

# Girls Explore Math and Science

NEWS, PAGE 3

Keana Dunbar (in foreground) and Anna Hutzler, both fifth graders at Dogwood, try to match fingerprints during a forensics workshop Saturday, March 10 at the GEMS Conference.

RA Hosts  
Watch Workshop

NEWS, PAGE 3

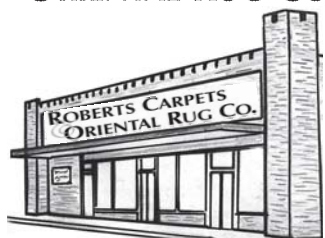
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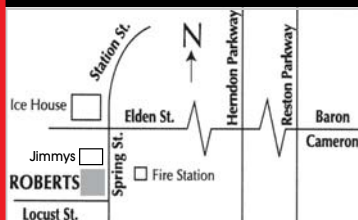
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### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY FOR APPROVAL TO RECOVER HEXANE COSTS CASE NO. PUE-2012-00014

On February 3, 2012, Washington Gas Light Company ("WGL" or "Company") filed an application with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") requesting approval to recover \$1,252,580 of costs relating to the non-Btu component of hexane injections for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2010, and \$12,908 of costs related to the actual under-collection of non-Btu related hexane costs incurred during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2009 ("Application"). In its Application, WGL explains that it has been injecting hexane into its system since February 2006 to replace heavy hydrocarbons in liquefied natural gas that enters the Company's distribution system. WGL's Application advises that pursuant to a Stipulation accepted by the Commission in Case No. PUE-2006-00059, the Company's performance-based rate regulation ("PBR") plan docket, the Company may request approval to recover the non-Btu portion of hexane costs in excess of \$400,000 if the Company's return on equity is less than 10% in any PBR annual period. Under the terms of the Stipulation accepted in Case No. PUE-2006-00059, the cost recovery of the non-Btu component of hexane will be limited to that amount in excess of \$400,000 required for the Company to achieve an earned return on equity of 10.0% for that PBR period under WGL's PBR Plan. The Company's Application advises that for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2010, the Company earned less than a 10% return on equity. WGL therefore proposes to collect its actual Virginia-jurisdictional non-Btu hexane costs in excess of \$400,000, or \$1,252,580, as well as an additional \$12,908 of non-Btu hexane costs under-collected for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2009.

WGL proposes to collect the non-Btu hexane costs from its customers receiving service under Rate Schedule Nos. 1-Residential Service, 1A-Residential Delivery Service, 2-Commercial and Industrial Service, 2A-Commercial and Industrial Delivery Service, 3-Group Metered Apartment Service, 3A-Group Metered Apartment Delivery Service, 4-Interruptible Service, and 7-Interruptible Delivery Service, 8-Developmental Natural Gas Vehicle Service, and 10-Large Volume Delivery Service. The Company's Application further notes that it proposed new Rate Schedule Nos. 5-Large Commercial and Industrial Service, 5A-Large Commercial and Industrial Delivery Service, 6-Large Group Metered Apartment Service, and 6A-Large Group Metered Apartment Delivery Service in its currently pending general rate case, Case No. PUE-2010-00139. If the Commission approves the Company's proposed rate schedules in its general rate case, the Company will also recover the non-Btu hexane costs from customers receiving service pursuant to these new rate schedules.

WGL proposes to collect its non-Btu hexane costs through an adjustment to the distribution charge for these rate schedules. WGL's Application advises that the hexane charge will be computed on a cents-per-therm basis comprising a current and a reconciling factor. According to the Company's Application, the current factor, if applicable, will be calculated annually by dividing the non-Btu portion of hexane costs approved by the Commission by the total weather normalized throughput for the year. The reconciling factor proposed by WGL will be the difference between the actual amount to be charged and the actual amount collected during the twelve-month period. WGL proposes to implement the current factor as an adjustment to the distribution charge in the first billing cycle month following the Commission's approval of the Company's Application to recover the non-Btu portion of the costs of its hexane injections. The Company's Application also includes testimony and exhibits showing the computation of a proposed charge of \$0.0020 per therm, which will allow the Company to collect the proposed \$1,252,580 of non-Btu hexane costs expensed in fiscal year 2010 and the \$12,908 of non-Btu hexane costs under-recovered in fiscal year 2009.

The details of WGL's proposals are set out in the Company's Application. Interested persons are encouraged to review the Application and other materials filed with the Application for the details of these proposals. Interested persons should also be advised that after considering the record in this case, the Commission may change the tariff revisions proposed by the Company or take other actions with respect to the recovery of the non-Btu component of hexane costs that differ from the proposals set out in the Company's Application.

The Commission has entered an Order for Notice and Comment that, among other things, docketed the Application as Case No. PUE-2012-00014 and established a procedural schedule for the filing of comments, requests for hearing, and the filing of testimony or a Report by the Commission Staff. Interested persons are encouraged to review the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment for details on how to participate in this proceeding.

Interested persons may also review a copy of the Application, the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment, as well as other documents now or hereinafter filed in this matter, in the Commission's Document Control Center located on the First Floor of the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. A copy of the Application may also be obtained at no cost to interested persons by making a written request to the Company's counsel at the following address: Meera Ahamed, Esquire, Washington Gas Light Company, 101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20080. If acceptable to the requesting party, the Company may provide the Application, with or without attachments, by electronic means. In addition, the Company's Application, the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment, other orders entered in this docket, the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, and other information concerning the Commission and the statutes it administers, may be viewed on the Commission's website at: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>.

Pursuant to the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment, interested persons may file written comments or requests for hearing with the Clerk of the Commission on the proposals set out in the Company's Application on or before April 27, 2012. An original and fifteen (15) copies of all written comments and requests for hearing must be filed with Joel H. Peck, Clerk, State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. Any request for hearing must state with specificity why the issues raised in the request for hearing cannot be adequately addressed in written comments. If no sufficient request for hearing is received, the Commission may consider the Application based on the papers filed without convening a hearing at which oral testimony is received.

Persons filing a request for hearing and expecting to participate as a respondent in any hearing that may be scheduled in this case shall also file, on or before April 27, 2012, an original and fifteen (15) copies of a notice of participation as required by 5 VAC 5-20-80 B of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 5 VAC 5-20-10 et seq., with the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above. Any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Interested persons should refer to the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment for more information on how to participate as a respondent.

Interested persons desiring to submit comments electronically may do so on or before April 27, 2012, by following the instructions available at the Commission's website: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case> and referring to Case No. PUE-2012-00014. Interested persons shall refer in their comments, requests for hearing, and notices of participation to Case No. PUE-2012-00014, and shall serve a copy of any such document filed with the Commission upon counsel for the Company at the address set forth above.

**WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY**



## Girls Explore Math and Science

More than 200 Reston and Herndon fifth and sixth grade students participate in GEMS Conference.

BY AMIEE FREEMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**T**een Talk Barbie, who said “math class is tough,” did not last long on store shelves when she was issued by Mattel in 1997, but her message has endured. Studies show that the number of girls pursuing degrees or careers in math and science fields continues to lag behind their male peers due in large part to stereotypes about appropriate male and female professions. In an effort to reverse this trend and to encourage girls to pursue education and careers in math and science fields, the 21st annual Girls Excelling in Math and Science (GEMS) Conference was held on Saturday, March 10 at Dogwood Elementary.



PHOTOS BY AMIEE FREEMAN / THE CONNECTION

**Caroline Torres, Stephanie Jimenez and Skylar Montgomery participate in the gumdrop challenge workshop Saturday at the GEMS Conference. The girls built a bridge of gumdrops and toothpicks. Pennies were dropped into the paper cup in the center of the bridge to determine how much weight the bridge could hold.**

**MORE THAN 200** Reston and Herndon fifth and sixth grade students participated in this year’s conference. Many of the girls also take part in GEMS Clubs at their schools or were encouraged by their teachers to take part in Saturday’s conference. All are interested in math and science.

“I came today to have fun,” said Dogwood sixth grader Damari Abrego.

Seated next to Abrego was Dedra Uzoka, also a sixth grader at Dogwood, who said that she loves science.

Fellow Dogwood student, fifth grader Keana Dunbar said that her best subjects are math and science and that she loves engineering.

Also from Dogwood, fifth grader Anna Hutzler said that she likes math and she came to Saturday’s conference “to learn more.”

Conference organizers, Linda Martin, Dogwood’s Advanced Academic Resource teacher, and members of the Reston-Herndon branch of the American Association of University Women, brought together more than 30 presenters to lead the girls in three 50-minute workshops.

Martin said that many of the presenters participate in the conference year after year. Approximately half of the presenters are science professionals from Lockheed Martin, Dogwood’s corporate sponsor. In addition, Martin said that they “really believe in bringing high and middle school students back to Dogwood and giving them an authentic learning experience as a presenter.” Six of the presenters were students at Langston Hughes Middle, South Lakes or Thomas Jefferson high schools.

Other presenters included a doctor of veterinary medicine, an Air Force captain, the chief information officer for the White House and many more. All women who have majored in, or in the case of the middle and high school students plan on majoring

in, science or math fields.

**IN THE WORKSHOPS** the girls explored topics such as competing in a gum drop challenge (building structures with gum drops and toothpicks to endure weight), an egg drop challenge (using padding materials to protect an egg from a two story drop), fingerprint analysis, building a solar car, smashing strawberries to extract DNA, talking about G-forces with an Air Force pilot and building model paper airplanes, studying animal x-rays and discussing the care of animals with a local veterinarian.

Many of the presenters spoke of their desire to give back to the community and to encourage girls to excel.

“I went to school for graphic design. Looking back on my education, I felt I was never pushed toward science. Once I completed my degree and began working in my field, I realized that my strengths really lie in the science field. So, I went back to school and now I am working toward a degree as a physician’s assistant. I wish someone had pushed me toward science when I was in school,” said presenter Caroline Buehler.

“I grew up in the math world. I have eight siblings, and seven have math or science degrees. I was introduced very early to math and science. That was my passion. It all started at this age. This is my way to give back to the community,” said presenter Lynette Drake, who is an environmental engineer with Lockheed Martin in Bethesda.

“I’ve been involved with this conference for so many years and I am still blown away every year,” said former AAUW president, Stephanie Abbot. “I hope this conference will capture these girls’ interest and lead them to continue their education in these fields.”



**Danielle Spears, a sixth grader at Dogwood, builds a structure of gumdrops and toothpicks during the gumdrop challenge workshop.**



PHOTO BY ALEX MCVEIGH

**Crime Prevention Officer Katy Defoe speaks to a group at the Reston Association Headquarters Tuesday, March 6 about neighborhood watch programs.**

## Watch Workshop

Crime Prevention Officer speaks about neighborhood watches.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Reston Association hosted an informational meeting about neighborhood watch programs Tuesday, March 6, featuring county Crime Prevention Officer Katy Defoe.

Defoe said that neighborhood watches are flexible, they can be anything from an e-mail chain to a group that actually patrols their neighborhood. The county requires a coordinator who serves as liaison between the community and the crime prevention office.

“It is what the community wants to make it. Obviously, a high-rise apartment building has different issues than a single family home neighborhood with a thousand houses in it,” she said. “We do not dictate, as the county, what kind of watch you are required to have. We know everyone has different needs.”

Defoe said the county also asks that neighborhood watches function in a strictly “observe and report” manner, not “act and report.” She said they also ask that watch members do not carry concealed firearms, that they carry a cell phone and that no one goes on watch alone.

Defoe pointed to a recent local example of how a neighborhood watch can aid the police with information gathering.

“Currently Glade Drive has been hit by a lot of graffiti, at least nine that were related to each other, and about a dozen

more in about the same time frame,” she said. “The neighborhood watch collected all the affected addresses all the places in the common area, and sent them to me along with pictures. That lets us make a police report, each of which can lead to a charge.”

Defoe said she hopes watches empower people to contact the police, saying that neighborhoods with watch programs tend to have more give and take when it comes to police reports.

“If you think something is out of the ordinary, then it’s out of the ordinary,” she said. “There is no right or wrong answer, as police, that’s our job. Suspicious activity is anything you think is out of the ordinary, and we can drive by and check on it every single day if needed.”

Arlene Whittick, neighborhood outreach specialist with the Reston Association, says these events are the RA’s attempt to connect with the representatives of clusters and other homeowners associations in the area.

“We’re trying to present educational information that is beneficial for residents and their boards,” she said. “We want people to take this information back to their board to give them some basic information and let them understand what can be done.”

Rengin Morro, co-chair of the Reston Neighborhood Advisory Committee, says the committee is holding monthly meetings that will address various issues faced by Reston neighborhoods.

More information is available at [www.reston.org](http://www.reston.org).



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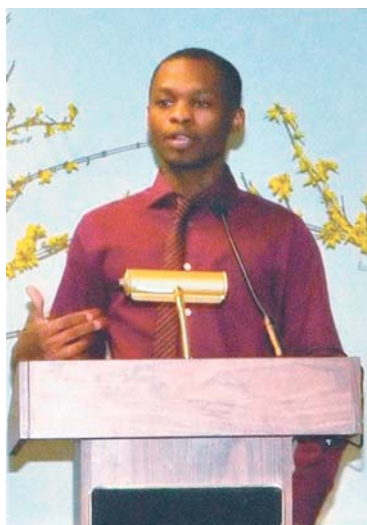
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Franck Simo

## NEWS

# South Lakes Senior Receives Peace Award

**S**outh Lakes High School chose senior Franck Simo to receive a Student Peace Award. Simo was born and raised in Cameroon, a country in West Africa, and moved to the Reston area in November 2008. Simo recalls, "I was not just astonished by the beauty of the little city but also by

the extreme enthusiasm of the students who welcomed me with opened arms. I didn't know how to speak any English or how to listen correctly. Fortunately, I received special care, as did other students, from my ESL teachers who paid very close attention to us. It was difficult, but the spirit of involvement in school activities and the willingness to adapt to the new culture made it possible to increase my level of understanding of the English language."

Since arriving three years ago, Simo has been an effective advocate for ethnic minorities. Last year Simo coordinated a meeting with the principal and assistant principals of South Lakes High School to discuss the needs of the school's ESL (English as a Second Language) population. He expressed not only concerns, but also proposed practical solutions. In particular, he spoke with the administrators about ways to get the ESL students more involved in extracurricular activities.

Simo is an officer in the College Partnership Program (a club for first generation, college-bound students) and SLICE (South Lakes International Club for Education). Simo is not only active at South Lakes High School, but in his community as well. He volunteered with the local Reston Association and Chamber of Commerce for their annual multicultural festival. He is a member of "City of Peace DC", a youth development organization that uses performing arts to teach and promote cross-cultural understanding.

This school year Simo was elected to be a member of the Student Council. He was the first ESL student to run and win a Student Government Association election in the school history. This year, during homecoming week, he kept his campaign promise to involve special education students in the school activities. His Counselor, Tracey Albert, says "Franck Simo is a remarkable student and I have no doubt that he will unrelentingly achieve his future goals."

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## BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

### THURSDAY/MARCH 15

**Reston Newcomers and Neighbors Club.** 10 a.m. Lake Anne Community Center, Lake Anne Village Center, Reston. Judy Holiday, founder of Turn Lane Travel, will discuss vacations, hot travel spots and tours, safety tips and travel insurance. 703-476-6240 or [www.restonnewcomers.org](http://www.restonnewcomers.org).

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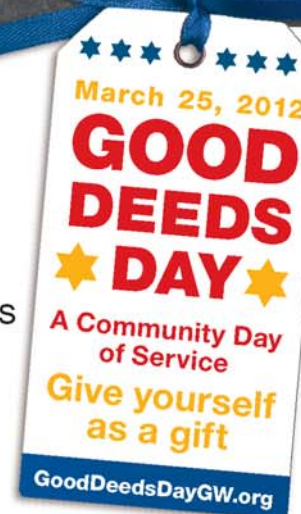
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# OPINION

## So Hard to Imagine?

Poor families face challenges that officials and many of the rest of us have trouble envisioning.

**T**he Commonwealth of Virginia and even Northern Virginia includes many poor families and individuals. But officials seem to have trouble wrapping their brains around some of the difficulties this can cause.

In Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria, some analysis of the effect of budget cuts and service cuts on families in the bottom 20 percent of income would be appropriate and revealing.

Cutting library hours and service again? Consider that for many, the public libraries are their only source of computer and internet access. This has a significant impact on school performance, the ability to hunt for a job, the ability to access services and more.

It's hard for many of us to imagine, check-

### EDITORIAL

ing email at stop lights on our smart phones, that there are families who need to go the library to check theirs. If anything, in the current environment, the libraries should be open more hours, not fewer.

When Fairfax County Public Schools eliminated the year-round school calendar, followed by some of the county's poorest schools, and summer school, poor students were most affected, losing access to meals in the summer as well as a needed boost in instruction.

Similarly, some schools systems eliminated the telephone hotline to find out if schools are closed in inclement weather. Everyone checks that online, right? Or gets their daily email update?

Requirements to present a variety of identification to do a variety of things also present

bigger challenges to poorer residents.

## Veto Voter ID Bill

Gov. Bob McDonnell should read the handwriting on the wall from the U.S. Justice Department about making it harder to vote.

More than 600,000 registered voters in Texas do not have the identification that the voter identification law would require, according to Tom Perez of the Justice Department, including a disproportionate number of minority voters, and more than 10 percent of Latino registered voters.

The analysis will reveal similar disparities in Virginia. The Governor can save Virginia money, time and trouble by vetoing the bill now.

MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

*Correction: Last week's editorial failed to correctly identify Del. Charniele Herring (D-46). The full editorial has been corrected online.*

## Overreach

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

**I**f a single word or phrase can describe a General Assembly session, the 2012 meeting of the state legislature would be known for "overreach." Governor McDonnell and Lieutenant Governor Bolling warned the Republican majority before the session got underway that there was a need for legislators to be careful to not overreach with their new-found power. Few paid attention to this good advice until the legislature was caught in the mire of overreaching.

An example of overreaching was in the Senate where the election outcome left the body equally divided with 20 Democrat and 20 Republican senators. The Republicans claimed victory because the vote to break ties would be cast by Republican Lieutenant Governor Bolling. In reorganizing the Senate to remove all Democrats from leadership positions including committee chairmanships, the majority overlooked the fact that the Constitution prohibits the Lieutenant Governor from voting on the biennium budget, the item that reflects the most compromises. Rather than organize as the Senate did in the past when there was equal division of party membership by sharing leadership positions, or as the House did when it was equally divided by having



### COMMENTARY

co-chairs of committees, the new Senate leaders overreached and claimed all the authority for themselves and found that they had no one with whom to negotiate when there was a deadlock in the vote on the budget. Until the overreach on leadership is resolved there is little likelihood that a budget resolution will be reached.

There are many other examples of overreach. The gun rights advocates were successful in getting the one-handgun-per-month limitation repealed and signed by the Governor. The necessity of the repeal is lost on most people. There is an overreach to have absolutely no reasonable limitation on guns which is where we are headed in Virginia. There has been a particularly strong reaction to the repeal from other states that had been the

recipients of guns that were readily available for purchase in Virginia in the past.

The anti-abortion advocates overreached in mandating that women having an abortion be required to undergo an invasive transvaginal ultrasound until tremendous public outcry caused the Governor to get involved and to amend the bill to require the less-invasive abdominal ultrasound. Even that requirement was opposed by me and others as an unnecessary government overreach into the private lives of women and as being medically unnecessary. Women and others who came to the State Capitol to protest the overreach of the legislature on women's rights issues were met with more than a hundred police, state police in riot gear, and other police with camouflage uniforms and automatic weapons. Some protesters were arrested for sitting on the capitol steps rather than to stay in the limited area in which they were approved to protest. The overreach on the part of the police acting within the narrow regulations on protests was widely criticized.

Whether the lessons of overreaching that were obvious in this session of the legislature have been learned will not be known until the General Assembly meets again next year. Until then we will have to live with this year's excesses.

### LETTERS

## Ensuring Integrity Of the Process

To the Editor:

One needs a birth certificate to play youth soccer and an i.d. presented for many trivial circumstances. Voting for public representation is far too important to treat with less gravitas than youth soccer [Editorial, "Reenacting a Dark History?", The Connection, March 7-13, 2012]. There is a responsibility to ensure the integrity of the process as there is a responsibility to exercise one's voting privilege, among others.

Why is the Connection such a liberal rag?

Brent Emory  
Vienna

### Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.

Send to:

Letters to the Editor  
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# Fairfax County REAL ESTATE

## 2012 Assessments by Zip Code Areas

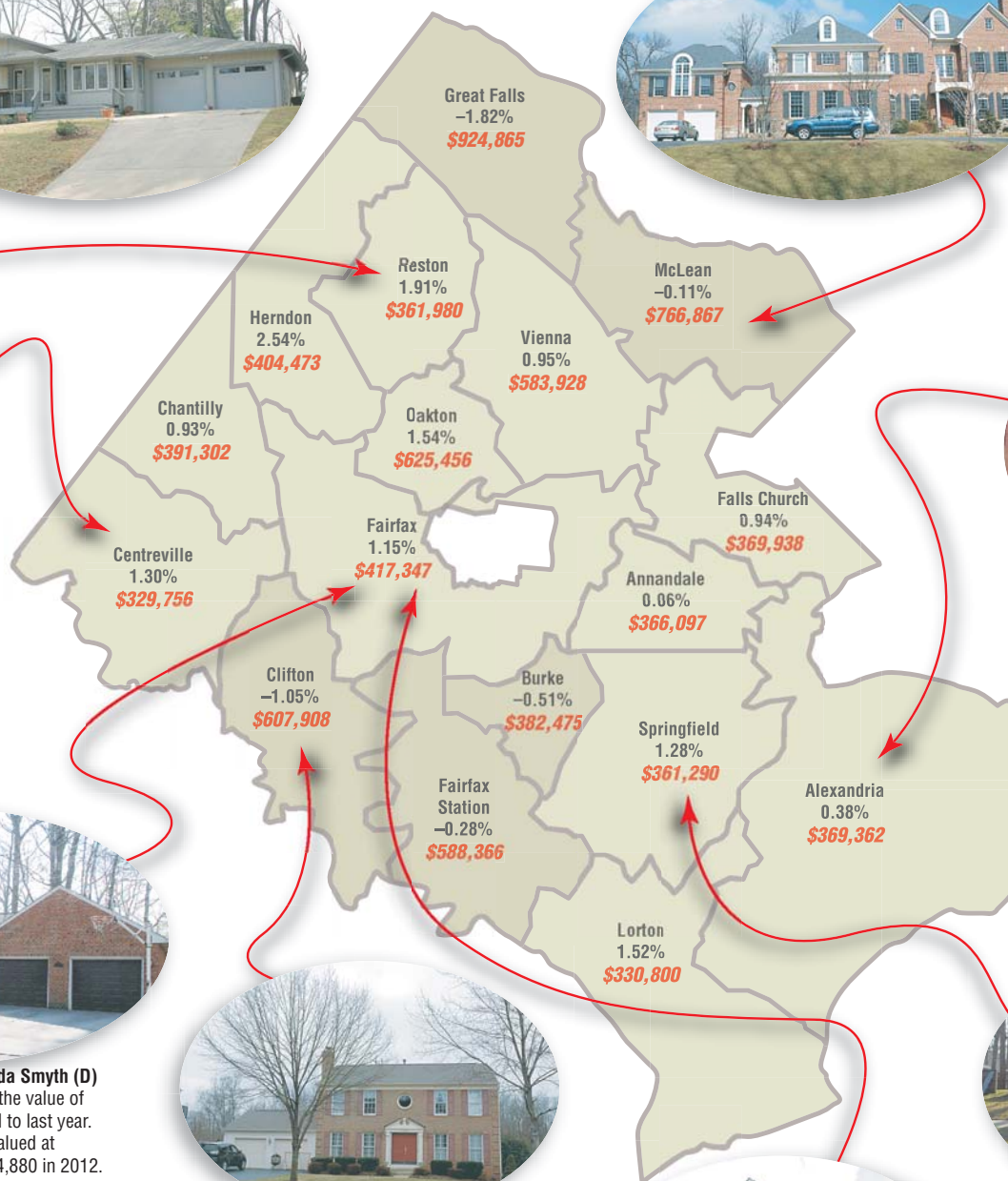
Hunter Mill Supervisor **Cathy Hudgins (D)**  
saw her assessment went up 4.60%  
from \$545,440 in 2011 to \$570,520 in 2012.



Dranesville District Supervisor **John Foust (D)**  
saw a 5.69% gain in his property value when compared to 2011.  
The county valued Foust's house at  
\$2,884,060 last year and \$3,048,110 this year.



Sully Supervisor **Michael Frey (R)**  
saw a 2.88% increase in  
the value of his home over the last year.  
Frey's home was assessed at  
\$208,480 in 2011 and \$214,490 in 2012.



Lee Supervisor **Jeff McKay (D)**  
saw an increase of 9.06%  
in his home assessment in 2012.  
Last year, his home was worth \$645,030 and  
this year it is valued at \$703,450.



Providence Supervisor **Linda Smyth (D)**  
saw a 2.66% increase in the value of  
her house when compared to last year.  
Smyth's home was valued at  
\$482,080 in 2011 and \$494,880 in 2012.



Springfield Supervisor **Patrick Herrity (R)**  
was the only member of the Fairfax County board  
to see his assessment drop this year.  
Herrity lost 1.07% of his home value,  
taking him from \$525,750 to \$520,120.



Braddock Supervisor **John Cook (R)**  
has a new home in Springfield  
assessed at \$556,920 in 2012.



Fairfax County Chairman **Sharon Bulova (D)**  
saw her home value remain flat this year.  
Bulova owns a house in Fairfax  
assessed at \$591,990 in both 2011 and 2012.

**2011 County Average (Percent Change)**  
Single Family Detached **\$545,279 (0.70%)**  
Townhouse **\$327,499 (1.20%)**  
Condos **\$212,764 (-0.06%)**

ZIP CODE AREA	2011 MEAN	2012 MEAN	PERCENT CHANGE
Alexandria	367,948	369,362	0.38
Annandale	365,880	366,097	0.06
Burke	384,443	382,475	-0.51
Centreville	325,536	329,756	1.30
Chantilly	387,704	391,302	0.93
Clifton	614,353	607,908	-1.05
Fairfax	412,608	417,347	1.15
Fairfax Station	590,022	588,366	-0.28
Falls Church	366,509	369,938	0.94
Great Falls	941,968	924,865	-1.82
Herndon	394,461	404,473	2.54
Lorton	325,838	330,800	1.52
McLean	767,738	766,867	-0.11
Oakton	615,968	625,456	1.54
Reston	355,205	361,980	1.91
Springfield	356,740	361,290	1.28
Vienna	578,417	583,928	0.95

SOURCE: FAIRFAX COUNTY





Matthew Moore, of John Matthew Moore Fine Art, in McLean was selected to design the foyer and staircase the D.C. Design House.



Great Falls-based designer Susan Nelson, of Susan Interiors (pictured with design student Jacob Oxford), will design a girl's bedroom.



Annette Hannon, of Annette Hannon Interior Design in Burke, was selected to design the parlor.

PHOTOS BY ROBERT RADIFERA

## Local Designers Selected to Make Over the 2012 D.C. Design House

### Annual event raises money for Children's National Medical Center.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Some of the Washington area's top interior designers are unleashing their creative talent all in the name of charity. Organizers of the 2012 Washington, D.C. Design House announced the designers

who will make over the 2012 D.C. Design House.

"The selection [was] open to all area designers who wanted to apply," said Susan Hayes Long, chairperson of D.C. Design House. "They started by coming to a design walk-through to get a feel for the space, and then [submitted] up to three proposals for rooms, with

at least one presentation board. The board [included] their floor plan, color selections, and finishes they would use. Our design team selected the final 23 designers. We had more than 80 proposals this year, and so many fantastic presentation boards. The competition was really tough."

The D.C. Design House serves as

a bellwether of local design trends. "Being selected to design for the show house is a bit like being crowned homecoming queen then having to run a marathon in your ball gown while collecting items for a scavenger hunt," said Shazalynn Cavin-Winfrey of SCW Interiors in Alexandria, who was one of the designers selected. "It is the most

prestigious invitation... For a committee of veteran designers and industry leaders to select a designer is truly one of the highlights of one's career."

With no paying clients to please, the designers unleash their creative talent. "I love participating in show houses for the freedom it allows me," said Annette Hannon of Annette Hannon Interior Design in Burke, who was also one of the designers selected. "For each house

I've had the opportunity to engage in, I've gotten to conjure up an imaginary 'perfect' client and design according to their needs and desires. It's a bit like celebrating one's birthday and getting to create your perfect party."

The Washington, D.C. Design House, a nonprofit entity, began in 2008 as a design event in which some of the region's most sought-after designers decorate a luxury home to raise funds for a local

charity. After completion, the home is opened to the public for tours. Now in its fifth year, the D.C. Design House has attracted more than 30,000 visitors and raised nearly \$600,000 for Children's National Medical Center (CNMC). Proceeds will go to CNMC again this year.

Built in 1956, the 2012 D.C. Design House is located in Washington, D.C.'s Spring Valley neighborhood. It is currently on the market for \$3.9 million.

### Local Designers

Some of the local designers who were selected to make over the home offer a preview of their plans.

**Potomac-based designer Sharon Kleinman of Transitions will decorate the master bedroom.** "The room is architecturally challenging with many doors and minimum wall space," she said. "The focal point in the room becomes the sliding glass doors that look out into the garden. I use the garden view as my inspiration. Choosing fabrics in lush greens and warm browns, I brought the colors of the garden indoors. I believe master bedrooms should be serene so I used lots of different textures and very little pattern."

**Great Falls-based designer Susan Nelson of Susan Nelson Interiors designed a teenage girl's bedroom.** "I combined a variety of block and geometric prints in greens, yellows,



Shanon Munn, of Ambi Design Studio in McLean, was one of 23 designers selected to make over the 2012 D.C. Design House. She will decorate the master deck.

pinks, brown and cream to create a cozy haven. By using a mix of new and repurposed furniture, the room has the quality of changing along with the girl," she said. "For instance, the coverlet fabric is a sophisticated fabric with a water color quality to the flowers on it, but the club chair is slip covered in a fun confetti print in pinks and purples that she might have had as a child."



Elizabeth Krial, of Elizabeth Krial Design in Reston, was one of 23 designers selected to make over the 2012 D.C. Design House. Krial will design a modern nursery.

**Shazalynn Cavin-Winfrey of SCW Interiors in Alexandria is charged with transforming the dining room.** "I anticipate wonderful parties and celebrations in the dining room I will be creating this year and my use of color

SEE LOCAL DESIGNERS.  
PAGE 10



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21771 Bancroft Ct .....	\$229,500 ....	Sun 1-4 .....	David King.....Long & Foster .....	703-509-5139
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9523 Burning Branch Rd.....	\$489,950 ....	Sun 1-4 .....	Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert .....	703-862-8808

## Centreville

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10454 Malone Ct.....	\$380,000 ....	Sun 1-4 .....	Susan Mekenney.....RE/MAX .....	703-283-6881
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## Fairfax Station

8303 Pinyon Pine Ct.....	\$769,900 ....	Sun 1-4 .....	Christine Shevock.....RE/MAX .....	703-475-3986
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## Great Falls

9899 Windy Hollow Dr.....	\$1,500,000 ....	Sun 1-4 .....	Lyons and McGuire.....Keller Williams .....	703 406 9009
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## Herndon

13108 Frog Hollow Ct.....	\$564,900 ....	Sun 1-4 .....	Troy Sponaugle.....Samson Props .....	703-408-5560
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## Leesburg

43672 Augusta National Terr.....	\$575,000 ....	Sun 1-4 .....	Cathy/John McCambridge.....Samson Props .....	703-906-7067
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## Oak Hill

11928 Bennett Rd.....	\$650,000 ....	Sun 1-4 .....	Carol Wilder.....McEneaney .....	703-786-8635
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10110 Tate Ct.....	\$925,000 ....	Sun 1-4 .....	Jabar Baig.....Samson Props .....	571-277-4533
11441 Norwegian Mill Ct.....	\$948,500 ....	Sun 1-4 .....	Pat Stack.....Weichert .....	703-597-9373

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## Reston

2188 Cartwright Pl.....	\$299,000 .....	Sun 1-4 .....	Byron Hudtloff/William Krueger, Jr.....RE/MAX.....703-348-9060/703-318-0067
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## Springfield

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## Home Life Style

### Local Designers

FROM PAGE 9

and pattern is a play on this celebratory mode. I am thrilled to help people who see the space take away some element in the design that might fit their home or their lifestyle,” she said.

**Victoria Sanchez of Victoria Sanchez Interiors in Alexandria is creating a teenager’s retreat.** “I have chosen a very lively, colorful design scheme from Missoni and will be using Mid-Century modern furniture,” said Sanchez. “This room is designed to be a perfect hangout for teenagers and will reflect the energy teenagers create.”

**Nancy Twomey of Finnian’s Moon Interiors in Alexandria will design a boy’s bedroom.** “I love good design, but I also know children. Children’s rooms are messy places, so it is best if there is an inherent order in the design elements, starting with the palette,” said Twomey. “My 2012 D.C. Design House room has a serene quietude in its bones, but it isn’t sleepy. It has timeless, classic ingredients such as menswear fabrics, juxtaposed with modern, playful ones.”

**Elizabeth Krial of Elizabeth Krial Design in Reston will create a modern nursery.** “The most afforded luxury in my space is the natural sunlight that washes the room,” she said. “As a designer, I have added luxurious layers of softness and comfort through textiles. The modern nursery has a lightness that will remind you of the hope and joy that a new baby brings.”

**Matthew Moore of John Matthew Moore Fine Art in McLean will decorate the foyer and staircase.** “My design philosophy is clean, classic spaces. My favorite period in design is the late fifties and sixties,” he said. “I feel that that is the time when American design came into its own. I’ve chosen this style for the entrance and reception hall [because] the home was built in that period. It’s a sophisticated design that would be as much at home in the fifties as it is now in the present.”

**Shanon Munn of Ambi Design Studio in McLean will decorate the master deck.** “My concept for the space is to have an outdoor retreat,”



**The Chateau in Oak Hollow is one of four residential properties for sale for more than \$10 million, was designed by architect, Ron Hubbard, who blends green technologies with the use of space and proportion.**

## The Chateau in Oak Hollow

One of just four properties in Fairfax County listed at HomesDatabase.com for sale for more than \$10 million, this home sits on five acres in Clifton, and is for sale for \$12.5 million. The other three properties are in McLean.

The Chateau was designed by architect, Ron Hubbard, who uses innovative green technologies such as three geothermal fields and 14 radiant zones using more than 10,000 feet of buried line to heat and cool the home.

This home has more than

27,000 square feet of living space inside (13,500 finished), plus more than 3,000 square feet of exterior living space comprised of balconies and patios. Many of the outdoor living areas are constructed with stamped concrete and provide ample space for large parties, and some for more intimate gatherings.

The property also includes a 3-bedroom guest suite in one wing of the home, and an indoor pool and fitness center in the other. The Chateau has an eight-car garage.

The house is listed by Meghan Wasinger of Jobin Realty.



**The parlor is located next to the formal dining room. There are five fireplaces throughout the Chateau (with a potential for 13), set on five-acre estate in Clifton.**

said Munn. “I chose pieces that are scaled similarly to indoor pieces and provide a great lounging spot. We chose patterns that are interesting and bold. We plan to take the existing railing, currently an eyesore, and make it a highlight of the deck with a long row of custom benches and pedestals strategically placed to create focal points and to hide the dated metalwork.”

**Annette Hannon of Annette Hannon Interior Design in Burke designed the parlor.** “The [parlor] is the first living area a visitor will enter,” said Hannon. “My goal was to create a comfortable, luxurious space someone would want to linger in long after the party’s over. I felt it was essential to add layers of interest in the room.”



# Perfect Ending for Oakton Girls Basketball Season

**Unbeaten Cougars defeat Princess Anne in state finals.**

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

Completing one of the best athletic seasons any Northern Region team has ever known, the Oakton High girls' basketball squad put a final exclamation point on its 2011-12 winter season for the ages when it defeated state nemesis Princess Anne High of Virginia Beach, 58-39, in the Virginia State AAA Tournament championship game, which took place last Friday night at the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Siegel Center in Richmond.

It was the first state title for the Oakton girls, who have known tremendous success over the years under longtime head coach Fred Priester but had never before quite realized their dream of capturing a state championship. In recent years, the Cougars had reached the state finals (2008-09 season) and state semifinals (2009-10 season) before losing to Princess Anne (Eastern Region) on both occasions.

On Friday, Oakton, this year's Concorde and Northern Region champions, was able to prevail over its state tournament rival and cap the season with a perfect 31-0 record.

"I think it will hit me on Monday when I go to school and don't have a basketball practice that the season is over," said Oakton senior guard Caroline Miller this past weekend. "It took a lot of hard work, determination, and focus for us to pull this off. In the regular season we were expected to win every game but in the playoffs it takes a lot more focus to win every game."

Over the course of the postseason, Oakton was 9-0, winning a pair of games at districts, four straight at the 16-team region playoffs, and three at the eight-team state tournament. In postseason championship games over recent weeks, the Cougars were victorious over Chantilly High, 43-22 (Concorde District finals), defending region champion West Springfield High, 63-49 (region finals), and Princess Anne (state finals).

At the state tournament, the Cougars defeated strong opponents in both Monaca High (Richmond), 73-65 in the quarterfinals, on March 2 at Robinson Secondary, and Woodside High (Newport News), 46-43 in the semifinals, last Wednesday, March 7 at the Siegel Center to reach the finals game.

Oakton built leads of 14-5 after one quarter and 24-19 at halftime over Princess Anne before putting together a dominating second half in which the Cougars outscored the Cavaliers, 34-18, to clinch the win, complete a perfect season, and claim the state crown.

"I knew we had the ability to win by that much," said Coyer, who added that Prin-



The Oakton High girls' basketball team, under head coach Fred Priester (center) and assistant Chris Kestyn (right), saw the Cougars run the table this season with a perfect 31-0 record.

cess Anne, despite what the final score said, was a tough and talented opponent. "In the second half we were focused on our goal [of winning the state title]. We knew it was our last half of the season and we put it all out there."

**THE COYER TWINS**, seniors Katherine and Caroline (7 rebounds), scored 24 and nine points, respectively. Inside the paint, junior center Elizabeth Manner contributed 13 points and pulled down a game-high 16 rebounds. Oakton junior frontcourt player Angela Sickels contributed nine points in the win and steady freshman guard Katie Cronin (4 rebounds) added four points.

Caroline Coyer, the Northern Region's all-time scoring leader, was the focus of Princess Anne's pressure defense over the first half. But as the game wore on, the seasoned

**"I remembered everything we'd been working for the last four years, all the hard work and emotions we'd gone through - it was all worth something."**

— Katherine Coyer

backcourt star had more and more success making the Cavaliers' pay by distributing the ball, especially to Katherine and post player Manner who both finished off Oakton possessions with baskets.

Oakton worked its way to the foul line 21 times, making 18 of its free throws to

Princess Anne's 10-of-15 conversions from the stripe. Katherine Coyer, the region tournament's MVP two weeks ago, made 10 of her 11 shots from the foul line. Manner made five of her six.

"They were putting pressure on Caroline and she did a good job finding open players," said Katherine Coyer. "Elizabeth Manner did a really good job one-on-one [down low] on the block and finishing off or getting fouled. Elizabeth rebounded really well for us in the playoffs and that was a really big thing for us because we're not the biggest team."

It was a glorious moment for Oakton players, coaches and fans when the final buzzer went off to end the state finals game.

"I remembered everything we'd been working for the last four years, all the hard work and emotions we'd gone through - it was all worth something," said Katherine Coyer. "That's why at the end of the game I was crying."

Caroline Coyer said there was no extra incentive to defeat Princess Anne as a result of Oakton's past state tournament losses to the Cavaliers two and three years ago.

"Those were great Oakton teams which had the ability to win [state titles]," said Coyer. "This was just our year. The fact that we were playing Princess Anne again didn't really play into it although it was something that definitely stuck in your mind. It was kind of ironic [meeting them again], but not really a revenge thing."

One Oakton incentive going into the game was to help coach Priester get a well-deserved state championship to his name.

"Going into the Princess Anne game I think that was one of the major reasons we wanted this win," said Caroline Coyer. "He's been doing this for so long and he's a great coach and such a great guy. He's not happy unless we're playing our best."

In the locker room following the state finals win, the Oakton players sang a song in celebration, something they had started doing several weeks ago. Also in the victorious locker room, the team's seniors individually expressed things they were thankful for in regards to the season and their respective careers.

On the way back to Northern Virginia that night the Cougars had a celebratory dinner at an Applebee's in Fredericksburg. It was not until around 1:45 a.m. that the team bus returned to Oakton.

Katherine Coyer said Oakton's overall success this season was a total team effort.

"We all get along real well," she said. "There was definitely a commitment we all made to each other. It was weird; there was zero drama on the team. Everyone was so unselfish. It's amazing how much you can accomplish when no one cares who gets the credit. Every single day in practice we all worked hard. The girls who didn't get as much playing time worked hard and pushed the starters. No one on the team felt they were better than anyone else."

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERAUTZEL/THE CONNECTION





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## ENTERTAINMENT

Send announcements to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com).  
Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/  
artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit  
[www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com).

### THURSDAY/MARCH 15

**Tom Paxton.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. American folk music. \$24. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**National Trumpet Competition.** 1:30 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Featuring The U.S. Army Band & Herald Trumpets with guest soloists. Free and open to the public. [www.nationaltrumpetcomp.org](http://www.nationaltrumpetcomp.org).

**Preschool Storytime.** 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Storytime and activities. Age 4-5 with adult. 703-689-2700.

**One-on-One Computer Tutoring.** 2 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn the basics of the Internet, Word and Excel. Call for an appointment. Adults. 703-242-4020.

**One-on-One English Practice.** 2 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Call for appointment with an ESL volunteer. Adults. 703-242-4020.

**Book Discussion.** 7 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. March by Geraldine Brooks. Adults. 703-242-4020.

**eBook/eReader Instruction.** 7:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn about library eBooks and how to access them with your compatible device. Call for appointment. Adults. 703-242-4020.

**Dylan Galvin.** 8:30 p.m. O'Sullivan's Irish Pub, 754 Elden St., Herndon. Live music. 703-464-0522 or [www.osullivansirishpub.com](http://www.osullivansirishpub.com).

**Comedy Night.** 8:30 p.m. Sully's, 14513 Lee Jackson Highway, Chantilly. Every Thursday. 703-818-

9292 or [mysullys.com](http://mysullys.com).

### FRIDAY/MARCH 16

**"I Love You Because."** 8 p.m. Reston Community Players, 266 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Tickets \$15-\$21. 703-476-4500 or [restonplayers.org](http://restonplayers.org).

**Artists' Reception.** 6-8 p.m. Post Gallery at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. "Mind, Heart, Vision," a juried exhibition featuring selected painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, computer graphics, and animation by Herndon High School seniors. Free. 703-956-6590 or [www.artspaceherndon.org](http://www.artspaceherndon.org).

**GrooveLily.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. "Sleeping Beauty Wakes: In Concert," a contemporary take on a classic fairytale. \$35. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**John Eaton: A Juke Joint Jam Session.** 7:30 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. The Great American Song Book. \$25. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**National Trumpet Competition.** 2 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Featuring Doc Severinsen and The Army Blues. Free and open to the public. [www.nationaltrumpetcomp.org](http://www.nationaltrumpetcomp.org).

**Kevin James.** 9:30 p.m. O'Sullivan's Irish Pub, 754 Elden St., Herndon. Live music. 703-464-0522 or [www.osullivansirishpub.com](http://www.osullivansirishpub.com).

**Homer's Donut.** 7 p.m. Sully's, 14513 Lee Jackson Highway, Chantilly. 703-818-9292 or [mysullys.com](http://mysullys.com).

### SATURDAY/MARCH 17

**Reston Chorale Annual Pops Concert.** 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Reston Community Center at Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road,

Reston. With music from Hal Leonard, Stephen Foster, Irving Berlin, Johnny Mercer, Aaron Copland and many others. The Chorale will be joined by the Reston Chorale Jazz Trio. [www.restonchorale.org](http://www.restonchorale.org).

**Fairfax Symphony Orchestra.** 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax.

With pianist Rick Rowley. Stravinsky's Firebird Suite (1919 version), Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Sibelius' Symphony No. 7, and Sibelius' Finlandia. Free pre-concert discussion for ticketholders at 7 p.m. Tickets \$25-\$55. [info@fairfaxsymphony.org](mailto:info@fairfaxsymphony.org).

**"I Love You Because."** 8 p.m. Reston Community Players, 266 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Tickets \$15-\$21. 703-476-4500 or [restonplayers.org](http://restonplayers.org).

**National Capital Open TaeKwonDo Championship.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. South Lakes High School, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston. All proceeds from spectator admissions benefit the South Lakes High School Athletic Booster Club. [www.hkleetkd.com/capitol.htm](http://www.hkleetkd.com/capitol.htm) or 703-437-5111.

**National Trumpet Competition.** 2 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Free and open to the public. [www.nationaltrumpetcomp.org](http://www.nationaltrumpetcomp.org).

**Art Show and Reception.** 6-9 p.m. Clifton Art Guild, NoVA Music Center, 12704 Chapel Road, Clifton. The new guild presents their Grand Opening, with 15-20 local artists exhibiting in various mediums. [mljpeterston@cox.net](mailto:mljpeterston@cox.net) or 703-815-2716.

**Charlie's Chili Cookoff.** 6-8 p.m. St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 432 Van Buren St., Herndon. All visitors and newcomers are invited to a wine and cheese reception 5-6 p.m. followed by Charlie's Chili Cookoff. Parishioners will bring a crockpot of chili and compete for prizes. All donations go to St. Timothy's Seminarian Fund. 703-437-3790.

**Boyle School of Irish Dance Sets.** 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. O'Sullivan's Irish Pub, 754 Elden St., Herndon. Traditional dance performances. 703-464-0522 or [www.osullivansirishpub.com](http://www.osullivansirishpub.com).

**The Cherry People with Kat Atomic.** 7:30 p.m. Sully's, 14513 Lee Jackson Highway, Chantilly. 703-818-9292 or [mysullys.com](http://mysullys.com).

### SUNDAY/MARCH 18

**Persian New Year: Nowruz Celebration and Festivities.** 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St., Reston. Discover more than 3000 years of old traditions, customs and festivity of the Persian New Year (Nowruz) with music, dance, group performances, and costumed characters, along with a Persian Bazaar offering exotic food, goods, arts and more. 202-369-1515.

**"I Love You Because."** 2:30 p.m. Reston Community Players, 266 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Tickets \$15-\$21. 703-476-4500 or [restonplayers.org](http://restonplayers.org).

**March Bird Walk: Snakeden Stream Valley.** 7:30 a.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Age 16 and up. Beginning and expert birders welcome. Walk down to the Snakeden Branch Stream Valley and head upstream to the west. Free. [naturecenter@reston.org](mailto:naturecenter@reston.org) or 703-476-9689.

**Audubon Bird Walk and Field Trip.** 7:30 a.m. Nature House is located at 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Meet at the Nature House for a walk through Snakeden Stream Valley. Sponsored by the Audubon

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 13

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Sunday, March 25th at 12:00 and 3:30 pm

**Tickets: \$45**

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**National Conference Center**

Lansdowne, VA 20176

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# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 12

Society of Northern Virginia. Free.  
info@audubonva.org.

## MONDAY/MARCH 19

**Reston League of Artists.** 7:30 p.m.  
Lake Anne RCC, 1609 Washington  
Plaza North, Reston. A presentation  
and demonstration on black-light  
photography by Scott Musson.  
fiben@verizon.net.

## TUESDAY/MARCH 20

**"Better This World" Film  
Screening & Discussion.** 6 p.m.  
George Mason University Johnson  
Center Cinema, 4400 University  
Drive, Fairfax. Katie Galloway and  
Kelly Duane de la Vega's  
documentary follows David McKay  
and Bradley Crowder as they are  
transformed from political neophytes  
to accused domestic terrorists,  
arrested at the 2008 Republican  
National Convention. Free. <http://fams.gmu.edu>.

**Celtic Crossroads.** 8 p.m. The Barns  
at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna.  
Bluegrass, gypsy-folk and jazz. \$27.  
[www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**One-on-One Computer Tutoring.** 3  
p.m. Oakton Library, 10304  
Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn the  
basics of the Internet, Word and  
Excel. Call for an appointment.

Adults. 703-242-4020.

**Bob Gaynor Solo Acoustic.** 6 p.m.  
Sully's, 14513 Lee Jackson Highway,  
Chantilly. 703-818-9292 or  
[mysullys.com](http://mysullys.com).

## SATURDAY/MARCH 21

**Celtic Crossroads.** 8 p.m. The Barns  
at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna.  
Bluegrass, gypsy-folk and jazz. \$27.  
[www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**Preschool Storytime.** 11 a.m.  
Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768  
Center St., Herndon. Stories, songs,  
and rhymes. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-  
437-8855.

**Toddler Music Time.** 4 p.m. Herndon  
Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St.,  
Herndon. Melodies, rhythms and  
rhymes. Age 2-3 with adult. 703-437-  
8855.

**Open Mic Night.** 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m.  
Jimmy's Old Town Tavern, 697  
Spring St., Herndon. Every  
Wednesday. Register your band at  
[BluesSlide@aol.com](mailto:BluesSlide@aol.com) or 703-593-  
5206. [www.jimmystavern.com](http://www.jimmystavern.com).

## THURSDAY/MARCH 22

**Beverly Cosham Sings.** 2 p.m.  
Reston Community Center Hunters  
Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road,  
Reston. Cabaret singer Beverly  
Cosham, accompanied by pianist  
Felicia Kessel Crawley. 703-503-3384  
or 703-476-4500.

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## Reston Association Board of Directors Election

**Come meet the Candidates.  
Learn where they stand on the issues.**

### Candidates' Forum

**Wednesday, March 14, 2012, 7 p.m.**

*Reston Association, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive*

Vote either online or using the printed ballot mailed to all owners and renters.  
Pose a question to the candidates on the Reston Association Facebook page.  
Click the link on the homepage. Vote at [www.reston.org](http://www.reston.org)

### Three seats open:

*One South Lakes District Director*

*Two At-large directors.*

### Details or questions:

Contact Cate Fulkerson at [cate@reston.org](mailto:cate@reston.org) or 703-435-6512



## NEWCOMERS' NIGHT

**THURSDAY, March 29, 2012 • 7-9 p.m. FREE**

**Reston Association Conference Center • 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive**

**RSVP by March 26, 2012 to [Ashleigh@reston.org](mailto:Ashleigh@reston.org)  
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## “Early Results Show Stable Disease”



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

There's five words e-mailed from my oncologist that I can live with (Duh!). Certainly better than the previous nine words e-mailed eight weeks ago regarding my then current CT Scan: "Scan results show progression. We'll talk more on Friday." Not that early results (I think 'early results' means after the first two infusions) guarantee any future results, but half good is better than all bad. Continued 'progression' (growth and/or movement; meaning the chemotherapy was having zero effect) would have been disappointing (you think?), so reading 'stable' in my doctor's message was welcome news indeed; any port in a storm, as they say. And make no mistake about it, when you're diagnosed as a terminal patient, who's now outlived your original prognosis – by years – every day is a storm, and any place of refuge, leaky or otherwise, is a welcome sight. Just as pilots say: "Any landing you walk away from is a good one," I'm going to create a corollary for cancer patients: any scan that doesn't cause your oncologist to advise you to get your things in order ("Five Wishes") is a good one. And so Tuesday, February 18th was real good – for "Kenny-with-cancer." Alive and reasonably well.

However, just as life goes on, so too do the diagnostic scans and all the associated anxiety – and hopes and prayers as well. It's a balancing act to be sure, to be always living on the edge (make that precipice), but obviously I'm grateful to be doing so – despite the emotional upheaval. Though I've been there – and still doing it, it doesn't make any of it easier going forward. Being familiar with the chemotherapy (the "second line" I'm now enduring) – and its side effects from three years ago when I was originally diagnosed and treated, doesn't really lessen the anxiety of it, it more reinforces the fear of it. Regardless of the success I've had fending off cancer's ravages, it's difficult to rid yourself of the inevitability of its power.

At least now there are e-mails (and Web sites to access) between doctor and patient to maintain the lines of communication and facilitate the prompt exchange of information, and to shortcut the previously interminable waits patients had waiting for scan/lab results. The results are not immediate, let's be realistic; but they are sort of predictable, time-wise, and in that predictability evolves a certain calm. And however 'calm' can be introduced into the doctor/cancer patient equation, it exponentially improves the patient's quality of life.

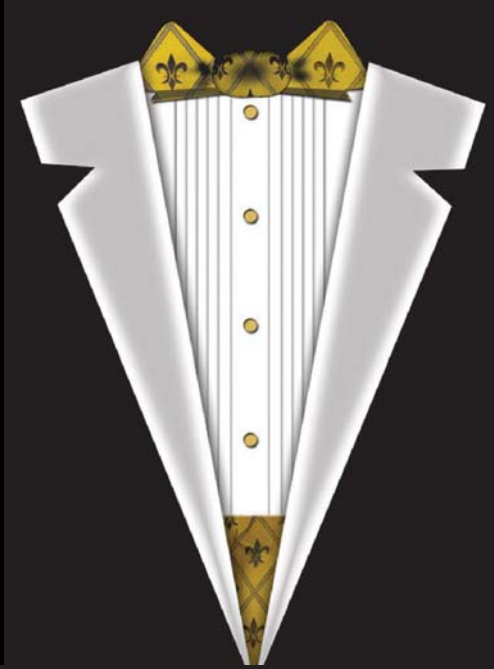
Now when you have your follow-up appointments – and certain information has already been communicated, these appointments can be more productive, less emotional and more strategic moving forward rather than spent reacting to medical facts only recently in evidence. After all, the oncologist is trying to keep you alive, and any methodology that enhances that relationship and improves the quality of the time between doctor and patient is better for all concerned. The e-mails blunt some of that unproductive but predictable emotion, which then enables the doctor and patient to more intelligently and dispassionately consider the options/treatments available. At some point, however, reality has to be addressed (I wouldn't say embraced, though). Way back when, my oncologist advised us that none of this was going to be easy, and he was right. But his honesty – and treatment has made it a bit more bearable for me. I wouldn't characterize or dare say that there's a recipe for success in anything he or I have done together or that I've done independently of him; so far, so good though. I am alive three years post-diagnosis after originally receiving a less than encouraging prognosis: "13 months to two years."

Within the next month, I will have had two more chemotherapy infusions followed up by yet another CT Scan, and this fun will begin all over again. I can't really say that I'm looking forward to it, but being terminal is all it's cracked up to be, and looking forward is still better than not being able to look at all.

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



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