

Stephanie Jackson takes a moment to catch up with neighbors during National Night Out.



PHOTOS BY AMIEE FREEMAN/THE CONNECTION

Getting Together with the Neighbors

BY AMIEE FREEMAN
THE CONNECTION

Residents of the Hunters Square neighborhood joined millions of Americans in the fight against crime and drugs during this year's National Night Out (NNO) on Tuesday, Aug. 2.

Residents were invited to gather in the neighborhood's central courtyard to enjoy grilled hamburgers provided by the community and pizza donated by Ledo's. There was also a moon bounce, face painting, hair wrapping and live music. With 150 townhouses in the community, Jasmine Tounni, community resident and representative, called the neighborhood "close knit."

While crime is not a huge problem in the neighborhood, said Tounni, there is a lot of foot traf-

fic as people walk through the neighborhood to get to nearby Hunter Woods Shopping Center. NNO serves a way to keep neighbors connected and informed, continued Tounni.

Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) was also on hand. "These type of events help keep neighborhoods safe," said Hudgins. "National Night Out helps us know our community and helps us get out in our communities. It is a great community-building event. I also have to commend the community executive board. They have done a great job with this event and it helps tremendously in keeping the community safe."

Resident David Browning was at the event with his young daughter, Raleigh. He described the neighborhood as "a little mix of everything." Browning has lived in

the neighborhood for three years and said this event is a "good opportunity to learn the names of our neighbors."

Resident Stephanie Jackson has lived in the neighborhood since 1999 and enjoys living here for its proximity to Washington, D.C., and also because all kinds of people live in the neighborhood.

Resident Carly Mendelssohn and her family moved to Hunters Square from Seattle, Wash., to be close to her husband's job in Arlington. She said this event was a great way to "get to see people." They especially like living in this neighborhood for its proximity to trails.

This was the second year Hunters Square participated in NNO. Last year more than 100 residents were in attendance. Nationwide, this year marked the 28th year for NNO.

Reston Businesswoman Honored in Richmond

Mina Fies, founder of Reston-based Synergy Design & Construction, received a merit of achievement from Gov. Robert McDonnell recently. She received the award during a ceremony at Virginia's Executive Mansion in Richmond. Fies received the certificate for her achievements, leadership in the community, and character and dedication as a Woman in Business in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Fies is CEO of Synergy Design & Construction, an award-winning woman-owned, Class A General Contractor in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia.

Fies oversees the entire design process and manages the sales and marketing of the firm. She is a Certified Green Professional (CGP) from the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and speaks regularly at industry conferences and seminars.

Synergy Design & Construction's mission is to provide great design and construction using their proprietary Renovation Road Map™. The Roadmap, developed by Fies and her husband Mark Fies, COO, helps clients not only un-



Mina Fies

derstand the design, but plan for the exact costs, timelines, and schedules, which eliminates unexpected bills and frustration. Synergy D&C launched on Sept. 19, 2008 as a home design and remodeling business and has represented construction costs valued at over \$4 million.

This fall, one of Synergy D & C's DC kitchen projects will be featured on HGTV's "Bang for Your Buck" show. Visit Fies on www.synergyd&c.com.

WEEK IN RESTON

RCC Seeks Board Candidates, Holds Preference Poll

Reston Community Center (RCC) is seeking interested candidates to run for seats on its 2011-2012 Board of Governors. The Board of Governors is a nine-member body responsible for overseeing the operations of the RCC. All residents of Small District 5, age 18 or older, are eligible to run for appointment to the RCC Board of Governors. Candidates must complete a Candidacy Statement in order to have their names placed on the Preference Poll ballot. Candidacy Statements will be available at the Center or online at www.restoncommunitycenter.com beginning at 9 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 29. The deadline for candidacy registration is 5 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 12.

The RCC Preference Poll is a community event held annually to select members to serve on the RCC Board of Governors. The Board of Governors establishes the overall policies for the Center and oversees its programs and budget. Board members also represent RCC at social, recreational, cultural and educational activities in Reston. Each year, typically, candidates for three seats on the Board are subject to a community preference poll with voting by residents and businesses.

This year's preference poll will fill three, three-year positions and one, one-year term balance on the RCC's Board of Governors. Board members serve a three-year term, or the remainder of a vacated seat term. Online and mail-in balloting and walk-in voting will be available from Sept. 22-Oct. 13 until 5 p.m.

For more information on the 2011 RCC Preference Poll or Board of Governors, visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com or call 703-476-4500.



David Browning with daughter Raleigh chats with neighbors during Hunters Square National Night Out.



Anita Bucsay Damron wraps 5-year-old Sissi Rafael Morales hair. Damron moved away from Hunters Square last year and came back for this event.