



2016
Virginia
PRESS
Association
Award Winning
Publications

Reston CONNECTION

Bringing new meaning to the words "street art," artist Frederick Prescott from New Mexico brought his colorful menagerie to the 26th Annual Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival, organized and benefitting the Greater Reston Arts Center.

SUMMER FUN

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PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION
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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY CHASE HINDERSTEIN/THE WISE INVESTOR GROUP

The associates of The Wise Investor Group at Robert W. Baird & Co. take a moment after assembling more than 200 lunch kits for the residents and clients at the Embry Rucker Shelter in Reston, as part of Baird Gives Back week.

Investing in the Community

The Wise Investor Group supports Embry Rucker Shelter.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

The meeting room at the Reston offices of the Wise Investor Group at Robert W. Baird & Co. usually sees employees and clients huddled around financial documents or maybe looking at investment charts on the video screens. On May 15, the long conference table was covered with a sea of brown paper lunch bags, the makings of more than 200 sandwiches, bottles of water, juice, and snacks. May 15-20 is Baird Gives Back Week, one of the nation's largest annual corporate volunteer efforts, and the associates at The Wise Investor Group were taking their community responsibilities seriously.

"Everyone is involved. Everyone is helping out," said Managing Director Simon Hamilton.

The gang at the Wise Investor Group at Baird has volunteered time and resources to a number of charitable organizations in the past, but this year marks their first association with Cornerstones and the Embry Rucker Shelter.

"For one thing," said Hamilton, "it's a need that is right in our own backyard, where so many people assume that everything is fine. What also drew us to Cornerstones is that they work on the root causes of so many challenges facing the most vulnerable in our community, housing being one of the most important."

The Wise Investor Group associates who chose Embry Rucker as the recipient of this year's Baird Gives Back efforts agree that it's hard to solve your other issues when you don't have the stability of a safe place to live.

"Not only do they offer the physical shelter," said Hamilton, "but the Cornerstones partners work to help secure safe and stable living accommodations outside of shelters, even working directly with landlords on behalf of their clients."

That kind of direct care resonates with the Wise Investor Group colleagues, and according to Anastasia Hansen, the company's marketing coordinator who spearheaded the charitable activity, "it



Managing Director Simon Hamilton gets a helping hand from Client Assistant Jenelle Springer and her sons Julien and Jayden.



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

From left: Embry Rucker Shelter staffer Jackie Orellana helps Jim McGuire, Aashka Desai and Anastasia Hansen from the Wise Investor Group at Baird to deliver the company's lunch kit donations.

makes sense to do more than hand out, to go beyond and really help at all levels."

Two shifts of company employees took turns making the lunch kits, including Wise Investor Group founder Gregory Smith, Branch Manager Jim McGuire, Operations Manager Nicholas Sorden, and Client Assistant Jenelle Springer, who brought her two young sons 7-year-old Julien and 9-year-old Jayden, who did their parts for "kids who don't have the same [as us]."

Once the kits were assembled, Hansen, McGuire and Client Assistant Aashka Desai delivered them to the shelter, just a few minutes away from their offices. "It really is eye-opening," said Hansen. For the volunteers, it really demonstrated the notion of "so close, yet so far away."

"I hope we keep working with this group," said Hansen. "It's always good to help your community, but even better to do so hands-on, person-to-person."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Buzz Aldrin gathers with Aldrin grade-level representatives. Caitlin, Shylah, Kiley, Will, and Ryan come together for an Aldrin team motivational cheer.

Buzz Aldrin Visits Aldrin Elementary

On May 11, Dr. Buzz Aldrin — Astronaut of the Gemini 12 and Apollo XI programs and one of the first men to walk on the Moon — visited his namesake school Buzz Aldrin Elementary. Aldrin was in town to attend the "Humans to Mars Summit" and present to the Aldrin students, as the next generation of space explorers, a gigantic map of Mars. Aldrin presented a brief biography as well as his thoughts and hopes for future travel to Mars to the student body assembled around the map. Following the assemblies, Aldrin gathered on the map with representatives from each grade level. His videographer taped testimonials from the boys and girls on their thoughts about space exploration and what it would mean to travel to Mars for an emerging program to be put together for the Buzz Aldrin Foundation. Aldrin is an advocate for STEAM programs — while visiting his school, the Aldrin STEAM Resource Teacher, Jackie Wheeler; the School-Based Technology Specialist, Eve Davies, and the Principal, Shane Wolfe practiced "printing" items on a new 3D printer, including a special bracelet for Aldrin.

WEEK IN RESTON

Newly Scheduled: Reston PRC Amendment Community Meeting

Fairfax County's Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) held two community meetings this month to share information on the proposed Zoning Ordinance for the Planned Residential Community (PRC) district. A third community meeting has been added for Wednesday, May 24, 2017 at Lake Anne Elementary School cafeteria, 11510 North Shore Drive, Reston, starting at 7 p.m. The last PRC Zoning Ordinance Amendment, approved by the Board of Supervisors in 2007, changed the population factors and the approval process for a PRC from an administrative approval by the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services to a legislative approval by the Board of Supervisors.

In 2014-2015, the Board of Supervisors approved changes to the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan for the Reston Master Plan, based on recommendations from a 40-member task force. The plan focused growth around certain areas, such as the three Transit Station Areas, Reston Town Center and Village Centers. The proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance are needed to accommodate implementation of the adopted Comprehensive Plan, including the persons per acre limitation on residential development. The areas previously zoned industrial within the Reston Transit Station Areas are outside of the PRC District and are not affected by this amendment.

For the presentation, additional information and to share comments/concerns, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/zoningordinance/prc-zo-amendment/.



Joseph English has been exhibiting at the festival since the event first began. "I love to come to this show to meet old friends and make new ones" like Nancy Tachel of Tysons Corner, a first-time festival attendee who bought an English print for her office.



From left: Pat Gauthier, a Reston resident since 1966, and Suzanne Gauthier pick up some hand-carved cherry wood utensils from Jonathan's Wild Cherry Spoons. The Gauthier ladies are frequent festival-goers. "If we're here, we go," said Suzanne.

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Arts Shine Bright in Reston Town Center

26th Annual Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival showcases art of all kinds.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

The sun was not shining during the May 20-21 weekend of the 26th Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival, but the streets of Reston Town Center couldn't have been brighter, decorated with the colorful offerings of some 200 artists from around the country and Canada, working in paints, wood, film, metal, clay, ceramics, and more. Booths and performance venues spanned 11 Reston blocks where first time browsers and first time vendors mingled with veteran artists and festival goers.

Joseph Craig English, who occupied Booth 331 on the corner of Library and Market streets packed with his vibrantly colored prints, is one of the veterans. "I haven't missed a year yet," said English, who brings his works from his studio in Washington Grove, Md. "This is a wonderful show, the top show on the East Coast." English said it was an honor just to be included in the event, noting that to participate, artists had to submit applications with illustrations of their work. A thousand artists may apply, "but an impressive panel of jurors narrows down the applicants and chooses just so many per category of art type. About 200 artists are accepted, so I am thrilled to have been chosen to show my works here, year after year," said English.

After 26 years of festival appearances his booth was a popular stop. Visitors were attracted to the bright depictions of what English describes as "things we see everyday but often take for granted," and friends and followers who have come to know him over the years wanted to check in for a visit, and see what new pieces were on display. "Some of these folks are now my second



Don't forget that dance is an art form. Several dance groups performed during the festival, including GroundShare Arts Alliance, here rehearsing "Offshoot" in Reston Town Square Park.

and third generation collectors. Their parents, maybe even grandparents have purchased some of my work. Boy, does that make me sound old," he said, "but I love to come here and catch up with so many great folks who have been so kind as to appreciate my works over the years."

Even as he spoke, the English booth welcomed a young woman from Great Falls, who said she had known the artist since she was a child, and was stopping by to "visit" a favorite print. Next in came Nancy Tachel, who lives and works in the Tysons Corner area, and who wound up purchasing a print of the Capitol Building, depicted with a fireworks display in the background. "It's just perfect for my office," said Tachel. "This is my first time at the Arts Festival, but I know it won't be my last. The quality and the variety of art on display here is fabulous."

JUST AROUND THE CORNER from English's setup, Kina Crow, from Pittsburgh,

Pa., was drawing a crowd with her sculpted miniature figures, set in "cubbies" within paintings. It's a perfect blend of her talents and her personality, according to Crow. She started as a painter, then moved into clay. Because of a competition that required the making of "tiny little figures," she discovered the outlet she needed to "bring out our inner child in a really beautiful way." As visitor Jonathan Walnich from Arlington put it, "it's whimsical without being silly, works with fun puns that adults can really enjoy, with just a kick of 'kidness' about it."

There was plenty of "useful" art to be found at the festival, as well as the kind to be hung on a wall or displayed on a shelf. Larry Brown from Spruce Pine, N.C. attracted quite a bit of attention with hand-crafted wooden floor and table lamps with hand-painted, mushroom shaped shades. Other artists also offered wood crafts and furnishings. Pottery, both decorative and functional, was also on display. There was

jewelry, made with any number of different materials, and clothing made with textiles and colors that guaranteed the item to be one of a kind. There were handbags of fabrics, of leather, and even some made of steel mesh. Frequent festival-goers Pat Gauthier of Reston, and Suzanne Gauthier of Potomac Falls — "If we're here, we go!" said Suzanne — were found scooping up hand-crafted wooden kitchen spoons, ladles, and tongs, carved by the gang at Jonathan's Wild Cherry Spoons. "We're just three men, carving out a future of spoons while keeping them all made in America," is the motto of carvers Jonathan Simons, and brothers Shawn and Neil Claypoole from Kempton, Pa.

Musical instruments were also featured as art forms at the festival, much to the delight of 5-year-old Olena R. of Ashburn who picked up a McNally three-string Strumstick and immediately began playing like a professional. She was so good, that her dad just had to buy her one of these instruments that look like a cross between a miniature guitar and a dulcimer.

GroundShare Arts Alliance, Gin Dance Company, Ravel Dance Company, and the Classical Ballet Theatre performed works created just for the festival at Hyatt Park and in the Reston Town Square Park.

Judges selected 10 "Best in Category" artists. Each received a \$500 cash prize, a Blue Ribbon, and automatic entry in next year's Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival.

The festival, with free admission but a suggested donation of \$5 for the expected 30,000 attendees, and the Friday night opening reception are the largest fundraisers for festival host Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE). The monies raised help sustain the organization's year-round arts programming and "GRACE Art" education for 40 schools in the D.C. region.

Keep Virginia Green

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



states to fill the void...Virginia will lead the way to cut carbon and lean in on the clean energy future." The current federal administration has moved to rescind actions of the Environmental Protection Agency to reduce carbon in the atmosphere and to act on climate change.

While proponents of states' rights may applaud the shift from the federal to the state governments, wind currents from power plants and airborne pollutants do not recognize state boundaries. It is critically important that other states follow the actions of Gov. McAuliffe.

According to the press release announcing the Governor's Executive Directive, the Commonwealth has seen an increase from just 17 megawatts of solar installed to more than 1,800 megawatts in service or under development. Revenues in the rapidly growing clean energy sector have risen from \$300 million to \$1.5 billion between 2014 and 2016. In the last year alone, solar installations have risen

nearly 1,200 percent. The number of Virginians employed by the solar industry rose 65 percent to 3,236 — twice the number of jobs supported by coal. An analysis by The Solar Foundation quoted in the release said that Virginia is now second in the Southeast and ninth in the nation for year-over-year solar growth. As of 2017, Virginia is first in the Southeast for corporate clean energy procurement.

Dominion Energy, the Commonwealth's largest electricity producer, announced earlier that it intends to follow the federal Clean Power Plant regulations even if they are rescinded by the current administration. Older coal-powered plants are being converted to natural gas or closed. The company will be subject to any additional regulations that result from the Governor's Executive Directive.

It is heartening to see the number of citizens who have expressed a greater interest in environmental matters as they realize the threat to current protections under the new administration. We need to thank and applaud the Governor for his action and at the same time keep the pressure on federal and state elected officials to see that our air is kept clean and safe. I am pleased that both the Sierra Club and the League of Conservation Voters have recognized my efforts in this regard.

For more than a half century signs along the roadsides and ads in local newspapers featured Smokey the Bear with a message "Keep Virginia Green." His reference was to forest fire prevention, of which he said 9 out of 10 could be prevented. Forest fires were a big concern because wood products were big business in Virginia.

A campaign continues today with a "Keep Virginia Green" theme as part of the "Keep Virginia Beautiful" effort. It has a broader meaning as it now includes stopping littering and other actions consumers can take as part of caring for the environment in the Commonwealth.

Maybe the most meaningful effort ever taken to protect Virginia's environment was announced last week by Gov. Terry McAuliffe — that he had signed an Executive Directive ordering the Department of Environmental Quality to begin the process of establishing regulations in Virginia that will reduce carbon emission from power plants. As the Governor explained, "As the federal government abdicates its role on this important issue, it is critical for

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Virginia Needs to Adopt California Fuel Economy Goals

To the Editor:

In response to Governor McAuliffe's directive to Virginia's DEQ to cut carbon pollution, Virginia should adopt Obama's and California's fuel economy goals: 54.5 mpg by 2025. Do climate-change dismissives — especially those who drive gas-guzzlers — ever go outside? Do they ever run, walk, or ride a bike beside a road so that they have to breathe in car exhaust?

I loathe walking beside roads, and when I've gone on long bike rides, I've noticed that "yahoos" in pickup trucks — especially the diesel models, like to "floor it" when they pass a group of bike riders, so that we are forced to get a lungful of carbon monoxide, methane, sulfur and nitrous oxides, polyaromatic hydrocarbons, and heavy metals. I'd like to see if they could get out of their three-ton "exhaust sprayers" and pedal up a two-mile grade.

Have they ever hiked in the mountains, away from traffic noise (which I despise), and breathed in pure, oxygen-rich air? My grandfather, a doctor from Marion, N.C., used to take a bicycle inner tube filled with mountain air when he went to the city, so that he could breathe the air from that tube with his car windows rolled up. To him (even with the rubber smell), that air was better than the exhaust-filled city air.

To Trump, those bike-riders and hikers are losers, especially compared to selfish status-

seekers who can afford a Cadillac Escalade, Lexus LX 570, Dodge Viper, or other ridiculously heavy and/or powerful gas hog. And who cares about wildlife, the hapless victims of our pollution? I do, for one! Shouldn't everyone be outraged to learn that:

- ❖ 25 percent of cars are causing 90 percent of the air pollution we breathe;
- ❖ in 2016, about 76 different models of vehicles weighed at least 6,000 lbs. (which are exempt from annual depreciation caps);
- ❖ eight of the most expensive luxury cars get the worst gas mileage (e.g., 14 miles per gallon or less overall).

With the strong evidence correlating dementia, Alzheimer's, and cancer with breathing car exhaust, Trump and the GOP plan to roll back national car emission standards. (My very health-conscious wife was just diagnosed with cancer, and with all the walking we do, breathing exhaust likely contributed to its onset.) Why doesn't Virginia join California to adopt the 54.5 mpg-by-2025 goal? It's the very least we should do!

John H. Fringer, III, P.E.
Reston

Heart-Breaking Responses on Homelessness

To the Editor:

Homelessness is a word that can conjure up a variety of emotions. For some it might be

sympathy or contempt for those affected by it. For others it might be a fear of it possibly happening to them. The desire to find out how people felt on this subject served as the catalyst for my project team in a George Mason University communications class.

As part of the class project we had the opportunity to partner with the Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs and the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. When we were informed about the current situation involving homelessness in the county, I was shocked. We were told that back in 2008, approximately 1,800 people were found to be homeless in the county. Although there has been an almost 50 percent reduction in homelessness since then, it had never occurred to me that a significant number of people in the area were going through this problem.

We wanted to know more about what others thought about homelessness in the county. We decided to do a survey of county residents about their thoughts on homelessness and report on what we found out. We sent the survey out on March 23 and promoted it through social media and email. After two weeks, we got the results and I think what we learned surprised all of us.

Almost 1,600 people filled out the survey. One of the responses revealed that 65 percent of those who responded believe homelessness affects them personally. Some people said they often saw people who were homeless, while others said they have never seen a person who is homeless in the county. Yet, what broke my heart were the comments that read "They are

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11



County Launches Innovation Challenge

Challenge brings together several hundred attendees who “might normally not cross paths.”

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Human Services Council thinks it's time to shake things up, to build a new strategy for identifying, addressing and funding solutions for human service needs in the community, and they've taken the first step in that direction by hosting the Innovation Challenge on May 18.

Evidence from the recent Fiscal Year 2018 Budget process and the data collected in the “Human Services Needs Assessment” published last year, show a trend where more of the county's residents require some type of assistance. In the words of Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, “Demand is outstripping resources.”

During the budget proceedings, some programs and initiatives were left unfunded, or given less than requested, and other initiatives and needs were rolled forward for future consideration.

Seven months ago, Human Services Council members Dr. Patrice Winter (Braddock District) and Thomas Goodwin (Providence District) “hatched an idea,” Winter told the attendees at the Innovation event. She said that the two convinced each other that a broader network of people from a greater variety of disciplines and experiences was needed to bring a fresh perspective to the various problems. With the support of their council colleagues and from county personnel, Winter and Goodwin directed their idea into the Challenge that brought several hundred attendees together who, as Winter put it “might normally not cross paths.”

In her letter to the Innovation Challenge participants, Bulova called the community-driven program “unprecedented in that it brings together leaders of all elements of the emerging 21st century human services community: businesses, established and startup; financiers in social impact investment; social entrepreneurs; philanthropists and foundations; nonprofits, and outstanding thought leaders in academia. Fairfax County employees,” wrote Bulova, “are here primarily to listen.”

THE PRESENTERS and the attendees covered a range of varying interests and experiences. In her opening remarks, Winter acknowledged that everyone present — speakers, panelists and audience members — came to the table with their own underlying agendas, causes or points of view. She asked that those agendas be “left in the parking lot. Models, strategy and process,

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PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

A diverse audience gathered for Fairfax County Human Services Council's Innovation Challenge, an event seeking greater community engagement to address the county's challenges.

not issues, are our directions this morning.”

Speaking to the attendees, Goodwin applauded the audience's presence at the event, telling them that by being there, they were participating in an experiment in community engagement. Working together produces significant results, he affirmed.

“We know that,” said Goodwin, using the example of the county's Diversion First program that seeks to direct persons with intellectual disabilities and mental health issues away from imprisonment to treatment when they come into contact with law enforcement for nonviolent offenses. “Five agencies work together across turf” to make Diversion First work, said Goodwin.

The Innovation Challenge, intended to be the launch for a series of events, set forth three main objectives:

- ❖ Exchange information about state-of-the-art innovations that can address health and human service challenges.

- ❖ Elicit new ideas from public and private partners to enhance services and maximize resources.

- ❖ Set the stage for specific recommendations about service enhancements and resources required to present to relevant stakeholders in the future.

The first section of the program offered presentations from persons working directly in Human Services in neighboring Montgomery County, Md. When questioned on seeking funds from the business community or other non-governmental sources, Sharon Friedman, project director of Montgomery Moving Forward, advised that the key is to develop partnerships early.

“We don't show up afterwards and ask for money,” said Friedman. Instead, possible collaborators are asked to be at the table from the start, “when the needs and the challenges are explained and discussed.”



Fairfax County Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) discusses some of the issues with Human Services Council Member Thomas Goodwin (Providence District). Along with Council member Dr. Patrice Winter, Goodwin “hatched the idea” for the Challenge. Supervisors Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) and John Foust (D-Dranesville) also attended the event.

Speaker Dr. Sallie Keller, professor of Statistics and director of the Social and Decision Analytics Laboratory of the Biocomplexity Institute of Virginia Tech (“Yes, what a mouthful!” agreed Keller) offered insights on “designed data collection” in the Human Services arena and work being done to better measure outcomes. “The goal is to democratize data ... and to provide new language for communication ... that can become a unifying thing around different disciplines.”

After a section devoted to “Progressive Funding Opportunities,” the organizers set the “social experiment” in motion with a series of “Reverse Pitches” to drive home

the collaborative approach that Winter, Goodwin and colleagues hope to see develop from this first Innovation Challenge.

THE IDEA is to “pitch” community issues and have businesses consider them and offer their suggestions and potential solutions, instead of the traditional “company pitches a product model.” For the Innovation Challenge, real problems were shared, and real companies, who had been paired with the problem-presenters in advance for the sake of demonstration, came back with possible innovations, services, technologies, or skills sets that might be applied to solving the problem.

The topics chosen were familiar challenges for many in the audience. Heads nodded in acknowledgement when “Caregiver Support Services,” “Transportation Options for Older Adults and Individuals with Disabilities,” and “Skills Training for Today's Employment” were presented to the partnered businesses.

Fairfax County, like many jurisdictions across the country, is facing the challenge of widening gaps between the human services needs of its residents and the county's ability to deliver those needs within its budget constraints. With the kick-off of the Innovation Challenge, the Fairfax County Human Services Council is seeking to perform what they call a “much needed facelift” on the traditional methods of addressing those challenges. The public is encouraged to learn about the council at www.fairfaxcounty.gov, search Human Services Council and to review the “Human Services Needs Assessment” which is also available on the county's website.

For details on area parks, services, and communities, see www.fairfaxcounty.gov. Search for tax bills, property transfers, and employment opportunities.

**Public Hearing Notice
Fairfax County
Secondary Six Year Plan**

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and The Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County, in accordance with Section 33.2-331 of the Code of Virginia, will conduct a joint public hearing in the Board Auditorium, Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035 at 3 p.m. on June 20, 2017.

The purpose of this public hearing is to receive public comment on the Secondary Six Year Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2018 through 2023. Copies of the proposed plan may be reviewed at the VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Civil Rights at 703-259-1775 or TTY/TDD 711.

Persons wishing to speak at this public hearing should contact the Office of the Clerk to the County Board of Supervisors at 703-324-3151.

SUMMER FUN, FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY DAWN MURPHY

Reston Photographic Society Exhibit

"Budapest Bridge," captures the romance of Budapest's nightlife along the Danube River. This photograph is an entry in the Reston Photographic Society's exhibit at the Reston Community Center at Lake Anne, June 5-July 2. Visit www.leagueofrestonartists.org/rps.

Send entertainment announcements to www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday.

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.-8 p.m. throughout the week at the JoAnne Rose Gallery, Reston Community Center at Lake Anne, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Visit www.leagueofrestonartists.org for more.

Women's Training Program. through June 12, 6:30-8 p.m. at South Lakes High School, Seahawks Drive, Reston. Reston Runners Women's Training Program. Runners, walkers, run/walk intervals and Fresh Start, for women who need a more gentle start to working out. Designed by women for women. \$45. Email wtp@restonrunners.org for more.

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

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

"A Bird in the Hand" through spring 2017. Reston Town Square Park, 11990 Market Street, Reston Town Center. See and explore Patrick Dougherty's monumental public art sculpture made from tree saplings. Presented by GRACE in collaboration with IPAR. 703-471-9242 restonarts.org

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

MAY 2-JUNE 29

Art Exhibition. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at U. S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive. Exhibit "H. K. Anne Presents The American Landscape," will be on exhibit at the USGS National Center is a public building, parking is available in the visitor's lot outside the visitor's entrance. Photo ID is required to enter. Visit www.HKAnneFineArt.com for more.

THURSDAY/MAY 25

Meet the Artist. 6-7 p.m. at GreaterRestonArtsCenter, 12001 Market St. #103, Reston. Michael Booker paintings, often cut apart and reconstructed into quilt-like narratives, combine his personal history and memory with the history of painting and African American culture. Call 703-471-9242 x 114 or visit restonarts.org for more.

SATURDAY/MAY 27

A Star Spangled Salute. 7:30-10 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. The band Natural Selection highlights this free event. Donations to Care Packages for Troops are appreciated. Call 703-912-4062 or visit www.restonchorale.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 28

Family Memorial Day Celebration. 9 a.m. at Town Hall Square in downtown Herndon, in front of the historic train depot. Mayor Lisa Merkel and the Herndon Town Council invite all citizens to join them in this observance and send-off for Rolling Thunder motorcycles, riding through Herndon's historic downtown. Visit www.herndon-va.gov/MemorialDay for more.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 1-4

37th Annual Herndon Festival. 10 a.m.-11 p.m. in Downtown Herndon, 777 Lynn St. The event features a carnival all four days, three stages of entertainment, a 10K/5K Race & Fitness Expo, children's hands on art area, children's alley, business expo, two nights of fireworks, arts and crafts vendors, and an assortment of food vendors. Visit www.herndonfestival.net for more.

DEADLINE JUNE 2

Lake Anne Exhibit. The Reston Photographic Society, a special interest group of the League of Reston Artists,

invites photographers to enter photographs for the Lake Anne show. The exhibit runs from June 5-July 2 and is free and open to the public 9 a.m.-8 p.m. throughout the week at the JoAnne Rose Gallery, Reston Community Center at Lake Anne, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Visit www.leagueofrestonartists.org for more.

FRIDAY/JUNE 2

Casino Night. 6:30-10 p.m. at Volkswagen Group of America Headquarters, 2200 Ferdinand Porsche Drive, Herndon. Staffed gaming tables, hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, raffles, a live and silent auction, as well as a celebrity emcee with music and dancing. Call 202-540-2328 for more.

JUNE 3-AUG. 26

Free Concerts. 7:30-10 p.m. every Saturday night in the pavilion at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Call 703-912-4062 or visit www.restontowncenter.com/concerts.

SATURDAY/JUNE 3

Gardens of Notes Tour. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. A tour of five residential gardens in three Reston neighborhoods, followed by a celebration at Hidden Land Landscaping. \$20. Visit www.restonchorale.org.

Meet the Author. 2-3 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Road. Author and scholar Dr. Harry Butowsky will discuss his biography "I Survived: My Name is Yitzkhak." Call 703-689-2700 for more.

Landau Eugene Murphy, Jr Concert. 7:30-10 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Kicks off the concert series. Call 703-912-4062 or visit www.restontowncenter.com/concerts.

JUNE 5-JULY 2

Lake Anne Exhibit. at the Reston Community Center at Lake Anne, 1609 Washington Plaza N. Exhibit features work by members of the Reston Photographic Society. Visit www.leagueofrestonartists.org/rps or call 703-476-4500.

DEADLINE JUNE 6

Photo Competition. Professional and amateur photographers are invited to submit entries to the Herndon Town Calendar Photo Competition. Call 703-956-9560 or visit www.artspaceherndon.com/calls-for-art/.

VIEWPOINTS

What do you like to do for fun in and around Reston during the summer?



Kimberly Rooney, Reston

"We come here [to Lake Anne Plaza]. We like the Lake Anne Brew House, and Reston Town Center. We try to go to the festivals, dog adoptions, and just walk around and get dinner."



Kathy Evans and Doug Evans, Reston

Doug: "We like the concert series that comes here a lot, we come to that every Thursday."

Kathy: "And all the festivals that are here, the jazz festival, the ukulele festival, the ones that are at Reston Town Center, like the fine arts festival. We like to do all of those things."

Doug: "Obviously we like to eat at all the restaurants. We go quite a bit to the restaurants here and there, in Lake Anne Plaza and at Reston Town Center. There's the farmer's market, which we always go to every week, so we love that."

Kathy: "We'll get our grandson to some of the free children's things that are going to be here this summer. We also like just walking around the lake and enjoying all of the nature."



Robin Parker, Reston

"I like to come to the farmer's market, go to Saturday night free music in the pavilion in the town center, and sit on our deck with a gin and tonic, and cook something on the grill."



Ellen Jennings, Reston, and dog Allie

"I love to come to the farmer's market on Saturday mornings and have coffee and a muffin. And I love to walk, love to do the outdoor concerts. I'm looking forward to going to the farmer's market on Wednesdays, at St. John Newman."

— PHOTOS TAKEN AND ANSWERS COMPILED BY ELLEN BARKER

DEADLINE JUNE 30

Call for Artists. at the US Geological Survey, National Gallery, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Eligible works are paintings, mixed media, and two-dimensional works suitable for wall hanging (no photography). The exhibit will be on display from July 3-28. Artwork that reflects USGS's environmental mission is encouraged. Enter works here www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

912-4062 or visit www.restontowncenter.com/concerts.

SATURDAY/JULY 22

Scythian Concert. 7:30-10 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Play a blend of Celtic and klezmer music. Call 703-912-4062 or visit www.restontowncenter.com/concerts.

SATURDAY/JULY 29

Love Canon Concert. 7:30-10 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Bluegrass version of hits from the '80s. Call 703-912-4062 or visit www.restontowncenter.com/concerts.

SATURDAY/JULY 1

Deanna Bogart Band Concert. 7:30-10 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. A night of dancing to the jump blues of this pianist/saxophonist/vocalist. Call 703-

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editors@connectionnewspapers.com



Tom Biesiadny, director of Fairfax County Department of Transportation, demonstrates how to load a bicycle onto Fairfax Connector bus.



More than 500 bicyclists registered for the Reston Station pit stop on Bike to Work Day 2017.

Local Bicyclists Fuel-Up at Reston Pit Stop for Bike to Work Day

Hundreds of bicyclists rode through the Reston Station Pit Stop for gear, snacks, tips and more.

The 61st annual Bike to Work Day took place Friday, May 19 with hundreds of local bicyclists taking a pit stop at the Reston Station on their way to work. The Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail Station Plaza was packed with both beginner and veteran riders. Riders of all ages and experience levels arrived at the music-filled plaza for snacks, gear and tips on best biking practices.

The Fairfax County Department of Transportation Bike Team supported a table that showcased the new bike map that debuted in time for Bike to Work Day. The map highlights all of the trails and bike-friendly roads within Fairfax County.

A comprehensive perceived-stress experiment was conducted in order to create this new bike map. This experiment helped create a more accurate map when illustrating which roads are best for experienced or novice riders.

Adam Lind, Bike Program Coordinator for Fairfax County Department of Transportation, was on site to discuss new bike programs and improved infrastructure. He sported the new bike map to help commuters navigate the best route for their individual commute.

Lind also touted the 15th and final Capital Bikeshare implementation in Reston by the Reston Town Center. Capital Bikeshare is a great way for beginner riders to experience biking in the area at low cost as well as provide increased commuter options to the Reston community.

Numerous bike tips were offered at the



Adam Lind, Bike Program Coordinator of Fairfax County Department of Transportation, shows bicyclists the new bike map.



One of the 15 Reston-area Capital Bikeshare stations is at Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail Station.

Bicyclists at Bike to Work Day learning how to load their bikes onto the front of Fairfax Connector buses for multimodal commuting.



PHOTOS BY ALEXIS JANNEY

pit stop, from nutrition options to alternative commuting methods. A practical but necessary skill of loading bicycles onto the Fairfax Connector bus was demonstrated at the pit stop. It turns out this is a lot easier than most people had pictured. This bike rack feature allows multimodal commuters to transition easily from bike to bus during their commute.

Aside from the 19 tabletops sponsored by various organizations and advocacy groups surrounding the station plaza, bicyclists were able to meet and connect with one another contributing to the overall sense of community that this commuting method helps facilitate.

Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) was on hand and commented on the importance of Bike to Work Day as it creates an encouraging and enjoyable experience to both veteran and beginner riders in the bicyclist community.

The National Bike Challenge continues through the end of September as a national event that encourages people to experience biking through recreation and as a commuting mode.

Visit nationalbikechallenge.org/dashboard.

SCHOOLS

Willy Wonka (Mikhail Goldenberg) and his golden-ticket winners, clockwise from left: Ms. Teavee (Ireland DiBacco); Grandpa Joe (Avi Holzman); Mrs. Gloop (Hannah Carter); Mrs. Beauregarde (Lindsay Kaine); Mr. Salt (Luke Miller); Veruca Salt (Audrey Webb); Charlie Bucket (Noah Rice); Violet Beauregarde (Sophia Feldman); Mike Teavee (Keaton Lazar); Augustus Gloop (Chase Thompson).



Violet Beauregarde (Sophia Feldman) and the Oompa Loompas.

PHOTO BY KIMBERLY BERRY



Ms. Teavee (Ireland DiBacco) holds her shrunken, TV junky son while Willy Wonka (Mikhail Goldenberg) and Charlie Bucket (Noah Rice) look on in amazement.

PHOTO BY KIMBERLY BERRY

Langston Hughes Middle Presents 'Willy Wonka Jr.'

On May 11-13, Langston Hughes Middle School presented "Willy Wonka Jr.," inspired by the Roald Dahl classic, "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory." Director Cheryl Dewenter, Musical Director Sarah Milhoan and Choreographer Grace Jakobisin led a cast and crew of 87 students as they embarked on a journey into Willy Wonka's mysterious chocolate factory. Cast: Mikhail Goldenberg, Griffin van Hilst, Noah Rice, Avi Holzman, Matthew Guerber, Violet Sather, Chase Thompson, Hannah Carter, Keaton Lazar, Ireland DiBacco, Sophia Feldman, Lindsay Kaine, Audrey Webb, Luke Miller, Mia Milosevic, Leah Blum, Crystal Uehara, Eddie Schoenborn, Michael Constant, Sami Burgess, Manmeet Singh, Karina Yakubisin, Sophia Young, Rebecca Jakobson, Xela Jones, Gretel Brown, Megan Luczko, Rita Ajit, Isabella Piazza, Maya Berry, Katie Falcone, Claire

Callaway, Anissa Benjalloun, Laura Echeverri, Olivia Purvis, Evie Errett, Nora Thomas, Mikayla Kirr, Ana Ortiz, Claire Wilson-Black, Amy McGowan, Katia Vivanco, Caroline Dana, Iris Hughes, Adam Johnson, Robert Long, Erin Sanchez, Parker Tremaine, Alexis Jeffryes, Zea Nims, and Jaelyn Gilmore. Crew: Thalia Tran, Audrey Moore, Katherine Simpson, Virag Murphy, Alaina Cordts, Angel Brito, Lily Mutzig, Moriah Smith, Hannah McLachlin, Mina Tunley, Gabriella Dettra, Jillian Schmid, Anna Sepulveda, Shannon Gallagher, Raquel Davis, Tyler Cachine, Alexander Parish, Michael Panatier, Elizabeth Beausoleil, Nicole Cheban, Christine Morris, Kendra Griessel, Harley Newman, Gwyneth Wagner, Mishal Khattak, Alexandra Perez, Tammy Guidry, Rhea Braganza, Emily Marik, Astrid Pena, Maxine Prudhomme, Erica Strauss, Jenna Klein, Jasmine Reed, Marina Jansen, Chloe Baker, and Ethan Boswell.



The full cast during the Willy Wonka Jr. finale.



The Bucket Family: Charlie Bucket (Noah Rice), Mrs. Bucket (Violet Sather), and Mr. Bucket (Matthew Guerber).



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SUMMER FUN



The Reston Chorale will hold A Star-Spangled Salute on Saturday, May 27, at the Reston Town Center.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

A Star-Spangled Salute, Care Package Drive at Reston Town Center

The Reston Chorale and Brass of the Potomac will mark the beginning of Memorial Day Weekend with A Star-Spangled Salute, including a concert of patriotic music, entertainment by Al and Ellen Torzilli of the band Natural Selection, family activities and a care package drive for troops serving overseas. Slated for Saturday, May 27, 7-8:30 p.m., at the Reston Town Center's Pavilion, this free, family-friendly event will salute the men and women serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, and honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

"This is one of the highlights of our season," notes Ruth Overton, president of The Reston Chorale. "There are moments when we sing the Armed Forces Salute — when a veteran, service member or their family hears 'their song' and gets to their feet or waves a flag — that bring home what this event is all about. It's a time and a way for us to say 'thank you for your service and sacrifice'—and to remember and honor those who gave their lives for our country." Thanks to support from Northrop Grumman, this year the Chorale will share the stage with Brass of the Potomac — a British-style brass band. Together, members of The Reston Chorale and Brass of the Potomac will present a concert of patriotic music and songs that celebrate America.

The event also offers ways to directly thank ser-

vice personnel: a creative station where children and adults can make thank you cards for troops, and a Care Packages for the Troops drive.

The Reston Chorale and Reston Town Center have teamed up to collect donations of care package items — from snack foods and sports equipment to supplies for a Fourth of July celebration — that will be sent to a platoon serving overseas.

Suggested donations include protein bars, powdered drink mixes and water flavorings; non-aerosol, unscented toiletries; small electronics, such as hand-held games, fans, misters and non-lithium batteries; playing cards, puzzle books and lightweight sports equipment. Donations can be dropped off during the event on May 27, or on weekdays through Friday, June 2, in the lobby of 11951 Freedom Drive, Reston, as well as other Reston Town Center office buildings. "This event is about honoring and giving back to the men and women who serve our nation," notes Overton. "Thanks to the heartwarming response to the Chorale's care package drive, in just two years we have shipped 650 pounds of donations for troops serving far from home."

For more information about A Star-Spangled Salute and The Reston Chorale's care package drive, please visit www.restonchorale.org or call 703-834-0079.



Sticking to United States Postal Service tradition, antique mail truck braves the weather for the main parade for Great Falls' July 4 celebration last year.



Last year, Great Falls singer-songwriter Mary Ann Redmond performed a mix of classic covers and her own music at the Concert on the Green. The lawn was full of people from all over the area.

Concert on the Green, July 4 Highlight Summer in Great Falls

Celebrate summer in Great Falls, visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org for more July 4

events, the Concerts on the Green schedule and Movies on the Green selections.

PHOTOS BY NIKKI CHESHIRE/THE CONNECTION

BULLETIN

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/ by noon on Friday.

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 703-956-8930 or email Reston.ED@sunriseseniorliving.com to RSVP.

Exercise for Parkinson's. Every Monday, 1:15-2:15 p.m. Reston Sport&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. Call Natalie McCall

nmccall@onelifefitness.com 703-904-7600 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 MG Help Desk at 703-324-8556 for more.

Over-40 Softball League. A Fairfax-based league is looking for enough players to form another team. Players must be at least 40 years of age to be eligible. All games are doubleheaders - played on Sundays at Bready Park in Herndon between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Email skeduman@aol.com for more.

Passages DivorceCare. For those experiencing the pain of separation or divorce, the caring community at Vienna Presbyterian Church offers Passages DivorceCare. This 15-week program offers a path toward healing. Vienna Presbyterian Church is located on the corner of Maple Avenue (Rt. 123) and Park Street in Vienna. Cost to cover materials is \$20, scholarships available. For more information or to register call 703-938-9050, go to www.viennapres.org, or send an email to Passages@ViennaPres.org.

The **Herndon Adult Day Health Care Center** needs volunteers to assist with fitness activities, arts and crafts, mealtime, entertainment and much more. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program** needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 4

like pigeons, you feed one with money and more will flock in" and "You don't want homeless people in your neighborhood because they create trash." It seemed that many people were more hung up on the negative image they feel homeless individuals create for the county instead of their plight. Some of the comments were difficult for us to read, while others were heart-felt and inspiring.

My classmates and I learned a lot through our project on homelessness, but mostly I think it is that we (even college students) all have the ability to assist those in need.

Giovonny Bland
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Woe Is Not Me



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

When I think about being diagnosed with lung cancer, I don't think, why me. I might think, why not me, but I definitely think, now what. The idea/strategy being: moving forward, not recriminating or regretting backward. As Popeye the Sailor man so often said: "I y'am what I y'am." Although I doubt he was talking about having lung cancer. How could he? He ate all that spinach, canned though it was. Besides, he's a cartoon character.

And as much and as often as he ate it — and it always helped him overcome whatever predicament Brutus had put him in, is as little and infrequent as I ate it. Perhaps that was because my mother cooked vegetables in a pressure cooker so by the time I saw them on my plate, they no longer resembled a vegetable nor were they the least bit appetizing. To say the vegetables were limp and lifeless does a disservice to all things characterized as 'limp and lifeless.' In fact, I can still remember the first time I ate a vegetable that was not d.o.a. It was at my mother-in-law's house; she was a wonderful cook. She made asparagus for this memorable meal and served it in a beautiful antique china serving dish. When the dish came my way, I stuck my fork in the asparagus to serve myself and heard a sound, a poof. I was taken aback, sort of. It was a sound I had never heard before — from a vegetable. As I learned that night, it was the sound of a vegetable that had not been cooked beyond its edible life.

That's not to imply that avoiding vegetables contributed to my diagnosis. Hardly. It simply says that vegetables were not a part of my childhood. Meat and potatoes were, as was my standard go-to meal: cream cheese and American cheese on bread. It was the sandwich of my youth and it has remained very much a part of my adulthood as well. It may not sound appetizing to you; to me, it represents all the comforts of home — heaven on Earth between two slices of bread or open-faced on a bagel or English muffin. Simple but oh so effective — and delicious.

Not to be totally oblivious to my underlying medical condition, I do realize that modifying my eating habits is a prudent and sensible consideration. However, I rationalize that need-to-feed with the explanation that, as a cancer patient (and anyone else, really), if I am to continue to attempt to thrive while I survive, I need to be happy, positive and relatively stress free. After all, this cancer business: characterized as "terminal" by my oncologist; chemotherapy (and its well-known side effects) every five weeks, C.T. Scans quarterly, M.R.I.s every six months, P.E.T. and Bone scans every so often, face-to-face quarterly appointments with my oncologist and all the associated fears and anxiety surrounding this rather unpleasant experience, and you can imagine, even agree perhaps, that living in the trenches as us cancer patients do, we need help — in any number of ways; personal and professional.

And though I am mindful of what I eat, I don't want to abuse the privilege of survival I've been given. I never want to take it for granted, especially considering my original "13-month to two-year" prognosis. By the same token, life is for living. As Andy Dufresne (Tim Robbins) said to "Red" (Morgan Freeman) in the movie "Shawshank Redemption:" "Get busy living or get busy dying." Since I'm in no hurry to die, I need to find a balance in how I live. Being miserable because of what I can't eat won't work for me. I'm just not flexible/mature enough in my eating choices; never have been. I still eat like a child, but now I have a man-sized problem.

I imagine the longer I live with cancer, the more vigilant I have to be. Then again, if it ain't broke, is there any reason to fix it? Do I leave well enough alone or do I try to grow up and eat my age, not my shoe size? I mean, I am eligible for Social Security.

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

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