

Community Creates Season of Giving

NEWS, PAGE 10

All in the family: 12-year-old Ginny Threlkeld has been volunteering at the Thanksgiving Food Drive Distribution "for as long as I can remember, at least from age 7." Ginny's dad Bill Threlkeld, is the division director, Neighborhood Resources for Cornerstones.

Nature Center Hosts Evening Hike

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Library's Beta Plan: Dead on Arrival

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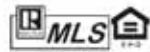
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News

Angela Meyers with her daughter Charlotte and Maggie the dog enjoyed a hike around Lake Fairfax. The Lake Fairfax Park in Reston is dog friendly.

PHOTOS BY
RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION



Lake Fairfax Still Open

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

Although Reston's Lake Fairfax park's outdoor Water Mine Swimmin' Hole is closed until May 2014, the park remains open to visitors and patrons. The campground, picnic areas, playground, trails and skatepark remain open year-round. On both Nov. 15 and Nov. 16 visitors to Reston's Lake Fairfax were welcome to ride on Engine #62 of the Resources Railroad. Other staff were nearby to help with arts and crafts activities.

In the morning of Nov. 15, a party of dog owners associated with the Northern Virginia Dog Magazine assembled for a walk around the park. "We did a three mile walk around Lake Fairfax," said Carol Brooks, resident of Reston. "We focus on the entire area of northern Virginia, we rotate through the area so it is not always a far drive. This park is very dog friendly," said Angela Meyers. Duston Meyers, seasonal assistant manager, operated train Engine #62 of the Resources Railroad. "Duston was really informative and very accommodating for all ages," said Vanna Ruffner, a retired teacher from Fairfax County Schools visited the park with her husband Buddy and grandchildren. "We are glad the park advertised about this event," said Ruffner. The trackless train can carry about 15 people at a time and is stored at Frying Pan Farm Park. Because the train can be used at multiple parks, interpreters



Vanna Ruffner, her husband and visiting grandchildren were able to enjoy a pleasant ride on the Engine #62 of the Resources Railroad at Lake Fairfax Park in Reston this November.

will be able to highlight the specific cultural and natural resources of individual sites during tours. Reston's Lake Fairfax Park is currently collecting nonperishable food to be donated to a local food bank. For more information, call 703-471-5415.

NEWS



Reston Association special event coordinator Ashleigh Soloff and naturalist Ken Rosenthal.



Nelson Joyner brought his grandson Saxon Joyner to the evening hike held at Reston's Walker Nature Center.

PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

Nature Center Hosts Evening Hike

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

On Nov. 13, Reston Association hosted an evening hike at the Walker Nature Center on 11450 Glade Drive. The hike was led by naturalist Ken Rosenthal, who led a similar group with a target audience of grandparents and grandchildren the previous year.

"The Reston Association senior advisory committee coordinates events for seniors and this event is part of their annual work plan to meet the intergenerational concept," said Reston Association special event coordinator Ashleigh Soloff. "This is our second annual nature at night event."

Twenty persons assembled for the evening hike, which lasted less than an hour. The Walker Nature Center is located on 72 acres of hardwood forest, bisected by Glade Drive. The nature center is the heart of Reston's 1,300 acres of open space and provides a variety of educational and recreational resources, programs and facilities. The nature center features 2 miles of loop trails.

As the party walked along the trail in the dark, Rosenthal spoke about the nocturnal habits of animals in this region including flying squirrels, skunks

and foxes. Rosenthal also explained the type of prey that owls like the ones in the book series Harry Potter would hunt. "But they don't really hunt, they just bring letters," quipped one youngster.

There was a waxing moon, and it was not difficult to walk the trails. Rosenthal played an audio clip of some owl noises to try and get a response by any neighboring owls but there was no reply. "At least we gave it the old college try," said Rosenthal. Everyone in the group later returned back to the Nature house for hot chocolate drinks.

"We have been to several events here at the nature center, and from time to time on bird walks that the association holds," said Nelson Joyner. "It was pretty good," said his grandson Saxon Joyner, a student at Lake Anne Elementary School. Sophie Du, a resident of Reston, brought her sons Joshua and Danny along to attend the event. "This event was very connected to nature, and was a very engaging program for my sons," said Du. The Walker Nature Center is host to many different nature and environment classes that are held throughout the year. The next evening hike program is the Full Moon Meander, it will be scheduled Jan. 15 and is open for all ages. To learn more about the programs and classes hosted by the Reston Association, visit www.reston.org.

What Are You Thankful for on This Thanksgiving Day?

— RYAN DUNN

Deb Joder – Part-time art and ceramics instructor at Reston Community Center

"I am thankful for the opportunity to make new friends and meet new people while enjoying my work at the Reston Community Center."



Kathleen L. Kilk – Jewelry artist and resident at Lake Anne in Reston

"I am thankful for my newborn son."



Julia Scoville - Employee at the Reston Used Book Shop at 1623 Washington Plaza at Lake Anne in Reston

"I am thankful for my friends."



Linda Fuller – Owner of the Lake Anne Florist, which has been serving the community since 1974

"I am thankful for the Lake Anne Plaza redevelopment moving forward."



J.P. – Arborist with the Reston Association

"I am thankful for friends, family and good health."



PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

Twenty people assembled for the evening hike at Reston Association's Walker Nature Center located on 11450 Glade Drive, Reston.



THE COUNTY LINE



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Library Board of Trustees Chair Willard O. Jasper (center), along with several other library board members, presented reports from two ad hoc committees appointed by the library board in September to conduct a series of public outreach meetings after trustees suspended the beta plan to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, Nov. 19. Recommendations included increased funding and discarding the controversial beta plan.

Library's Beta Plan: Dead on Arrival

Supervisors endorse Library Board's recommendations to increase funding, discard beta plan.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

You can assume that the BETA Plan is dead. I will make that motion tomorrow." In her email to a concerned library patron the night before the Board of Supervisors Nov. 19 meeting, Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large) put to rest speculation that the board would resuscitate the controversial beta plan aimed at streamlining the county's library system.

The next day, the board passed Bulova's motion 8-1 to accept a report from the Library Board of Trustees, effectively killing the beta plan, which included proposals to reduce staff, eliminate the requirement for branch managers to have a master of library science degree, and reduce the number of children's librarians.

Library Board of Trustees Chair Willard O. Jasper presented the reports from two ad hoc committees, appointed by the library board in September to conduct a series of public outreach meetings after trustees suspended the beta plan.

"For starters, there is no sentiment on the committee, the Library Board of Trustees, staff, or the majority of public commenters to move forward with the beta plan, including its reclassification of positions," Jasper told the board in explaining the blanket rejection of the beta plan.

Jasper also said the library system has "suffered demonstrably" from several years of severe budget cuts, and recommended increasing funding library operations.

"The predominant message (from the report) is that the library requires additional funding to maintain its high-quality selection," Jasper told the board. "The library budget has been cut 40 percent ... spending in Fairfax County is the lowest in all eight neighboring jurisdictions."

In addition to accepting the report, the board approved Bulova's motion to add a "consideration item" of \$1 million to the fiscal year 2015 budget. "This additional funding would ... be directed to the acquisition of non-fiction works," Bulova said. "More than 10,000 additional materials could be acquired with this funding."

Supervisor Michael Frey (R-Sully), who voted no on the motion, said he wasn't pleased with the library's report, and chastised fellow supervisors for distancing themselves from "the reforms we made."

He also praised Library Director Sam Clay for having the courage to "put the (beta) plan out there."

"I really was kind of shocked that the Board of Trustees would come back with a report that essentially says flatly 'no' to all proposed changes and 'give us more money,'" Frey said.

"Our board has been saying to every department head tell us how you can do more with less, and they came back and said we'll do the same with more. And the supervisors said OK — here's million dollars more," Frey said. "They have seen how to get more money — just turn up the heat on us."

Criticism of the plan has been building since July, when Clay unveiled a program that would test a new organization model this fall at the Burke Centre Library and the Reston Regional Library, the busiest library branch in the county. Clay has defended the reorganization, saying that the goal was to streamline staffing while retaining a high level of service.

Vera Finberg, a librarian who attended the board meeting, said she was disappointed by the board's discussion of funding.

"This is a rich county," Finberg said. "Do not tell us

SEE BETA PLAN, PAGE 5



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Wearing purple, about 50 library supporters gathered at the Fairfax County Government Center on Tuesday, Nov. 19, to show their support for the library board's recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

Library Board of Trustees: Who They Are, What They Do

The Fairfax County Public Library Board of Trustees, a 12-member, volunteer board is responsible for library policies and for making budget recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. The board meets on the second Wednesday of each month except August. Most meetings are held at 7 p.m. at George Mason Regional Library.

The public is invited to attend. A maximum of ten people may register to speak on library concerns during the public comment period at each monthly meeting.

For information or to register to speak, call 703-324-8324.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
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Willard O. Jasper (Chair) of Alexandria

Appointed by Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee)
Branches located in this district:
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Kingstowne Library
Richard Byrd Library

At-Large
Charles Fegan (Vice -Chair) of Annandale
(Representative to FCPL Foundation Board of Directors)
Branch located in this district:
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Susan C. Thorniley
Represents Fairfax County Public Schools
5215 Dunleigh Glen Lane, Burke
Branch located in this district:
All branches

Braddock
David C.F. Ray of Annandale
Appointed by Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock)
Branches located in this district:
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Burke Centre Library

City of Fairfax
Mary Petersen of Fairfax
Appointed by Fairfax City Council
Branch located in this district:
City of Fairfax Regional Library

Dranesville District
Kristin Cabral of McLean

Appointed by Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville)
Branches located in this district:
Dolley Madison Library
Great Falls Library
Herndon Fortnightly Library
Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library

Hunter Mill District
Michael Cutrone of Reston
Appointed by Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill)
Branches located in this district:
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Elizabeth Clements of Annandale
Appointed by Supervisor Penny Gross (D-Mason)
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Branches located in this district:
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Martha Washington Library
Sherwood Regional Library

Providence District
Margaret Koplitz of Falls Church
Appointed by Supervisor Linda Smyth (D-Providence)
Branch located in this district:
Oakton Library

Springfield District
Dr. Joseph H. Sirh of Clifton
Appointed by Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield)
Branch located in this district:
Pohick Regional Library

Sully District
Karrie K. Delaney of Chantilly
Appointed by Supervisor Michael Frey (R-Sully)
Branches located in this district:
Centreville Regional Library
Chantilly Regional Library
Access Services for people with disabilities.
Access Services is located at the Government Center.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Beta Plan Discarded

FROM PAGE 4

you value libraries and don't have enough money to support them."

Finberg was joined by more than 50 library supporters — employees and volunteers — who attended the meeting to show support for library board's recommendations.

They applauded when Supervisor Linda Smyth (D-Providence), dubbed the "dumpster diving supervisor," spoke. Smyth touched off a furious debate over how the library discards used books when she photographed dumpsters full of books in seemingly good condition that she found behind the library's technical operations center in Chantilly this summer.

On Aug. 29, Smyth recovered dozens of usable books from the dumpsters, and then took them to county officials who ordered an immediate stop to the discarding. Smyth said she learned that more than 250,000 books have been thrown out since October 2012.

"One never knows what this job will bring," Smyth said at the board meeting, adding that she was still hearing concerns about

discards.

"We need to be sure books are on library shelves as long as possible. Mending used to be part of process. This is something that seems to have fallen by the wayside, and that's putting it nicely," Smyth said.

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) said he supported the library system and the public engagement process, but noted that libraries had to find ways to adapt to a world where the Internet has replaced newsprint and e-books have supplanted paperbacks.

"Libraries everywhere are changing as new technology changes the nature of information-gathering," Cook said. "If the answers were simple, someone would have thought of it already."

Most of the supervisors praised the patrons and staff who participated in the public meetings and committees. "We heard you," Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) said. "In my opinion, in two months you've made tremendous progress." Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) said she was grateful that library staff also attended the meetings.

"We should look at who we are and who we should be serving ... Collaboration is important."

Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) said the library controversy exposed a silver lining.

"Let there be no doubt in the community about the passion that citizens have about their libraries," McKay said. "We should be proud of all the responses we heard."

David Broder, president of the SEIU Virginia 512, said the library board's reports teach two lessons.

"First, local families love our libraries and library staff," Broder said. "Second, any so-called reforms which don't take advantage of librarians' expertise and which don't reflect the desires of the community are bound to fail. The Board of Supervisors needs to lead the effort to strengthen our libraries for the next generation."

Supervisors asked the Library Board to return in December with a plan for implementing the recommendations.

To read the Library Board of Trustees reports, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/news/communicationandevaluationreport.htm>

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to reston@connectionnewspapers.com by the Friday prior to the following week's paper.

WED.-MON./NOV. 27-DEC. 16

Toys for Tots Drop-off. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays, at National Realty, located at the corner of Reston Parkway and Sunrise Valley Drive, 11890 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Drop a new, unwrapped toy in the donation box in the lobby. All toys will be distributed to needy children within Loudoun County and to Herndon & Reston children via the non-profit Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc. "Newborn to 1-Year Old" and the "Teens" age groups are particularly needed. 703-860-4600.

FRIDAY/NOV. 29

American Red Cross Blood Drive. 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston.

SUNDAY/DEC. 8

Worm Composting. 2-3:30 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Learn about Worm composting, which is a type of vermiculture that is a natural method of recycling food waste. Reservations required by Dec. 5. Fee: \$35/Bin RA members; \$40/Bin Non-members. naturecenter@reston.org

TUESDAY/DEC. 10

Discover Graphics. At ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Exhibiting the work of printmakers for the past 30 years.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 11

Business Education Workshop: Learn to Enjoy Tax Time. 8:30-10 a.m., at Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, 1763 Fountain Drive,

Reston. The cost is \$10. Register at <https://restonvacoc.wliinc25.com/>. More info: call 703-707-9045.

ONGOING

Fairfax County's Meals on Wheels urgently needs drivers in the Annandale, Franconia/Kingstowne, Reston, Mount Vernon and McLean areas. 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults.

Herndon Senior Center seeks a knitting enthusiast to teach basic procedures. Class meets Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. to noon and musicians to play soothing music on weekend mornings. 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults>.

AWANA Club for Christian Children. 7-8:30 p.m., at MLK Christian Church, 11400 North Shore Drive, Reston. Awana helps churches and parents work together to develop spiritually strong youth who faithfully follow Jesus Christ. 703-709-3641.

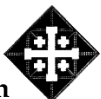
Knitting Enthusiasts, Musicians Needed. 10:30 a.m.-noon, at Herndon Senior Center. Herndon Senior Center seeks a knitting enthusiast to teach basic procedures. Musicians to play soothing music on weekend mornings also needed. 703-324-5406, TTY 711, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults or VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Habitat Heroes Project. Every 4th Saturday of each month. Join the Habitat Heroes in protecting Reston's forests from aggressive plants and restoring them to their natural state. Wear long sleeves, long pants, and if possible, gardening gloves to protect from insects and dangerous plants. R.A. will provide tools, gloves, snacks, and water. To volunteer and find more information, contact habrock@reston.org or 703-435-7986.

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Ashburn Ward ... 703-858-5611
Brambleton Ward ... 703-858-5611
Goose Creek Ward ... 703-858-5604
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Sterling Park Ward ... 703-471-6147

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St. David's Episcopal ... 703-729-0570
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OPINION

Holidays Are About Giving

So many needs, so many great organizations, give locally where your heart leads you.

The holidays are about giving. They are about children. The holidays are about sharing, about joy, about alleviating suffering for others. The holidays are about being thankful and about faith and appreciation.

Most of us live in neighborhoods that are very homogenous. There are exceptions, but most people reading this live in affluent areas where the houses are mostly in the same price range, and while there might be some ethnic diversity, there is little in the way of economic diversity.

It's easy to forget that there are massive unmet needs, hungry children, homeless families most with at least one working parent, homeless individuals with jobs and without jobs, people who don't know for sure whether they will have enough to eat or be able to be warm enough, people who are choosing between medical care and car repair when forgoing the car repair could mean losing a job.

In Fairfax County Public Schools, about 50,000 of the 185,000 students qualify to receive free or subsidized meals, a significant measure of poverty. Many elementary schools staff are discovering that for some of these students, a majority of students in some schools, they only meals the can count on are breakfast and lunch on school days.

Nonprofits, school staff and individuals have been working to send backpacks of healthy, kid-friendly food home with students on the weekend.

It's hard to imagine 50,000 students going hungry; it's obvious that children who aren't sure they will be able to eat when they are hungry are not going to have joyous holidays filled with family meals, gifts and special activities.

Hundreds of homeless students attend the public schools, and their needs are greater.

There are literally hundreds, probably thousands, of ways to give locally this season. Here are



Needy families wait on line to receive groceries and gift certificates at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Herndon on Nov. 16. Sixty families an hour were escorted through the church supermarket during seven hour LINK event. www.linkagainsthunger.org 703-437-1776

PHOTO COURTESY OF FRANK SIMMONS

a few ideas. We welcome suggestions for other groups.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

FAIRFAX COUNTY

Where To Give Locally

In no particular order:

- ❖ Our Daily Bread — has been serving needy families in Fairfax County for 25 years. The Holiday Program helps those in need with food for the holidays and gifts for their children, making last year's holiday season brighter for approximately 3,000 families. For more information on their holiday programs, including how to sponsor a family, go to www.odbfairfax.com/holiday
- ❖ Food for Others distributed more than 2.4 million pounds of free food to families in need in Northern Virginia in the year ending June 30, 2012. The non-profit provides a safety net for people who suddenly face unforeseen emergencies such as a family illness or the loss of a job or a spouse. Located at 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, VA 22031, 703-207-9173. www.foodforothers.com
- ❖ Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO), 703-569-9160. Open to receive donations at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Provides food and financial assistance to those in short-term emergencies, and provides clothing and household goods to low income families, helping more than 5,000 people last year. www.echo-inc.org.
- ❖ Lorton Community Action Center operates the Act II Thrift Shop at 9506 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Sales from the shop generate funds for LCAC and clients also shop there. Now collecting gift cards and food baskets for Thanksgiving, gifts and food baskets for Christmas, and warm coats. 703-339-8611 www.lortonaction.org.
- ❖ Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington Fairfax Area operates clubs in two of the neediest areas of the county, Culmore and the Route 1 corridor, focusing on character and academic success. <http://www.bgcgw.org/fairfax/>
- ❖ Office to End and Prevent Homelessness needs just a few thousand dollars more in contributions for Jeans Day (in October) to qualify for a matching grant from the Phillip L. Graham Fund, turning many \$5 and greater donations into \$50,000 to help thousands of homeless in Fairfax County. www.ziphomelessness.com
- ❖ 12 Ways of Giving: Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships "12 Ways of Giving" campaign is an annual event that showcases many ways for meaningful, local giving during the holiday season, highlighting nonprofits in Fairfax County. www.fairfaxcountypartnerships.org
- ❖ Comfort for America's Uniformed Services (CAUSE) — ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. 4114 Legato Road Suite B, Fairfax, VA 22033, 703-591-4968, cause-usa.org
- ❖ National Capital Food Bank, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia, 703-541-3063. www.capitalareafoodbank.org
- ❖ Western Fairfax Christian Ministries — food pantry at 13981 Metrotech Drive in Chantilly (near Backyard Grill and Bar). For more information or to sponsor a family, call 703-988-9656, ext. 105. To mail gift cards or send donations by check, add a note saying "food basket program" and send them to: WFCM, P.O. Box 220802, Chantilly, VA 20153. 703-988-9656.
- ❖ The Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic, 13525 Dulles Technology Drive, Herndon, VA 20171, 571-235-3577. Last year, 139 community volunteers — nurses, nurse practitioners, and physicians — gave more than 1,300 hours of their time to see patients. jsfreeclinic.org.
- ❖ Alternative House — Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge, 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA 22182, 703-506-9191. www.thealternativehouse.org.
- ❖ Cornerstones, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, www.cornerstonesva.org. Programs and services include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Emergency Food Pantry, Hypothermia Prevention Program and the Thanksgiving Food Drive.
- ❖ SHARE of McLean seeks donations of grocery gift cards and more. Checks and gift cards can be sent to: Holiday Celebration, Share, Inc. PO Box 210, McLean, VA 22101. 703-284-2179. www.SHAREofMcLean.org
- ❖ LINK, serving Herndon, Chantilly, Loudoun and more, needs contributions of food, coats and

holiday toys for children, plus volunteers. More than 4,000 adults and children have signed up for help with Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. 703-437-1776 www.linkagainsthunger.org

- ❖ FACETS helps parents, their children and individuals who suffer the effects of poverty in the Fairfax area. FACETS is always in need of volunteers, and offers a variety of one-time and ongoing opportunities. 703-865-4251 or volunteer@facetscares.org. FACETS offers a monthly Youth Volunteer Night, with the next one scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 20, 5:30-6:30pm. Information about supply donations and FACETS holiday gifts drive is available on the website at www.facetscares.org. 10640 Page Avenue, Suite 300, Fairfax VA 22030
- ❖ Committee for Helping Others (CHO), Vienna, organized in 1969 by a group of concerned churches and individuals in the Dunn Loring, Merrifield, Oakton, Vienna community to provide simple, loving charity to those in need. 14th Annual Thanksgiving Interfaith Service is Tuesday, Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m. at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road. Vienna 703-281-7614 <http://www.cho-va.com>

❖ Fairfax City Area FISH (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), working with the Office of Coordinated Services Planning, Fairfax County Department of Human Services, FISH helps local citizens who are in temporary need of life's basic necessities such as food, clothing, and financial assistance for rent, mortgage payments, utilities, and medical treatments. FISH also provides limited transportation for doctor appointments and food delivery. 703-222-0880 <http://fairfaxfish.org/>

❖ Herndon-Reston FISH (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), 336 Victory Drive, Herndon, 703-391-0105 <http://herndonrestonfish.org>

❖ Lamb Center, www.thelambcenter.org, Day center for homeless, Fairfax 703-691-3178

❖ Northern Virginia Family Service, 10455 White Granite Drive Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124 703-385-3267 <http://www.nvfs.org/>

❖ United Community Ministries, Mount Vernon, 703-768-7106, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, 22306 <http://www.ucmagency.org/>

❖ Touching Heart in Herndon is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate children to have giving hearts. <http://www.touchingheart.com>, 703-901-7355

Reston
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'College Awareness' at Lake Anne Elementary

Teachers at Lake Anne Elementary School came together last Friday and dressed in some of their college gear, as a means to show the students the importance of going to college, or also titled "College Awareness." From left: Ms. Norris; Ms. Detwiler; Mr. Crotty; Mrs. Lotter; Mrs. O'Donovan; and Mrs. Bolus.



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'Les Miserables' Storms the Barricades at the Reston Holiday Parade

The cast and crew of the Reston Players production of "Les Miserables" are excited to announce their participation in this year's Reston Holiday Parade on Friday, Nov. 29.

The Reston Holiday Parade, an annual Friday after Thanksgiving tradition since 1990, will bring holiday cheer to the crowds as floats and performing artists march down Market Street.

This year, the Reston Players cast and crew for the January 2014 production of "Les Miserables" will march together down Market Street performing songs from "Les Miserables" — an enthralling story of broken dreams, passion, sacrifice, redemption, and unrequited love.

Andrew JM Regiec directs the Reston Players production of "Les Miserables" and Mark V. Deal is the

musical director. "Les Miserables" is a classic," said director Andrew Regiec. "This timeless piece of art will forever capture the hearts of the audience."

Performances will begin Jan. 17, 2014. "Les Miserables" will play at CenterStage Jan. 17, 18, 24, 25, 26, 30, and 31, and Feb. 1, 6, 7, 8, and 9. Jan. 26 and Feb. 9 are 2 p.m. matinee performances and Feb. 1 and 8 feature performances at both 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

All Reston Players main stage productions are performed at CenterStage at the Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. CenterStage is handicap accessible and offers listening devices for the hearing impaired.

Tickets can be purchased at www.restonplayers.org or by calling 703-476-4500 x 3.



Jen Lambert rehearses with the cast of "Les Miserables."

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Beyond Thanksgiving Day

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

Happy Thanksgiving Day to you and your family! In previous columns on this date I have presented the historic evidence clearly establishing that the first Thanksgiving celebration took place at Berkeley Plantation in Virginia on Dec. 4, 1619—several years before the Pilgrims ever left England to come to Plymouth Colony. Unfortunately the Virginia colony did not survive to keep the tradition alive thereby forfeiting to the Pilgrims the more commonly used date for the celebration of the harvest. Setting

COMMENTARY

aside this minor debate over a historic beginning, there is a much more serious debate that needs to take place as we celebrate our blessings and bounty. That debate revolves around the fact that while some are celebrating and feasting on Thanksgiving a record number of people in this country are unemployed, hungry and losing hope. The shocking income inequality with the shrinking middle class over the past couple of decades is well documented. Former Labor Secretary Robert Reich has become the chief spokesperson for the cause and has presented the facts very graphically and glaringly at <http://inequalityforall.com/resources-and-partners/>. Starting in the 1970s, one percent of Americans have been taking home 20 percent of the country's income and own 35 percent of its wealth. It is easy to look at a set of numbers that point to a



problem and conclude that the problem is happening someplace else and not here, but a recent report by the Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis found that the problem exists in Virginia. In a recent press release, "Rising Inequality Lifting Some Virginians, Sinking Others," the Institute reported that since the recession the top 10 percent of earners (making at least \$47.97 per hour) have

seen their wages grow over 8 percent while the wages of the bottom 10 percent (making \$8.19 or less per hour) are now over 7 percent below their pre-recession level. "As a result of these trends, Virginia faces record levels of inequality that threaten the state's economic stability and long-term prosperity because the middle class and low-income households that make up most of the population aren't earning enough to buy the goods and services the economy is capable of producing," according to Michael Cassidy, President and CEO of the Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis. The report also states that in 2012 the top 10 percent in Virginia made 2.7 times as much as the median worker. Only California had a greater disparity. Over the past 30 years wages for the top 10 percent of earners grew 19 times as fast as those at the bottom.

Thanks to all who contributed to Thanksgiving baskets this year, but the problem is not a one-day challenge. It is time to look beyond Thanksgiving to start to resolve the income inequality that exists in this state and country. As Reich points out, the problem is fixable.

You Can Make a Difference

BY MICHAEL L. O'REILLY

Thanksgiving is right around the corner, a time when friends and families gather to celebrate and give thanks for many things – their health, their jobs, their homes or even the meals that are prepared for them. As the Chairman of the Governing Board of the Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness, I want to give thanks for those who supported Fairfax County's Third Annual Jeans Day. I am pleased to report that, so far, we have raised nearly \$18,000 with more than 100 businesses, civic and faith based organizations, nonprofits and government agencies participating.

But we can do more.

This year, we were fortunate to receive a \$25,000 challenge grant from the Philip L. Graham Fund. If we are successful in raising \$25,000, the grant will match the \$25,000, adding an additional \$25,000 contribution for a total of \$50,000.

Fairfax County is serious about reducing the number of residents who fall into homelessness, and these funds are critical to our efforts. We reject the idea that it is somehow acceptable for anyone to be without a place to call home, to sleep outdoors in the winter, because they have no better op-

tion.

Consider these facts:

- ❖ It might surprise you to learn that we counted on one day over 1300 homeless in our community.
- ❖ More than 75 percent of children in homeless families are under the age of 11.
- ❖ Nearly 60 percent adults in homeless families work. The majority of people without homes in our community are children and working families.
- ❖ Close to 60 percent of homeless persons are in families.

Low incomes and expensive housing are the main reasons for homelessness in our community. It is impossible to pay for an apartment when earning minimum wage — even if you work 24 hours per day, seven days a week. With \$50,000, we can house some of our most vulnerable citizens who are homeless and in need of assistance. This year as you sit down to enjoy this bounty, I would like you to remember the most vulnerable among us. The Philip L. Graham Fund has given us until Dec. 15 to raise an additional \$7,000 to meet our challenge goal of \$25,000. It is a goal we must make and it will take all of us working together and doing more.

Here's how you can help:

1. Increase your personal contribution. Include the Partnership to End Homelessness in your year-end giving.

2. Help by asking your constituents and business associates. Many of them make year-end contributions and will give to worthy causes when a trusted friend encourages them to do so.

3. Contact your business colleagues with a personal call and tell them we are only \$7,000 from our \$50,000 goal and let them know we need their investment in this challenge. Encourage them to match their employee giving. Many businesses already will.

Go to www.ziphomelessness.com to help us reach our challenge to help prevent and end homelessness in our community.

On behalf of the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, Apple Federal Credit Union, Connection Newspapers, Dulles Regional Chamber, Phillip L. Graham Fund, and Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness, we sincerely thank you!

Help now by visiting <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/events/jeansday/2013-jeans-day-event.htm> or contact Dean Klein, director of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness for other ways to impact homelessness at 703-324-9492, TTY 711.

Michael L. O'Reilly is Chairman of the Governing Board of the Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness

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Cornerstones staff and volunteers accept food donations and prepare the boxes the night before the Thanksgiving food distribution at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Reston. From left: Minnie Orozco, Urgent Needs and Life Skills Program Manager, Gail Greenberg, Board Member and volunteer, Susan Alger, Volunteer and Resource Manager, Embry Rucker Community Shelter, and Alacia Earley, Volunteer and Drives Manager.



Good neighbors, from left: Subu Sagar, Manisha Raj, and Raj Munusamy arrived at the St. John's donation drop-off site with a cart full of bags collected by members of ACT Foundation USA.



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Angela Suarez, PR and Marketing Representative for Cornerstones, is ready for another round of loading and hauling the goods to a client's vehicle. Suarez did take a minute in-between her distribution duties to highlight some of the other seasonal drives and initiatives that Cornerstones is organizing, like the "Holiday Gifts for Kids" Campaign and the Winter Coat Closet collection of winter wear.

Community Creates Season of Giving

Organizations and individuals step to transform 'The Holiday Season' into 'The Season of Giving'

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Thursday, Thanksgiving, traditionally marks the beginning of "The Holiday Season." The Christmas Shopping Derby will kick off at midnight for many of the big retailers, and the frantic rush of decorating, card sending, gift buying, wrapping, parties, baking, cooking, preparing for visitors or preparing to travel shifts into high gear. It's a busy time of year, and for many, a happy one. But for the community's most vulnerable citizens, the holiday season means extra pressures and concerns. For those struggling to make ends meet, they worry that they may not be able to provide a feast for their families, or fulfill the holiday gift wishes of their children - at least not without a little help. Some of our senior citizens may not have loved ones nearby to care for them. Others may not even have the basic necessity of a place to live.

Thankfully, there are several organizations and scores of individuals in our area who are ready and willing to step up and provide more than a little help for their neighbors in need. These folks have transformed "The Holiday Season" into "The Season of Giving." "It can get a little crazy," said Karen Mulholland of Reston. "You've got the pull of your own family needs for the holidays, and then you add collecting food for the Thanksgiving distribution, and then the delivery. It makes for a crazy week or two, but I feel so much better on Thanksgiving Day knowing we helped someone else have a happy family meal." Mulholland and her family rallied her neighborhood to collect for the food drive organized by Cornerstones

(formerly Reston Interfaith), the Reston-based non-profit whose mission is to "promote self-sufficiency by providing support and advocacy for those in need of food, shelter...and other human services."

IN THE LAST WEEK, Wall Street has posted record highs. The local housing market has shown significant improvement all year, and consumer confidence is trending upwards, yet "We are still seeing more people registering for Thanksgiving meals," said Minnie Orozco, Cornerstones Urgent Needs and Life Skills Program Manager. "We have about 928 families who have signed up. That's an increase of more than 100 families over last year." Orozco and a number of staff and volunteers were on duty Friday night at the donation drop-off point at St. John Neumann's Catholic Church in Reston. Though nearly buried beneath boxes and bags - many that had been lovingly decorated by school children and scout troops - the workers seemed pretty jolly, as they went about their tasks of collecting, sorting, and balancing boxes for each registered family. "And for the walk-ins, too," added Orozco. "There are always those who just show up, so we try and have extras on hand."

Gail Greenberg has been volunteering with Cornerstones (Reston Interfaith) for more than five years and is on the board of the organization. On this occasion she acted as greeter, accepting donations from generous participants like Subu Sagar, Manisha Raj, and Raj Munusamy who arrived with ten full bags on behalf of the ACT Foundation USA, a non-profit formed to serve the underprivileged in the community. As she floated in and out among the aisles of boxes and bags, Greenberg spoke about why she volunteers. "I don't think a lot of people know how many people are homeless right here in Reston and Herndon, how many people are spending their nights in our woods," she said. She went on to talk about "100,000 Homes," a national campaign dedicated to providing housing for 100,000 of the most vulnerable and the chronically homeless by July 2014. Cornerstones is a partner in this effort. Part of the campaign's strategy calls for conduct-



From left: Amy Mintz, in charge of the Advent Giving Program, Director of Serve Ministries for Floris United Methodist Church (FUMC) in Herndon, and Cyndy Cooke, just back from a trip to Sierra Leone where FUMC sponsors a Child Rescue Center and a Hospital, gather around one of the three Gift Trees in the church gathering foyer.

ing a homeless "Registry Week." Earlier this year more than 200 volunteers across Fairfax County made contact with 462 homeless persons. Cornerstones (at the time Reston Interfaith) volunteers conducted interviews with more than 100 individuals from the North County Hypothermia Prevention Program, the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, and even in encampments in the woods. "These people need our help," said Greenberg. The interviews showed that nearly half of the homeless were employed, 40 percent had a physical disability, 10 percent were veterans, and the majority cited "unable to pay rent/utilities" and "job loss" as the reasons for their homelessness.

TO EVERYONE'S RELIEF at the Friday

Drop-Off event, the donations kept coming in. Before long, everything was in order for the following morning's distribution. "We have 450 families signed up to collect from here at St. John's," Orozco reported. "There are other distribution sites around the area, and some places, like Reston Community Center at Hunters Woods will keep collecting and distribute later."

Orozco, Greenberg and a small army of Cornerstones staff and volunteers were back at their posts on Saturday morning ready to distribute. Wheeling flatbed dollies, volunteers loaded up, lined up, took the items out to the clients' vehicle, and then started the process all over again. One of the "volunteer" food distributors was Cornerstones PR and Marketing Representative, Angela



Happy to help is 6-year-old Harry Devere, who was there with mom Norma. His job was loading the carts with bags containing snacks and essentials like cooking oil. "It's fun. I like doing this for people - and it's good exercise!" were some of Harry's thoughts on his volunteer position at the Cornerstones' Thanksgiving Food distribution.

Suarez, who took a few moments in between deliveries to highlight some upcoming events and the needs involved to assure success.

"Our next big campaign is our "Holiday Gifts for Kids" seasonal drive," Suarez announced. "Each child will list up to three items, totaling about \$50-\$65 per child. We have 1500 kids to provide for this year. So far we have taken care of about 1300, so we do need some more donors. For most of these children, these will be the only gifts they will receive for the holidays." Any one wishing to grant a child's Holiday Wish should visit the Cornerstones website www.cornerstonesva.org and fill out the online donation form - but hurry! Collection dates are Dec. 5 - 7. And Cornerstones



Evan Bonshock, a first grader from Oak Hill, carefully considers the Wish List tag he has chosen. Evan's family, mom Heather, dad Dennis and brother Cameron picked out several Wish List tags to fulfill. "We do this every year," said Heather.

"Season of Giving" starts before the traditional Holidays and extends well beyond them, with their Winter Coat Closet program in association with Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins, collecting winter wear for children and adults from Oct. 31 until Feb. 28, 2014. Information on needs and donation sites for the Coat Closet are also available on the Cornerstones website.

Cornerstones is certainly a significant contributor to the "Season of Giving," but there are others reaching out to community neighbors in need as well. Jake McGlothlin, Director of Serve Ministries at Floris United Methodist Church (FUMC) in Herndon, described an impressive list of programs that the congregation has developed over the years, "and

SEE COMMUNITIES. PAGE 14

Holidays are HERE!

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Send announcements to reston@connectionnewspapers.com. The deadline is the Friday prior to the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2013/sep/26/fairfax-county-calendar/>.

WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY/NOV.27-30

Ventures and Puzzles. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday, at Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Abstract oil paintings by Frank Eifert, in an exhibit in which "Half-Reflections" accompany each picture to metaphorically suggest some of the intentions, surprises and significances encountered in the creation of the picture. In this series of paintings, Frank developed a "multi-directional" style, painting from all four sides and four corners (for square pictures), essentially providing up to eight distinct pictures, the multiple options of viewing reflecting the ambivalence and ambiguity of our time. 703-467-4500 or www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY/NOV.27-DEC.9

The Artists of Montorno. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday-Saturday; and 1-5 p.m. Sunday, at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Montorno painting workshops in Seravezza, Italy, have been a refuge for artists to study with famous painters and sculptors for almost two decades. The exhibit features the work of Montorno instructors Danni Dawson, Mike Francis, Trisha Adams, Mary Del Popolo, Peggy Feerick, Gavin

"Prospect," abstract oil, by Frank Eifert. See his work any day 9 a.m.-9 p.m., except Sundays (9 a.m.-8 p.m.) at Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston.

Glakas and Kurt Schwarz—locally and internationally known artists. Portraits, landscapes, still life paintings, drawings, pastels, printmaking and photography are featured. 703-956-6590 or www.artspaceherndon.org.

MONDAY/DEC. 2 & TUESDAY/DEC. 3

Owls in Winter. 10-11 a.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Learn when owls are active, what they like to eat, and how they stay warm. See owl feathers and talons up close. Enjoy an owl story, and take home an owl craft. Reservations required by Nov. 28. Fee: \$5/child RA members; \$8/child Non-members. naturecenter@reston.org



TUESDAY/DEC. 3

New York Festival of Song: Cubans in Paris, Cubans in Havana. 8 p.m., Cubans in Paris, Cubans in Havana features Cuban music that took the world by storm in the 1920s and 30s and found a special welcome in Paris. \$20 Reston/\$40 Non-Reston.

TUESDAY/DEC.3 - SUNDAY/DEC.29

Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol. 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. This one-man show retells the classic story but focuses on Scrooge's departed, doomed and chained business partner, Jacob Marley.

FRIDAY/DEC. 6

First Fridays. 7 p.m. ArtSpace

Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Join ArtSpace Herndon for Art House Cinema and Brew. The first Friday of the month, watch an important piece of art film history by the finest producers and directors in the world. 21+, \$10 for the movie and two microbrews. Reservations required artspaceherndon.org.

TUESDAY/DEC. 10

Discover Graphics. At ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Exhibiting the work of printmakers for the past 30 years.

SATURDAY/DEC. 14

Opening Reception for Discover Graphics. 4-7 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Exhibiting the work of printmakers for the past 30 years.

ONGOING

League of Reston Featured Artists Exhibit. Every Monday-Friday through Dec. 31, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., the Reston Association office, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. The League of Reston Artists invites art lovers to a series of rotating painting and photography exhibits featuring a new artist each month. www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

SUNDAY, JAN. 19

Sweet Honey In The Rock. 8 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. Five women provide unique perspective in their traditional gospel hymns, rap, reggae, African chants, hip hop, ancient lullabies and jazz improvisation; with sign language interpretation. \$25 Reston/\$50 Non-Reston.

www.restoncommunitycenter.com or 703-476-4500.

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

Rennie Harris' RHAW 8 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. RHAW will showcase Dr. Rennie Harris' newest and brightest street dancers as they bring hip hop back to basics. \$15 Reston/\$30 Non-Reston. www.restoncommunitycenter.com or 703-476-4500.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12


Lúnasa. 8 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. This group of Irishmen continues its 20-year tradition of famed Celtic music. \$20 Reston/\$40 Non-Reston. www.restoncommunitycenter.com or 703-476-4500.

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

Mr. Vaudeville and Friends with Mark Brutsché. 3 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. Buddy Silver, and alter-ego Mark Brutsché, returns to to prove, once again, that nothing can take the place of live entertainment. \$5 Reston/\$10 Non-Reston. www.restoncommunitycenter.com or 703-476-4500.

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

Trout Fishing in America. 3 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. This Grammy Award nominated duo's infectious mix of folk/pop and family music is enriched by the diverse influences of reggae, Latin, blues, jazz and classical music. \$15 Reston/\$30 Non-Reston.



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Wednesday, December 11 • 7 p.m.
Reston Association Conference Center
12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 20191



www.reston.org

HOLIDAY CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 27

Community Thanksgiving Eve Service. 7:30 p.m. United Christian Parish, 11508 North Shore Drive, Reston.

THURSDAY/NOV. 28

Thanksgiving at Vinifera. 12-7 p.m. Vinifera Wine Bar, 11750 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. A three course Thanksgiving feast complete with turkey, sides and pies. \$55 per person. 703-234-3550.

FRIDAY/NOV. 29

23rd Annual Reston Holiday Parade. 11 a.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Take part in the festive season with Macy's-style balloons, musicians, dancers, antique cars, and more. This one-hour parade along Market Street will also welcome the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus in a horse-drawn carriage. www.restontowncenter.com/holidays.

Gingerbread Man Mile. 8 a.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. The course covers a 1-mile loop around Reston Town Center. Registration: \$5. <http://www.prraces.com/gingerbread/>

Tree Lighting and Sing Along. 6 p.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Join Santa to light up the Christmas tree and sing some festive carols.

The Thanksgiving Story. 11 a.m. Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Bring family and friends to this lively and interactive retelling of the Thanksgiving Story. Admission \$4-\$6.

SUNDAY/DEC. 1

Chanukah on the Town Square.



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Reston founder Robert Simon waves to the crowd at the 2012 Reston Holiday Parade.

5:30 p.m. Giant Menorah lighting, crafts, refreshments and more. Herndon Town Square, in front of Town Hall at 730 Elden Street, Herndon.

Marley and an annoying little sprite named Bogle, as they set out on an impossible adventure to save old Scrooge's soul. Tickets: \$25. <http://www.nextstoptheatre.org>

TUESDAY/DEC. 3- SUNDAY/DEC. 29

Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol. NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. In this behind-the-scenes retelling of one of the most famous stories of all time, join

TUESDAY/DEC. 3

New York Festival of Song "Cubans in Paris, Cubans at Home." 8 p.m. CenterStage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Features Cuban music that took the world by

storm in the 1920s and 30s and found a special welcome in Paris. Tickets: \$20-\$40. <http://restoncommunitycenter.com/centerstage-new-york-festival-of-song.shtml>

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 4

"The Twelve Dates of Christmas." NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Tickets: \$25. <http://www.nextstoptheatre.org>.

FRIDAY/DEC. 6- SATURDAY/DEC. 7

Living Nativity. 6:30-9 p.m. Southview Community Church, 2620 Reston Pkwy, Herndon. The Christmas story is recounted in a meaningful and tangible way with live animals and visual interpretations.

SATURDAY/DEC. 7

Alternative Gift Market. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1625 Wiehle Avenue, Reston. This annual market and craft festival allows you to donate on behalf of someone to a cause that will benefit others.

Gifts from the HeART: Reception and Holiday Sale Event. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Lake Anne, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston. Original works of art in a variety of media, including oil, acrylic, watercolor, collage, stained glass, ceramic, sculpture, and mixed media, in a wide range of sizes and prices. <http://restoncommunitycenter.com/gifts-from-heart.shtml>

Herndon Towne Square Singers

Winter Concert. 7:30 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. The Towne Square Singers perform music of the holidays from TV and movies. Tickets: \$12. <http://www.herndon-va.gov/webtrac>

[va.gov/](http://www.herndon-va.gov/)

Herndon Tree Lighting and Sing-Along. 5-6 p.m. Herndon Town Hall Square, 730 Elden Street, Herndon. Join in celebrating at Herndon's historic downtown for carols, tree lighting and a visit from Santa.

Holiday Homes Tour of Herndon.

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 777 Lynn Street, Herndon. Tour Herndon homes decorated for the holidays. Admission: \$15 in advance; \$20 day of tour. 703-435-6800 ext. 2222.

Jingle with Santa at Lake Anne. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Lake Anne Plaza, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Festive activities ranging from the visit from Santa (arriving on a lake barge), strolling carolers, a petting zoo, music, wine tastings, merchant specials, children's crafts, cookie decorating, holiday arts & crafts market, holiday entertainment and more.

Lights, Camera, Christmas. 2 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. The Towne Square Singers will give two performances of their winter concert Lights, Camera, Christmas featuring music of the holidays from TV and Movies. Tickets: \$12. Register at www.herndon-va.gov/webtrac

Winter Open House & Santa's

Workshop. 11 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center Street, Herndon. Live entertainment including handbell music performed by Joyful Ringers, stories, visits with Santa, and crafts.

Zombie Bash. 5-8 p.m. 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Prepare to be scared to death then to rise and scare others. This game is designed for players age 18 and up due to the context and intense combat. Admission: \$20.00 or play a zombie for free.

Be a Part of CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

During the last week of each year, the Reston Connection devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students. The results are always remarkable, and the editions have won many awards. It is a keepsake edition for many families.

We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through e-mail or delivered on CD or flash drive. Writing should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf). Artwork should be provided in .jpg format. Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location. Please provide the submissions by Friday, Dec. 6 for publication the week of Dec. 26.

E-mail submissions to: ChildrensNorth@connectionnewsletters.com

To send CDs or flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the CD to Children's Connection, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

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Communities Come Together to Support Neighbors in Need

FROM PAGE 11

they are the ones who have asked for and spear-headed these efforts," noted McGlothlin. "It isn't the church leadership that say 'here's what we will support.' Our people come to us and want to help in so many different ways."

FUMC has a number of outreach initiatives underway.

In the gathering area of the

church, Christmas trees are decorated with "Wish List" tags rather than traditional ornaments. The recipients of these items include families from Hutchison Elementary in need and children with special needs through Care Connection for Children, affiliated with Inova Children's Hospital, among others.

This year FUMC has taken on

1300 gift requests, ranging from gift cards for local grocery stores, to new jeans and shirts to wear to school. Few of the recipients asked for toys or non-necessities. Just the basics.

And the congregation at Floris is responding with overwhelming generosity with some folks taking three or four Wish List Tags to fulfill. Non-members of the congrega-

tion are warmly welcomed to visit the church and participate in the program.

"We've got another new program starting up this week, as well," reported McGlothlin. "This one is about Alternative Giving, he said.

"We all have someone we want to get something for at the holidays who just doesn't need any-

thing else from the traditional gift inventory, so how about making a donation in that person's honor?"

"Donations made as part of the Alternative Giving program will benefit the church-sponsored Child Rescue Center and the Mercy Hospital in Sierra Leone, the Guest House Program that offers temporary shelter to the homeless during the coldest winter months, and other local charitable needs. Again, this program is open to non-members of the congregation. If making a donation instead of buying another sweater or knick-knack for Auntie Alice sounds like a good idea, then contact FUMC via their website at www.florismc.org, or call 703/793-0026.

FUMC will also be participating for the first time in the Guest House program, partnering with organizations like FACETS, a non-profit that works throughout Fairfax County to meet emergency needs and then assist in the gaining of permanent safe housing with counseling and support to improve life situations).

The church will join a number of area organizations and religious communities that each offer a week of supervised shelter and needed items to the county's homeless. "This is a big one for us," admitted McGlothlin. "We may be hosting some 400 people for a week in January. We've been planning since March. We are now in the volunteer recruitment stage. Knowing our congregation, I am sure they will rise to the challenge."

CORNERSTONES also operates shelters under the North County Hypothermia Prevention Program from Dec. 1, through March 31, 2014.

Staff are pleased to report that they have secured sufficient catering sponsorships for the shelter guests, but there is still a need for donations from the Hypothermia Prevention Program Wish List, available on the Cornerstones website.

All of these local organizations and the individuals who support them have their own initiatives, missions, motivations and needs, but together they create the Season of Giving that so many in the community need and depend on – and all of them say there's room for more aboard the Volunteer Sleigh – especially at this time of the year.

Try the websites listed above for opportunities and information. Other resources include www.reston.org and www.herndon-restonfish.org.

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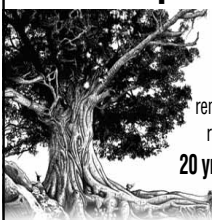
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"Scanticipation"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

When I get CT-Scanned on Wednesday, November 27th, it will be nearly four months since my last diagnostic scan. That occurred during my hospital "staycation" during the first week of August, when I was admitted due to the extremely abnormal fluid buildup in my left lung. The surgery to drain the fluid went well, as you regular readers know, but as a consequence of this procedure/hospital stay – and its recovery, my subsequent chemotherapy infusions were delayed for about a month and naturally the follow-up scans were as well. This meant/now means that my every-three-month scan has become at least for this particular set of time circumstances, a four-month interval, the longest such interval in my full-time cancer career since I was first diagnosed with stage IV, non-small-cell lung cancer back in February, 2009.

I'm not nervous about the outcome this time, however, as I have written about in previous columns: "Scanxiety," "Scanning the Horizon" and "Scantastic." These are all examples of the emotional roller coaster a cancer patient rides when scans are in the offing. Regarding (you'll note I didn't use "concerning,") this upcoming scan, I feel more curious and calm than I have felt before. Aside from being more experienced with this process/cycle, and continuing as well to be relatively asymptomatic, my most recent lab work has been encouraging or at least not discouraging in that certain results/levels are improving. Now I don't know if these improved results (specifically my creatinine and bilirubin levels as well as my GFR/glomerular filtration rate) have any effect on the metastatic tumors in my left lung, but the improving levels do mean that my body is tolerating the every-three-week chemotherapy infusions that I've been receiving since September 20th. And "tolerating" is about as good as it gets, considering there are few drugs still available that my oncologist would feel are suitable for my condition. More to the point, when I asked my oncologist how do I really know (other than the lab results) that I'm tolerating the drug, he said, "You wouldn't be a very happy camper if you weren't." To which I replied, happily: "Well, I'm a long way from that." And not that the camping reference was lost on me, but I've been camping very few times in my life, and on those few occasions, I was happiest when I was leaving the campsite heading home.

Camping experiences aside – and not misunderstood, I am looking forward to the results of this next scan and really not stressing about it, either. Nor am I anxious. If anything, I'll admit to being naive. Moreover, I won't admit to being positive, since there's so much about the human body that I don't understand and after five years of having cancer-type symptoms and/or feelings, or not having cancer-type symptoms and/or feelings, with varying outcomes, I never know what to make of any of it. What I am positive about is how mysterious it all is and how few guarantees there are in any of it. Nevertheless, I'm grateful for a definite maybe; I can live with that, as I have been.

Time will tell, soon enough. Although, a long Thanksgiving weekend might slow down the e-mail which my oncologist will send with the results. But I can't worry about that either. I feel good. My labs were good. My reaction to yesterday's chemotherapy was good. The Red Sox just won the World Series for the third time in 10 years; that's all good, great in fact. For a terminal cancer patient from Boston five years post-diagnosis who wants to live and loves his hometown team, it doesn't get much better, realistically speaking.

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

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THE CONNECTION
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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

South Lakes High School senior Olivia Vita talking to astrophysicist Hakeem Oluseyi of Science Channel's Outrageous acts of science.

South Lakes Seniors Attend STEM Diversity Symposium

Three South Lakes High School seniors—Mahrukh Chowdan, Marli Saunders and Olivia Vita were chosen by the GEMS Club Initiative to attend the first-ever STEM Diversity Symposium on Capitol Hill to discuss the accomplishments women and minorities have made in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), as well as the importance of encouraging more women and minorities to pursue STEM studies and careers. The event took place on Nov. 13. Held in conjunction with members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, Congressional Black Caucus, Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, the symposium featured remarks by leaders in Congress on diversity in STEM, including U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono, and a panel discussion and question and answer session moderated by Debbie Myers, General Manager and Executive Vice President of Science Channel.

The panelists were: NASA astrobiologist and geologist Dr. Jennifer Eigenbrode; electrical engineer and Discovery Channel's

Mythbusters personality Grant Imahara; astrophysicist Hakeem Oluseyi of Science Channel's Outrageous Acts of Science; Cindy Moss, Director of STEM Initiatives for Discovery Education; and E. Anne Sandel, Executive Director,

Surface Warfare for the Naval Sea Systems Command.

"Before this event, I did not realize how much I had let stigmas (which I thought I had eradicated) steer my life," said SLHS senior Olivia Vita. "I had wanted to get into the scientific field in ecology but ruled many areas of study out because supposedly 'artists cannot be scientists.' I can see more clearly

that I really can do anything-I could be an astrophysicist!"

She added, "This definitely changed my career path."

The GEMS Club Initiative is a grassroots organization committed to building the STEM pipeline by promoting and encouraging girls. www.gemsclub.org

South Lakes High School is committed to engaging students with community groups that can support engaged learning.



School Garden Vegetables on Aldrin's Menu

Students from Aldrin Elementary School were able to harvest some of their fall vegetables from the school's garden. Earlier in the school year, classes sowed seeds for lettuce, kale, radishes, spinach, carrots, beets and broccoli. The children are enjoying seeing how crops grow, how long it takes, and what they look like before they get to the store. They also get to experiment tasting vegetables they may have not tried before.

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PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

South Lakes guard Grant Chustz (22) shoots during a scrimmage against Wakefield on Nov. 23 at South Lakes High School.

South Lakes Boys' Basketball Looking for Playoff Return

Seahawks failed to reach regionals last two seasons.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The South Lakes boys' basketball team has a go-to scoring threat capable of shouldering the load.

Now the Seahawks need consistency from his supporting cast.

Last season, guard Brandon Kamga carried the South Lakes offense as a sophomore. While Kamga was a standout, the lack of a reliable second or third scoring option contributed to the Seahawks finishing with a 9-14 record and exiting the Liberty District tournament in the first round. South Lakes failed to qualify for the regional tournament for the second consecutive season.

Entering the 2013-14 season, Kamga, now a junior, will again be South Lakes' top offensive threat. He's grown to 6 feet 4 inches and will return to the more comfortable position of two-guard after playing point guard as a sophomore. Kamga sat out of a recent scrimmage against Wakefield due to soreness, head coach Andrew Duggan said, giving other players a chance to share the scoring load.

"While we have a very good player, Brandon, on our squad, I believe we are still young and growing as a team," Duggan wrote in an email. "I like our team, but we must improve our defense or we may struggle at times. The name of the game is to get stops and we are not there yet. The goal for our team is to improve daily and grow closer every day. I think we are on track, but it's early."

Senior guard Clayton O'Neill is one of the top candidates to assist Kamga at the offensive end. At 6 feet 4, O'Neill is a threat to knock down 3-pointers or post-up inside. He is also a strong rebounder and defender.

Senior guard Dre Puryear (5-11) can attack the basket and junior combo guard Zach Pearl (6-0) is a quality shooter. Senior post player Henry Quinn-Irons (6-6) is "much improved from last season in play and confidence," Duggan wrote.



South Lakes senior post Henry Quinn-Irons battles against two Wakefield players during a scrimmage on Nov. 23 at South Lakes High School.

The Seahawks are looking to reach the regional tournament for the first time since the 2010-11 season, Duggan's first as South Lakes head coach, when they finished Liberty District runner-up and beat Falls Church in the opening round of regionals.

South Lakes will compete in a scrimmage at Chantilly High School at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 29. The Seahawks will open the regular season at home against Stone Bridge at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 3.



PHOTO BY Ed Lull

Madison junior Amanda Swaak earned all-state honors by finishing 12th during the Group 6A girls' race with a time of 18:28 at the VHSL state meet on Nov. 15 at Great Meadow.

Vienna Rivals to Face Off in Basketball Openers

The Oakton Cougars and Madison Warhawks will face one another on Dec. 3 to open their respective girls' and boys' basketball seasons.

The Oakton girls' basketball team will host Madison at 7:30 p.m. Oakton, led by head coach Fred Priester, fell one win shy of reaching the state tournament last season, losing to South Lakes 48-46 in the region semifinals.

Two years ago, the Cougars went 31-0 and won the AAA state championship.

Madison, led by head coach Kirsten Stone, won the Liberty District championship last season and reached the second round of the region tournament, where the Warhawks lost to eventual region champion Edison, 63-33.

The Madison boys' basketball team will host Oakton at 7:30 p.m. Oakton, led by head coach Dave Brooks, advanced to last season's region tournament.

Group 6A North Region Football Playoffs

Three of four favorites advanced during the 6A North region football quarterfinals on Nov. 22, with Langley being the lone high seed to fall short.

The Saxons, seeded No. 5 in the region, lost to No. 13 Stonewall Jackson 51-48 in the region's highest-scoring game of the weekend. Stonewall Jackson will travel to face No. 1 Centreville in the semifinals. Undefeated Centreville beat No. 8 South County 55-35 in the quarterfinals on Friday.

No. 2 Lake Braddock beat No. 7 Yorktown 40-7 to earn a trip to the semifinals, where the undefeated Bruins will host No. 3 Westfield. The Bulldogs beat No. 11 Robinson, 21-14.

Lake Braddock and Westfield faced one another during the regular season, with the Bruins winning 28-24 on Sept. 20. At the time, it was Westfield's first regular-season loss since 2010.

News

Abigail Rendle to Play at William and Mary

Abigail Rendle, a student at South Lakes High School, signed her National Letter of intent to play basketball at The College of William and Mary. Her parents, Mark, and Debbie Rendle, are on either side of her. From left, in a back row: Head Coach, Christy Winters Scott, Princess Aghayere, Brenda Kamga, Sasha Sprei, Caitlin Jensen, Kirsten Cornwell, Colette Toma, Natalie Toma.



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BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to herndon@connectionnewspapers.com by the Friday prior to the following week's paper.

WEDNESDAY/MONDAY/NOV27-DEC.16

Toys for Tots Drop-off. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays, at National Realty, located at the corner of Reston Parkway and Sunrise Valley Drive, 11890 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Drop a new, unwrapped toy in the donation box in the lobby. All toys will be distributed to needy children within Loudoun County and to Herndon & Reston children via the non-profit

Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc. "Newborn to 1-Year Old" and the "Teens" age groups are particularly needed. 703-860-4600.

FRIDAY/NOV. 29

American Red Cross Blood Drive. 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston.

SUNDAY/DEC. 8

Worm Composting. 2-3:30 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Learn about Worm composting, which is a type of

vermiculture that is a natural method of recycling food waste. Reservations required by Dec. 5. Fee: \$35/Bin RA members; \$40/Bin Non-members. naturecenter@reston.org

TUESDAY/DEC. 10

Discover Graphics. At ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Exhibiting the work of printmakers for the past 30 years.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 11

Business Education Workshop: Learn to Enjoy Tax Time. 8:30-10 a.m., at Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, 1763 Fountain Drive, Reston. The cost is \$10. Register at

<https://restonvacoc.wliinc25.com/>. More info: call 703-707-9045.

ONGOING

Fairfax County's Meals on Wheels urgently needs drivers in the Annandale, Franconia/Kingstowne, Reston, Mount Vernon and McLean areas. 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults.

Herndon Senior Center seeks a knitting enthusiast to teach basic procedures. Class meets Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. to noon and musicians to play soothing music on weekend mornings. 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults>.

AWANA Club for Christian

Children. 7-8:30 p.m., at MLK Christian Church, 11400 North Shore Drive, Reston. Awana helps churches and parents work together to develop spiritually strong youth who faithfully follow Jesus Christ. 703-709-3641.

Knitting Enthusiasts, Musicians

Needed. 10:30 a.m.-noon, at Herndon Senior Center. Herndon Senior Center seeks a knitting enthusiast to teach basic procedures. Musicians to play soothing music on weekend mornings also needed. 703-324-5406, TTY 711, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadult or VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov.



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Reston Perfectly Located!

Close to major transportation routes & Reston Town Center, Gorgeous contemporary w/2

MBR's (one upper and one lower level walk-out) 3BR upstairs, large FR w/vaulted ceilings & FP. Bright, updated kitchen w/tons of storage/cabinets goes to glass enclosed sunroom, 2 decks & 1 patio. Spacious LR/DR combo great for entertaining Finished basement w/rec rm & bonus rm. So spacious, desired school cluster.



Ashburn Gorgeous \$680,000

Brick front in Broadlands & over 4800 sq ft! Just move right in. Gour kitchen w/granite, hdwds, cooktop island, 42" cabinets, huge pantry, views of private, fenced yd! Grand 2-story foyer has curved staircase, 2-story river rock FP. Master suite w/sunken sitting rm, huge WIC. Updated light fixtures & baths, fin walk-up. Lwr lvl has bonus rms & full bath, wired for surround sound. Great deck to awesome yard.



Stone Ridge SouthAldie \$429,875

Better Than New!

Two yrs young w/2car garage. Thousands in extras. Huge custom trex deck w/stairs to beautiful fenced yd & large paver patio. Window treatments thru-out, ceiling fans & media rm w/huge screen & projector that conveys. Hardwoods, cherry cabinets, granite, upgraded appliances, spacious rms, security system, volume ceilings, light filled & conveniently located. Almost 3000 sq ft! Be home for the holidays!

Call or text Min & Jimmy O'Burns for your personal tour! 703-307-4095 • OBurns@VirginiaHomeForYou.com



Herndon \$419,875 Spacious Colonial

Impressively sited on large corner lot, this home has it all-2-story foyer, sep LR & DR,

cook's kitchen w/granite, undermount sink, upgraded appliances, hardwoods & sunny breakfast room nestled in a bay window. Adjacent FR w/floor-to-ceiling masonry FP & slider to gorgeous deck w/stairs to rear yard enclosed by picket fence! Updated & ready! Best value!



Alexandria \$680,000 Close to Commuter Routes

Gourmet kitchen w/hdwds, granite, SS appl, backsplash, rec lighting maple cabinets, all new hardware & tons of storage. LR & DR open for entertaining, FP plus access to awesome 3 season porch w/ceiling fans. 3 BR on main all w/hdwds, chair rail & ceiling fans. Fin lwr lvl has huge master suite, large rec rm, full BA, storage, FP. Shed, irrigation system, outdoor lighting. Plenty of parking.



UNDER CONTRACT

Herndon \$360,000 Beautiful End Unit

3 level bump out on a cul-de-sac w/open floor plan Drayton model has open floor plan, large LR, FR w/FP w/marble surround. Master suite w/sitting rm, cathedral ceilings, huge WIC. Patio & deck perfect for entertaining! Walk to shops



Herndon \$529,000 Spacious!

4BR, 3.5BA w/updated kitchen including granite and SS appliances, finished lwr lvl w/in-law retreat, deck off kitchen, fenced back yard, 2-car garage, all in a great neighborhood!

George Brown 703-401-7025 or e-mail George.brown@longandfooster.com



Fairfax \$389,900 Immaculate Townhouse!

3 level, 2BR, 2.5BA w/lots of updates and plenty of light! Sunny FR w/FP, open eat-in kitchen with W/O to fenced rear, and huge master suite throughout entire upper level! Perfectly located-moments from Fairfax Corner, Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax County Parkway and I-66. Home is in excellent condition-come and see!

Call Lisa Carlisle 571-334-3440 lisa.carlisle@longandfooster.com



UNDER CONTRACT

Vienna \$840,000 Huge Deck

Brick colonial w/huge deck overlooking private lot. Updated kitchen w/granite, cabinets to ceiling, Viking range w/hood, 2 Thermidor wall ovens. Bay window ext in breakfast nook. Walls

GONE-renovated & open floor plan. Woodburning FP, hdwds on upper level(main level newly re-finished), MBR w/2 w/in custom closets. Huge MBA w/skylights & own H2O heater. Fin, large walk-out basement. Great community amenities.

Call Leslie Thurman 703-895-6000 lesliekthurman@gmail.com



Gainesville \$450,000 Reduced!

Gorgeous 4BR, 3.5BA w/over 3400 sq ft of living space! Hardwoods in main lvl,

gour kitchen w/center island. FR w/FP, large master suite, fin walkup basement w/bonus rm & full bath! Awesome deck to relax on in private yd. New roof, new A/C, new carpet. Great Bridlewood amenities inc pool!



Herndon \$510,000 Just Listed!

Situated on a picturesque cul-de-sac lot this 4BR, 2.5BA colonial features open floor plan & gleaming hardwoods. Custom addition- FR offers vaulted ceilings, recessed lights & door to the flagstone patio & fully fenced backyard. Kitchen features SS appliances, master suite w/sitting room, spa like master bath w/dual sink vanity. Partially finished lower level w/rec rm.

Margo Sotet 571-839-6009 or e-mail Margo.sotet@longandfooster.com



Reston \$479,900 End Unit

North Reston 4 level end unit brick TH w/3BR, 3.5BA. Upgrades include

hdwds, stainless kitchen, new paint & carpet. Enclosed yard backing to mature trees for extra privacy.

Call Debbie Gill 703-346-1373 or e-mail Debbie.Gill@longandfooster.com



Reston \$219,000 Large First Floor Condo

Spacious remodeled 1BR ground floor condo in Bentana Park. Ceramic tile foyer

opens to a large LR/ SGD opens to a patio facing common area. Updated w/hdwds & kitchen has granite counters, SS appliances & upgraded cabinets. Bath is renovated & laundry has full size W/D. One mile from the future Wiehle METRO & Reston Town Center. A suburban retreat with a reasonable commute.

Call Peter Burke 703-786-3334 or peterburke@aol.com



Manassas \$299,900 Just Reduced. Must See!

House backs to wooded common area and a huge private yard. Upgrades throughout

include hardwood floors, new windows, granite counters, renovated bathrooms with custom tile, fresh paint. Features of the home :4BR, 2BA, 2 finished levels, walk out lower level & separate laundry room

Call Nancy Gabro 703-300-6645 or e-mail Nancy.Gabro@LNF.com



North Reston \$625,000 Dramatic & Open Spaces

Beautiful updates & custom renovations in this inviting

4BR,4BA townhome w/2car garage. 1st floor study or guest room with full bath, soaring 2 story great room w/FP, mid-level deck, unique finished areas in lower level walk-out, gorgeous remodeled kitchen, gleaming hardwoods on main & lower level! Backs to trees!

Call Karen Swanson 703-795-9970 Karen.Swanson@longandfooster.com www.KarenSwanson.com



Centreville \$302,000 Close to Everything!

3 BR, 3.5 BA Remodeled kitchen w/upgraded appliances. Private 2-car parking, sunny and open floor plan, spacious bedrooms & closets, no-maintenance fenced backyard, great location & community with lots of open parking. Close to Rte 28, Centreville shops, METRO park & ride.

Call Elizabeth Digilio@703-928-1665 elizabeth.digilio@longandfooster.com



"I work hard for my agents so they can work hard for you!" — Anita Lasansky, Managing Broker

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