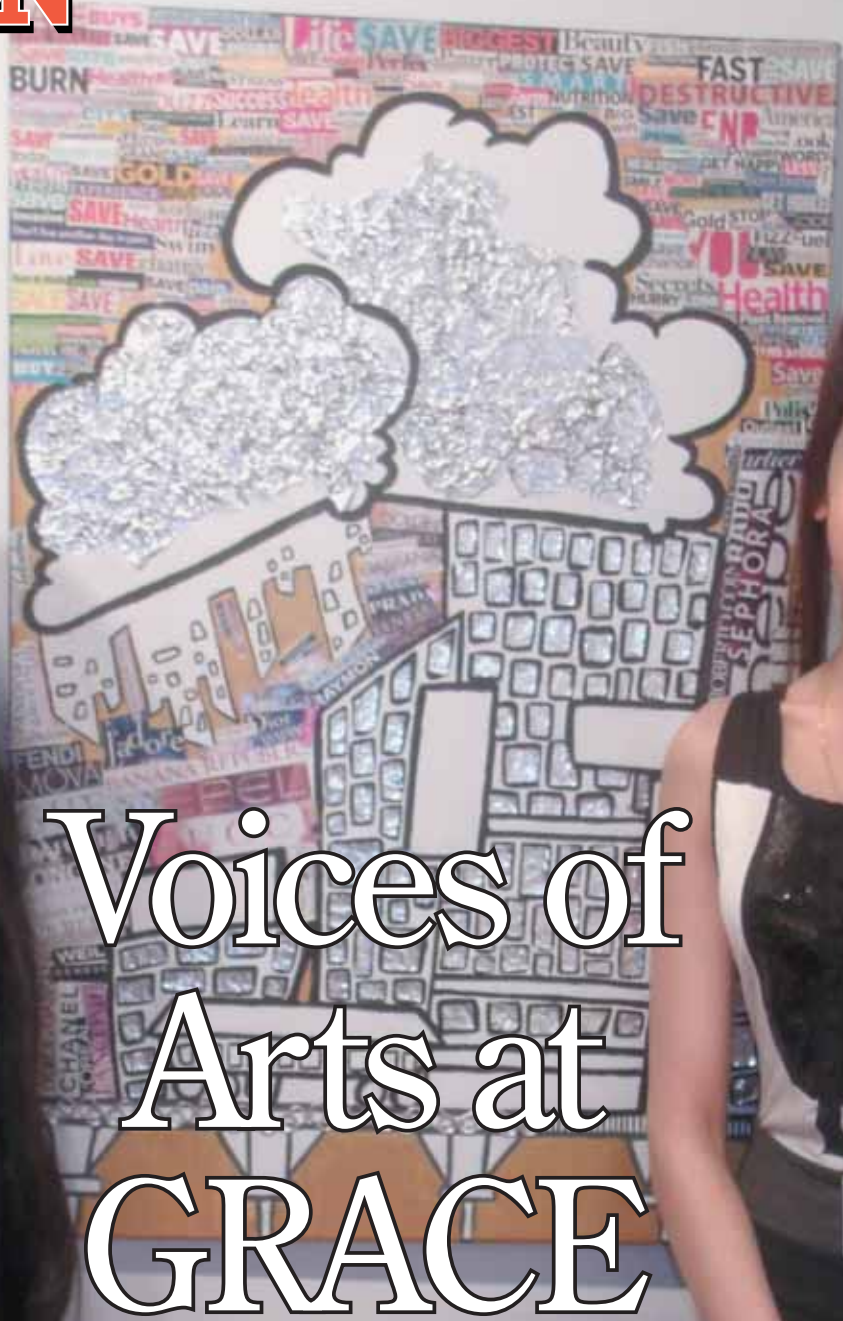


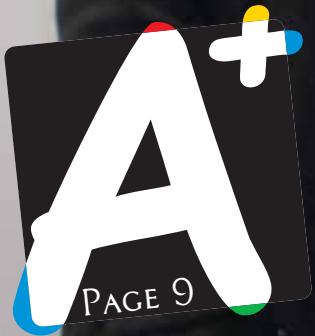
Rida Kayani, 11th grade, and Anum Kayani, 12th grade, from South Lakes High School, posing with Anum's work, "Materialistic City," at the Greater Reston Art Center (GRACE) exhibit, Emerging Visions: Voices.

OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 10 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14



Voices of Arts at GRACE

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Nowruz, St. Patrick's Day Celebrated at Town Center

NEWS, PAGE 4

Metro Moves Closer to Reston

NEWS, PAGE 3

PHOTO BY OLUFEMI AKINSITAN/THE CONNECTION



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47331 Vista Ct, Sterling
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MLS LO7987044
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PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

WMATA hosts an open house to provide information about the new Silver Line stations at the Reston Community Center Thursday, March 14.

Metro Moves Closer to Reston

Residents still concerned about bus routes, south side access to Wiehle Avenue station.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Residents interested in the coming of Dulles Metrorail attended an open house at the Reston Community Center Thursday, March 14. The Wiehle Avenue Station, along with four stations in Tysons Corner, is scheduled to open this December.

“There’s two main types of users, we’re expecting to see a mix of new commuters and non-peak tourist-style travel to destinations within Washington, D.C., like the National Mall,” said Michael Eichler, a senior planner with WMATA. “We’re expecting a lot of traffic on the trains the more comfortable people get with mapping out their destinations into the city.”

The Silver Line will go from Wiehle Avenue to Largo Town Center, running parallel with the Orange line starting at East Falls Church. During rush hour, trains are expected to leave the Wiehle station every six minutes, during regular hours they will leave about every 12 minutes.

Estimated travel times going east from Wiehle are: 11 minutes to Tysons Corner, 21 minutes to East Falls Church, 33 minutes to Rosslyn, 40 minutes to Metro Center, 40 minutes to L’Enfant Plaza and 69 minutes to Largo Town Center, according to WMATA’s current timetables.

“I’m happy about being able to take the train from Reston all the way into Washington, D.C., without switching trains, I know that was a concern during the early stages of planning,” said Cheryl Hirsch of Reston, who says she won’t commute on the trains, but would use them to travel into the city. “I’ve lived here for 20 years and I’ve avoided going into D.C. because of traffic and because I’m not close to the Orange or Blue lines, so I think this will open up some travel options. And I know a lot of people feel the same way.”

While some in attendance said they were interested in seeing the proposed schedules, they hoped for more specific information in station access, particularly from the south side of the toll road.



Residents review the new Silver Line Metrorail plans at an open house at the Reston Community Center Thursday, March 14.

“I know there’s heavy construction and big plans for access from the north side, bus bays, new development, kiss and ride lots, but I think the south side is seriously under-served,” said Gina Ellerby of Reston. “Wiehle Avenue backs up on a daily basis from Sunrise Valley to Sunset Hills, and that’s without a major access point to Metro on one side. If they’re planning on people to make their daily commute on Metro, it’s going to have to be more convenient than getting in their cars. Right now I’m just not seeing it.”

Some attendees weren’t happy with more than half of the displays at the open house being devoted to bus routes that weren’t in Reston.

“I have a lot of questions about routes to get to the station, and I was counting on more detailed information about that,” said Al Trujillo of Herndon, who works in the city. “I’m not very interested in getting to Arlington or the Pentagon, I want to know how I’m going to get from my house off Lawyers Road to the new Metro station, or if it’s better to try and go to the Vienna station.”

Fine Arts Festival Set for May 17-19

More than 200 artists to participate in Reston festival.

The dates are set for the region’s longest running and largest fine arts festival—the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival, produced by the Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE). Celebrating its 22nd anniversary, the premiere event for art lovers and enthusiasts will take place the weekend of May 17-19, 2013, illuminating the streets of Reston Town Center.

The three-day event attracts hundreds and thousands of patrons from across the region and provides a personal, interactive experience to view, purchase, and experience art directly from the unique and talented artists featured. The festival will open on Friday night, May 17, with an artful “happy hour” featuring an upscale opening party surrounded by over 200 contemporary art exhibitors.

This destination style arts festival offers plenty to see, taste, hear and do—from handcrafted, one-of-a-kind artwork, contemporary and original performances, artist demonstrations, acclaimed children’s activities, and live music. Over 200 master artisans in 16 different categories will participate, including ceramics, digital and multi-media art, drawing, fiber/textiles, furniture, glass, jewelry, leather, metal, mixed media 2D and 3D, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, and wood.

Admission to the festival is free, however for a voluntary donation of \$10 to GRACE at



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Bruce Reinfeld welcomes visitors to his photography exhibit at the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival at Reston Town Center on May 20 last year.

the event’s ArtCarts visitors will receive a \$10 gift certificate to dine at participating Reston Town Center restaurants. Donation proceeds benefit year round educational and outreach programs produced by GRACE throughout the Northern Virginia area.

GRACE will kick off the weekend festivities with an upscale Opening Night Party on Friday, May 17 from 6-9 p.m. Held in the heart of the Reston Town Center at the Town Center Pavilion, the party is an opportunity for art lovers, sponsors, media, donors, and for the public to celebrate this annual event, while helping raise funds for GRACE’s educational programs. The party features live music, entertainment, silent auction, signature cocktails and local prominent business leaders and elected officials.

Event Details

What: 22nd Annual Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival
Who: Contemporary artwork from over 200 artists in 16 categories
Where: Reston Town Center—12001 Market Street, Reston
When:
Friday, May 17, 5-8 p.m.
Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sunday, May 19, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Weather: Rain or shine
Opening Night Party: Friday, May 17, 6-9 p.m. Town Center Pavilion. Tickets required and will be available for purchase online beginning, April 1, 2013.
Cost: Admission to the event is free, however for a voluntary donation of \$10 to GRACE at the events ArtCarts, visitors will receive a \$10 gift certificate to dine at participating Reston Town Center restaurants.
Contact: For additional information visit www.RestonArts.org or www.NorthernVirginiaFineArtsFestival.org.



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Performers from Silk Road Dance Company present traditional Persian dances to a packed Reston Town Center Pavilion during the Nowruz—Persian New Year Festival on Sunday, March 17.



From left, gentleman: Kamran Dastan, Sirwan Abdullahzadeh, Bayar Palani; and ladies: Durya Abdullahzadeh, Mediya Salimi, Adiba Rahima. The younger generation keeps their cultural traditions alive—after wandering the crowds in their colorful native dress, the group performed Kurdish dances in the Pavilion.

Reston Hosts Nowruz Festival

2nd Annual Persian New Year Festival in Reston Town Center.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

“I’ve been to the Oktoberfest here, the Wine Festival, concerts in the Pavilion, and I don’t think I’ve ever seen a crowd like this one.” That was Roy Mackey of Reston’s impressions of the throngs that filled the closed-to-cars Market Street in the Reston Town Center on Sunday, March 17. Given the date, you would be forgiven if you suspected that the event was a St. Patrick’s Day celebration, but one look at tents filled with fine hand-made rugs, crafts, the tantalizing smells of kabobs on the grill, and the lines of folks willing to wait for a taste of Ash-e Reshteh soup, and you would quickly realize that an entirely different part of the world was on display here. This was the Nowruz Festival, held for the second time in Reston, and organized by Iran E. Ma. Shohreh Asemi, a well-known Iranian-

American actress, journalist and TV producer and the host and founder of the Nowruz Festival Organization.

Listening to the sounds of the Persian, Turkish, Kurdish and other languages spoken in Iran, mingling with English, French, Spanish (and was that Dutch we heard?) along the Reston streets, it would seem that the festival brought together an international melting pot of people to enjoy the sights and sounds of the day.

The Pavilion served as the presentation hub throughout the event, with a variety of singers, musicians, dancers and storytellers entertaining an actively engaged crowd. While the actual festival of Nowruz lasts for several days, this local celebration packed all these performances, representations of traditional characters, and upwards of 75 booths offering the customary foods, goods and products into an 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. time slot. Market Street took on the atmosphere of a traditional Middle Eastern Bazaar. Festival founder Asemi says that last year’s event was the most successful of all time at the Reston Town Center. With more vendors and more entertainment, this year’s Nowruz celebration looks to take the top spot.



Simin Babri and Mahrokh Keshavarci charm the crowds at the Nowruz Festival with their traditional tribal Qashghai dances.



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

In the spirits of the day, from left, host and Clyde’s of Reston General Manager Hans Olson was properly dressed for a Celtic occasion as he poses with his bar tending associates Jake Corcoran, Jeffrey Turner, Allison Gagnon and Brady Winter.

When ‘Everyone is Irish’ at Town Center

Clyde’s of Reston hosts St. Paddy’s Day celebration.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

With a decided nip in the air and the threat of rain, you could almost imagine yourself wandering the streets of Galway, Ireland—a fitting atmospheric backdrop for the third annual St. Patrick’s Day Celebration in Reston Town Center held on Saturday, March 16. It was a Pavilion Party, hosted once again by Clyde’s restaurant of Reston. There was plenty of corned beef and cabbage, shepherd’s pie and beef stew available, but it looked like sales of the traditional Irish beer, Guinness, were going strong. There might have been a bit of Bailey’s Irish Cream slipped into a few coffee cups as well—to ward off the chill, of course.

It was an all-day affair, starting at 10 a.m. and lasting until 11 p.m. The activities got off to a running start with the 5k Lucky Leprechaun fun run sponsored by Potomac River Running of Reston. Then it was time to hit the food and drink stalls and enjoy Irish entertainment, including some rousing fiddle playing, as well as traditional Irish tunes that had the crowds singing along. When they weren’t joining in with the dancers, the children had plenty to keep them busy



Timothy Kirkpatrick, pipe sergeant with the Washington Scottish Pipe Band Society, and his piping pal George Hayes attracted attention with their fine inflation of the bagpipes.

with balloon castles and face painting. The adults showed off their young-at-heart Irish attitudes with the “wearing of the green”—including a number of impressively large green hats, wigs and “Kiss Me, I’m Irish” t-shirts. “Everybody’s Irish on St. Patrick’s Day,” said one Reston reveler. He was probably right, since there were a variety of languages being spoken among those green-attired partygoers.

Host, and Clyde’s General Manager Hans Olson could be seen here, there and everywhere in the crowd, making sure his multitude of “guests” enjoyed the day. “It’s good fun,” said Olson. The “Irish” all seemed to agree.



The whole troupe from McGrath’s Academy of Irish Dance take the stage. (Lauren Dutton owns the studio in Manassas.)

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Say Yes to Health Coverage

Governor, state panel must accept coverage for 400,000 Virginians without health insurance.

More than 140,000 residents of Fairfax County have no health insurance. That's more than 13 percent of the slightly more than 1 million people who live in the wealthiest county in the nation. Arlington and Alexandria have similar percentages of uninsured residents.

These are some of the 400,000 people in Virginia who could receive health coverage under an expansion of Medicaid if only officials in the commonwealth are gracious enough to accept on their behalf.

Virginia's current eligibility requirements for Medicaid are so strict that although it is the 11th largest state in terms of population and seventh in per capita personal income, Virginia ranked 43rd in Medicaid enrollment as a proportion of the state's population and 47th in per capita Medicaid spending, according to a 2013 Fairfax County report.

Virginia has the option to add new coverage, at least 90 percent funded with Federal dollars, that would extend to individuals earning less than about \$15,000 per year and families earning less than about \$31,000 per year, to low income teens who lose Medicaid when they turn 19, and adults with disabilities not currently eligible.

It isn't as if there is no health care cost for these currently uncovered residents. Right now, they access health care when they are very sick by going to an emergency room, where the hospital spreads the cost of care around. But this is inefficient, expensive and unhealthy. Expanding Medicaid coverage would allow far less expensive preventative care and lead to better health outcomes. Uninsured people don't receive preventative care; they seek treatment later in illnesses when the costs are much higher, and the consequences in terms of lost days at work and other productivity are also much higher.

EDITORIAL

GUEST EDITORIAL

March Madness on Homelessness

While some say programs for the poor will be exempted from sequestration, that is not how things are playing out.

BY KERRIE WILSON
CEO/RESTON INTERFAITH

This year, March is not reserved for sports madness alone. With Congress unable to come to agreement on the federal budget, the "unthinkable" has happened with sequestration and the start of \$85 billion across-the-board cuts on domestic and defense programs. Without a new game plan, the reductions in federal housing programs at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will fall entirely on highly vulnerable individuals and families, putting them at risk of becoming or remaining homeless and leaving nothing for other basic needs.

With average rent in Fairfax County for a 2BR apartment at \$1,550/month, one would have to earn \$62,000 a year to afford housing and other basic needs (www.nlihc.org). Nearly one-quarter of Fairfax County households earn less than that, and 8.4 percent or 33,000 households in Fairfax County earn less than



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS

Kerrie Wilson (center), CEO of Reston Interfaith, talks with volunteers about their experiences finding and documenting the lives of homeless individuals during Registry Week in Fairfax County Feb. 25.

\$25,000 per year, surviving on near poverty level wages.

Housing assistance is arguably the most important home court advantage for Reston Interfaith and the Fairfax County Partnership organizations working to prevent and end homelessness. For homeless, disabled, elderly and low-income working families living in our high cost of living area, subsidies are the stabilizing force, and stable housing the number one predictor of future self-sufficiency, no matter what other challenges an individual or family is facing.

While some say programs for the poor—like housing assistance for the most vulnerable—will be ex-

empted from sequestration, or that the effect will not be immediate, that is not how things are playing out. When the freeze play was called on Capitol Hill, it had the effect of benching our neighbors. Fairfax County, like other jurisdictions dealing with the uncertainty and fickle nature of the current situation, has put a hold on the release of new vouchers that we were counting on to help our neighbors.

Jeri is 70 years old, frail and lost her home after a long illness. Her Social Security payments are insufficient to meet her living expenses without help. She is sleeping on a cot in our overflow pro-

gram and is effectively unsheltered after March 31 because the landlord is waiting on the release of the project-based voucher that will help pay her rent.

A single mom, Kara has three children under the age of seven and has struggled with homelessness for years after leaving the abusive relationship with her children's father. She never finished high school but is smart and determined. She tries to think beyond her current situation and talks of going back to school and training to become a bookkeeper. She cries at night because a shelter is no place to raise her children. She had been approved for a voucher and we found a landlord willing to overlook her poor credit and past evictions. He will have to move on to another renter.

Investments in affordable housing provide stability and opportunity for working families and a safety net for extremely low-income households and our neighbors with special needs. At a time when businesses, governments, communities and families are craving certainty and predictability to help adjust to a "new normal," why aren't we calling a timeout to adjust the call for homeless and vulnerable neighbors like Jeri, and Kara and her children, who are ready to go home? It's madness.

— MARY KIMM,
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Published by
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Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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General Assembly to Reconvene

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

The General Assembly will reconvene in the state capital on Wednesday, April 3, for what is appropriately termed the Reconvened Session. The purpose of this annual session is narrowly defined in the state constitution to give the General Assembly the opportunity to review actions of the governor on legislation passed during the regular session. Prior to Jan. 1, 1981, the governor could simply veto legislation he did not like, and the only choice the legislature had was to respond in the regular session the next year. With the passage of a constitutional amendment establishing the Reconvened Session, the General Assembly can override a gubernatorial veto with a two-thirds vote. Adding to the efficiency of the process, the governor can send recommendations for amendments to bills that passed to make technical corrections, add clarity, or change the effect of the bill more to his liking. In any case, the House and Senate must approve or reject the governor's amendments.

The importance of the Reconvened Session is heightened this year by the fact that the governor has two extremely important bills before him for which there is great public interest. While it has been characterized that the governor had agreed to these bills in advance of their passage, the devil is in the

details of the actual bills before him. There is anxious anticipation of an announcement by the governor of whether he plans to sign, amend or veto the transportation funding bill and the Medicaid expansion bill. While both were worked out in coordination with his office, the passage of the two bills has brought about great praise from some quarters and sharp criticism from others. With the governor's term coming to a close this year, his action on these bills may largely define his legacy.

The governor had made a campaign promise to fix the transportation funding problem. The business community has been effusive in its praise of the current transportation bill for the reliable and continuing stream of money it provides for congestion relief and transportation improvements. The Tea Party and Grover Norquist fans have been calling it the biggest tax increase in Virginia's history and certain to end any possibilities for the governor in a 2016 presidential race. Some details of the bill—like the hybrid vehicle fee—do not make any logical sense and need to be fixed.

On Medicaid expansion, a legislative plan put into the budget would move Virginia into an expanded Medicaid program. Once again, it is believed by those drafting the proposal that the governor had agreed to it, but he continues to write letters and make negative comments about the Affordable Care Act. Many activist groups wisely continue to write and call his office to ask that he not try to amend the plan.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Transportation Bill: A Political Train Wreck

To the Editor:

In the aftermath of the governor's successful Transportation Bill, HB 2313, some commentators have described the 109-page final product as a "bipartisan compromise" which, despite its flaws, is a benefit to Virginia's urban areas.

In reality, the legislation is a political train wreck, which raises the wrong taxes on the wrong people and creates the wrong incentives for modern transportation system. It also locks in certain inequalities to the detriment of Northern Virginia.

As a representative of central and western Fairfax, I am acutely aware of our transportation issues and the need for more highways and transit. I have supported countless bills, including my own SB 855 in 2013, which sought to raise dedicated revenues on a uniform and statewide basis.

I voted "no" on the final version of the governor's bill. Here are five critical flaws:

First, by reducing the tax on gasoline and raising the general sales tax, the governor's bill corrupts the traditional "user pays" method for financing transportation in Virginia. The ultimate irony is making hybrid users pay a \$100 annual penalty. We are

incentivizing people to buy larger cars and drive more miles. That is nonsense.

Second, the governor's bill creates discriminatory tax rates. Now, Northern Virginia consumers must pay an enhanced sales tax of 6 percent, while their downstate cousins enjoy a lower rate of 5.3 percent—to receive the same level of state services. There is no plausible basis for this discrimination which targets urban areas.

Third, the bill removes \$200 million annually from the state's General Fund for transportation. Coincidentally, that is the exact same amount which the assembly has reduced from higher education funding since 2008. So money that could be used to reduce college tuition (which greatly benefits Northern Virginia) is instead siphoned to road maintenance.

Fourth, the legislation accepts the current inequality on the rural-dominated Commonwealth Transportation Board which must approve all state highway projects. Right now, the 2.2 million residents of northern Virginia presently get one vote on the board, or the same voting power allocated to the 380,000 people in the Bristol district. Rather than change this absurdity, we are now locking it into law.

Fifth, the idea of the "regional accounts"—financed through the discriminatory taxes—is inherently contradictory. If Northern

Virginia and its urban cousin Hampton Roads pay with projects through "regional" funds, then that is one less project that the Transportation Board must finance through ordinary state funds. While the governor's bill includes aspirational language to avoid the "supplanting" of existing state support, there is no practical way to enforce it.

In fact, the only guaranty from the governor's legislation is that Northern Virginia consumers will get hit by discriminatory higher taxes, whether it's the sales tax surcharge, the increased recordation fee on home sales, or the annual \$100 "hybrid penalty." In regard to the last measure, it's worth noting that the majority of Virginia hybrid owners are located in ... Northern Virginia!

It must be noted that only a handful of lawmakers from northern Virginia voted against the final version of the governor's bill. I'm proud to be part of a small band that opposed the Richmond establishment on this dysfunctional mess. There were a dozen different transportation plans that were offered in 2013 on both sides of the aisle.

There was no requirement for the assembly to accept the worst one.

Chap Petersen
Fairfax

The writer is State Senator (D-34)



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Melissa Thomas, a junior at South Lakes High School, Daryl Thomas, dad, and Kathy Thomas, mom, with Melissa's piece, "Avarice."



PHOTOS BY OLUFEMI AKINSITAN/ THE CONNECTION

Voices of Arts at GRACE

High school students' artwork on display.

BY OLUFEMI AKINSITAN
THE CONNECTION

In celebration of the Youth Art Month at the Greater Reston Art Center (GRACE), students from Herndon, Oakton and South Lakes High Schools came together for an exhibition on Friday, March 15. The theme of the exhibition was Emerging Visions: Voices.

The theme was fleshed out in works like "Materialistic City," by Anum Kayani, a senior from South Lakes High School. In her words, "there is materialism in the world, everything has a label to it; from the clothes we wear to the shoes we bought, all are materialistic." Anum was inspired by her mother, Ghazala Sajid, who is also a painter.

Also exhibiting is Anum's sister Rida Kayani, an 11th grader also from South Lakes High School, who said, "I was working on the theme of children and their imagination. I wanted to depict what is inside their hearts."

Melissa Thomas, a junior from South Lakes, was experimenting with origami: "I discovered it meant happiness, long life, peace and fortune."

Narrating the story behind her work titled "Avarice," Melissa said, "people believe that money makes you happy. But it is not the object that is valuable; it is the belief and concept that make it valuable."

Like Anum and Rida Kayani, she has the support of her mother, Kathy Thomas, a graduate of the fine arts program at Virginia Commonwealth

University, who has participated in the GRACE art program for 11 years.

For Alex Minor, a senior from Oakton High School, her work, titled "Society Unmasked," was inspired by one of her friends, whose parent got into a violent divorce and she didn't want people to know about it. She believes "people tend to hide things about them, because of fear." She conducted an anonymous online survey on Google asking people about their fears in order to complete her work.

Rebekah Soliday, a senior from Herndon High School, mirrored the society in her work, titled "Cut Here." She said, "I feel like people talk more about death and suicide than life; life is a hard choice."

The duo of Yousef Ahmad and Dylan Staniszewski, seniors from Oakton High School, exhibited an untitled work depicting their emotions and the clash of cultures they encounter in their day-to-day activities.

Dwelling on the issue of the environment, McNeil Bauer, a senior from South Lakes High School, explained that his work is about "the interdependency of man and nature and how to achieve a balance between the two." Bauer used logs from trees cut down in front of his house and his knowledge of physics in his piece. "Environmental issues are important to me," Bauer said.

On the lighter side is the work of Chris Gra-

ham, an 11th grader from Oakton High School, titled "Rob." He said, "Rob was a student teacher who had a lot of impact on me; this is like a tribute to him."

An in-depth discussion with some of the participating students titled "Appetite for Art" was scheduled for Thursday, March 21, as part of the exhibition. See www.restonarts.org for more details.



Elizabeth Vandenburg, Nick Bauer and their son McNeil Bauer with his work on environmental stewardship at the exhibition.



"Thanatos, a Still Life Blue," by Dorothy Bonica, the League of Reston Artists' newest and youngest member.

League of Reston Artists Opens Parkridge Exhibit

Paint and Flash is the new League of Reston Artists exhibit, featuring paintings and photographs in a wide range of styles and subjects. Open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Parkridge 5 Building, 10780 Parkridge Blvd., Reston, through April 12. www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

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

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 20

Trip to Hollywood Casino at

Charles Town Races. 3:30-11:30 p.m., at Hunters Woods Shopping Center, 2201 Springwood Drive, Reston. Join Reston Association for an evening at the race track and a nice dinner overlooking the horses; participants will receive \$15 worth of free slot play. Reston Association members: \$32; non-members: \$38. Ages 55 years and older. Ashleigh@reston.org or 703-435-6577.

Symphony in Cinema Series at

Bow Tie Cinemas. 7 p.m., at Bow Tie Cinemas, 11940 Market St., Reston. Igor Stravinsky's "The Rite of Spring" is presented by The Philadelphia Orchestra, conducted by Nézet-Séguin Yannick. 703-464-0816 or bowtietcinemas.com.

THURSDAY/MARCH 21

David Lang and Tordis Fahringer.

2:15-3:30 p.m., at Center Stage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Artistic Director Davi Lang and accompanist Tordis Fahringer for the Reston Chorale play duets from the classic repertoire; the first in a series of seven free Thursday afternoon "Meet the Artists" concerts. 703-503-3384 or www.oli.gmu.edu.

11th Annual Reston Republican

Dinner. 6:30 p.m., at Hidden Creek Country Club, 1711 Clubhouse Road, Reston. The club's annual Lincoln-Reagan Day Dinner features former rising Democrat Party star and Congressman Artur Davis on his journey from being an Obama ally to a Republican. \$72.50 prior to March 10; \$80 from March 11 to 20; \$100 at the door. 703-476-8982, lizschwartzman@yahoo.com or www.restonGOP.org.

Appetite for Art—Contemporary

Art Dialogues at Greater Reston Arts Center. 7-8:30 p.m., at the Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market St., Suite 103, Reston. Artists, curators, or educators will guide you through an in-depth viewing of the current exhibition and discuss related trends and influences

in contemporary culture. 703-471-9242, 703-476-4500 or www.restonarts.org.

Newcomer's Night. 7-9 p.m., at the Reston Association, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Come learn more about Reston Association (RA) and its many services, amenities and programs as well as other local organizations in the community; refreshments and door prizes. 703-435-6577 or Ashleigh@reston.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 23

Garlic Mustard Removal at Old Trail Drive. 10 a.m.-noon, along Glade Drive between Old Trail Drive and Generation Drive, Reston. Help restore the natural area and remove the Garlic Mustard that has invaded the Snakeden Stream watershed while the plant is identifiable and before it goes to seed; tools, gloves, snacks, lunch and water provided (wear long sleeves and pants if allergic to poison ivy). 703-435-7986 or habrock@reston.org.

Nature Walk Through Reston

National Golf Course. 1 p.m., at South Lakes Park, 11100 South Lakes Drive, Reston. Led by a naturalist from the Walker Nature Centre, participants will learn about natural resources and reveal a variety of birds, including Purple Martins. RSVP required. 703-709-7700 or restonmuseum@gmail.com.

Annual Family Easter Festival. 3-5 p.m., at Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon. "The Egg Hunt" is the feature of the day with caricatures, family discovery stations, crafts, face painting, balloon sculpting, fun inflatables and more surrounding. www.florisumc.org.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 27

Meet Me at the Movies Senior Movie Day. 10 a.m., at the Bow Tie Cinemas, 11940 Market St., Reston. Reston Association presents Oscar-winner "Argo" starring Ben Affleck and Alan Arkin; refreshments and door prizes provided prior to the

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL/THE CONNECTION

Local musicians and music educators say parents can encourage and inspire children's musicality with simple activities at home.

The Sound of Music

Enhancing your child's music education during Music in Our Schools Month and beyond.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

From the powerful sounds of a high school band to the soothing melodies sung in a kindergarten music classroom, local music educators are using the month of March to raise awareness of the benefits of learning music.

In fact, the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) designates March as Music In Our Schools Month, and local music educators echo the significance of the annual celebration.

"The reason Music in our Schools Month is so important is because it heightens awareness ... that school music programs help provide important and healthy musical alternatives to the sometimes disturbing messages that children inadvertently hear in the ... music they may encounter in popular culture," said Brian C. Wuttke, Ph.D., director of music education at George Mason University in Fairfax.

Even if formal music lessons are not an option, local musicians and music educators say that parents can encourage and inspire their children's musicality with simple activities at home. "Research suggests that parental involvement in a child's music activities can not only pique a child's interest in music, but it can positively impact motivation and achievement in music," Wuttke said.

So how can parents support a child's musical talent or interest? "I think playing music with your kids would be the number one way to enhance their musicality," said Elizabeth Lasko of the National Association for Music Education. "Of course, a parent may not play an instrument, but there is

always singing."

Lasko encourages parents to allow children to experiment with instruments. "As kids, we used to sing with our grandmother's player piano," she said. "Singing with recorded music is another option. Learning songs from different eras and genres can open up new worlds to kids." According to Lasko, inexpensive percussion instruments like shakers or tambourines can help children develop rhythm while having fun.

Shannon Melideo, Ph.D., chair of the Education Department at Marymount University in Arlington, says exposure to music should be a priority. "[It] is critically important," she said. "Sure, you want them to listen to 'your music' as a parent, but listen to as much diverse music as possible and talk about it informally."

Lasko agrees and encourages parents to look for local performances that are designed for young audiences. "Lots of children love to attend musical performances that are geared toward their own age, especially if there is fun interaction between the performers and the audience," she said. "Many communities offer inexpensive performances. Some [are offered] at schools. Seeing kids their own age or slightly older perform music can be very inspiring for children."

Parents don't even have to leave home to find musical inspiration. "For young children, simple, everyday household items can be used to make a functional musical instrument that the child can decorate and compose a song on," said Wuttke.

He added that parents should encourage their children to participate in school music programs. "Praise the student for their efforts," he said. "Ask the student to sing or play a song on an instrument they are working on in school for family members."

Finally, technology offers convenient options. "There are many iPad applications, for instance, that are musical in nature and help kids learn about different instruments and how to record music," said Lasko.



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SPORTS



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

South Lakes senior Zachary Deker heads the ball during a game against T.C. Williams on March 14.

South Lakes Boys' Soccer Falls to T.C. Williams

Seahawks open season with shutout loss.

By JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

South Lakes boys' soccer coach Marty Pfister thought his team played well after trailing T.C. Williams by a pair of goals on March 14. Falling behind in the first place, however, was a different story.

TC scored first on a free kick by Eryk Williamson in the 44th minute. The Seahawks disagreed with the foul call which gave the Titans the opportunity, but it didn't matter. TC added a goal by Momodo Jalloh in the 48th minute. From there, South Lakes had several chances in front of the net but couldn't capitalize and the Seahawks opened the season with a 2-0 loss to T.C. Williams at South Lakes High School.

"We picked it up when we got down," Pfister said. "It was a little bit of an unfortunate swing of momentum on more or less a questionable call, but that happens all the time so we're going to have to learn how to react better. ... I don't mind the questionable call, it's how we reacted after the 1-0 because when it went to two, it just makes everything harder."

South Lakes returns several key players from last season's team, which posted a 9-5-4 record, reached the Liberty District tournament semifinals and defeated Herndon in the opening round of the Northern Region tournament.

Senior defensive midfielder and team captain Sulaiman Dainkeh will play soccer at the University of Maryland next season. Fellow senior captains Dylan Katz (stopper) and Elvin Arbaiza (offensive midfielder), and junior striker Jhonny DeSouza are key players for the Seahawks.

"We have high expectations for this year for how well we did at the end of last year and what we return," Pfister said. "But at the same point in time, we kind of developed a team unity last year and we've got to find that again."

South Lakes will host Herndon at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 20.



South Lakes junior Jhonny DeSouza battles for the ball against a T.C. Williams player on March 14.



South Lakes senior Sulaiman Dainkeh is a team captain.



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Oakton junior Alana Peters pitches against South County on March 15.

Oakton Softball Drops Season Opener

The Oakton softball team lost its season opener to South County, 4-0, on March 15 in a rematch from last year's Northern Region semifinals. Oakton head coach Ray Gordon resigned on Friday due to an "irreconcilable differing on staffing," Director of Student Activities Pat Full said Tuesday.

Sam Newman, a Fairfax County Public Schools employee, is the new Oakton head softball coach and met the team for the first time on Monday, Full said.

With 2012 Northern Region Pitcher of the Year Allison Davis recovering from an injury to her pitching arm, junior Alana Peters pitched for Oakton. Peters was perfect through three innings, but South County catcher Haylea Geer delivered a two-out, run-scoring double on a 0-2 pitch in

the fourth inning, giving the Stallions a 1-0 lead. South County added three more runs in the fifth on a three-run triple by freshman Jade Williams.

Peters surrendered four earned runs on five hits while walking two and striking out seven in six innings.

Oakton finished with two hits. Second baseman and co-captain Becky Cerva's third-inning single was the first hit of the game for either team. Junior Marleigh Hall had a double in the sixth inning.

Davis and shortstop Emily Krisanda are also co-captains.

Oakton defeated South County 3-0 in eight innings during last year's region semifinals. The Cougars finished region runner-up to Stone Bridge.

Oakton will travel to face Battlefield at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 22.



Second baseman Becky Cerva is an Oakton softball co-captain.

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 8

movie. 703-435-6530.

American Contemporary Music Ensemble: Brutal + Sublime. 8 p.m., at Reston Community Center, CenterStage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The ensemble plays selection of Nico Muhly, Timothy Andrew, Mick Barr, Jefferson Friedman, John Cage and Louis Andriessen. \$15 for residents; \$30 for non-Restonians. 703-476-4500 or www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

THURSDAY/MARCH 28

Beverly Cosham. 2:15-3:30 p.m., at Center Stage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The cabaret

singer has performed her act at nightspots across the country and Bob Smith, presidential pianist for Presidents Nixon through Clinton, accompanies her; the second in a series of seven free Thursday afternoon "Meet the Artists" concerts. 703-503-3384 or www.olligmu.edu.

Tuscan Wine Dinner at Il Fornaio. 6:30 p.m., at Il Fornaio, 11990 Market St., Suite 106, Reston. Five courses paired with wine. \$65. 703-437-5544.

SATURDAY/MARCH 30

Tuscan Wine Cooking Class at Il Fornaio. Noon, at Il Fornaio, 11990 Market St., Suite 106, Reston. Three-course lunch with wine and recipes, \$45. 703-437-5544.

SUNDAY/MARCH 31

Easter Brunch at Il Fornaio. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Il Fornaio, 11990 Market St., Suite 106, Reston. Easter egg hunt and Easter bunny visit. 703-437-5544 or www.ilfo.com.

THURSDAY/APRIL 4

National Symphony Orchestra Rehearsal. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Hunters Woods Shopping Center, Thoreau Place, Lake Anne Plaza, Reston. Attend an open rehearsal of the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. Reston Association: \$27; non-members: \$30. 55 years or older. 703-435-6577 or Ashleigh@reston.org.

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BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to reston@connectionnewspapers.com.
Deadline is Friday.

THURSDAY/MARCH 21

The Mom's Club of Herndon Meeting. 10-11:30 a.m., at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 651 Dranesville Road, Herndon. Amanda Geary and Jen Blevins will advise on how to organize children's belongings. Herndon_moms_info@yahoo.com.

Interview Skills Workshop. 6:30-8:30p.m., at Heritage Fellowship Church, 2501 Fox Mill Road, Reston. The workshop includes useful advice and a question and answer period. RSVP required. HIReMinistry@heritagefellowshipchurch.net.

MONDAY/MARCH 25

NARFE Dulles Chapter Luncheon Meeting. 1 p.m., at Amphora Diner, 1151 Eden St., Herndon. Guest speaker Todd Sheller talk about "Dulles Airport Authority-What it does!" RSVP by March 21. \$17. 703-435-3523.

TUESDAY/MARCH 26

INOVA Blood Drive. Noon-7:30 p.m., at the Pavilion, 1818 Discovery St., Reston. Donate blood to INOVA Fairfax Hospital. 1-866-256-6372 or inova.org/donateblood.

THURSDAY/MARCH 28

Building Community in Reston: Vernon Walker Nature and Environment. 7-9 p.m., at the Jo Ann Rose Gallery at Reston Community Center, Lake Anne, Reston. Program will focus on the role of Vernon Walker and the history of the Vernon Walker Nature Center; the scope and diversity of Reston's natural resources and recent environmental initiatives. 703-709-7700 or restonmuseum@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 3

Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Presentation. 7

p.m., at Herndon Town Council Chambers, 765 Lynn St., Herndon. Dranesville Supervisor John Foust holds a town hall meeting to give residents an opportunity to learn about and discuss the proposed FY 2014 budget. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb.

ONGOING

Positive Energy Submissions. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., at League of Reston Artists Parkridge 5 Building, 10780 Parkridge Blvd., Reston. The LRA calls for painters and photographers to enter works that interpret "Positive Energy" by April 10; the show opens April 15 and remains through July 12, open Monday through Friday. www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

Arabic-speaking Older Adult Social Visits. Fairfax County needs volunteers who speak Arabic to provide social visits to an elderly person in Reston for four hours per month. 703-324-5406, TTY 703-449-1186, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices.

The Object Management Group (OMG) announces their quarterly technical meeting for members and interested non-members. The week of Mar. 18, at The Hyatt Regency, Reston. Register online or walk-in registration. www.omg.org/news/meetings/tc/dc-13/info.htm.

The Herndon Senior Center at 873 Grace St., Herndon, needs a volunteer musician to play soothing music for participants; piano available. 703-324-5406, TTY 703-449-1186, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices.

Long-Term Care Volunteer Ombudsman Program Needs Volunteers. Ombudsmen advocate for the rights of residents of nursing and assisted living facilities—they also help residents resolve conflict and improve their quality of life. 703-324-5861 TTY 711 or Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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2260 COMPASS POINT LN	3	2	1	RESTON	\$1,089,000	Detached	0.30	20191	RESTON
11181 LONGWOOD GROVE DR	4	3	1	RESTON	\$875,000	Detached	0.48	20194	RESTON
1310 RED HAWK CIR	5	4	1	RESTON	\$825,000	Detached	0.12	20194	RESTON
11561 HEMINGWAY DR	4	3	1	RESTON	\$800,000	Detached	0.12	20194	RESTON
12025 NEW DOMINION PKWY #102	2	2	0	RESTON	\$725,800	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors	.....	20190	MIDTOWN NORTH
2040 DURAND DR	5	2	1	RESTON	\$714,900	Detached	0.30	20191	RESTON
12001 AINTREE LN	4	2	1	RESTON	\$635,000	Detached	1.05	20191	RESTON
1876 POST OAK TRL	4	2	1	RESTON	\$595,000	Detached	0.45	20191	RESTON
1983 SOLARIDGE CT	3	2	1	RESTON	\$560,000	Detached	0.11	20191	RESTON
1830 FOUNTAIN DR #606	2	2	0	RESTON	\$555,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	.....	20190	PARAMOUNT
11200 HUNTING HORN LN	4	3	0	RESTON	\$552,500	Detached	0.59	20191	RESTON
11043 SOLARIDGE DR	3	2	1	RESTON	\$548,000	Detached	0.11	20191	RESTON
1392 PARK GARDEN LN	3	3	1	RESTON	\$526,500	Townhouse	0.04	20194	BALDWIN GROVE
12011 EDGEMERE CIR	3	2	1	RESTON	\$510,000	Townhouse	0.04	20190	RESTON
11556 BRASS LANTERN CT	3	2	1	RESTON	\$510,000	Townhouse	0.09	20194	RESTON
11246 HANDLEBAR RD	4	2	1	RESTON	\$509,900	Detached	0.35	20191	RESTON
11404 ORCHARD GREEN CT	3	2	1	RESTON	\$495,000	Townhouse	0.04	20190	RESTON
1950 LAKEPORT WAY	4	2	1	RESTON	\$495,000	Townhouse	0.05	20191	RESTON
12000 MARKET ST #404	2	2	0	RESTON	\$477,600	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	20190	SAVOY AT RESTON TOWN CNTR
11800 GREAT OWL CIR	3	3	1	RESTON	\$475,000	Townhouse	0.04	20194	RESTON
1305 SUNDIAL DR	2	2	2	RESTON	\$475,000	Townhouse	0.04	20194	RESTON
2313 SAINT BEDES CT	4	3	0	RESTON	\$465,900	Detached	0.49	20191	STRAITON WOODS
12327 COLERAINE CT	4	2	1	RESTON	\$456,000	Detached	0.46	20191	STRAITON WOODS
10997 THRUSH RIDGE RD	3	2	1	RESTON	\$455,000	Townhouse	0.04	20191	RESTON
2329 GLADE BANK WAY	3	2	1	RESTON	\$450,000	Townhouse	0.06	20191	RESTON
11610 NEWBRIDGE CT	4	3	1	RESTON	\$450,000	Townhouse	0.05	20191	RESTON
11442 HERITAGE COMMONS WAY	2	2	1	RESTON	\$449,900	Townhouse	0.03	20194	RESTON
12335 COLERAINE CT	4	2	1	RESTON	\$444,000	Detached	0.46	20191	STRAITON WOODS
11007 RING RD	4	2	1	RESTON	\$440,000	Detached	0.35	20190	RESTON
12000 MARKET ST #329	2	2	0	RESTON	\$435,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	20190	SAVOY AT RESTON TOWN CNTR
11932 SENTINEL POINT CT	3	2	1	RESTON	\$431,000	Townhouse	0.04	20191	RESTON
12000 MARKET ST #416	2	2	0	RESTON	\$430,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	20190	SAVOY AT RESTON TOWN CNTR
11743 NORTH SHORE DR	4	3	1	RESTON	\$425,000	Townhouse	0.03	20190	RESTON
11586 WOODHOLLOW CT	3	2	2	RESTON	\$415,000	Townhouse	0.06	20191	RESTON
11990 MARKET ST #608	1	1	0	RESTON	\$400,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	.....	20190	MIDTOWN AT RESTON TOWN
2048 SWANS NECK WAY	3	2	1	RESTON	\$400,000	Townhouse	0.04	20191	RESTON
10927 HARPERS SQUARE CT	3	2	2	RESTON	\$397,500	Townhouse	0.03	20191	RESTON
2141 COLTS NECK CT	3	2	1	RESTON	\$396,000	Townhouse	0.04	20191	SOUTHGATE
12195 ABINGTON HALL PL #202	2	2	0	RESTON	\$395,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	20190	MADISON PARK AT WEST MAR
11546 LINKS DR	3	2	1	RESTON	\$390,000	Townhouse	0.05	20190	RESTON
1630 VALENCIA WAY	3	3	1	RESTON	\$378,000	Townhouse	0.05	20190	RESTON
1608 SIERRA WOODS DR	4	3	1	RESTON	\$375,000	Townhouse	0.05	20194	RESTON
1522 SCANDIA CIR	4	3	1	RESTON	\$374,900	Townhouse	0.08	20190	RESTON
1855 STRATFORD PARK PL #215	2	2	0	RESTON	\$364,900	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	20190	STRAITFORD
11136 HARBOR CT #11136	2	2	1	RESTON	\$348,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	20191	RESTON/HARBOR POINT
1657 SIERRA WOODS DR	3	2	1	RESTON	\$340,000	Townhouse	0.05	20194	RESTON
1571 POPLAR GROVE DR	3	2	1	RESTON	\$335,000	Townhouse	0.05	20194	RESTON

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Calendar Listings

The Connection Newspapers contain a Calendar of Upcoming Events every week. While we cannot guarantee that every event we receive information about will be listed, here is the information we need for your upcoming event to be considered for the Calendar. We welcome photographs of similar events held previously, which sometimes appear with Calendar items.

Name of Event:

Day of the Week, Date and Time:

Name of the Place Event will Be Held:

Address of the Place Event Will Be Held:

Name and Phone Number for More Information:

Three Sentences Describing the Event:

Please submit your calendar information at least two weeks before your event. Clear photographs from similar previous events are always welcome. All events should be open to the public. We give first priority to free events. E-mail listings to:

reston@connectionnewspapers.com

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Calendar, Connection Newspapers
1606 King Street
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SATURDAY/SUNDAY, MARCH 23 & 24

 When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com and click on the "This Week in Real Estate" link.

Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times

Burke

5969 Mount Burnside Way.....\$434,500..Sun 1-4.....Deb Gorham...Long & Foster..703-581-9005

Centreville

6544 Skyemar Trail.....\$274,900..Sun 1-4.....Rich Triplett..Samson Props..703-217-1348

Chantilly

42344 Astors Beachwood.....\$830,000..Sun 1-4.....Sari Karjalainen.....Weichert..571-643-6039

Clifton

12646 Water St.....\$1,125,000..Sun 1-4..Carol Hermandorfer...Long & Foster..703-503-1812
6420 Stonehaven Ct.....High \$600,000s..Sun 1-4.....Ed Duggan.....Century 21..703-599-1351

Fairfax

11951 Appling Valley Rd.....\$635,000..Sun 1-4.....Rod Lantier.....RE/MAX..703-405-3082

Gainesville

7176 Little Thames Dr.....\$259,900..Sun 1-4.....Mark Slimp..Samson Props..703-400-1553

Manassas

6525 Davis Ford Rd.....\$625,000..Sun 1-4..Carol Hermandorfer...Long & Foster..703-503-1812
7755 Glade Ct.....\$560,000..Sat 1-4.....Suzanne Burch.....Century 21..703-328-5606
9819 Cheshire Ridge Cir.....\$285,000..Sun 1-3.....Ann York..Samson Props..571-237-7985

Reston

11920 Fieldthorn Ct.....\$334,900..Sun 1-4.....Cathy Lanni...Long & Foster..703-615-4237
11556 Rolling Green Ct #100..\$284,900..Sun 1-4.....Peter Burke...Long & Foster..703-786-3334

Springfield

8103 Ainsworth Ave.....TBD..Sun 1-4.....Ellen Ing.....RE/MAX..703-795-0648

Sterling

104 Minor Rd.....\$480,000..Sat 1-4.....George Azzouz..Samson Props..703-728-0843
47721 Sandbank Sq.....\$410,000..Sun 1-4.....Rita Desai..Samson Props..703-896-5775
128 Avondale Dr.....\$348,000..Sun 1-4.....John Baird..Samson Props..703-609-1501

Vienna

314 George St, SW.....\$1,175,000..Sun 1-4.....Mansoora Dar..Keller Williams..703-564-4000

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The Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection
Zone 3: The Alexandria Gazette Packet
The Mount Vernon Gazette
Zone 4: Centre View North
Centre View South
Zone 5: The Potomac Almanac
Zone 6: The Arlington Connection
The Vienna/Oakton Connection
The McLean Connection
The Great Falls Connection

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
RAJ Oil Company trading as Exxon #25301 Herndon, 597 Elden St, Herndon, VA 20170. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Beer and Wine off premise license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Raj K. Gupta, President.
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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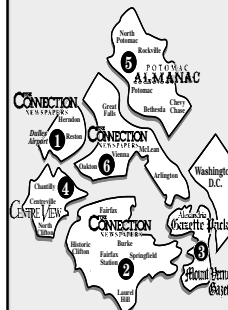
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Just Wondering



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Having never attended medical school (and not really having had the grades or commitment to do so), and having only completed 10th-grade Biology and freshman-year Astronomy, and rarely even driven by a medical school growing up, my understanding and/or instincts regarding how a medical professional plans and/or prepares for his day is as foreign to me as sugar-free chocolate (if I'm going down, I'm going down swinging; in truth however, considering the anti-cancer, alkaline diet I'm following, I do need to swing a little less frequently).

Nevertheless, having had multiple appointments with doctors/health care professionals over these last four cancer-centric years, I've often wondered how much preparation occurs before each appointment. There's a schedule certainly, but does the doctor review it daily/weekly - in advance, to determine the course of his possible action/discussion with the patient? And if so, does he review/study/research said patient's medical chart/history to better prepare for these discussions or does he sort of "wing it," professionally speaking, and instead wait to hear what the patient has to say? Moreover, if there's been lab work, diagnostic scans, etc. completed previous to the appointment, does the doctor receive indications - electronic or otherwise, before the appointment, with enough time to evaluate the results/read the reports or does he see it for the first time sometime during the day of the appointment? And while this curiosity exists in my head, is the doctor likewise preoccupied (even a little bit) with my ongoing health situation beyond the 30 minutes or so we spend together every few months or his time too precious, respectfully speaking? I realize he's busy, but do I rank in his file? And if so, what does he know and when did he know it?

Not that I've ever felt unknown or disrespected when visiting either my primary care doctor or my oncologist, but I have felt a little distance when I've seen specialists: pulmonary, thoracic, nephrology, surgery, to whom I've been referred, who previous to seeing me face-to-face had never met and/or spoken to me. Now I never took it personally; I took it professionally, as in: I suppose this is the process. However, how do they know a patient they don't know, let alone advise with proper consent?

Over time though, my thinking has evolved. Now I'm thinking/wondering if they are even supposed to prepare for me - and not by reading my file for the first time when I'm sitting on an examining table directly across from them or through study the night before, but at all? Perhaps my situation - as serious as it is to me, is not as serious to the doctor? And by that I mean, he's not ruled by his emotions - he's not terminal, that I know of, anyway. It's just another day at the office - so to speak. I understand that he likely has many patient histories on his mind/in his head and focusing/preparing too much for one somehow has adverse consequences for the others. Maybe the treatment protocols, as complicated as they are to me, are fairly mundane to the doctor and don't require that much homework, so discussing my chart as he reads it for that first time is no big/complicated deal and standard operating procedure?

I've actually experienced this sensation a couple of times with my oncologist. When I was a more frequent visitor to the Infusion Center - every three weeks, occasionally I would see him tending to other patients; he didn't seem to know I was going to be infused that day (in fairness, the infusion appointment does not directly involve the oncologist), even exhibiting surprise at my presence. Still, I would more often than not ask him a question about my specific health situation. However, if I didn't have a non-infusion appointment scheduled that day, he wasn't comfortable answering my questions. He would say: he wasn't prepared to answer the question. Apparently, he couldn't pull my information out of thin air. I came to understand and accept that if it wasn't my day to be examined, it wasn't a good day to ask him health-related questions about yours truly. Still, I wonder, as much from lack of knowledge as anything: are my expectations unreasonable? I know, in my head anyway, as concerns my cancer treatment, it's all about me. But what about in my oncologist's head? Am I on his radar or am I out of sight, out of mind? And if so, is there any harm in that, or is it just me wondering too much about too much (the bane of this cancer patient's existence)?

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

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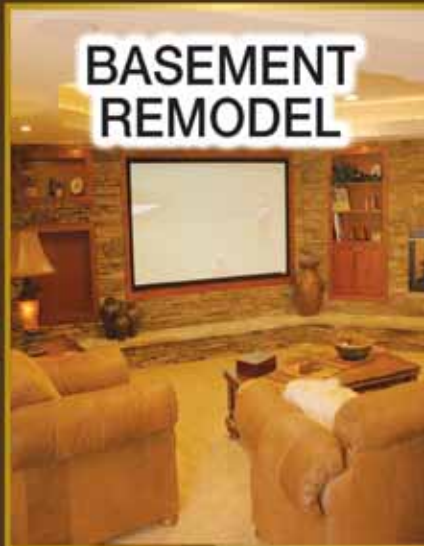
(PRICE BASED ON 5' X 8' BATHROOM)

- 36" VANITY CABINET TILE FLOOR (10 CHOICES AVAILABLE)
- BATH LIGHT AND TOILET
- VANITY SINK, FAUCET AND FIXTURES
- FRAMED GALSS SHOWER ENCLOSURE
- MEDICINE CABINET & PLUMBING
- DEMOLITION & INSTALLATION

GOLD PACKAGE
\$17,750

(PRICE BASED ON 8' X 10' BATHROOM)

- 72" VANITY CABINET, TILE FLOOR (15 CHOICES AVAILABLE)
- TILE FOR SHOWER WALLS (UP TO CEILING), TUB SURROUND
- FRAMELESS GLASS SHOWER ENCLOSURE
- 2 BATH AND 4 RECESSED LIGHTS
- TOILET, VANITY SINK, FAUCET, AND FIXTURES
- MEDICINE CABINET & PLUMBING
- DEMOLITION & INSTALLATION



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Contact Designer, Julie, For Consultation (703) 898-2087 Julie@AbbeyRemodeling.com

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