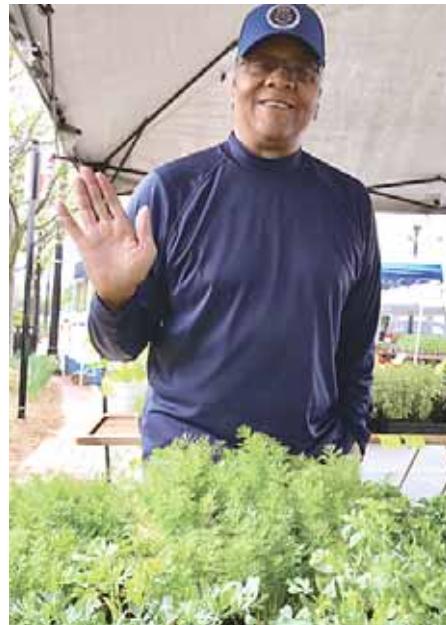
Shoppers using their Virginia EBT card at the Herndon market will receive up to \$20 in matching funds through the SNAP Double Dollar Program.

VIEWPOINTS

Vendors, Customers and Managers Reflect on Herndon Farmers Market

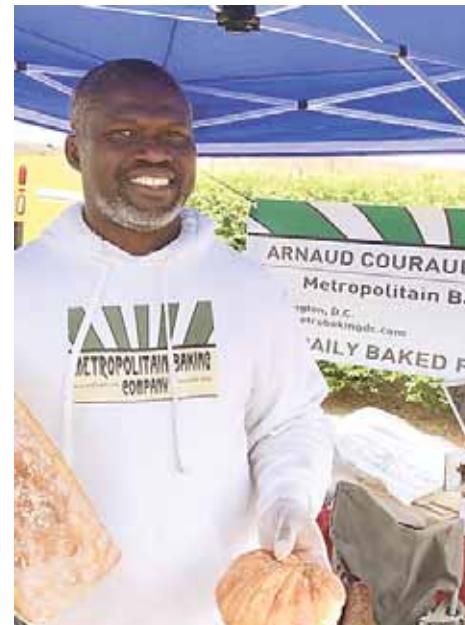


Grace O. Banahene, Grace's Pastries, Herndon, baked goods and savory treats.



Customer Charles Fullilove Senior on customer etiquette:

"Be kind, considerate, inquire gently, ask questions and take the vendors recommendations and listen. Always have the spirit that you can learn something. Enjoy the moment."



Emmanuel Ahoussou, sales director Arnaud Curaud Artisan Bakery, Metropolitan Bakery, D.C.; offering rustic, old-style French bread and pastries.



Manny Medina, J & W Valley View Farm; Westmoreland County, Va.; offering fruits and vegetables.

"We use best practices in farming. We only spray fungicide, not pesticide and that is only for corn. We don't worry about the pests since we plant so much if you lose 500 plants, it won't hurt anything, but there are thousands and thousands of plants, 10,000 tomato plants. We use 8/8/16 as fertilizer. We never plant the same thing in the same spot the next year. If you plant the same thing, it will soak up the nutrients. We start in the heated greenhouse in January and then transfer the seedlings to the black-mulched fields. We put in 9,000 feet this year."

SEE VIEWPOINTS, PAGE 9

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

You Can Make a Difference



Cats benefit from being in a foster home. We need long- and short-term fosters for cats of all ages, mothers with litters and kittens on their own.



Consider Fostering

Adopt/Donate/Volunteer at www.lostdogrescue.org

visit our website,
click on Participate

See why millions trust us for Home & Auto.



Kyle Knight Ins Agcy Inc
Kyle Knight, Agent
11736 Bowman Green Drive
Reston, VA 20190

ACROSS FROM RESTON TOWN CTR.
WWW.KYLEKNIGHT.ORG
703-435-2300

I'm here to help life go right, by saving you time and money when you combine your home and auto insurance.

CALL ME TODAY.

 State Farm

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
State Farm Fire and Casualty Company
Bloomington, IL

CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Herndon Farmers Market. Thursdays, through mid-November, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in Historic Downtown Herndon, Lynn Street. Vendors will offer seasonal plants, produce, baked goods, meats and more; all sold by local growers and producers. Additional enhancements to the market include seasonal events and entertainment, including "Farmers' Market Fun Days," free performances for the whole family. Visit www.herndon-va.gov/FarmersMarket

THURSDAY/MAY 2

Millennials Book Club. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Title is "American Psycho" by Bret Easton Ellis. Check out a library copy or buy up a copy to own. Adults from early 20s to early 30s. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

THURSDAY-FRIDAY/MAY 2-3

Big Truck Days. Thursday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. at Public Works Complex, 1479 Sterling Road, Herndon. Kids and kids-at-heart can see some of the town's big trucks and heavy equipment up close and learn more about their operation. Light refreshments will be available and souvenirs will be provided to children. Attendees are asked to bring non-perishable food items to donate to a local food pantry. Large groups should call ahead, 703-435-6860. Visit www.herndon-va.gov/BigTruckDays

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 2-5

Book Sale. Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-3 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Friends of the Reston Regional Library hold their semi-annual book sale. No children's books at this sale. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 3-4

The Sound of Music. Friday-Saturday, 7 p.m. at Herndon High School, 700 Bennett St., Herndon. Join Herndon High School students as they present The Sound of Music. Set in Austria just prior to World War II, this classic follows young Maria as she finds her calling – and her heart – with the von Trapp family. \$12/children/students/senior citizens; \$18/adults; \$20/premium reserved seats. Visit herndondrama.org or call 703-475-4933.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 3-5

2019 Spring Concert. Friday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m. at Kenmore Middle School, 202 S. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington. BalletNova will be performing a fun and humorous ballet 'La Fille Mal Gardée' and 'Steps in the Street' – a masterpiece by Martha Graham. Guest performers include Reston's Gin Dance presenting their contemporary ballet 'L.E.O.' Guest choreographer Matthew Powell will create the new production of La Fille Mal Gardée. \$12-35 (\$3 more at the door). Visit www.balletnova.org for tickets.

Used Book Sale. Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1-4 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Gently used books, DVDs, CDs and audio books for children and adults. Sponsored by Friends of the Chantilly Regional Library to benefit programs and renovation projects at the library. Free admission. Call 703-502-3883 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events.

SATURDAY/MAY 4

5K for Mental Health. 9 a.m. at Herndon Middle School, 901 Locust St., Herndon. Register ahead of time at www.herndonms5k.com or come early on day of. A great family event to run or walk together and support a great cause! \$30 for adults, reduced for students. Contact Karyn Niles at 703-904-4901 or at keniles@fcps.edu or visit www.herndonms5k.com.

Farm Skills-Music Maker. 10-11:15 a.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Music has always been an important part of rural community life, and sometimes all one needs are a few items from the tool shed to make fun and interesting sounds. Learn about



Big Truck Days

Kids and kids-at-heart can see some of the town's big trucks and heavy equipment up close and learn more about their operation. Light refreshments will be available and souvenirs will be provided to children. Attendees are asked to bring non-perishable food items to donate to a local food pantry. Thursday, May 2, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Friday, May 3, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. at Public Works Complex, 1479 Sterling Road, Herndon. Large groups should call ahead, 703-435-6860. Visit www.herndon-va.gov/BigTruckDays for more.

different musical instruments, sing songs and make instruments from recycled materials on the farm. For participants age 7-adult. \$8 per person. Call 703-437-9101 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park.

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

Top to Bottom Look at Colvin Run Mill. 10:30 a.m. at Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Rd, Great Falls. Climb to new heights and explore the second and third floors at Colvin Run Mill on Saturdays in May. Register for the "Four Floor Tour Class" to get an insider's look at this 200-year-old working mill. The exploration may last up to two hours. \$10 per person, and the tours are designed for visitors age 10 to adult. NOTE: Participants will be climbing steep stairs to reach the added tour areas in this historic building. The areas are not ADA accessible, but alternative arrangements will be made for those who cannot climb the stairs. Call 703-759-2771 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill.

Tapestry of Peace and Justice. 4 and 7:30 p.m. at Reston Community Center, Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Music, poetry and art have the power to inspire, raise awareness and bring people together to make the world a better place. Join The Reston Chorale and friends for Tapestry of Peace and Justice, a mixed-art performance and exhibition. Reception at 6 p.m. \$0-\$25. Tickets and information at www.RestonChorale.org or at the RCC Box Office, 703-476-4500, ext. 3.

SUNDAY/MAY 5

Visit Colvin Run Mill. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Don't miss the chance to see, hear and taste history with a Sunday visit to Colvin Run Mill. Stop by the mill for a grinding demonstration from noon-3 p.m. See 19th century technology at work as the miller grinds wheat or corn into flour and meal that can be purchased at the park's General Store. Call the site to confirm grinding is on. \$8 for adults, \$7 for students 16 and up with ID, and \$6 for children and seniors. No reservations required. 703-759-2771 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill.

Home & Garden Marketplace. Noon-5 p.m. at Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Throughout the event all can enjoy presentations on stage, music, a variety of vendors with décor, plants and more for sale, plus educational groups with information about keeping things natural and beautiful in the garden. On stage, gardening expert Mike McGrath will present two 1-hour shows including time for Q&A and book signings, and Mina Fies will talk about the Renovate Happy experience. Those who would like to see the film "Hometown Habitat" can receive a free HGRT pass to see the 5:30 show at Bow Tie Cinemas. (Quantity is limited.) Visit www.facebook.com/events/2358351064412183/ or restontowncenter.com/events/all for more.

Ramadan Cultural Festival. 2 p.m. at Reston



Home & Garden Marketplace

Throughout the event all can enjoy presentations on stage, music, a variety of vendors with décor, plants and more for sale, plus educational groups with information about keeping things natural and beautiful in the garden. On stage, gardening expert Mike McGrath will present two 1-hour shows including time for Q&A and book signings, and Mina Fies will talk about the Renovate Happy experience. Sunday, May 5, noon-5 p.m. at Reston Town Center Pavilion

Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. The All Dulles Area Muslim Society center is helping the library host a family-friendly afternoon of activities and games. All ages. No registration required. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Author Event: Julie Langsdorf. 2 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join local debut author Julie Langsdorf and DC journalist Cari Shane to discuss Langsdorf's White Elephant: A Novel. www.scrawlbooks.com or call 703-966-2111.

TUESDAY/MAY 7

Spanchats. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join an ongoing Spanish conversation group. All levels from beginner to fluent are welcome. Adults. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 8

Bike to School Day. Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) will participate in Bike to School Day to promote physical activity and reduce traffic congestion and pollution near schools. Not only does biking to school help foster

lifelong healthy habits, but it can also encourage active transportation in the early-life stage. Starting the school day with a bike ride, walk, or roll will ensure that students are awake and ready to learn. Parents are encouraged to accompany their children to school, and to work with their school and PTA or PTO to assemble bike trains or walking groups for the event. Visit www.walkbiketoschool.org/.

Jewelry Making.

7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Tania Ebrahimian will teach the basics of jewelry making and participants will create an original piece in this hands-on workshop. The library will provide the materials. Registration begins April 24. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

THURSDAY/MAY 9

Tai Chi Fitness Class. 6:30 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join a fun Tai Chi fitness class led by local instructor Susan Shen. No experience necessary. Adults, teens. Registration begins April 25. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

World Migratory Bird Day Workshop.

7-9 p.m. at National Wildlife Federation, 11100 Wildlife Center Drive, Reston. Join the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia (ASNV) for a workshop to prepare for the longest running annual spring bird count in this area. The class will include an overview of WMBD, the Lower Potomac River Important Bird Area (LPR-IBA), key species, and techniques (eBird) used to count them. Free, but registration is required at www.eventbee.com/v/audubonva/.

FRIDAY/MAY 10

Gymboree Music I. 10:30 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Discover melody pitch and rhythm while building a repertoire of joyful songs. Cosponsored by the Friends of the Reston Regional Library. Age 6-18 months with adult. Registration opens April 26. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Gymboree Music II.

11:15 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Dance and sing to a new musical style each month, including Latin, Rock 'n' Roll and Classical. Cosponsored by the Friends of the Reston Regional Library. Age 18-24 months with adult. Registration opens April 26. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

6th Annual Casino Night.

6-10 p.m. at Volkswagen Group of America Headquarters, 2200 Ferdinand Porsche Drive, Herndon. 6th Annual Casino Night fundraiser supporting the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington/Fairfax County Region. Hosted By LaVar Arrington with special guest "Secretary of Defense" Dexter Manley. Visit one.bidpal.net/casinonight2019 for tickets.

FRIDAY/MAY 10, 17, 24 AND 31

Discover How a Garden Grows. 9:45-10:45 a.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon.

SATURDAY/MAY 11

"Love Your Baby Day." 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Beloved Yoga, 11109 Sunset Hills Road, Reston. Learn the Yogi tools for pre/post-natal wellness and infant health. Meet local providers who are passionate to support the journey through pregnancy, birth, and beyond. Free. Visit www.BelovedYoga.com for more.

Sing! Books With Miss Emily. 10:30 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join Miss Emily for singing storytime with illustrated songs. Cosponsored by the Friends of Reston Regional Library. All ages. No registration required. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Top to Bottom Look at Colvin Run Mill.

10:30 a.m. at Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Rd, Great Falls. See May 4, above.

Kindred Spirits.

7-9 p.m. at South Lakes High School - Auditorium, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston. A concert benefitting Canine Partners for Life, presented by SopranoEssence. Help us raise \$30k to honor CPL's 30 years of providing service dogs to facilitate independence for those with disabilities. \$20. Call 571-348-4664 or www.sopranoessence.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 12

Mountain Stories and Songs with the Dulcimer.

3 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Local musicians Ralph Lee Smith and Madeline MacNeil will play traditional songs and share stories of the dulcimer. They will have dulcimers on display, and books and music for sale. All ages. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

VIEWPOINTS

FROM PAGE 7

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Hala Elbarmil, Program Assistant, Fairfax County Farmers Market

"All of our markets have gleaners which is beneficial for the market because we have our non-profit partner, Food for Others. They usually come each week. It helps the farmers because they have a place for their food instead of going to waste; and in turn, it helps those who are in need to get access to fresh, local produce."



Brad McCleaf, McLeaf's Orchard, Adams County, Penn.; offering fruits, berries and grapes; production practices, integrated pest management.

"We practice integrated pest management, essentially we spray pesticide and fungicide as little as possible. We set traps that have hormones that repel insects, but we also have traps that catch the insects which we can ID and control. A lot of farmers do a mass spray for every insect. However, we only spray for the insects we have."



We donate a lot of our unsold produce to gleaners, part of churches or nonprofit organizations."

Esther Corporan, Chef Eloy Kickin' Salsa; Loudoun County, Va.

"We have been here for five years and have been making Kickin' Salsa for over 30 years."



John Dudzinsky, Farmers Market Manager

"This is the 30th Anniversary of the Herndon Farmers Market."



LETTERS

Meal Tax Increase: A Political Stunt?

A few years ago, I wrote to the Herndon Town Council advocating for a meals tax increase in the Town of Herndon. I was in my twenties then and had just started to show up to town council meetings. I really wanted the Council to invest in sustainability projects, and I kept hearing arguments that there wasn't enough money and that the budget was very tight. As I learned more, I realized it was far more political than that.

Now a few years later, I've attended dozens of Town Council meetings, I've observed and researched how other municipalities have advanced sustainability projects, and I have run an unsuccessful campaign for Town Council centered around pursuing an ambitious sustainability agenda. What I've learned is that the Town is actually in pretty decent shape financially, and in fact, the Town of Herndon is doing a lot around

sustainability and can do a lot more without a tax increase.

The simple truth about the Town of Herndon's financial situation is that it made less money over the past year from its traditional revenue portfolio than it usually does. The Town Councilmembers that are wet behind the ears and the ones that are probably starting to have trouble hearing took the words "unfunded priorities" as an indication that the Town was in dire need of a tax increase.

But, everyone in the town and in the country should know that every year there are unfunded priorities.

There are always things that we want to do, that we can't fund. This makes sense, because the government does not have an unlimited budget, and some things will always be lower priority than others.

Does it make sense to increase the Meals Tax or any tax in order

to fund unfunded priorities? No. There will always be unfunded priorities. In my humble, but accurate, opinion, this increase in the meals tax is a political stunt curated by the newest members of the Town Council. If you were paying attention to the Herndon Town Council election last year, you probably saw this Meals Tax increase coming from a mile away.

The increase in the meals tax rate in the Town of Herndon is the direct result of the candidates the Town voted for this past November. I suspect taxes in Fairfax County will continue to increase over the next few years as the mindless blue wave washes over Northern Virginia. My hope is that after our national politics cool down in a few years, our local politics will return to reason instead of this ridiculous political theater.

Joseph Plummer
Herndon

Herndon Embraces Diversity

To the Editor:

It wasn't always good news when the Town of Herndon and the topic of diversity appeared in headlines.

But that, happily, is the past. Today this vibrant, third-largest township in the Commonwealth is defining itself with inclusion and progressive citizen participation—and finding joy in being a diverse community.

As an expanded Metro encourages new growth and our downtown is on the precipice of redevelopment, the Town of Herndon is grappling to find the right balance of economic growth with the commitment to retain the spirit of a small-town community. Conversations about our shared future are taking place across town from the bike trail to the beer garden, and kitchen tables and offices in between. Happily, these conversations have often been about challenging traditional ways of thinking so that

Herndon can fully embrace its future inclusive of everyone who is in our community—and in preparation for those who join us in the future.

Simply looking at the numbers shows Herndon's diversity. The Town's population is now majority-minority with a broad diversity of ages and ethnicities. Economically, the average resident's income is higher than the state median. The makeup of our council mirrors the Town's current

demographics. Both our mayor and police chief are female.

But data only begins to tell the story. The heart and soul of what has become the new face of Herndon is the people. Herndonians are engaged and vocal, showing up at public meetings and community forums, serving on planning and developing committees, creating clubs and groups, and

starting the successful small businesses that comprise more than 70 percent of businesses in the Town.

Town government has responded and encouraged this growing spirit of civic responsibility, renewing efforts to involve all residents, building bridges to the community through listening events that bring concerns to light and ideas to fruition. You only have to walk through the Town Green to see this is a real community. You only have to speak up to become a meaningful part of it.

Increasing civic involvement and a desire for diversity was obvious in the seemingly endless, rapid fire trips to the polls last year.

Herndonians turned out to cast their ballots in historically high numbers; even lining up to cast a primary vote in the rain and cold—and those voters cast a vote for more diversity; electing the first ever Latinx council member in Cesar del Aguila and the first Nepali council member in the country in Pradeep Dhakal. They

also voted for

Herndon-born Palestinian-American Dr. Ibraheem Samirah, sending the second-ever Muslim to the General Assembly with 59 percent of the vote. After the election, Samirah attributed his win to the involvement of grassroots volunteers.

On Friday our community gathered to learn more about one another at a celebration hosted by our Nepali neighbors. When the Mayor Lisa Merkel and Herndon Town Council proclaimed the first Nepalese American Heritage Day in America, council chambers were packed.

The Nepali responded with "a joyous celebration!" with food and entertainment and an invitation, in all caps, "ALL ARE WELCOME!!!" That is how people who live next door

become neighbors—and it's through good neighbors that towns become strong communities.

Town of Herndon is a microcosm of the change in this country. There is still work to do, but the warm welcome of inclusivity is swelling here.

I can hear languages other than my own and ethnic music softly hanging in the evening air as I type. This Town of Herndon resident couldn't be happier to live right here, right now.

Donielle Scherff
Herndon

Announcements

We pay top \$ for **STERLING**,
MEN'S WATCHES,
JEWELRY, COSTUME JEWELRY,
FURNITURE, PAINTINGS AND CLOCKS.
Schefer Antiques
703-241-0790
theschefers@cox.net

Employment

Live Help Wanted/Home Caregiver
A compassionate, professional in Certified Medical Administrative and respectful is needed. All expenses paid (Food, Utilities, etc) + Salary is \$20.5 per Hour.
5 Days a Week - 5 Hours per Day.
For more details about the position,
email me admin@myregalplumbing.com

Announcements

Donate A Boat or Car Today!
BoatAngel

"2-Night Free Vacation!"
800-700-BOAT
(2628)

www.boatangel.com

sponsored by boat angel outreach centers

STOP CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN



Announcements

Announcements

OUTER BANKS, NC - VACATION RENTALS

Over 500 vacation homes from S. Nags Head to Corolla's 4x4!

Brindley Beach
VACATIONS & SALES

877-642-3224

www.brindleybeach.com

Announcements

Announcements

Lifetime METAL ROOFING
by VA CAROLINA BUILDINGS, INC

40 YEAR WARRANTY ON THE FINISH - ENERGY EFFICIENT SUPERIOR DURABILITY - SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNT
FACTORY DIRECT - WE FINANCE - CALL NOW!

WWW.METALROOFOVER.COM

1-800-893-1242

NEWS

Virginia Trails Nation in Placing Foster Children with Relatives

BY CAITLIN MORRIS
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Only 7 percent of Virginia's foster children are placed with relatives, according to a new study — well below the national average of 32 percent.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation tracked changes in foster care in each state from 2007 to 2017. For Virginia, the data snapshot contained some good news: There were fewer children in foster care, and fewer foster children were placed in group homes.

But many experts say that ideally, foster children should be placed with relatives — and on that measure, Virginia did not make any progress over the 10 years.

"We want for children to have a family that is their family forever — whether it's their family of origin or if their foster family turns into an adoptive home," said Allison Gilbreath, a policy analyst at Voices for Virginia's Children, a nonprofit advocacy program.

Over the 10-year period, Virginia was successful in decreasing the percentage of foster children in group homes from 23 percent to 17 percent. That means more children have been fostered in family settings — but just not with their own relatives. The data also shows that older youth are more likely to be in group homes.

Virginia was also successful in reducing the number of children entering foster care. In 2007, there were 7,665, compared with 4,795 in 2017.

"While we have reduced the number of children overall in foster care, black children in particular continue to be overrepresented both in family-based settings, but also particularly in group homes," Gilbreath said. "We really need to spend some time and energy in the state and figure out what we can do that will specifically get at the racial inequities in the foster care system."

This year's Virginia General Assembly passed SB 1339 to bring Virginia in compliance with federal foster care regulations, including the federal Family First Prevention Services Act enacted in 2018. The

act encourages states to keep children in family-based settings by redirecting federal funds to support services for at-risk children and their caregivers.

Virginia's new law also aims to increase the number of children placed with family members by notifying relatives when a child enters foster care.

Voices for Virginia's Children joined the Annie E. Casey Foundation in calling on child welfare systems to shift resources from group placements to family settings.

"They feel more loved and protected, and it's a more normal experience for that child," Gilbreath said. "But also, they're more likely to achieve permanency that way, and that's what we really want for kids."

The organizations contend that the support system for other foster children and caregivers should also be available to relatives who take in children. This includes financial support and access to mental health support. Often, family members take in a child through what is known as kinship diversion, meaning they take in a child without using the foster system and don't receive the same support as caregivers in the foster program.

The children's advocacy groups also called for expansion of kinship navigator programs. These programs aim to help relative caregivers navigate the complex child welfare system. Under the Family First Prevention Services Act, additional federal funds have been made available for kinship navigator programs.

"Virginia has already started to take advantage of these funds but could adopt the programs statewide," Voices for Virginia's Children stated in a press release.

The organization and the Annie E. Casey Foundation also asked for increased access to services that would help stabilize families. By aligning legislation with the Family First Prevention Services Act, funds will be accessible for family support services to prevent at-risk children from entering the foster system.

"If we were able to step in and provide that family support — we'd be able to make that family successful," Gilbreath said.

Free Cinco de Mayo Lyft Rides Offered to Prevent Drunk Driving

Fee Cinco de Mayo Lyft rides will be offered to deter impaired driving throughout the Washington-metropolitan area beginning Sunday, May 5, 2019.

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the 2019 Cinco de Mayo SoberRide program will be in operation for 12 hours beginning at 4 pm on Sunday, May 5th (Cinco de Mayo) and continue until 4 am on Monday, May 6 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

During this twelve-hour period, area residents age 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may

download Lyft to their phones, then enter a SoberRide code in the app's "Promo" section to receive their no cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. WRAP's Cinco de Mayo SoberRide® promo code will be posted at 3 pm on Sunday, May 5 on www.SoberRide.com.

Last year, a record 897 persons in the Washington-metropolitan area used WRAP's Cinco de Mayo SoberRide program rather than possibly driving home impaired. The charity also offers its SoberRide program on St. Patrick's Day, Independence Day, Halloween and the winter holidays.

More information about WRAP's SoberRide® initiative can be found at www.SoberRide.com.

BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 5

may apply for all or any part of the \$3,300 budget. Visit audubonva.org/advocacy-issues-list for information and application.

Digital Citizenship: Tips for Parents. 10 a.m.-noon at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 – Room 100, Dunn Loring. As parents in the digital age, being aware, alert and involved in a child's use of the internet is crucial. Digital Citizenship can be described as the norms of appropriate, responsible behavior, its positive and negative impact on self and others, with regard to technology use. Free to parents, educators and community members. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center

SATURDAY/MAY 11

Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. Letter carriers will pick up donated food. Leave donations before your typical mail delivery time. All food stays in the local community. The top requested non-perishable food items are: cereal, pasta, pasta sauce or spaghetti sauce, rice, canned fruits and vegetables, canned meals (such as soups, chili and pasta), 100 percent juice, peanut butter, macaroni & cheese, canned protein (tuna, chicken and turkey), beans (canned or dry). Specific questions regarding the Food Drive should be directed to 202-662-2489.

Family Caregiver Expo. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center at Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus. Capital Caring will host its first Caregiver Expo in partnership with AARP and Virginia Hospital Center. The expo is free and will feature information highlighting resources and support programs available to family caregivers, including home care services, financial and estate planning, elder law, and information sessions on such topics as Alzheimer's and Dementia, Preservation of Assets, and Caring for the Caregiver. Contact Amy Shields at ashields@capitalcaring.org or call 703-531-6095 for more.

Fairfax Board of Supervisors Chair Candidate Forum. 3-5 p.m. at Heritage Fellowship Church, 2501 Fox Mill Road, Reston. Join the Fairfax NAACP for an engaging, moderated panel discussion with candidates for Fairfax County Board of Supervisor's Chair. Candidates are Alicia Plerhoples, Tim Chapman, Ryan McElveen and Jeff McKay. Free. RSVP at www.eventbrite.com/o/naacp-fairfax-county-12397167937.

Performers Wanted. The NVFAF is once again bringing thought-provoking performance art to the three-day festival at Reston Town Center. *ON DISPLAY/RESTON*, a movement installation by Heidi Latsky, will celebrate the beauty of differences. The artist is looking for men and women 18 and older to participate. No formal dance experience is required, and diversity and the most inclusive range of ability are welcome. The movement installations will involve focus, stillness and structured improvisation. The events will take place Saturday, May 18 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, May 19 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Email Kevin.Danaher@Fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-390-6166 for more.

MONDAY/MAY 13

Candidates Forum on Affordable Housing. 7-9 p.m. at Heritage Fellowship Church, 2501 Fox Mill Road, Reston. Cornerstones will host a forum for the candidates running for Hunter Mill District Supervisor. Questions for the candidates will focus on affordable housing and economic development in Fairfax County, specifically in the Hunter Mill district. The question and answer portion of the forum will be held from 7-8:30 p.m., immediately followed by a meet and greet reception with the candidates. To submit a question, email forum2019@cornerstonesva.org. You do not have to attend the forum to submit a question. The event is free. Visit www.cornerstonesva.org

FRIDAY/MAY 17

Emergency Preparedness for Parents of Students with Disabilities. 10 a.m.-noon at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 – Room 100, Dunn Loring. For the millions of Americans with disabilities, natural and human-made disasters present a substantial challenge. Fairfax County's Office of Emergency Management is committed to inclusion by spreading the message of preparedness to its residents with disabilities and access and functional needs. Free to parents, educators and community members. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center for more or to register.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALL 703-549-0004 FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION

LANDSCAPING	TILE / MARBLE	TILE / MARBLE
A&S CONSTRUCTION SOD, Mulch, Clean-Up Leaf Removal Hauling. 703-863-7465	Good is not good, where better is expected. -Thomas Fuller	Quality Tree Service & Landscaping Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured. Spring Cleanup... Tree removal, topping & pruning, shrubby trimming, mulching, leaf removal, planting, hauling, gutter cleaning, retaining walls, drainage problems, etc. 25 years of experience – Free estimates 703-868-5358 24 Hour Emergency Tree Service
ELECTRICAL	ELECTRICAL	
K & D ELECTRIC COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE Family Owned & Operated Recessed Lighting Licensed/Bonded/Insured Ceiling Fans Office 703-335-0654 Phone/CATV Mobile 703-499-0522 Computer Network Cabling lektrkman28@gmail.com Service Upgrades Hot Tubs, etc...		
GUTTER	GUTTER	
GUTTER CLEANING Gutters and Downspouts Cleaned Small Repairs • Gutter Guards PINNACLE SERVICES lic#ns 703-802-0483 free est. email: jamele@lawnandsplitters.com web: lawnandsplitters.com Friendly Service with a Friendly Price!		
A & S Landscaping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Concrete work • Retaining Walls • Patios • Decks • Porches (incl. screened) • Erosion & Grading Solutions • French Drains • Sump Pumps • Driveway Asphalt Sealing 703-863-7465 LICENCED Serving All of N. Virginia		
RN. CONTRACTORS, INC. Remodeling Homes, Flooring, Kitchen & Bath, Windows, Siding, Roofing, Additions & Patios, Custom Deck, Painting We Accept All Major Credit Cards Licensed, Insured, Bonded • Free Estimates • Class A Lic Phone: 703-887-3827 E-mail: rnccontractorsinc@gmail.com www.rncontractors.com		
LANDSCAPING	LANDSCAPING	
Patios & Drainage Your neighborhood company since 1987 703-772-0500		
J.E.S. Services Free Estimates - Fully Licensed & Insured <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting & Landscaping Design • Drainage & Water Problems • Concrete Driveways, Replacement or New • Patios and Walks • Masonry Work or Dry Laid • Paver, Flagstone, Brick, any style you choose • Retaining walls of all types All work Guaranteed		

As Luck Has Had It



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Aside from the fatigue I experienced a few columns ago, this immunotherapy infusion is, and has been, quite manageable.

My biggest take away so far is that I've had no real quality of life issues, as had been the case with my previous chemotherapy/alimta infusions. With that drug, I had post-infusion eating challenges and for nearly a week after the fact, felt less than mediocre.

Moreover, I wouldn't say I felt like I had cancer, but I certainly was reminded of it — if that makes any sense.

And even though I do have some minor side effects from my current immunotherapy infusion, I am reminded nevertheless, that I have cancer. Not because of how I feel, as was the case previously, but because of how I look — and because of what I feel.

I am referring to my "Adam's apple" tumor. Not only can/do I 'look' it all the time but quite often, depending on how I move my head: forward/downward, I can feel it too.

I have to tell you, feeling it as I do, and looking at it as often as I do: every day, is unsettling.

My whole approach to this living-with-cancer life has been to compartmentalize it a la Jerry Seinfeld and "the vault." Out of sight has helped keep some things out of mind. And when things are out of mind, it's much easier to make believe.

And making believe has been one of my methods of "operandi" since Feb. 20, 2009. That's the date (you bet I remember) when my internal medicine doctor called me at work with the results of my previous week's biopsy: "malignant," he said.

Up until that call, the previous six weeks' diagnostic pursuit had been interesting in a curious kind of way wondering what all the goings on were about and when all these inconveniences would end. And not for a minute during this entire process did I ever think I'd be diagnosed with a "terminal" disease: non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV. I figured, to the extent I figured at all, that the process would result in much having been done about nothing.

Boy was I wrong!

I still remember — and laugh when I recall the phone conversation I had with my thoracic surgeon after he had received the results of my PET scan: "You lit that thing up like a Christmas tree," he said.

Presuming that wasn't good news, I replied: "I hear there are false positives all the time which is why these scans aren't used a lot." (A perfect example of a little knowledge in the wrong mouth.)

I can't recall if the doctor snickered before he said the following: "Well, then your scan was a world record false positive." I don't know if I grasped the obvious at that point but soon a surgical biopsy was ordered and the rest is Kenny-with-cancer history, a history with which many of you regular readers are all too familiar.

And that's a familiarity which I hope has not bred contempt. Because even though it's my life — and I'm stuck with it (as the old saying says), it need not be yours. I can well imagine and appreciate how living with and/or seeking out negativity is not likely to improve any one's lot in life. (I try to avoid it every day.)

To that end, I have always tried to tread lightly and write with a soft touch since I've been cancer-centric beginning June 10, 2009, when I published my first column on the subject: "Dying To Tell You, Sort Of." And in so doing, I've tried to see the light amid the darkness and be thankful for any in between.

I can't say it's been fun, but it's funny how things have turned out: alive and reasonably well, 10-plus years later.

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

NEWS

Clocktower Car Wash co-owners, Tim Ferraro and Gus Kearney present a check for \$1000 to local charities during the business' inaugural Spring Community Festival as (far right) State Senator Jennifer Boysko (D-33), Delegate Ken Plum (D-36) and others join in the fun.



MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Not Just Another Car Wash Raising money for local charities.

By MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Enjoy a spring community festival, get a car wash and help benefit community charities, PTAs and PTOs. That was what it was all about on Saturday, April 27, at Clocktower Car Wash located at 2501 Centreville Road, Herndon. After new owners Gus Kearney and Tim Ferraro installed premium tunnel wash and state of the art equipment and re-opened the full-service car wash summer of 2018, the pair want to support the community that supports them.

"Many great causes are helping to make our com-

munity better, and we thought this festival would be a great way to bring some attention, and a little money, to them," said Kearney. By donating 25 percent of the day's proceeds as directed by patrons to Link, Inc., Herndon Village Network, Fairfax County Animal Shelter, PTAs and PTOs, Clocktower Car Wash raised money for local charities and organizations. Virginia Sen. Jennifer Boysko, (D-33) and Virginia House Delegate Ken Plum (D-36) joined Kearney, Ferraro and others for the check presentation totaling \$1000.

For hours, information and to request another charity is added for future fundraising events, email info@clocktowerwash.com.

Everybody Loves a Birthday

Herndon Village Network turns four.

It was birthday cake and party time for supporters, members and board members of Herndon Village Network. On Sunday, April 28, the grassroots, neighbor-to-neighbor, non-profit initiative celebrated its 4th birthday at ArtSpace Herndon. Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-33) and Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) stopped by to offer their congratulations to Penny Helpren, President of Herndon Village Network and thank the organization's volunteers for their support.

"Herndon Village Network celebrates four years of community service geared toward providing free transportation for our non-driving senior members living in zip code 20170."

In 2019, Herndon Village Network provided 917 round-trip rides.

We hope to expand our service area," said Helpren.

For more information, visit herdonvillagenetwork.org.

—MERCIA HOBSON



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Penny Helpren, President Herndon Village Network, Sen. Jennifer Boysko, (D-33) and Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) at HVN's fourth birthday party.

Cara Ainge and Henry Metcalf in Herndon High School's production of the 'Sound of Music.'



PHOTO BY ROBERT MAXWELL

Impressive 'Sound of Music'

By JOSH LEE
FREEDOM HIGH SCHOOL

Through the hills and the abbey, comforting songs could be heard throughout the theater and, like raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens, Herndon High School's production of "The Sound of Music" was, as they say in Austria, unglaublich (incredible)!

"The Sound of Music," music by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein and book by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse, first premiered at New Haven's Shubert Theatre in 1959. That same year, it opened on Broadway in the Lunts-Fontanne Theater before moving to the Mark Hellinger Theater in 1962 and went on to win five Tony awards. In 1965, a movie version was made starring Julie Andrews

CAPPIES and won 5 Academy awards. "The Sound of Music"

was also Rodgers and Hammerstein's last musical they wrote together before the death of Oscar Hammerstein.

This musical follows a carefree yet troublesome soon-to-be nun named Maria Rainer who gets sent to be a governess for the von Trapp children. Their father is the hardened Captain Georg von Trapp who eventually falls in love with and marries Maria. But when he is commissioned to be in the German navy under Nazi control, he, Maria, and his children flee from Austria. This story is actually based on the memoir of Maria von Trapp called "The Story of the Trapp Family Singers".

Leading the show at Herndon was Erin Maxwell who played Maria Rainer with not only an immaculate innocence, but also maturity. Her voice was beautiful in every song she sang and was easily one of the audience's favorite things. Her movements and hand gestures were very graceful and were almost like that of a dancer. A very impres-

sive aspect of her performance was her ability to switch maturity based on her situation, feeling like she was the youngest among the nuns, but becoming more of a mother figure with the von Trapp children.

A standout group in this performance were the von Trapp children who consisted of Liesl played by Cara Ainge, Friedrich played by Ankit Poudel, Louisa played by Emma Harris, Kurt played by Genaro Mejia, Brigitta played by Hannah Clements, Marta played by Claire Callaway, and last, but definitely not least, Gretl played by Alyssa Ruark. Each child had a very specific dynamic with every other child and their singing was good enough to win a festival. Their energy was consistent and was especially good in Hannah Clements' Brigitta who had perfect comedic timing and played a well balanced innocent, yet frank child.

One of the most impressive parts of this show were some of the technical aspects. Their set was very large and detailed and was used to its fullest potential. The grand staircase was versatile and could change from the von Trapp house to the abbey just by pulling the curtains closed a bit. Their lighting was thoughtful and effective, creating the inside of an abbey just with a light on the grand drape. The cues were impressively well timed. Another noteworthy aspect were costumes, specifically the sheer amount of costume changes with almost all of the costume changes being insanely quick.

This was all to create the world of Austria and the von Trapp house, which they succeeded tenfold.

And so, with a so long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, and goodbye, Herndon High School's committed and energetic actors and very intelligent use of technical aspects all amounted to "The Sound of Music" being do-re-mi-fa-so great!