

# Winter Skating Fun in Reston Town Center

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE, PAGE 10

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**Holiday  
Entertainment  
& Gift Guide 2014**



## The Soap Engineers Are a Hit at Lake Anne

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## The Real Jonathan Swift

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Talib Aleem of Reston knows what he's doing on the ice: Aside from holding a doctorate in Computer Science and having taught at George Washington University, Aleem is also trapeze artist and medaled professional figure skater and skating instructor. Aleem was enjoying some practice time at the Reston Town Center Skating Pavilion, but could be seen offering a bit of advice here and there, and occasionally helping a "downed" skater back to their feet.



## PEOPLE



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

In 2001, Anne Lindvay was single and working and living in Northern Virginia.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Rob Havlovick was living in Northern Virginia too, sharing a house with friends and throwing parties in hopes of meeting a great girl.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

William was 2 years old and living with his biological family.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

When Anne and Rob met at one of Rob's parties, they had an instant connection and began dating.

# How Three Become One

November is National Adoption Month. Here's the story of how adoption created one family in Chantilly. To learn more about adopting through foster care in the D.C. Metro area, email the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments at: [picme@mwvog.org](mailto:picme@mwvog.org).

— JOAN BRADY



PHOTO © PHIL DOMENICI

In 2004, on a hot summer day, they tied the knot.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

William, now 5, was still living with his biological family.



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

By the time Anne and Rob were thinking about adoption, William was 13 and had been in foster care for about four years. He had lived in three foster homes. He liked taking pictures, drawing, ultimate frisbee and dogs.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Rob was more comfortable with the idea of adopting an older child and they both liked the idea of adopting a local child out of foster care.



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

Beverly Howard of Fairfax Families4Kids, which does mentoring for foster children, with William, Anne and Rob. Anne says that when they met William, things just clicked. She and Rob both fell in love with William immediately. As for William, he had just one question: Did they have a dog?



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

When William moved in with the Havlovicks in June 2013, there definitely were rules, including things like: brushing teeth, no cell phones in the bedroom and being respectful of others. But more important to them than the rules, Anne and Rob wanted a household filled with unconditional love.



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

"Anne was meant to be a mother. Her passion for life and the enthusiasm she brings to everything she does keeps love and laughter to our house every day," said Rob.



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

Anne says that "while Rob has always been a kind and gentle person, parenting has brought out the best in him."



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

June 2014, William's adoption, attended by family and friends, was finalized.



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

Surrounded by the love of his two parents, today, William has just two wishes for his future: He would love to downhill ski in Colorado and he still really, really wants a dog.



# Reston Association Prepares For Winter

**Snow summit held to share information and ideas.**

BY RYAN DUNN  
THE CONNECTION

**R**epresentatives from Reston Association, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), and Fairfax County attended the first “Snow Summit” Thursday, Nov. 6 at 6:30 p.m. at Reston Association Headquarters, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive. The event was open to public and was held to prepare Reston Association members for the upcoming snow season. Last year Northern Virginia had an extended winter with 11 FCPS snow days. The winter weather and snow caused some confusion as Reston residents tried to clarify who has responsibility for clearing snow from sidewalks and pathways.

Goals of the meeting were to help educate the community about the shared responsibility for snow removal and create opportunities for grassroots collaboration and planning on a local level. Reston Association CEO Cate Fulkerson introduced the panel of guest speakers which included Acting Director of Facilities with Fairfax County Public Schools Brian Crawford and Fairfax County Director of Maintenance and Stormwater Management Division Bill Hicks. Representatives from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) did not attend the meeting,

**FULKERSON** said a goal of the meeting was to start dialogue or conversation about responsibilities for snow removal. Last winter, many school children had to walk on street roads because sidewalks to their schools had not been cleared. Maps were shown of the areas serviced by Reston Association (RA) and members of the panel explained which locations they could clear in the event of a snowfall.

Mike McNamara, acting deputy director for the Maintenance for the RA, explained his crew of snow cleaners service pathways and some parking lots. “When the snow hits two inches we go out,” said McNamara. While RA plows its 55 miles of paths, it does not shovel sidewalks unless they are on RA property. Acting Director of Facilities with FCPS Brian Crawford explained that FCPS custodians clean up snow at school locations. “We are trying to find new ways to help the schools,” said Crawford.

RA Senior Director of Parks Larry Butler explained how VDOT is responsible for maintaining the road systems. VDOT does not, however, shovel sidewalks. This leads to a gap of responsibility or open question as to who will shovel the sidewalks areas.

“It’s hard to imagine a cluster establishing any organized program, volunteer or contracted, for removing snow from areas outside their ownership without appropriate liability protection,” stated Reston resi-

**Reston Association Acting Deputy Director for Mike McNamara with Linda Thomas and Reston Association Director of Parks Larry Butler. The three Reston Association employees attended the Nov. 6 “Snow Summit” at Reston Association Headquarters.**

PHOTOS BY  
RYAN DUNN  
THE CONNECTION



**Emily McGrath, freshman at South Lakes High School and member of the Reston Association Pedestrian & Bicycling Advisory**

**Committee, attended the RA Nov. 6 “Snow Summit” meeting.**

dent Charlotte Marson. “It’s one thing for an individual to shovel a walk, but once that effort is part of a formal program under the aegis of the cluster it raises issues of expectations, standards, and responsibility... Many clusters contract only for snow removal from the street and parking lot. Shoveling sidewalks and access paths to mailboxes and fire hydrants is done by cluster residents. Contracting for snow removal on VDOT-owned sidewalks that run adjacent to cluster property is far beyond the resources of most clusters.”

**RESTON HAS** 134 cluster associations (townhome and patio home style neighborhoods), 30 condominium associations and 4,800 single family homes. There are also 17 apartment buildings in Reston, comprising more than 3,800 units. The clusters are supported by a locally-run, nonprofit homeowners association governed by neighbors themselves. “I would like to see if Reston would open dialogue on a facility for snow blowers,” said Reston resident and property owner Richard Badley. “I understand liabilities, but I guarantee you there are volunteers.” Badley said many Reston clusters lack locations to store machines for removing snow, and believes residents



**Acting Director of Facilities for Fairfax County Public Schools Brian Crawford speaks at the November Snow Summit held at Reston Association Headquarters.**

would respond to a challenge to help clear snow within their neighborhoods.

“I think the discussions highlighted the need for more education on the subject and exploration of some of the ideas that were voiced,” said Reston resident Richard Chew. “I was particularly interested in the expressed need for having workable plans in place before the first heavy snow, the need for greater coordination amongst the ‘silos’ at FCPS responsible for clearing snow, the need for centralized ‘command and control’

when the community needs to be engaged, and the challenges of communicating with the community.”

“The biggest takeaway was the prioritization, by school, of those sidewalks that would create the greatest benefit if they were shoveled,” said Kirsten Carr, director of communications & community engagement with the Reston Association. “We are certainly going to explore some of the other suggestions and look into the ever-present liability issue as well. I think meeting with the schools is next on the list.”

Although he was unable to attend the snow summit, Reston Lake Anne Elementary School Principal Brendan P. Menuey expressed confidence his school will make it through the winter fine and well-prepared.

“The main concern I have is the safety of children and their families, particularly as they move to and from school,” stated Menuey. “If all residents and property managers, schools included, do their part with this same goal, I am certain things will be smooth.”

“We were thrilled by the turnout from our members and were intrigued by several of the ideas generated by our members as they worked together to create solutions on how to manage the winter season,” stated RA CEO Cate Fulkerson. “Staff is going to go through the comments and questions received during the evening and work with our partners at Fairfax County Public Schools, Fairfax County and other community groups to come up with the next steps. In the interim, the workshop was recorded and it will be available for people to view online and submit even more comments. As we know, the best solutions will be those with buy-in from our members and neighbors so we look forward to including the community in our next steps.”



# The Real Jonathan Swift

Kentucky native strikes gold with nonfiction pirate tale.

BY REENA SINGH  
THE CONNECTION

**R**obert Prather has spent years trying to figure out the real Jonathan Swift - the man behind the legends of pirates, treasure and mystery.

After his most recent visit to Alexandria and Lake Fairfax - two areas that Swift called home during his time - he is piecing together the third edition of *The Strange Case of Jonathan Swift and the Real Long John Silver*.

"When you have 50 percent, 60 percent of the pieces, you know what the picture is going to look like," said Prather, a Kentucky native. "You don't have to find everything, but the more you find, the more interesting it becomes."

He likened his research in the area to his original love for treasure hunting. That was before he started researching about Swift.

"I was interested for a long time with treasure hunting as a hobby," said Prather. "Most of the time, it involved us going around old

houses and coinshooting. One of the things I became interested in during that time was about the legend of Swift and his mines."

He said that his friends in Kentucky all knew about the legends of Swift and he was surprised that the people he knew in Fairfax County did not know as much.

From his research, and finding out about the organization and planning it took to take gold from Northern Virginia to what now is West Virginia and Kentucky, he thinks that Swift's mines were part of the national treasury. "There was definitely a mining operation within a stone's throw away from where Prospector Pete's is," he said. "I'm thinking that Lake Fairfax could have been the quarry. So many of the original quarries were filled with water."

Not only did Swift own property, including a tavern, around Lake Fairfax, but he also owned the property now known as Mammoth Caves.

"I was blown away," he said. "I really was."

One of the most recent discoveries that will be included in Prather's third edition of the book is a story about Bill Gibson, a man who went treasure hunting in a cave on Hollow Mountain. According to Prather, Gibson found several Spanish coins there, which harks back to a Swift legend of seven coins buried in a cavern.

Lake Fairfax unveiled its water mine water park over the summer the same time it celebrated the inaugural Pirate Festival.

"We wanted to create a family-fun festival that celebrates the cultural history of Fairfax County," said county Park Authority education and outreach manager Tammy Schwab.

Prather was invited to sign books at the event and the festival was held on the land of a man who was considered a legendary pirate for years.

"I thought it was great," Prather said. "There is truth in the legend. So why not the treasure story."

Robert Louis Stevenson actor and scholar Keith Decker praised

**Robert Prather out on Old Town Alexandria's waterfront. He is uncovering Swift's tracks around Lake Fairfax.**



PHOTOS BY REENA SINGH/THE CONNECTION

**Robert Prather and wife Karen out on Old Town Alexandria's waterfront. He is uncovering Swift's tracks around Lake Fairfax.**

the book, stating "An intriguing narrative, fully researched and illustrated, setting in motion a provocative tale of lost treasure and encoded clues contained in Robert Louis Stevenson's epic tale. Robert Prather has shed new light

on Treasure Island and will be the topic of much debate."

For more information about *The Strange Case of Jonathan Swift and the Real Long John Silver*, visit <http://www.acclaimpress.com/stcaseand3product=146&catid=4>

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## NEWS



### Del. Plum Visits Aldrin Elementary

Virginia Del. Kenneth Plum (D-36) engages Aldrin students in discussions about Virginia government as part of National Take Your Legislator to Work Day.

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## WEEK IN RESTON

### Reston Hospital Center Earns Top Performer Recognition

Reston Hospital Center has been recognized as a 2013 Top Performer on Key Quality Measures by The Joint Commission, the leading accreditor of healthcare organizations in the United States. Reston Hospital was recognized as part of The Joint Commission's 2014 annual report "America's Hospitals: Improving Quality and Safety," for attaining and sustaining excellence in accountability measure performance for heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia and surgical care. Reston Hospital is one of 1,224 hospitals in the United States to achieve the 2013 Top Performer distinction. The Top Performer program recognizes hospitals for improving performance on evidence-based interventions that increase the chances of healthy outcomes for patients with certain conditions, including heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, surgical care, children's asthma, stroke, venous thromboembolism and perinatal care, as well as for inpatient psychiatric services and immunizations. This is the third year Reston Hospital Center has been recognized as a Top Performer and is one of only 314 hospitals to achieve the Top Performer distinction for the past three consecutive years.

For more information about Reston Hospital Center visit [restonhospital.com](http://restonhospital.com).

### Public Hearing Requested on Reston Golf Course

Supervisor Catherine M. Hudgins announces that RN Golf Management, LLC, also identified as Reston National Golf Course, has reactivated their appeal (A 2012-HM-020) and are requesting that a public hearing date before the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) be scheduled.

The appeal is of a determination made by the Fairfax County Zoning Administrator that any redevelopment of the property located at 11875 Sunrise Valley Drive and 2018 Soapstone Drive, Reston, Tax Map reference: 17-4 ((11)) 4A, 26-2 ((2)) 8 and 26-2 ((5)) 4, for uses other

SEE WEEK, PAGE 7

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# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The **Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna** has an urgent need for volunteer drivers to take area seniors to medical appointments and other activities. Opportunities to volunteer for other services are also available. No long-term commitment and hours are flexible to fit your schedule. We hope you can help. Visit our website at [www.scov.org](http://www.scov.org) or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 703-281-5086 or email [volunteer@scov.org](mailto:volunteer@scov.org).

The **Kingstowne Center for Active Adults** in Alexandria needs a Van Driver to take participants on outings and an ESL Teacher. For these and other volunteer op-

portunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsand](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsand) click on Volunteer Solutions.

**Meals on Wheels** needs drivers in Chantilly, Clifton, McLean and Falls Church on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Substitute drivers needed throughout the county. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Wakefield Senior Center** in Annandale needs a Chair Exercise Instructor, Spanish-speaking interpreters, an Experienced Canasta Player to teach par-

ticipants, and certified instructors for classes in Ballroom Dance and Pilates. Volunteer instructor positions could lead to part-time employment.

For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsand](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsand) click on Volunteer Solutions.

**Fairfax County** needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs; urgent need in Reston area. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsand](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsand) click on Volunteer Solutions.

## WEEK IN RESTON

FROM PAGE 6

than a golf course or open space would require an amendment to the Reston Master Plan, which is part of the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan, approval of a Development Plan Amendment and approval of a PRC plan from the Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Hudgins continues to support the Fairfax County Zoning Administrator's determination. Under Virginia Code all appeals regarding Zoning Administrator interpretations are conducted by the BZA. The public hearing date has not been assigned and will be announced when scheduled.

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# OPINION

## Why Shop Small? Shop Large Locally

**Small business Saturday isn't enough; don't wait until then, and don't stop after that.**

There is a joy to shopping in local stores at the holidays, to participating in community traditions and celebrations, to walking along a sidewalk with the streets decked out for the holidays, to being greeted by someone likely to be the owner of the store, to finding gifts that are not mass-produced.

One way to be sure holiday shopping comes with some holiday spirit is to do a portion of your shopping in some of the area's locally owned stores. There is special holiday ambiance available by shopping in the heart of a town that is decked out for the season. Small retail shops are part of defining any community. Their livelihood depends on the livability and quality of the neighborhoods around them. A small business owner pays attention to every detail in his or her business in a way that is otherwise unmatched.

### EDITORIAL

We all benefit when local stores thrive, when local business districts beckon. An effort to support locally owned businesses has resulted in the recognition of Small Business Saturday, the Saturday after Thanksgiving, also called Shop Small. This year that day is Nov. 29.

Locally owned retail shops, services, restaurants depend on vibrant local communities to thrive, and communities depend on those businesses as well. Most small, locally owned busi-

### Celebrate Locally

**Reston Holiday Parade.** Friday, Nov. 28, 11 a.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Come for a full day of community, charity and cheer including the Gingerbread Man Mile & Tot Trot, Santa, tree lighting, sing along and horse-drawn carriage rides.

**The Thanksgiving Story.** Friday, Nov. 28, 11 a.m. Frying Pan Farm Park, 2309 West Ox Road, Herndon. Bring the family and holiday guests to this lively and interactive retelling of the Thanksgiving Story. After the show, stroll the park and visit our animals or take a ride on our carousel or wagon rides. Admission: \$5 per person.

**Shop Small,** Saturday, Nov. 29, Small Business Saturday

**Meadowlark's Winter Walk of Lights.** Now through Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015, 5:30 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Garden, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. A winter wonderland, including a flowing stream of softly glowing lights, a two-story animated fountain and a Gingerbread Village. Admission: \$13 adults, \$8 children ages 3-12; children under 3 are free. <http://winterwalkoflights.com/>

**Herndon Towne Square Singers.** Friday, Dec. 5, 7:30-9 p.m. Herndon Community Center, 814

nesses invest in community, helping to transform our towns and communities with a sense of place.

Frequently, it is the small retail person who is active in fundraising for local charities, advocating for improvements, for fire and rescue service, for local schools and in organizing holiday events.

Local retail stores, mom-and-pop stores, face tough challenges right now. Competition from big box stores and online sellers makes the holiday shopping season all the more important to locally owned retailers. But local families will literally spend millions of dollars to shop and exchange gifts during the next month, spending tens of millions of dollars in a variety of places.

Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Annual holiday concert with cider, cookies and sing-along carols. \$12. 703-435-6800.

**2014 Annual Reston Holiday Book Sale.** Friday, Dec. 5, 7:30-9 p.m. 10 a.m. - 5p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Center, Reston. Books, gifts, and surprises to delight readers of all ages.

**Reston Jingle on Lake Anne.** Saturday, Dec. 6, 11 a.m. Lake Anne Plaza, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Community organizers and plaza retailers will host a variety of festive activities ranging from a special visit from Santa (arriving on a lake barge), strolling carolers, a petting zoo, music, wine tastings, merchant specials, children's crafts, cookie and ornament decorating, holiday arts and crafts market, holiday entertainment and more.

**Herndon Towne Square Singers.** Saturday, Dec. 6, 7:30-9 p.m. Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Annual holiday concert with cider, cookies and sing-along carols. \$12. 703-435-6800.

**Herndon Holiday Homes Tour.** Saturday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Tour five different homes that are decorated for the holidays. \$15-\$20. <http://www.herndon-va.gov/>

Everyone will do some of their shopping at the mall. Everyone will do some shopping online. Many will answer the call of the big box. But local shoppers should be sure to save some shopping time and dollars for local stores. Spend some time shopping in your own community, and also plan an excursion to a nearby town to check out the local businesses and holiday spirit there.

The Connection is participating in Shop Small 2014, email [sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com) to find out more.

— MARY KIMM

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

### COMMENTARY

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

The Virginia General Assembly adjourned its regular session in early March this year and immediately went into special session that while still continuing has become the longest special session ever. The special session was needed to complete work on the biennial budget and to fill judicial vacancies. While technically in special session, we actually only meet as an assembled body a few days every couple of months. We passed a budget but have had to revise it because of declining state revenue. We considered expansion of Medicaid services in what some termed a "sham" session as the majority party had indicated its no-compromise opposition to closing the coverage gap. We filled a number of judicial positions although the drawn-out political process of selecting

## Protracted Legislative Session

judges has made the flaws of the current method painfully apparent. Since the legislature is in session, albeit a special session, the Governor is prevented from making judicial appointments. As at the federal level, there is gridlock as Republicans fight among themselves as to who should be appointed to the bench.

The necessity of revising a budget soon after its passage reflects what a report from *Stateline* terms "volatility" in income tax revenue that is disproportionately affected by economic booms and busts. The problem that Virginia and other states are having is trying to predict revenues with stock market fluctuations and other cyclical events that are having a larger impact on incomes especially for the wealthy causing income taxes and capital gains taxes to vary widely from

year to year. A report from Standard and Poor's Rating Services found that overall revenues in the top most income-tax-dependent states like Virginia have grown only 5.25 percent since 2009 compared to 9.32 percent in 1980-1989 and 5.7 percent in 1990-1999.

Virginia's effort to balance its budget is made more difficult by what the Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis terms "willful ignorance" to recognize the positive impact expanding Medicaid would have on the state's budget. At a recent State-wide Policy Summit I attended that the Institute sponsored, a report "RX for an Ailing Virginia: Budget Savings in Expansion States Can Happen in Virginia" was released. The report contends that 27 states and Washington, D.C. have freed up precious resources for critical needs

like education by closing their health coverage gaps and saving money on medical care and that savings in Virginia could amount to \$161 million. While proponents of Medicaid expansion have contended that the program would save states money, the evidence is now available from its first year of implementation—Kentucky has saved \$80 million, Arkansas \$89 million and Michigan \$100 million. Virginia would save money by using federal money to replace state-funded healthcare programs.

Virginia taxpayers are the losers for the state not recognizing and dealing with its systemic budget challenges and for its bull-headedness in not expanding its Medicaid program. Responsible leadership on the part of legislators, not a protracted year-long legislative session, is needed for the Commonwealth.

## Reston CONNECTION

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## Summer Work to Support Reston Shelter

Adit and Atin Kolli, sixth graders at Forest Edge Elementary School in Reston, ran a lemonade stand last summer at the local farmers market on Saturdays. They were selling lemonade and orangeade at \$1.50 and are donating 100 percent of the money earned to Embury Rucker Shelter in Reston. "We feel very happy and proud to be able to spend our time for doing this for our community. We would like to thank Ms. Eve Thompson for letting us do this at Reston Farmers Market," Adit and Atin wrote.



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# Ready for Winter Skating Fun in Reston Town Center

By ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

Meteorologists around our region have been gleefully talking about the earlier-than-normal return of Polar Vortex-like weather for weeks, but the forecast for the Reston Town Center Ice Skating Pavilion this past weekend was appropriately chilly, with brilliant blue skies overhead, holiday decorations all around, and buckets of fun on the ice.

The 2014-2015 winter skating season in the outdoor rink is underway, to the delight of skaters of all ages and all levels of proficiency, from near and far. From November until March, the Pavilion management offers a variety of skating options and atmospheres. Saturday mornings are a great time to bring the young ones (and the young-at-heart) to the Pavilion, when cartoon characters share the ice from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. If you're looking to combine your gliding with some up-tempo music and a few dance moves, then the Friday night "Rock n Skates" might be your time on the ice. Thursdays are College Nights, when students with I.D. save \$2 from 6 - 9 p.m.

There's also plenty of ways to learn or improve on your skating abilities. The Ice Skating School at the RTC Ice Skating Pavilion offers lessons for skaters from 2 and half years old and up following the U.S.



Round and round and round we go! Skaters enjoying winter fun at the Reston Town Center Ice Skating Pavilion.



Ferdinand Guevarra of Herndon introduces daughter Madeleine, 2, to the joys of ice skating. The youngster never wanted off the ice, but kindly allowed Dad to occasionally give her brother, Gabriel, 4, a turn...and Dad a chance to straighten up!

Figure Skating's Basic Skills Curriculum, with specialty classes for pre-schoolers, Advancing Skaters, and Adults. New for this season,

or use the website to be matched with an instructor.

The Pavilion is also available for birthday, group and private rent-

als and fundraising opportunities. This year's annual celebration of outdoor skating will take place on Saturday, Nov. 22, from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Free and open to the public, "Elements at the Center – Skating with Style," will feature performances by local figure skaters and skating teams, as well as an on-ice fashion show highlighting local retailer Athleta's winter activewear. The rink will re-open for public skating at 12:45 p.m.

With so many options and so much to do, surrounded by the offerings of "urburb" Reston Town Center, there's no excuse not to come down and join in the fun – even if that just means watching the action from the sidelines with a cup of hot chocolate in hand. Check out [www.restontowncenter.com](http://www.restontowncenter.com) for all the pertinent information. The Pavilion Office and skate shop are located at 1818 Discovery Street, Reston.

Through their website at [www.rtcleanmtoskate.com](http://www.rtcleanmtoskate.com), skaters seeking individualized instruction can contact a teacher directly, or use the website to be matched with an instructor.

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From left — Rylee McKeon, James Drasbeck and Caroline Drasbeck from Great Falls, decided that literally sticking together was the best way for everyone to stay upright on the ice. Their theory seemed to work.



"I think I'm ready for the Disney Ice Show," said Max Sabio, 8, of McLean after his first time on the rink. His dad, Fernando, looked less convinced, but nonetheless encouraging. Pictured, from left, with brother Jack, 10, and sister Lila, 5, Max thinks that Scrooge McDuck would be the right choice of character for him. Lila voted for a dolphin while Jack went with that old standby, Mickey Mouse.

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT AND GIFT GUIDE

# The Soap Engineers Are a Hit at Lake Anne

Business combines science with a love for pampering.

By REENA SINGH  
THE CONNECTION

All of Janette Lew's and Brooke Goad's best ideas start with wine. The two created The Soap Engineers, a local company that features high quality bath and body products, after the two chatted over happy hour about their mutual love for making handmade bath salts and fizzies.

"Brooke and I are engineers by day and soap makers by night," said Lew, Fairfax.

The company has not even turned a year old yet and the products are still being created in their homes - in Reston and Fairfax - but the two have already created an extensive line of moisturizing soaps, body scrubs, bath truffles, shaving soap and aromatherapy essential oils.



Jeanette Lew and Brooke Goad with their lavender and rose scented soaps. The two are co-owners of The Soap Engineers.

Their first market was at Bethel United Methodist in Woodbridge, but their products are found frequently at their Lake Anne Farmers Market booth on Sundays. They also recently signed on to have their products sold at Lake Anne Florist and The Crow's Nest in Oakland, Md.

"I never thought I would sell any of the stuff I made," said Brooke, Reston. "It's a great way to get to-

gether with friends and have a good time."

Brooke's husband, Andrew, has been a part of the business as well since the beginning. He helps to order material, transport their goods and get the word out about the business. Brooke joked that he also loved to test out the products.

"I think what we hope to do is provide an experience," he said. "We hope to connect with our customers." Although the business has not been through a winter holiday season, they are currently gearing up based on their Mother's Day sales in May. Since each loaf of soap - before cut into bars - takes about a month to cure, creating their most popular products take advance planning. In Lew's home in Fairfax last week, Brooke made two loaves of Tropical Retreat, a spa-like calming blue soap packed with moisturizing oils and sprinkled with a little glitter pigment on top to make the soap resemble ocean waves.

Meanwhile, Lew made a batch of Green Tea and White Pear sugar scrub in a similar calming blue hue. Also in the range of scrub scents are Sweet Poppy, Coffee Cake and



Potter's Fire Chief Potter Mike Faul holds one of the dinnerware platters that are special to this holiday season.

Lord of Lords," he said.

Clay Boss Olivia Di Besigno was placing some of those Christmas sets in the kiln on Thursday, Nov. 13.

"Right now, we're just trying to get stuff ready for the show this weekend," she said.

Also new to the season are clay luminaries, vase shaped vessels with holes in it that can be stuffed with Christmas lights or filled with a pillar candle. The light shines through, creating patterns on the wall.

"We're also doing a Christmas set that will be all hand engraved with words like 'believe' and 'rejoice,' and a smaller set with all the titles of Jesus Christ like King of Kings,

In addition to the holiday items currently being created, the studio will be converted into a holiday workshop on Dec. 19, 20, 22 and 23.

"We're going to have carolers out front and snacks for the kids," he said.

There will be two kiln unloadings on the 20th, and the last day to buy in store until Jan. 5 is the 23rd.

"The whole day is going to become pure retail," he said.

In addition to the new, special holiday items, the potters are busy making plates, large serving bowls, and what Faul calls "baby me and make me feel better" mugs. He said many people seem to buy them

Spice and Citrus Heaven. The scrub acts as both an exfoliant and moisturizer. By the time it is washed off, hands are both smooth and soft.

"I use our sugar scrubs all the time in the shower," said Brooke.

She said that the manliest of men have tried it with rave reviews - to everyone's surprised.

"Most people who have tried it end up buying it," said Andrew.

Like the handmade bath and body store Lush, they sell their own bath bombs, but theirs comes with a ball of moisturizers inside. For those familiar with Lush, Lew and Brooke describe it as a combination of the bath bomb - which fizzes in the bath - and a bath melt - which moisturizes the skin.

"You can even cut it in half if you have a normal sized tub," said Brooke. Custom baskets are also available for request.

More information about their products and the company can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/TheSoapEngineers>.

Those who want to buy the products online can go to <https://www.etsy.com/shop/TheSoapEngineers>.

when they are sick and that they are a perfect vessel for those who like large cups of tea.

Hand builder Kacey Boyce was finishing a batch of tankards with Marta Campbell. She has been working with the shop since the summer.

"It took me a really long time to finish my fine arts degree, and I just graduated in May," she said. "I was able to get an art job right out of art school."

Only 10 to 15 percent of all sales come from walk-ins. Most of the shop's sales are generated via social media and the online shop.

"We shipped to guys out in Afghanistan," Faul said. "We shipped out to California, to Portland."

He said they have shipped their goods out to Seattle as recently as this month.

Regular shipping online for the holidays can be done up to Dec. 17 and expedited shipping can be ordered as late as the Dec. 24.

Studio hours are Tuesday to Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

More information can be found on their website <http://www.pottersfire.com> or their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pottersfire>.

PHOTO BY REENA SINGH/THE CONNECTION

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## CALENDAR

Send announcements to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com). The deadline is the Friday prior to the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

### THROUGH SUNDAY/NOV. 30

**Colorful Life.** 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Hunters Woods Exhibit, 2310 Colts Neck Rd, Reston. Acrylic Paintings on Canvas by Suping Ji. 703-476-4500.

**Flight of the Month at the Tasting Room Wine Bar & Shop.** Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Harvest to Hearth – taste four wines that pair perfectly with Thanksgiving dinner. Receive a bottle/case discount. \$12/flight. 703-435-3553  
[www.thetastingroomwinebar.com](http://www.thetastingroomwinebar.com).

**Ladies' Month at Midtown Jewelers.** Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Come in and receive your gift bag with a pearl bracelet, jewelry cleaner, and gift certificates (\$100 value). All we ask that you take your time and choose at least two items from our showcases to add to your wish list. 703-707-9663.  
[www.midtownjewelers.com](http://www.midtownjewelers.com).

**Rumors of Another World.** JoAnne Rose Gallery, Lake Anne Plaza, Reston. An exhibit of poured, not painted, works by Cape Breton Is. artist Celeste Friesen. Free flowing paint and mixed media create unusual abstract patterns and colors in these paintings.  
[artworksbyceleste.com](http://artworksbyceleste.com)

### THROUGH MONDAY/DEC. 1

**A Cape Breton Discovery.** 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Jo Ann Rose Gallery, 1609 Washington Plaza N, Reston. Celeste Friesen-Nikkel exhibits her award-winning acrylic and mixed media work in this November exhibit. 703-476-4500.

**Chilly Chewbacca, Snow Stormtroopers, and Frozen Fett.** Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Celebrate the coming of winter with the art of Star Wars! These new originals and limited editions are perfect holiday gifts. 703-478-0778.  
[www.artinsights.com](http://www.artinsights.com).

### THROUGH SATURDAY/JAN. 3, 2015

**LineWorks: Drawing Redefined Exhibit at GRACE.** 6 - 8 p.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Thematic multi-media works by five artists, Lee Gainer, Sarah Irvin, Nikki Painter, Foon Sham, and Sarah Weinstock. 703-471-9242. [www.restonarts.org](http://www.restonarts.org).

### THURSDAY/NOV. 20

**Toddler Storytime.** 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925



**The Travelers** features Norman Wright and Kevin Church, two legendary bluegrass musicians, who have played with many of the top bluegrass bands over the past couple of decades. They are a true traditional bluegrass band with stellar vocal harmony and stunning work on wood and strings. See them play Nov. 22 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Herndon.

Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join us for stories, songs and finger-plays. Age 2 with adult.

**Kids' Graphic Novel Book Club.** 4 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join us for discussions of the best in graphic novels. This month's title is "The Discovery of America" by Geronimo Stilton. Books are available for checkout at the Children's desk. Ages 8-10.

**From Sputnik to the Silver Line: High Technology in the Dulles Corridor.** 7-9 p.m. Jo Ann Rose Gallery, Reston Community Center at Lake Anne. A fascinating look at the development of the high-tech corridor from Tysons to Dulles Airport. Learn how this area became a leader in defense contracting, computer innovation, and telecommunications.

### FRIDAY/NOV. 21

**Great Decisions Series.** 2 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. A roundtable discussion about the U.S. foreign policy process. November's topic is U.S. Trade Policy. Discussion materials will be available two weeks before the event.

### SATURDAY/NOV. 22

**The Travelers.** 7:30 p.m. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. The Travelers

features Norman Wright and Kevin Church, two legendary bluegrass musicians, who have played with many of the top bluegrass bands over the past couple of decades. They are a true traditional bluegrass band with stellar vocal harmony and stunning work on wood and strings. Admission: \$15.

**"Factory Man."** 11 a.m. Belfort Furniture, 22250 Shaw Road, Building 3, Dulles. John Bassett, chairman of Vaughan Bassett Furniture and his son, Wyatt Bassett, CEO will discuss the book, "Factory Man" and their battle to fight offshoring to save manufacturing jobs in their small town of Galax, Virginia.

### MONDAY/NOV. 24

**Terrific Twos.** 11 a.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center Street, Herndon. Reading and singing about sharing and caring with family and friends. Age 2 with adult.

### MONDAY/NOV. 26

**Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service.** 7:30 p.m. United Christian Parish, 11508 North Shore Drive, Reston. Participants will include leaders of ADAMS (All Dulles Area Muslim Society), the Shoreshim Community, St. John Neumann Catholic Church and the United Christian Parish. State Senator Janet Howell, Virginia

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13



**The Bargain Loft**

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# CALENDAR

Delegates Ken Plott, and Fairfax County Supervisor Cathy Hudgins will also take part. The United Christian Parish is an ecumenical church uniting four denominations: United Methodist, Presbyterian Church (USA), United Church of Christ, and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).  
www.unitedchristianparish.org.

## SATURDAY/NOV. 29

**Cooking Class at Il Fornaio.** 12 p.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Includes lunch with wine and recipes. \$45. Tax and gratuity not included. Reservations at [banquets.reston@ilfo.com](mailto:banquets.reston@ilfo.com). 703-437-5544.

**Jimmy Gaudreau & Orrin Star.** 7:30 p.m. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. Orrin is an award winning guitar flat picker and Jimmy is a master of the mandolin as well as having been a member of the Country Gentlemen and Chesapeake, just to name drop. Admission: \$15.

## SUNDAY/NOV. 30

**Mini-Train Rides.** 12 - 4 p.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Departures in front of Talbots on Market Street. Donated proceeds benefit local charities. [www.restontowncenter.com/holidays](http://www.restontowncenter.com/holidays).

**Wine Dinner at Il Fornaio.** 5:30 p.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Five-course Italian feast paired with wine. \$65. Tax and gratuity not included. Reservations at [banquets.reston@ilfo.com](mailto:banquets.reston@ilfo.com). 703-437-5544.

## MONDAY/DEC. 1-WEDNESDAY/DEC. 31

**La Lumiere DuBois.** 9 a.m.-9 p.m.



**Visit the exhibit, "Rumors of Another World," by artist Celeste Friesen at the JoAnne Rose Gallery, Lake Anne Plaza, Reston. Free flowing paint and mixed media create unusual abstract patterns and colors in these paintings. On display until Nov. 30.**

Hunters Woods Exhibit, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. An exhibit of the colorful nature photographs of award-winning artist, Michael DuBois. 703-476-4500.

Center, Reston. Books, gifts, and surprises to delight readers of all ages— children and teens included. A special bonus— you're helping support the library too.

## MONDAY/DEC. 1-MONDAY/JAN. 5

**Annual "Gifts from the HeART" to Benefit Reston Interfaith.** 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Jo Ann Rose Gallery, 1609 Washington Plaza N, Reston. Sales of original works of art in many mediums will benefit Cornerstones. 703-476-4500.

## THURSDAY/DEC. 4

**2014 Annual Holiday Book Sale.** 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne

## FRIDAY/DEC. 5

**Towne Square Singers.** 7:30-9 p.m. Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Annual holiday concert with cider, cookies and sing-along carols. \$12. 703-435-6800.

**2014 Annual Holiday Book Sale.** 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Center, Reston. Books, gifts, and

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15

## NOTEWORTHY NOVEMBER EVENTS

*Special family-friendly events going on this month that will put you in the holiday spirit.*

## THURSDAY/NOV. 20

**"The Nutcracker."** 1 p.m. Classical Ballet Theatre, 320 Victory Drive, Herndon. A great opportunity to expose young children to the performing arts with this classic show.

## FRIDAY/NOV. 21

**Thanksgiving Centerpieces.** 7-8:30 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Make a beautiful centerpiece with native plant materials and some simple napkin rings for your Thanksgiving table. Enjoy music, mulled cider and seasonal treats as we work. All supplies provided. When making reservations, include the number of people and how many centerpieces you wish to make. Reservations required by Nov.18. Fee: \$20/centerpiece RA members \$25/centerpiece Non-members. For more information, email [naturecenter@reston.org](mailto:naturecenter@reston.org), or call 703-476-9689 and press 5.

## SATURDAY/NOV. 22

**Turkey Trot 5K.** 1:30 p.m. Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. The race will begin at 4 p.m. but registration begins at 1:30 p.m. Online registration is recommended. \$20-\$25. [herndon-va.gov](http://herndon-va.gov).

## FRIDAY/NOV. 28

**Reston Holiday Parade.** 11 a.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Come for a full day of community, charity and cheer including the Gingerbread Man Mile & Tot Trot, visits and photos with Santa, tree lighting, sing along and horse-drawn carriage rides.

**The Thanksgiving Story.** 11 a.m. Frying Pan Farm Park, 2309 West Ox Road, Herndon. Bring the family and holiday guests to this lively and interactive retelling of the Thanksgiving Story. Gleeman's Sue Courmoyer entertains and informs while engaging everyone.

After the show, stroll the park and visit our animals or take a ride on our carousel or wagon rides. Admission: \$5 per person.

**Gingerbread Man Mile (for kids!).** 8 a.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Run Run as fast as you can and CATCH the Gingerbread man! Free registration, but donations benefit Neediest Kids. Registration and information at [www.prraces.com/gingerbread/](http://www.prraces.com/gingerbread/).

## SATURDAY/NOV. 29

**Turkey Trail.** 11 a.m. - Noon. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Sharpen your skills of logic as you follow the clues left from a "wild" turkey to see where they lead you.

Discover more about these fascinating birds. All ages. Reservations required by Nov. 24. Fee: \$5/person RA members · \$7/person Non-members. For more information, email [naturecenter@reston.org](mailto:naturecenter@reston.org), or call 703-476-9689 and press 5.

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**Annual Ecumenical-Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Eve Service**

**November 26, 2014, at 7:30 pm**  
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**10:25 a.m.** Sunday School Grades 3 to 6  
 Music 4 years to 2nd grade  
**11:15 a.m.** Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
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Tara Nappi and Josh Gwilliam of Commonwealth Academy in Alexandria, share information with parents at The Exceptional Schools Fair.



PHOTOS BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

## An Exceptional Education

**Exceptional Schools Fair offers parents a chance to learn more about schools for their children with special needs.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
 THE CONNECTION

Maureen Kleinman wandered from booth to booth, speaking with representatives from schools that cater to students who have special needs. She asked questions about each school's resources and environment.

"I have been home schooling my daughter for 5 years," said Kleinman, an Arlington mother. Her daughter is 11 years old and her son is 9. "I want to find a school where my daughter's educational needs will be met, but also where her social and emotional needs will be met."

Kleinman was one of hundreds of local parents who attended the eighth annual Exceptional Schools Fair. The event is considered a clearinghouse for the region, a place where parents of children think and learn differently (regardless of their disability) can come and find the schools that are right for their children.

More than 30 schools from the mid-Atlantic region sent representatives to show what their schools have to offer and answer questions from parents. The event was held at American University in D.C., November 16.

The fair was founded by Bekah Atkinson, director of admissions at the Sienna School, to provide a resource for parents whose lives literally changed overnight, or the moment they learned their children have a special need. The fair is a forum for parents to explore educational options for their children. Atkinson is clear, however, that it is not a forum for diagnosis or advice, but simply a helpful resource for parents



**Murriel Jeddlicka (left), admissions director of Oakwood School in Annandale, was on hand at The Exceptional Schools Fair to share information with parents.**

who are facing an unknown future for their children, educationally, financially and emotionally.

"We have families coming from all over," said Tara Nappi, director of teacher education and curriculum development at Commonwealth Academy in Alexandria. "They are looking for a place where their children feel safe."

**"We have families coming from all over. They are looking for a place where their children feel safe."**

**— Tara Nappi, Commonwealth Academy in Alexandria**

**EVENT ORGANIZERS** described the fair as an empowering day for parents who may feel isolated by their child's diagnosis.

"The Exceptional Schools Fair is a moment for families to see and learn that they have options; that they are not, in fact, isolated; that there are professional educators who are passionate about what

they do in their school," said Atkinson.

"Whether [the need] is academic or social, it's so incredibly important that you work with professionals who understand your child and who are willing to collaborate with other professionals like speech therapists, occupational therapists and psychologists," said Lois McCabe, head of school for the Diener School in Potomac, Md.

For more information on schools that were part of The Exceptional Schools Fair, visit [www.exceptionalschoolsfair.com](http://www.exceptionalschoolsfair.com).



# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 13  
surprises to delight readers of all ages—  
children and  
teens included. A special bonus— you're  
helping support the library too.

## SATURDAY/DEC. 6

**Jingle on Lake Anne.** 11 a.m. Lake Anne Plaza, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Community organizers and plaza retailers will host a variety of festive activities ranging from the ever popular special visit from Santa (arriving on a lake barge), strolling carolers, a petting zoo, music, wine tastings, merchant specials, children's crafts, cookie and ornament decorating, holiday arts and crafts market, holiday entertainment and much more.

**Towne Square Singers.** 7:30-9 p.m. Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Annual holiday concert with cider, cookies and sing-along carols. \$12. 703-435-6800.

**Holiday Homes Tour.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Tour five different homes that are decorated for the holidays. \$15-\$20. <http://www.herndon-va.gov/>

**2014 Annual Holiday Book Sale.** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Center, Reston. Books, gifts, and surprises to delight readers of all ages— children and teens included. A special bonus— you're helping support the library too.

**Scholastic Book Fair and Bazaar.** 10 a.m. -3 p.m. Oakbrook Church, 1700 Reston Parkway, Reston. Community Montessori School at Oakbrook Church is having a Scholastic book fair and bazaar on. Included is a children's holiday shop. They will also be collecting for "Toys for Tots."

**Winter Wreaths.** 10:30 a.m. or 1 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. All ages. Get started on your holiday decorating by making festive wreaths for your home. Listen to seasonal music and enjoy mulled cider and cookies. All supplies provided. When making reservations, please include the number of people in your party and how many wreaths you would like to make. Reservations required by Dec. 3. Fee: \$20/wreath RA members, \$25/wreath Non-members. For more information, email [naturecenter@reston.org](mailto:naturecenter@reston.org), or call 703-476-9689 and press 5.


## SUNDAY/DEC. 7

**Towne Square Singers.** 2-3:30 p.m. Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Annual holiday concert with cider, cookies and sing-along carols. \$12. 703-435-6800.

**2014 Annual Holiday Book Sale.** 1 - 4 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Center, Reston. Books, gifts, and surprises to delight readers of all ages— children and teens included. A special bonus— you're helping support the library too.

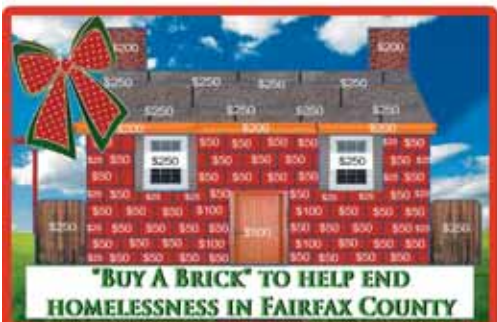
## MONDAY/DEC. 8

**NARFE Dulles Chapter 1241 Holiday Party.** 1-4 p.m. Amphora Diner, 1151 Elden Street, Herndon. Come to the NARFE Dulles Chapter 1241 holiday celebration to enjoy London broil, Salmon, or chicken Marsala. The cost is \$25 per person. Dick Gangerelli, President of Virginia Federation of Chapters, NARFE, will install New Officers. Please bring non-perishable food items for the food pantry in Herndon; and a wrapped gift, for the door prize, if you want, with no more than a \$10 value. There will be drawings for door prizes. Please call in your reservation by Dec. 4, to Louise Rooney 703-435-3523



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# Q&A: Herndon's Taylor Stone Signs with Louisville

**Senior named  
6A North region  
field hockey Player  
of the Year.**

**T**aylor Stone is a life-long fan of the Louisville Cardinals. Last week, she took the next step in becoming a student-athlete at the university, as well.

Stone, a senior at Herndon High School, signed a letter of intent to play field hockey for the University of Louisville, where she will join a program that produced a 15-6 record during the 2014 season.

Stone helped lead the Herndon field hockey program to its best season in more than three decades. The Hornets finished 19-3 and won the Conference 5 championship, beating defending state champion Westfield 3-2 in the tournament final. It was Herndon's first conference/district title since 1979. The Hornets fell one win shy of states, losing to Fairfax in the region semi-finals for the second consecutive season.

Stone finished with 23 goals and 20 assists in 2014. For her efforts, she was named 6A North region Player of the Year.

Stone recently participated in a Q&A with The Connection.

**❖Connection: What made Louisville the right choice for you?**

Stone: My Dad grew up in Louisville and my Grandparents are still there. We have always been Cards fans. I always knew that I wanted a big sports school. I wanted a school that was competitive, and with Louisville now in the ACC it shows how badly they want to compete. But I was most impressed with the commitment that Louisville has to women's sports. Field hockey has its own stadium and gets treated as well as any other sport. Every sport is important at Louisville and I felt that commitment.

**❖Connection: When did you realize you wanted to be a Cardinal?**

Stone: (see picture) The final decision was difficult as I was looking at a couple of other great schools. I had a brief moment on a plane ride back from my last recruiting trip my junior year, where I put everything into perspective and realized that Louisville was the only place I could see myself. I have always been a Cardinal fan and I really felt a connection with the coaching staff.

**❖Connection: You were named 6A North Region Player of the Year. What does that honor mean to you?**

Stone: It is a great honor, but to me it is a team honor. Our team accomplished things that no other field hockey team has at Herndon High School and, really, only the boys' basketball team has in the last few years. I am sure that this award is due to how well our team did. There were great performances on our team and our defense



**Taylor Stone has long been a fan of the Louisville Cardinals.**

**Herndon senior Taylor Stone on Nov. 12 signed a letter of intent to play field hockey at the University of Louisville. Also pictured, from left, are Stone's sister, Sammy, her mother, Carolyn, and her father, Billy, via Gmail video chat from his office in New York.**

PHOTOS  
CONTRIBUTED

was a key to our success. It means a lot to me that I was selected in this pool of great players.

**❖Connection: At what age did you start playing field hockey?**

Stone: Fourth grade, 9 years old.

**❖Connection: When did you realize playing Division I field hockey was an option for you?**

Stone: The summer before my freshman year I made the National Futures Tournament, which is the first step in the USA Field Hockey pipeline. I was 14 years old and college coaches came to watch a tournament.

**❖Connection: What is your favorite memory from playing field hockey at Herndon?**

Stone: No question, the feeling when the clock ran out and we had finally beaten Westfield for the Concorde Conference championship. Hugging all of my teammates, especially the seniors. Herndon won five games the year before we got to school and had not won a conference game in years and there we were in our senior year as champions. None of us will ever forget beating great Chantilly and Westfield teams on back-to-back nights.

**❖Connection: What are you most looking forward to about going to college?**

Stone: I think I can get better and I know that Louisville will have every resource to help me be the best player I can be. Louisville has a very good program and I am looking forward to joining such a great family.

**❖Connection: Who is your favorite music artist? Why?**

Stone: Rascal Flatts; I've always loved their music, and their songs never get old.

**❖Connection: What is your favorite movie? Why?**

Stone: 'Miracle;' I love inspiring stories and sports movies, so 'Miracle' fit the book perfectly.

**❖Connection: What is your favorite food?**

Stone: Hummus and Falafel.

**❖Connection: Are you a pro sports fan? If so, who are your favorite teams?**

Stone: I will always be a Cub fan, but I really like college sports more and my favorite team ... the Louisville Cardinals.

— JON ROETMAN



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## South Lakes' Wickman to Run for Northeastern University

**South Lakes senior Delaney Wickman signed a National Letter of Intent with Northeastern University on Friday, Nov. 14. Wickman, a sprinter with the SLHS track team, is a nine-time All-State athlete and 12-time Liberty Conference champion in track and field. She finished sixth in both the 200 meters and 400 meters at the 6A state championships last season. Also pictured are Wickman's parents and South Lakes track and field coach Scott Racsko.**



## WEDDING

# Vanessa Nichole Simpson and Michael Allen Kraeuter Married

**V**anessa Nichole Simpson and Michael Allen Kraeuter, both of Reston, were married on Aug. 17, 2013, at The Woodlands in Sterling. The bride was given in marriage by her parents, Lauren Simpson of New Milford, Conn., and Steven Simpson of Newburgh, Ind. The groom's parents are Lewis and Dolores Kraeuter of Lehigh, Pa.

Jackie Kang Telfer, Vanessa's best friend from high school, was the matron of honor. Lauren Fisher and Patricia Hutchins, college friends of the bride, and Atziri Ibañez, friend of the bride, attended Vanessa. Elaine and Stanley Mrus, the bride's maternal grandparents, performed the flower girl honors.

Gabriel Ibañez, Mike's best friend, served as best man. Evan Bossett, Philip Andras and Jean Hodermarsky, college friends of the groom, attended Mike. Daniel Groves, cousin of the bride, was the ring bearer.

The bride wore a candlelight colored silk bridal gown in the fit-

and-flair style with a sweetheart neckline and a chapel-length train. The gown was adorned with a sash of ivory satin ribbon studded with Swarovski crystals. The gown and sash were designed by couture designer Heidi Elnora of Project Runway fame, season 2.

The Bride also wore a chapel-length veil with scattered Swarovski crystals custom designed by Jolene Picone of Veil Trends. The bride's headpiece was a Makenna comb tightly packed with Swarovski crystals and pearls custom designed by Sara Gabriel. The bride carried a bouquet of red tulips, white calla lilies, and pink calla lilies.

For the ceremony, Vanessa was the fourth generation bride to wear her maternal great-grandmother's lavalier fashioned in 24 carat gold filigree with a solitaire diamond. At the reception, the bride wore her maternal grandmother's diamond necklace set in silver with matching earrings.

The groom wore Black by Vera Wang in charcoal gray, a tuxedo

with satin edges on a notch lapel and the trousers featured a satin stripe down the leg. He wore a white tuxedo shirt with pintucks and a horizon blue bow tie, vest, and pocket square.

The matron of honor and the bridesmaids wore apple red chiffon knee-length dresses with empire waists and strapless sequined bodices. The best man, groomsmen, and ring bearer wore Black by Vera Wang charcoal gray tuxes with horizon blue ties and cummerbunds. The groomswoman wore a horizon blue chiffon knee-length dress with an empire waist and a strapless sequined bodice.

Vanessa was raised in New Milford, Conn., where she attended Kent School and was inducted into the Cum Laude Society upon graduation. She graduated from Colgate University, in Hamilton, N. Y., with a degree in Astrogeophysics and a minor in Geology. Currently, she is the Accounting Specialist at the J. Craig Venter Institute in Rockville, Md.

Mike was raised in Washington, N. J., where he graduated from



**Vanessa Nichole Simpson and Michael Allen Kraeuter.**

Warren Hills High School. He graduated from Rutgers University, in New Brunswick, N. J., with a degree in Exercise Science. He is the Head Coach for the Ashburn Village Blue Wave Swim Team in

Ashburn.

Vanessa and Mike enjoyed their honeymoon to Yellowstone National Park and The Grand Tetons National Park. The couple now resides in Reston.

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## SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday.

### DECEMBER

Publishing

Wellbeing.....12/3/14

HomeLifeStyle: Home for the Holidays... 12/10/14

Hanukkah begins December 16.

★Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide II..12/16/14

A+ Camps & Schools.....12/16/14

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Gwendolyn Sykes, CFO,  
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Kimberly Sulters  
WNEW - CBS Radio

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## And The "Scancer" Is...

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Unknown at this date – Saturday, November 15. In fact, it will be six days from now until we'll know the results. As it is always scheduled, a week or so after my quarterly CT Scan, we will have our usual follow-up, face-to-face appointment with my oncologist. At this meeting, I am examined, and of course, the radiologist's report of the most recent scan is discussed, and plans for the future – stay the course and/or adjust or switch altogether – are considered.

However, this week there's been a blip. My chemotherapy infusion was delayed one week at least, maybe longer, because my creatinine levels were too high. Creatinine levels reflect kidney function, and when my level exceeds normal, given the potential for kidney failure – ultimately, and all the associated, interim complications/effects – treatment is stopped until additional lab work is completed. Now, in and of itself, this presents concerns; in conjunction with a potentially disappointing CT Scan, results of which will be learned on the 21st (even though I remain asymptomatic and feel as normal as a stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer survivor could possibly feel nearing year six, post-diagnosis), this presents worries exponentially more distressing.

Still, I'm not there yet and won't react as if the diagnosis is confirmed until it is. For the moment, I am simply enduring the typical ups and downs of living with an originally-diagnosed-as-terminal/inoperable form of lung cancer (are there any others?). There are good days and bad days to be sure, and many daze before, during and after. To be alive and facing this as yet unconfirmed complication is par for the course. To expect any different would be unrealistic. Most stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer patients don't survive as long as I have. Ergo, I would never complain about a situation that few of my fellow lung cancer patients have lived long enough to even consider. Heck, I'm the lucky one, considering I was originally given a "13-month to two-year" prognosis back in late February, 2009. I'm grateful to be in my shoes (any shoes, actually; sneakers mostly, because the chemotherapy-induced neuropathy in my feet is uncomfortable, a small price to pay relative to my original diagnosis/prognosis).

Initially, when I thought of this title, I was planning on channeling Alex Trebek by incorporating as many Jeopardy (the game show) touches as I could into this column: the questions, the answers, the categories, the "Daily Double," "Double Jeopardy," ("where the scores double and the game can really change"), "Final Jeopardy" (although working in its theme song would have been a challenge) and maybe even Merv Griffin would get a mention, all in an attempt to be funny.

But there's nothing very funny about the situation in which I find myself. I remain positive and upbeat, and after almost six years of experience living this emotional roller coaster, this week of waiting, even with the additional blip, is manageable, believe it or not. It's just not fun, whether you're asking or answering.

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

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-William Van Horne

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### THURSDAY/NOV. 20

**Redefining Success.** 7:30-8:30 p.m. Brown's Chapel, 11300 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston. A look at Buddhist methods for becoming successful in our daily lives by Gen Kelsan Varahi. \$10/\$5. [meditation-dc.org/reston/](http://meditation-dc.org/reston/).

**ESL for Advanced Students.** 10 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join Richard's Thursday conversational group. Adults.

**ESL Pronunciation and Speaking for Intermediate Students.** 1 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join Sandy's Thursday weekly class.

**ESL: Grammar and Vocabulary for Intermediate Students.** 6:30 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join Paul in this 12-week course that meets on Thursdays. The course teaches the basic rules of English grammar and contains vocabulary-building exercises. Regular attendance is required.

### FRIDAY/NOV. 21

**ESL for Beginners.** 10 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join Elayne's Friday conversational group. Adults.

**Let's Talk - ESL for Intermediate Students.** 11 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join Richard's Friday conversational group. Adults.

### SATURDAY/NOV. 22

**Stop the Choking Hazard.** 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Sanibel Drive. Help protect the natural area by removing the English ivy that is battling native plants for a place to grow. For exact location call Ha Brock, 703-435-7986, [habrock@reston.org](mailto:habrock@reston.org).

### MONDAY/NOV. 24

**ESL Conversation and Pronunciation for Intermediate Students.** 1 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join Richard's Monday conversational group.

**ESL: U.S. Citizenship Exam for Intermediate Students.** 3 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join Molly in this 12-week course that teaches speaking and writing skills on the basis of selected topics of U.S. history and government. Regular attendance is required.

### TUESDAY/NOV. 25

**Inova Blood Drive.** 12 - 7 p.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. The bloodmobile will be located beside the Pavilion near Williams-Sonoma. On site registration. Schedule appointment time by calling 1-866-256-6372 or online at [www.inova.org/donateblood](http://www.inova.org/donateblood).

**ESL for Beginners.** 10 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join Elayne's conversational group. Adults.

**Baby Steps Storytime.** 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Interactive story time for you and your child. Ages 12-23 months with adult.

**ESL Speak and Write for Intermediate Students.** 1 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join Sandy's weekly class.

### WEDNESDAY/NOV. 26

**ESL for Intermediate Students.** 1 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join Susan's Wednesday conversational group.

### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 10

**Herndon Bus Operations Facility Meeting.** 7 p.m. Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Avenue, Herndon. A meeting held to present the proposed renovations to the Herndon Bus Operations Facility.

### 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](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults).



# Reston Community Center

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1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston

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1763 Fountain Drive, Reston

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**Appalachian Spring**  
11877 Market Street, Reston

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1875 Explorer Street  
11950 & 11955 Democracy Drive  
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**Buffalo Wing Factory**  
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**Hunter Mill District Office**  
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**JBG/Reston Executive Center**  
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