

# Extra Round?

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The future of Reston's golf course is still up in the air, despite a two-hour hearing at the Board of Zoning Appeals on Tuesday, April 15.

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National Kidney Foundation®

# Kidney Walk

**APRIL 26**  
RESTON TOWN CENTER

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Special Thanks to:




## OBITUARY

### Willie L. Hudgins, Jr., 72, of Reston, Dies

**W**illie L. Hudgins, Jr., beloved husband of Cathy Hudgins — Fairfax County Hunter Mill District supervisor — died Saturday, April 11, 2015. He was 72 years old. Willie was born March 5, 1943, in LaCrosse, Va.

After attending both undergraduate and law school at Howard University, he and the Hudgins family moved to Reston. They have lived in Reston since 1969.

Willie's professional life spanned 39 years working as the section chief and chief litigator for the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice. During that time, he worked on some of the largest merger antitrust cases in U.S. history and was recognized by Black Enterprise Magazine as one of the leading minority litigators in the country. He went on to join the esteemed law firm of Kelley Drye, as partner before retiring in 2007.

In conjunction with his professional career, Willie



**Willie L. Hudgins, Jr.**

was also a dedicated member of the community. His service included volunteering for such organizations as: Rising Stars, an education program for young students; the South Lakes High School Tutoring Program; former chairman of the Reston Community Center Board of Governors; member of the Covenants Committee for Reston Association; commissioner of Reston Soccer; and an usher at St. Thomas à Becket Catholic Church.

Willie is survived by Cathy, his wife of 48 years, and his two sons, Tony and Michael.

There will be a public memorial service on April 25, 1 p.m. at St. Thomas Becket Catholic Church, 1421 Wiehle Avenue, Reston. In lieu of flowers, the family requests people consider making contributions to the Brain Injury Foundation, the Initiative to Prevent and End Homelessness and So Others Might Eat (SOME).

#### BULLETIN BOARD

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

#### SATURDAY/APRIL 25

**Adults Basic Internet and Microsoft Office Tutoring.** 1 p.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center Street, Herndon. Schedule an appointment to get one-on-one help with computers, applications and navigation of the internet.

#### MONDAY/APRIL 27

#### NARFE Dulles Chapter 1241

**Luncheon Meeting.** 11:30 p.m. Amphora Diner, 1151 Elden Street, Herndon. Speaker: U. S. Representative Barbara Comstock (R-10th District). Please call in your reservation by, Thursday, April 23, to Louise Rooney 703-435-3523.

#### Reston Runners Women's

**Training Program.** Eight week program for walkers and runners, run by women, for women. Program starts April 27 at 6:30 p.m. at South Lakes High School. For more information, or to register, go

to [www.RestonRunners.org](http://www.RestonRunners.org)

#### WEDNESDAY/MAY 13

**Reston – League of Women Voters meeting on growth in Fairfax County.** 7:30-9 p.m. North County Governmental Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. Where is the County's growth going to go? What has changed in Fairfax County's land use and where do we go from here? Free, open to the public (men and women), call 703-757-5893. Background papers at [www.lwv-fairfax.org](http://www.lwv-fairfax.org).

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# Reston Golf: Mulligan or Bogey?

Reston homes and golf course still up in the air.

BY KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

Some Reston homeowners are left lamenting at the 19th hole, RN Golf Management is left deciding if it has the stamina to play an extra round, and the Board of Zoning and Appeals gave both sides a mulligan. Whether either side wanted one or not.

"I'm a by-right property right kind of guy," said BZA's V. Max Beard, but "this is not going to be determined here and now."

"Ultimately it won't be decided by us, it will be decided by the Board of Supervisors," said James R. Hart, of the six member board.

"Until we know what's proposed, I don't think we can make a determination on whether the Zoning Administrator is right or wrong," said Paul W. Hammack Jr., saying the Board of Zoning Appeals is limited by statute on what it can or can not decide and doesn't deal with hypothetical cases.

"I don't want to prolong the agony here. This is the biggest volume of paper we've had this year," said Hart.

The Board of Zoning Appeals was expected last Wednesday, April 15 to issue a ruling on the golf course owner's appeal of the Zoning Administrator's "determination that redevelopment of property in the PRC District from a golf course to residential uses would require an amendment to the Reston Master Plan, a development plan amendment and Planned Residential Community Plan approval from the Board of Supervisors," according to Fairfax County documents.

But it took more than two hours for the appeals board to rule that it could not rule, other than to uphold some portions of the case but to overrule other portions of the Zoning Administrator's previous ruling.

**COLOR COMMENTARY** from the gallery didn't take a safe approach shot after the hearing Wednesday, April 15, in the Board auditorium of the Fairfax Government Center.

"We believe the BZA has ignored not only the law and the property rights of the thousands who own property adjacent to the golf course, but also the will of the more than 6,000 supporters of Rescue Reston, and the thousands more members of the Reston Association, who respect the Reston Master Plan and oppose development of the golf course," said David Burns, of Rescue Reston.

"We will continue to work with you to overturn this BZA decision. This does not end today," he said.

Both Hart and Hammack suggested that it understands both parties might seek the judicial help of caddies as they play the



**Plans to redevelop Reston's golf course could go back to the Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning should owners of the course choose to play the course that way. But legal arguments are still teed up to cause hazards for a long time to come.**

## From the Gallery

"Rescue Reston is disappointed that the Board of Zoning Appeals has seen fit to overrule portions of the decision of the Zoning Administrator and we will carefully consider appealing this decision to the Circuit Court. We believe the BZA has ignored not only the law and the property rights of the thousands who own property adjacent to the golf course, but also the will of the more than 6,000 supporters of Rescue Reston, and the thousands more members of the Reston Association, who respect the Reston Master Plan and oppose development of the golf course. We thank our supporters, including the hundreds who attended the hearing in January to help present the community's views, and will continue to work with you to overturn this BZA decision. This does not end today."

— DAVID BURNS, RESCUE RESTON

"The issue that the BZA was asked to determine was not whether the golf course should or could be redeveloped. The issue was rather what process and approvals would be necessary before it could be redeveloped.

"The BZA declined RN Golf's attempt to short-circuit the normal County approval processes. Reston National is no closer to being redeveloped now than it was three years ago, thanks to the efforts of County officials, RA, Rescue Reston and many individual Restonians. The Board of Zoning Appeals did overturn the Zoning Administrator's determination that a Comprehensive Plan Amendment was a procedural prerequisite to filing a PRC Plan to redevelop the golf course. The BZA made it clear that, while a Comprehensive Plan Amendment may well be advisable, and even necessary, to obtain approvals from the County Board of Supervisors, County Staff

course ahead, such as Circuit Court Judges and possible special studies by the Board of Supervisors.

"We're going to carefully consider our

"I don't think we're setting this up to put high rises up there. There's a very long road ahead."

— James R. Hart,  
Board of Zoning Appeals

a grassroots organization dedicated to preserving Reston's Open Space.

"I can't say what I want to say," said RN Golf Management's Francis McDermott. "I have to talk to my client to decide what it wants."

The BZA's decision allows for the owners of the golf course to submit plans to develop the property for residential uses, without first changing Comprehensive Plans, according to Reston Association's President Ellen Graves, who alerted its members to the ruling.

"The issue that the BZA was asked to determine was not whether the golf course should or could be redeveloped. The issue was rather what process and approvals would be necessary before it could be redeveloped," according to Graves. "The BZA declined RN Golf's attempt to short-circuit the normal County approval processes. Reston National is no closer to being redeveloped now than it was three years ago."

**WILL RESTON'S SAND TRAPS** be filled with high rises?

The Board of Zoning says it has not teed up Reston's golf course and open space to be developed anytime soon.

Any application, if proposed by RN Golf Management, will need to go back through the entire proceeding before the Department of Planning and Zoning and the Board of Supervisors, with public hearings during all phases.

But under the BZA's ruling, owners of the golf course won't be required to seek an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan before submitting proposals to the Department of Planning and Zoning, according to Reston Association.

"If a PRC application is filed, there will be a public hearing on it," said Hart. "I don't think we're opening this up to putting up high rises up there. There's a very long road ahead."

In January, hundreds filled the Board auditorium and thousands have signed petitions to demonstrate Reston's opposition to development of the course, which opened its fairways in 1969.

"I recognize the significant concerns of the Reston community," said Sharon Theodore, of the BZA, "but the process does provide for significant input from the community."

The next tee time is not yet scheduled.

In fact, it remains to be determined which course of action both sides next choose to play.

PHOTO BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION

cannot make it an automatic prerequisite to the mere filing of a PRC Plan application. Only the Board of Supervisors can determine whether a specific proposal is in conformance with the adopted Comprehensive Plan. County staff cannot do this. A proposal's lack of conformance with the adopted Comprehensive Plan is still a legitimate, lawful reason for the Board of Supervisors to deny a development proposal.

The BZA did not change this.

"The BZA did not agree with RN Golf that a Development Plan Amendment was not necessary. The BZA did overturn the Zoning Administrator's determination that a Development Plan Amendment was absolutely and in all instances required to redevelop the golf course, but only because the required conformance to the Development Plan can only be judged against a specific proposed development. There was no development proposed. RN Golf desired a 'blank check' from the BZA such that no development proposal would need a Development Plan Amendment. The BZA declined to go this far.

The last determination made by the BZA was that any redevelopment would require a PRC plan application and have to conform to any and all County zoning regulations, including conformance with the approved Development Plan and the Comprehensive Plan (as ultimately determined by the Board of Supervisors when it votes to approve or disapprove the PRC plan). "RA will closely review the written minutes of the BZA meeting to determine its next course of action. These minutes will be posted on the website as soon as they are available from the county."

— ELLEN GRAVES, PRESIDENT  
RESTON ASSOCIATION

options, but something that makes it difficult for all is that RN Golf has never said what it is that they are going to do," said Connie Hartke, president of Rescue Reston,

# Pro & Con: Opposing Views on Referendum Question

## “Yes” to Purchase of Tetra Property

To the Editor:

What makes Reston a special place? To a lot of us – including me – it’s the careful design and planning that went into its creation. One important element of that planning is the integration of open space and natural areas throughout Reston. As Bob Simon said in one of his founding principles, “Beauty – structural and natural – is a necessity of the good life and should be fostered.” It’s extremely valuable that even in the middle of a thriving, growing, busy community, there are pockets of green where we can experience tranquility and beauty.

Right now, we have the opportunity to help preserve one of those green spaces in Reston. I hope that our citizens will take advantage of it.

I support RA’s plan to purchase the Tetra property for a variety of reasons. As a student of Reston history, I appreciate the idea of preserving the old Visitors Center. As a longtime patron of RA programs, I support adding another venue to host programs and accommodate our growing population.

Neither of those is the key reason to me, though. What matters most to me is what RA would add to the parcel – trees, shrubs, and green space – as well as what it wouldn’t add – more development in a location that would add more traffic to our streets and threaten our existing natural resources.

During my three years as president of RCA, we spent a great deal of time advocating for careful planning of Reston’s future growth.

We recognized that growth and development is coming, and it’s foolish to think that we can stop the clock and preserve Reston exactly as it is forever. But we urged that development be concentrated in areas that were designed for it, such as in the vicinity of the Silver Line stations and the existing village centers.

We strongly opposed development in and near existing stable residential neighborhoods, in spots that would threaten our existing green space and environmental resources, and in areas that would worsen our already-clogged traffic. The Tetra property fails on all three counts.

Recently, I realized that although I’d read quite a bit about the pros and cons of the Tetra purchase, I hadn’t actually been to see the property for myself. So right after the Founder’s Day celebration earlier this month, my daughter and I took a stroll over to see it.

It’s hard to appreciate the importance of the property’s location if you haven’t visited. It’s located right between two existing RA recreation areas, Brown’s Chapel and the Lake Newport tennis courts.

The parcel is tucked back next to the lake, in a tranquil and beautiful spot. It’s surrounded by trees, pathways, and natural splendor.

To me, the parcel as it stands fits in perfectly with the parks and recreational areas around it. It’s a nice spot for a nature

walk, or perhaps some fishing in the lake. It’s a terrible spot for additional development.

Some of those who oppose the Tetra purchase have argued that the existing property is already safe, due to its being in a Resource Protection Area. I wish that were true. Having spent four years of my life as a member of the Reston Master Plan Task Force, I learned more than any sane person would want to know about how planning and development works in Fairfax County. And if there’s one thing that I had drummed into my head, it’s that property owners hold most of the cards when it comes to development questions. In particular, once development rights have been granted to a property, it’s very difficult to take them away.

Here’s what we know. According to Fairfax County, the Tetra parcel is zoned for a convenience center, which would allow a mix of office and retail development. The County later approved a rezoning of the property that would permit office and/or restaurant development that could extend up to 50 feet into the lake. That’s what could be built there right now, if a developer were so inclined.

Cramming that kind of development between Brown’s Chapel and the tennis courts would lead to additional traffic on Baron Cameron (and probably North Shore as well), potentially damage the surrounding natural areas, and negatively impact the homeowners around Lake Newport. That’s not smart development.

But it could very well happen as things stand. As the Lake Anne area is revitalized, developers will be looking for other nearby properties that they can redevelop. The Tetra property, which is in easy walking distance from Lake Anne, would be a prime target. Some developer will surely snap it up and redevelop it, as densely as possible, if they get the chance.

As it is, Brown’s Chapel and the tennis court provide a nice buffer between the Lake Anne redevelopment and the quieter neighborhoods around Lake Newport. By purchasing the Tetra property, RA can assure that that buffer is preserved, and that one of our biggest and best chunks of quiet, relaxed, tree-lined park space remains that way.

We shouldn’t take it for granted that the Tetra property is safe just because it hasn’t been redeveloped yet.

The ongoing saga over Reston National golf course shows how dangerous it is to assume that open space will remain that way if it’s in private hands.

I want to see Reston’s open, green space preserved. I want the southern shore of Lake Newport to remain a place for relaxation and recreation, not redevelopment. And that’s why I will be voting “yes” on the Tetra referendum.

**Colin Mills**  
Reston

## Why I’m Voting “No”

To the Editor:

I am voting “No” on RA’s referendum to purchase the Tetra property at Lake Newport and, having reviewed the available materials, official and otherwise, I believe it may be useful to share with you why I have made that decision. I apologize in advance for the length of this letter, but I believe it is important to present evidence for my position, not just assertions.

1. The \$2.65 million price is waaaaay too high! In fact, the County puts the property’s assessed value at \$1.2 million, down \$50,000 from last year. The difference, as directed by RA and stated in the RA-funded appraisal, is largely the “market value of the subject, assuming restaurant uses are permitted and any deferred maintenance has been corrected, as of January 23, 2015, is estimated to be” \$2.65 million. In fact, there is no restaurant on the property nor will there ever be and the property condition analysis points to at least a quarter-million dollars in needed repairs. At most, this property is worth one million dollars—if we really need it.

That \$2.65 million price will cost Restonians more than \$3.8 million in loan payments over the next 20 years and, even with RA’s optimistic revenue forecasts for rental of the small Tetra building, mean net cash outflows totaling nearly \$2 million that RA members must pay over two decades. To pay off that shortfall, RA will have to add over 20 percent to the average annual increase in RA fees over the timeframe if its fees grow at a 3 percent inflation rate.

2. There will be no development there because of planning, environmental, and easement restrictions. An alleged key reason to buy the property is to prevent others from building a 6,900 SF restaurant there (hence, the appraisal assumption) under a 2001 zoning determination or expanding “Lake Newport convenience center” as the Tetra building property is characterized in the current Reston Master Plan. Neither of these will happen.

First, as part of the six-year effort to revised Reston’s Master Plan, it is being altered within the next few months to preclude that from happening. The latest draft language for the Lake Newport Convenience Center says, “Lake Newport Convenience Center is planned for office or community use at the existing built intensity to maintain its current character.” The “existing use” is the lone Tetra building. The Planning Commission hears this draft plan on April 22 and the Board of Supervisors will hear it on June 2. No opposition is expected to this provision—except from Tetra properties, which is trying to accelerate this transaction before further development is precluded—and RA is doing its bidding at a huge potential cost to us all.

Second, the property is covered with environmental restrictions and 18 easements, including RA easements.

Most importantly, the lake and shoreline area are part of the Chesapeake Bay water-

shed and are protected as a Resource Protection Area (RPA) under the Fairfax County Chesapeake Bay Protection Ordinance (CBPO), which flows from the Virginia Chesapeake Bay Act, the interstate (all Bay watershed states and DC) Chesapeake Bay Protection Agreement, and the Chesapeake Bay Protection and Restoration Executive Order.

The goal of all these orders, agreements, laws, and ordinances is to prevent further pollution of the Bay and, over time, improve its condition. In general, they restrict any development or redevelopment (other than minor modifications and repairs to existing property) in perennial lakes and streams or within 100’ of the shoreline, such as is the case with the Tetra property.

Without going into too much detail, the shoreline area from the Tetra building west is also in a designated floodplain. That carries its own set of development restrictions largely focused on not blocking any flooding that may occur, adding to construction costs in usually unacceptable ways—if one can acquire the necessary approvals to build.

Like virtually every law or ordinance, there are opportunities for waivers and exemptions through hearings and Board approvals, but the notion of County approval of the construction of restaurant extending into Lake Newport on the Tetra property is remote at best, especially with the new Master Plan in place calling for it to remain “as is.” That is why several restaurant owners have already decided against proceeding with a purchase of the Tetra property.

Moreover, if a developer were interested in buying the property to build a restaurant or office building there, I am quite confident that environmentally sensitive Restonians would rise up to block any construction there. And you can count me among those who would stand in opposition under such circumstances.

Third, virtually all the remaining property outside the Tetra RPA is covered by RA’s own easements and other utility purposes, including the parking lot and roadway. We already control the use of half of this land, and we don’t need to buy it.

There is simply insufficient space to build a restaurant or an office building worth the effort that is not covered by either environmental or easement constraints. So why should Restonians pay \$2.65 million for a property over a fear of something that can’t happen?

3. RA’s stated reasons for purchasing the property are not compelling and greatly overstated. RA gives three reasons to purchase the Tetra property in its latest (Draft #11) “Fact Sheet”: Protect against overdevelopment, increase and enhance greenspace, and increase community and recreational opportunities. None of these reasons withstand scrutiny, especially at a price tag of \$2.65 million.

I have already explained why Restonians

SEE MAYNARD, PAGE 10

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# A ragweed pollen as a treatment for a ragweed allergy?

It's called immunotherapy.

**RAGWITEK.**  
An immunotherapy tablet made from ragweed pollen.



  
**RAGWITEK®**  
Short Ragweed Pollen Allergen Extract  
Tablet for Sublingual Use 12 Amb a 1-U

Make an appointment with your allergy specialist and ask if RAGWITEK is right for you.



Not actual size.

Immunotherapy is what RAGWITEK is all about—it uses ragweed pollen, which may help you gradually build tolerance so you become less sensitive to that very same allergen. RAGWITEK is a once-a-day tablet that dissolves quickly when placed under the tongue. After taking it, don't swallow for at least 1 minute. Taken over time, it helps treat that allergic reaction which causes eye and nasal symptoms associated with ragweed allergies.

RAGWITEK is a prescription medicine used for sublingual (under the tongue) immunotherapy to treat ragweed pollen allergies that can cause sneezing, runny or itchy nose, stuffy or congested nose, or itchy and watery eyes. RAGWITEK may be prescribed for persons 18 through 65 years of age who are allergic to ragweed pollen.

RAGWITEK is taken for about 12 weeks before ragweed pollen season and throughout the ragweed pollen season.

RAGWITEK is NOT a medication that gives immediate relief for symptoms of ragweed allergy.


## Important Safety Information about RAGWITEK

- RAGWITEK can cause severe allergic reactions that may be life-threatening. Stop taking RAGWITEK and get immediate medical treatment right away if you have any of the following symptoms after taking RAGWITEK: trouble breathing; throat tightness or swelling; trouble swallowing or speaking; dizziness or fainting; rapid or weak heartbeat; severe stomach cramps or pain, vomiting, or diarrhea; severe flushing or itching of the skin.
- Do not take RAGWITEK if you have severe unstable, or uncontrolled asthma; had a severe allergic reaction in the past that included trouble breathing, dizziness or fainting, or rapid or weak heartbeat; had difficulty with breathing due to swelling of the throat or upper airway after using any sublingual immunotherapy before; have ever been diagnosed with eosinophilic esophagitis or are allergic to any of the inactive ingredients contained in RAGWITEK.
- For home use of RAGWITEK, your doctor will prescribe epinephrine if you have a severe allergic reaction after taking RAGWITEK. Talk to your doctor or read the epinephrine patient information.
- The first dose of RAGWITEK must be taken in the doctor's office. After taking the first dose, you will be watched for at least 30 minutes by a healthcare professional for symptoms of a serious allergic reaction.
- You should tell your doctor about any medicines you take.
- Stop RAGWITEK and contact your doctor if you have any of the following after taking RAGWITEK: Any type of a serious allergic reaction; heartburn, difficulty swallowing or pain with swallowing, or chest pain that does not go away or worsens; any mouth surgery procedures (such as tooth removal), develop any mouth infections, ulcers or cuts in the mouth or throat.
- The most commonly reported side effects were itching of the mouth, lips, or tongue, swelling under the tongue, or throat irritation. These side effects, by themselves, were not dangerous or life-threatening.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch), or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

**Please read the Brief Summary on the following page for more detailed information.**

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 **MERCK**

## Brief Summary



# RAGWITEK®

Short Ragweed Pollen Allergen Extract  
Tablet for Sublingual Use 12 Amb a 1-U

Carefully read the Medication Guide before you start taking RAGWITEK® and each time you get a refill. This Brief Summary does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or treatment. Talk with your doctor or pharmacist if there is something you do not understand or if you want to learn more about RAGWITEK.

### What is the Most Important Information I Should Know About RAGWITEK?

RAGWITEK can cause severe allergic reactions that may be life-threatening. Stop taking RAGWITEK and get medical treatment right away if you have any of the following symptoms after taking RAGWITEK:

- Trouble breathing
- Throat tightness or swelling
- Trouble swallowing or speaking
- Dizziness or fainting
- Rapid or weak heartbeat
- Severe stomach cramps or pain, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Severe flushing or itching of the skin

For home administration of RAGWITEK, your doctor will prescribe auto-injectable epinephrine, a medicine you can inject if you have a severe allergic reaction after taking RAGWITEK. Your doctor will train and instruct you on the proper use of auto-injectable epinephrine. Talk to your doctor or read the epinephrine patient information if you have any questions about the use of auto-injectable epinephrine.

### What is RAGWITEK?

RAGWITEK is a prescription medicine used for sublingual (under the tongue) immunotherapy to treat ragweed pollen allergies that can cause sneezing, runny or itchy nose, stuffy or congested nose, or itchy and watery eyes. RAGWITEK may be prescribed for persons 18 through 65 years of age who are allergic to ragweed pollen. RAGWITEK is taken for about 12 weeks before ragweed pollen season and throughout ragweed pollen season. RAGWITEK is NOT a medication that gives immediate relief for symptoms of ragweed allergy.

### Who Should Not Take RAGWITEK?

You should not take RAGWITEK if:

- You have severe, unstable or uncontrolled asthma
- You had a severe allergic reaction in the past that included any of these symptoms:
  - o Trouble breathing
  - o Dizziness or fainting
  - o Rapid or weak heartbeat
- You have ever had difficulty with breathing due to swelling of the throat or upper airway after using any sublingual immunotherapy before.
- You have ever been diagnosed with eosinophilic esophagitis.
- You are allergic to any of the inactive ingredients contained in RAGWITEK. The inactive ingredients contained in RAGWITEK are: gelatin, mannitol, and sodium hydroxide.

### What Should I Tell My Doctor Before Taking RAGWITEK?

Your doctor may decide that RAGWITEK is not the best treatment if:

- You have asthma, depending on how severe it is.
- You suffer from lung disease such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).
- You suffer from heart disease such as coronary artery disease, an irregular heart rhythm, or you have hypertension that is not well controlled.

- You are pregnant, plan to become pregnant during the time you will be taking RAGWITEK, or are breast-feeding.
- You are unable or unwilling to administer auto-injectable epinephrine to treat a severe allergic reaction to RAGWITEK.
- You are taking certain medicines that enhance the likelihood of a severe reaction, or interfere with the treatment of a severe reaction. These medicines include:
  - o beta blockers and alpha-blockers (prescribed for high blood pressure)
  - o cardiac glycosides (prescribed for heart failure or problems with heart rhythm)
  - o diuretics (prescribed for heart conditions and high blood pressure)
  - o ergot alkaloids (prescribed for migraine headache)
  - o monoamine oxidase inhibitors or tricyclic antidepressants (prescribed for depression)
  - o thyroid hormone (prescribed for low thyroid activity).

You should tell your doctor if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription and herbal supplements. Keep a list of them and show it to your doctor and pharmacist each time you get a new supply of RAGWITEK. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking RAGWITEK. RAGWITEK is not indicated for use in children under 18 years of age.

### Are There Any Reasons to Stop Taking RAGWITEK?

Stop RAGWITEK and contact your doctor if you have any of the following after taking RAGWITEK:

- Any type of a serious allergic reaction
- Throat tightness that worsens or swelling of the tongue or throat that causes trouble speaking, breathing, or swallowing
- Asthma or any other breathing condition that gets worse
- Dizziness or fainting
- Rapid or weak heartbeat
- Severe stomach cramps or pain, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Severe flushing or itching of the skin
- Heartburn, difficulty swallowing, pain with swallowing, or chest pain that does not go away or worsens

Also, stop taking RAGWITEK following: mouth surgery procedures (such as tooth removal), or if you develop any mouth infections, ulcers or cuts in the mouth or throat.

### How Should I Take RAGWITEK?

Take RAGWITEK exactly as your doctor tells you. RAGWITEK is a prescription medicine that is placed under the tongue.

- Take the tablet from the blister package after carefully removing the foil with dry hands.
- Place the tablet immediately under the tongue. Allow it to remain there until completely dissolved. Do not swallow for at least 1 minute.
- Do not take RAGWITEK with food or beverage. Food and beverage should not be taken for the following 5 minutes.
- Wash hands after taking the tablet.

Take the first tablet of RAGWITEK in your doctor's office. After taking the first tablet, you will be watched for at least 30 minutes for symptoms of a serious allergic reaction. If you tolerate the first dose of RAGWITEK, you will continue RAGWITEK therapy at home by taking one tablet every day. Take RAGWITEK as prescribed by your doctor until the end of the treatment course. If you forget to take RAGWITEK, do not take a double dose. Take the next dose at your normal scheduled time the next day. If you miss more than one dose of RAGWITEK, contact your healthcare provider before restarting.

### What are the Possible Side Effects of RAGWITEK?

The most commonly reported side effects were itching of the mouth, lips, or tongue, swelling under the tongue, or throat irritation. These side

effects, by themselves, were not dangerous or life-threatening. RAGWITEK can cause severe allergic reactions that may be life-threatening. Symptoms of allergic reactions to RAGWITEK include:

- Trouble breathing
- Throat tightness or swelling
- Trouble swallowing or speaking
- Dizziness or fainting
- Rapid or weak heartbeat
- Severe stomach cramps or pain, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Severe flushing or itching of the skin

For additional information on the possible side effects of RAGWITEK talk with your doctor or pharmacist. You may report side effects to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) at 1-800-FDA-1088 or [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch).

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about RAGWITEK. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your doctor or pharmacist for information about RAGWITEK that was written for healthcare professionals. For more information, go to: [www.ragwitek.com](http://www.ragwitek.com) or call 1-800-622-4477 (toll-free).

**The Medication Guide has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.**

Manufactured for: Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp., a subsidiary of **Merck & Co., Inc.**, Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889, USA

Manufactured by: Catalent Pharma Solutions Limited, Blagrove, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN5 8RU UK

**For more detailed information, please read the Prescribing Information.**

usmg-mk3641-sb-1404r000

Revised: 04/2014

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RESP-1125099-0007 01/15



## COMMENTARY

# Institutional Stress

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



The ship of state of the Old Dominion that traces its beginnings to a meeting of the colonists in the church at Jamestown in 1619 showed some stress lines last week as the legislative body, the General Assembly, turned a one-day reconvened session to consider the Governor's amendments into two days of meetings with incomplete results. Arriving at a set of ethics rules that will permit part-time citizen legislators to live in local districts and interact with their constituents has proven to be a difficult task. Cynics may say that the problem comes from lawmakers who do not want to set limits on themselves, but the challenge is much more difficult than that. As one who wants the toughest ethics rules possible to maintain public trust, I do not at the same time want to be cut-off from regular contact with my constituents who ask me to come to their events, most of which are nonprofits fundraisers for causes in which I believe. Absolutely do away with the pleasure trips that I have never taken and which are an embarrassment to other legislators who have not gone on these trips, but legislators should be able to go the annual conference of the National Conference of State Legislatures that provides the best continuing education for legislators available. I do not have a copy yet of the compromise bill that the General Assembly will consider with the Governor's amendments, but I believe it is safe to say that a bill will pass and that the law it

establishes will be amended and perfected over many years.

Extending the reconvened or veto session by an additional day was a little embarrassing for a leadership that had bragged about ending the regular 45-day short session one day early. Work was rushed to save the state a little money by ending early, and some of the problems with the ethics bill came about in part because of the rush to get it completed.

When 140 part-time legislators attempt to balance a budget with significant revenue shortfall and consider more than 2500 bills and resolutions on topics as diverse as sexual assault on college campuses, police surveillance including license plate readers and drones, and community and gun safety in a politically-charged, 45-day session in an election year, it is reasonable to expect some misfires and shortcomings. Some of the ways that the legislature has chosen to deal with its stresses need review and change. A report by Transparency Virginia (TV), an informal coalition of nonprofits that advocate at the General Assembly, reported recently that in the 2015 session there were multiple times that committees met without adequate notice to make public participation possible, scores of bills were never given a hearing, and 76 percent of the bills and resolutions defeated in sub/committees in the House did not have a recorded vote. (<https://transparencylvirginia.wordpress.com/>) Many challenges face the Commonwealth, but it may be the case that more attention needs to be given to the health of the body before these issues can be resolved in a way that it is best for the citizens.

# Marion Stillson—Reston Citizen of the Year

BY JOHN LOVAAS  
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST

Hats off to the Reston Citizens Association (RCA) for their 2014 Reston Citizen of the Year selection—Marion Stillson. Picking someone for this honor is not an easy task in a large community like ours with many talented, caring people. Over the years, RCA consistently has picked people who made Reston a better place thru hard work—without compensation or expectation of recognition. Marion Stillson is a great example.

Marion was born in England and got her first degree at the University of Birmingham where she met a young American named Dick Stillson. Degree in hand, she came to United States and they were married. A year later, she was involved in a terrible automobile accident which left her legs permanently paralyzed. For some, this

might have been more of an ending to a story. In Marion's case, a new beginning followed the tragic crash. In 1973, Dick took a job in Washington and, after some searching, they settled in the young, promising planned community of Reston.

She would go on to a law degree at Georgetown University and successful careers in the nonprofit world and the federal government. She and Dick would raise two daughters and, while doing all this, Marion undertook an active role in the community which continues to this day. It began with her helping to organize a co-operative pre-school at the Glade Room above the Glade swimming pool. Because of its inaccessible second floor location, she was unable to serve as a teacher, but she promptly succeeded in recruiting and hiring one instead. The school is a legend.

When the community created its self-financed Reston Community Center to serve the recreational, educational and cultural needs of

SEE LOVAAS, PAGE 10



Celebrating  
our 50th  
Anniversary

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# Connection Papers Win Awards

Variety of coverage honored at annual Virginia Press Association conference.

On Saturday, April 18, a group of journalists from the Connection Newspapers traveled to Roanoke for the annual Virginia Press Association event to collect awards

for business reporting, government writing, writing about health, science and the environment, feature writing, sports writing, column writing, obituaries, cartoons, entertainment pages and writing, public safety writing, editorial pages and writing, page design, informational graphics and more.

A look at the themes of some winning entries gives some insight into the mission at the Connection: to tell stories of significance, using reporting, data and analysis while getting to the heart of why the issues matter in local lives. In a time that we, like all newspapers, are functioning with reduced resources, it helps affirm that the effort can make a difference.

Bonnie Hobbs won for ongoing coverage of

## EDITORIAL

a family's efforts to provide the best life for a son they call "not special needs, but a special person," and a second award for coverage of issues related to affordable housing and homelessness.

Judges call Michael Pope's business reporting "first-rate, data-driven reporting and analysis on important issues." Stories on driving habits, cesarean deliveries and the Affordable Care Act are called "well-researched, clearly written and engaging. The use of real-live people high up in stories to illustrate makes for very compelling material."

Vernon Miles won for breaking news coverage of Arlington's first same sex marriage, being "on the scene of a local event that has local, statewide and national significance. ... The story is multi-sourced; has a strong lead that gives readers a sense of the scene; places the

event in historic context; and captures the celebratory feel of the event."

On Pope government reporting: "Rather than regurgitating official statements, the reporter tells people's stories to illuminate the consequences of government decisions. This represents a model for all government reporting."

On Marilyn Campbell's reporting for Wellbeing: "These articles amount to personal guidance in the best sense of the term."

Even in recreation and entertainment, our mission is to provide our readers with the information they need to have fun, and our annual update to the "Insiders Guide to the Parks," brainchild of Jean Card, is designed to do that.

What are we missing? We rely on our readers to let us know. We invite your story ideas, your tips, your letters to the editor, calendar listings, photos of mothers for Mother's Day and fathers for Fathers Day, and more. Visit [www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com) and click on "contact us," or email [editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com)

— MARY KIMM

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

## Winners

Truncated list, for a complete list, see [www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com)

**Jon Roetman**, The Vienna/Oakton Connection — Sports Writing Portfolio, First Place. *Madison's Koshuta Scores 39 Against 'Idol' Floyd; Oakton Girls' XC Repeats as State Champs; Madison Volleyball Drops Heartbreaker in State Final.* Judge's comments: Strong and clear writing and excellent storytelling helps game stories feel more like features. Excellent work.



**Jon Roetman**



**Victoria Ross**



**Joan Brady**

**Victoria Ross**, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection — Government Writing, First Place. *Let Sun Shine on Virginia's Financial Disclosure Laws, Mr. Horejsi Goes to Richmond; Bulova: 'This Will Be a Challenging Budget.'* Judge's comments: An engaging look at a lobbyist who fights for the little guy; an entertaining story on a political candidate, helping readers put the upcoming election into context; one of the better budgeting stories I've seen lately that helps readers understand how the county's budgeting process is going to cost them more money. The supporting sidebars help bring the message home.



**Mary Kimm**



**Marilyn Campbell**



**Bonnie Hobbs**

sight. Her writing combines depth and subtlety with eloquence of expression. In some senses, her subject matter is narrow. But viewed through a different filter, it is universal. She writes engagingly on a consistent basis.

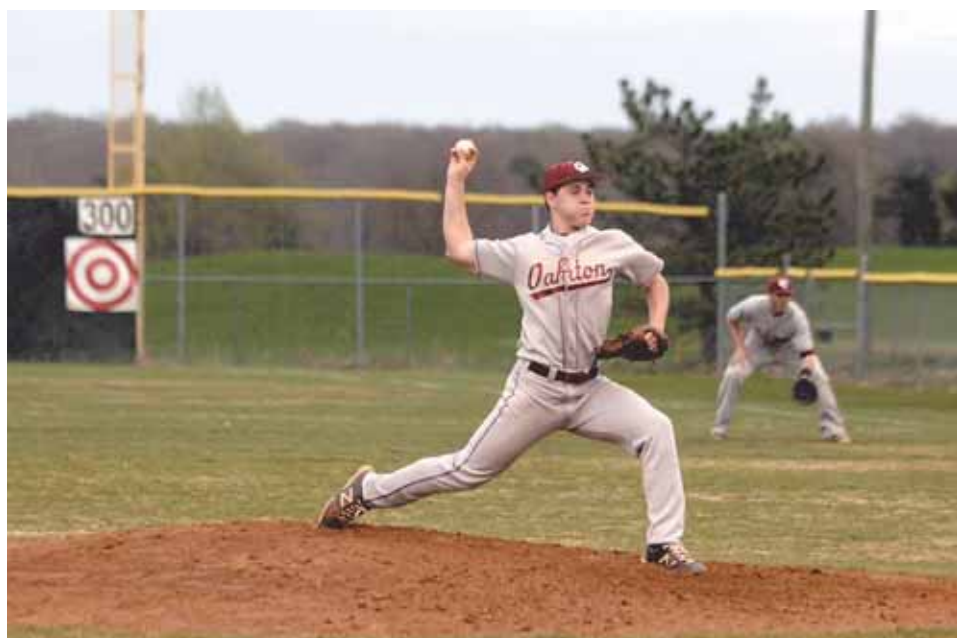
**Marilyn Campbell**, Chantilly Connection — Health, Science and Environmental Writing, Third Place. *Spiritual Wellness in the New Year; Consistent Bedtimes Aid Children; How To Age in Place Safely;* Judge's comments: These articles amount to personal guidance in the best sense of the term. They should serve as very helpful resources for readers of a variety of ages. In concise manner, they effectively made the

concepts clear and applicable to the reader. The aging in place article was particularly relevant and insightful, the childhood sleep story was unlike anything I'd ever read (and I have two kids) and really summed up how a specific approach to children's health makes sense. The spiritual health article was unusual, refreshing to see, and I love the variety of sources and comments.

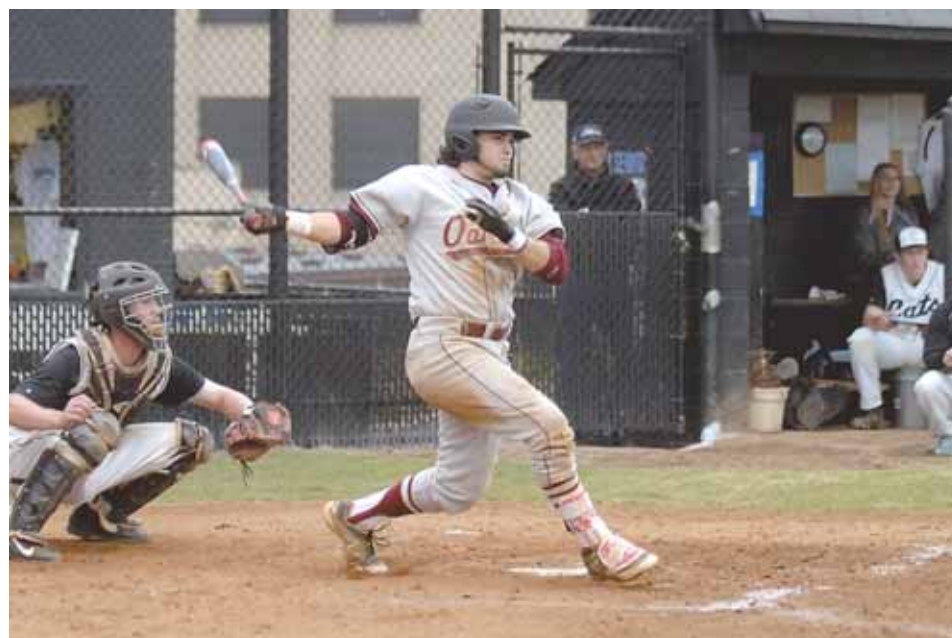
**Bonnie Hobbs**, The Fairfax Connection — Personal Service Writing, Third Place. *Affordable Housing Lack Can Lead to Hunger; 'Help Us, Will You Please?' City of Fairfax to Tackle Affordable Housing; Council 'Honored to Support this Project,' 'Dream Come True' for Lamb Center.* Judge's comments: Solid writing and good follow-through on the housing issues. The writer did a good job of including income and free lunch data without breaking the flow of the story.

**Mary Kimm**, The McLean Connection — Editorial Writing, Third Place. *Trending in the Right Direction; Virginia Proves Elections Matter; More Affordable Housing Needed; Tragic Consequences; Deadly Medicaid Debacle.* Judge's comments: This submission consists of five well-articulated and well-grounded pieces tackling access to affordable housing and health care, a pair of closely related state and national issues with important local ramifications. The work combines passion with a persuasive factual underpinning.





Oakton senior Connor Jones pitched a complete game against Centreville on April 16, helping the Cougars win 8-2.



Oakton junior shortstop Joe Rizzo went 4-for-5 with two RBIs against Centreville on April 16.

# Oakton Pitcher Jones Tosses Complete Game

**Cougars improve to 9-0 with win over Centreville.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**O**akton pitcher Connor Jones had to wait for his turn at the varsity level. As a junior, Jones was good enough to be a front-line starter for the Cougars. However, the right-hander was stuck behind a pair of senior standouts in Tommy Lopez, the Conference 5 Player of the Year, and RJ Gaines. With limited opportunities, Jones was relegated to bullpen duty and the role of No. 3 starter.

Now a senior, Jones entered the 2015 season with the opportunity to be “the man” for Oakton. With Lopez and Gaines having graduated, the Cougars were in need of a leader on the mound.

“If we didn’t have one of those guys, [Jones] would have been a starter, clearly,” Oakton head coach Justin Janis said. “We had three guys eat a lot of innings last year and he was one of them. That’s the nice part — he has experience. Coming into this year, we were hoping: ‘OK, now those two guys have graduated, you need to step up and be the bulldog, the No. 1 for us,’ and so far, so good.”

**JONES EARNED A WIN** and pitched his first complete game of the season against Centreville on April 16, allowing five hits while striking out four and walking none during an 8-2 Oakton victory at Centreville High School.

After Centreville’s Daniel Lachance tied the score at 2 with an RBI single in the bottom of the fourth inning, Jones retired the final 11 Wildcat batters.

Meanwhile, Oakton took a 4-2 lead in the sixth inning with an RBI double by sophomore catcher Ryan Davis and an RBI single



by junior shortstop Joe Rizzo.

The Cougars added four more runs in the top of the seventh.

“My change-up was definitely good,” said Jones, a third-year member of the Oakton varsity. “I consider it my best pitch. When it’s on, it’s pretty good. I like throwing it a lot in any count.”

The victory improved Oakton’s record to 9-0, including 3-0 in conference play.

“It’s been exciting,” Jones said of transitioning into the role of front-line starting pitcher. “It feels good to get some innings in, get a lot more big starts against teams like Centreville.”

Despite the graduation of its top two

pitchers and other impact players, the two-time defending Conference 5 champion Cougars have opened the 2015 season on fire. Oakton has wins over perennial contenders Lake Braddock and Madison, and entered Monday ranked No. 1 in the NOVA Baseball Magazine and Washington Post polls. The Cougars outscored their first three conference opponents — Westfield, Robinson, Centreville — 26-5.

“I was a little unsure,” said Janis, referring to what he expected out of the Cougars early in the season. “I knew we had some good players on the team, it was just a matter of how we then went out and performed. It’s still early, but to this point the

**“My change-up was definitely good. I consider it my best pitch. When it’s on, it’s pretty good. I like throwing it a lot in any count.”**

— Oakton senior Connor Jones

**Head coach Justin Janis and the Oakton baseball team improved to 9-0 with a win over Centreville on April 16.**

PHOTOS BY  
CRAIG  
STERBUTZEL/  
THE CONNECTION

guys have played pretty well.”

Jones said Oakton can compete with any team.

“We know what we can do,” he said. “We know that we’re a good baseball team. If people think it or not, that’s their opinion, but we know we’re a good team and we know we can come out and compete with any team in the region and the state.”

While Jones has been a big part of Oakton’s success, sophomore Toma Shigaki-Tham has also been a force on the mound, giving the Cougars two quality starting pitchers.

“Our sophomore pitcher Toma, he has stepped up huge for us,” Rizzo said. “... He just deals. He’s got great stuff.”

**RIZZO**, a third-year varsity player who is committed to the University of South Carolina, is the main threat in the Oakton lineup. Rizzo went 4-for-5 with a pair of RBIs against Centreville.

“He’s just a tireless worker,” Janis said. “He’s a baseball nut. Every single day is dedicated to making himself a better baseball player throughout the year.”

Davis had a double and two RBIs against Centreville. Senior Jagger James went 2-for-3.

Oakton was scheduled to face Chantilly on Tuesday, after The Connection’s deadline. The Cougars will travel to face Woodson at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22.

## NEWS

# Community Center Hosts Diva Central

The event gives local teens an opportunity to receive free prom attire.



Area teens at the 2014 Diva Central.

PHOTO BY LINDA RUTLEDGE

Reston Community Center will host its Annual Diva Central Prom Dress Giveaway on Saturday, April 25 from 12 - 6 p.m. at RCC Lake Anne, 1609-A Washington Plaza in Reston. This one-day event is the perfect prom dress shopping experience, open to any current high school student who is in need of a prom dress, shoes, jewelry and other accessories. Everything is absolutely free. Limit one dress per person.

"Prom is an event that many

teens look forward to all year, but it is also an event that can burden families with expenses for formal wear, accessories, a meal, transportation and more," said Kenny Burrowes, RCC Teen and Family program director. "Through Diva Central, RCC helps teens look forward to the prom night of their dreams, complete with the perfect dress and accessories, but without those costs."

In addition to prom dresses in all colors, sizes and styles, volunteers will be on hand to help teens

select shoes, jewelry, handbags, wraps, and other accessories to complete their prom look. Elizabeth Arden Red Door Spa - Reston will be on hand to provide hair and makeup services to teens.

All of the dresses available at the event have been donated by the local community between January and March. This year, with the help of Boston Properties and the generosity of the Reston community, Diva Central has collected several hundred dresses for the giveaway event.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Maynard

FROM PAGE 4

don't need to worry about overdevelopment of this property. The new Master Plan will preclude it, and the combination of environmental restrictions and easements on the space already make it impossible to do so. That's why none of the restaurants originally nosing around the property bought it! Why should we buy it when the new Master Plan will protect the property from overdevelopment?

As for the greenspace argument, if one digs into this paragraph of the fact sheet, one discovers that what RA really is talking about is "to provide continuity of ownership and use with the surrounding RA recreational and greenspace parcels." In fact, the only barrier to continuous greenspace ownership is the road from the Tetra building leading to Baron Cameron. RA owns the land

on both sides of this street: Brown's Chapel and the Lake Newport tennis court area. Without the possibility of redevelopment of the property by its current (or another private) owner, there is no threat that greenspace will be lost. So why should we buy it to protect against a non-existent threat?

Finally, it would be nice to expand community and recreational opportunities, but RA's existing indoor facilities—its headquarters, the Nature House at the Walker Nature Center, the Glade Room, and Brown's Chapel are not fully utilized now. In fact, those three facilities—including some outdoor activities at the Nature Center—were booked for about one activity per day, be it an RA committee meeting or a recreational activity.

Specifically, only 131 RA activities were booked in 130 days in or at RA facilities in the January-April period this year. At most, these facilities were used at one-

fifth of their operating capacity—and that's counting the large RA conference center as a single space. Some other RA activities were booked at RCC and some involved trips, but the use of RA building facilities was extremely limited. So why should we buy another building that is three decades old and nearly derelict for these activities?

To sum up, there are no compelling reasons to buy the Tetra property. There is virtually no threat that the property will be re-developed into some oversized commercial or retail complex. And the price of \$2.65 million is way over the top.

I am voting "NO" on the RA referendum proposal to buy the Tetra property and I urge you to do the same. And I appreciate you taking the time to read this lengthy explanation.

Terry Maynard  
Reston

and employment, compensation equity, and reproductive rights. She served not only as President of the Reston-Herndon Branch of AAUW but also as Virginia State President, recognition of her effectiveness in energizing and growing the organization. Most recently, Marion was elected President of the voice for Restonians, the Reston Citizens Association. There she created the Reston Accessibility Committee (RAC) to improve access to public facilities, e.g., shopping centers and office buildings for those who, like herself, are mobility impaired. They are a large presence, i.e., those who've suffered traumatic injury, birth defects, or that most perva-

sive impairment—the aging process. RAC has made remarkable progress persuading facility owners and managers to take corrective action for parking and building accessibility.

And, at a crucial time, she turned RCA into an effective community conscience and a county government watchdog during the 5-year process of preparing Reston's new Master Plan, one that will guide Reston's growth for the next generation. There was, in fact, no coherent voice for the citizens except RCA in a process otherwise dominated by developer interests.

Congratulations to Marion, Reston's Citizen of the Year.



Langley High School presents "Book of Days," a murder mystery that raises questions about small town politics and society. Playing April 23-25 at 7 p.m. at Hunter Woods Elementary School, 2401 Colts Neck Road, Reston.

### 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.

#### WEDNESDAY/SUNDAY/APRIL 22-26

##### Reston Friends Big Book Sale.

Wednesday, April 22— 5 - 8 p.m. Preview Night Thursday, April 23— 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Friday, April 24— 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday, April 25— 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday, April 26— 12 noon - 3:30 p.m. (Library itself opens at 1 p.m.) Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive Reston. Come and browse thousands upon thousands of great books in great condition. From the latest popular titles and classic favorites to the rare and unexpected fiction and non-fiction. The Reston Friends have something for everyone! Yes, we do restock, for as long as supplies last.

#### THURSDAY/SATURDAY/APRIL 23-25

"Book of Days." 7 p.m. Hunter Woods Elementary School, 2401 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Langley High School presents "Book of Days," a murder mystery that raises questions about small town politics and society.

#### FRIDAY/APRIL 24

##### Environmental Film: A Fierce Green Fire.

7 - 9 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Adults. In honor of Earth Day, see the first big-picture exploration of the 50 year environmental movement from grassroots efforts to global activism and conservation to climate change. Directed by Academy Award nominee Mark Kitchell and narrated by Robert Redford, Ashley Judd, Van Jones, Isabell Allende and Meryl Streep. Co-sponsored by Friends of Reston. Reservations required by April 21. \$5 suggested donation RA members.

#### SATURDAY/APRIL 25 - 26

##### Performance of Act I

**Cinderella.** Classical Ballet Theatre Herndon Studios, 320 Victory Drive, Herndon. Don't miss Cinderella and her Fairy Godmother as they teach the stepmother and stepisters, "Haughty" and "Spiteful," that nice girls do finish first! For more information visit <http://www.cbntva.org/cinderella>.

#### SUNDAY/APRIL 26

##### Trout Fishing in America.

3 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. A family-friendly concert presenting four-time Grammy nominee band Trout Fishing in America.

#### SATURDAY/MAY 2

##### Opening Day of Reston

**Farmers Market.** 8 a.m. - noon. Lake Anne Village Center, 11404 Washington Plaza W, Reston. Nearly all of your favorite vendors from last year will be there, as will four new ones we think you will enjoy. The Reston Farmers Market is sponsored by the Fairfax County Park Authority and features fresh, local fruits, vegetables, homemade foods and home-grown plants. For more information, go to [www.restonfarmersmarket.com](http://www.restonfarmersmarket.com) or call 703-318-9628.

##### Pirate Fest.

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. This festival celebrates Virginia's seafaring past. Join with Ships Company Chanteymen singing traditional sea chanteys, tavern tunes and pirate ditties. Experience the life of a sailor first hand with our many fun activity stations. Wear your most dashing pirate clothes and enter our costume contest. Learn about global trade in the 18th century, and discover the luxury goods from international ports that compelled pirates to sail the seven seas.

##### Chocolate for Elephants 2015.

8 - 10:30 p.m. The Greater Reston Arts Center, Reston Town Center 12001 Market Street, Reston. Let's do it again! We raised over \$23,000 at Chocolate for Elephants in 2013 and every penny went to charity, helping to rescue and rehabilitate orphaned baby elephants who have lost their families due to the tremendous increase in poaching for ivory! Please join us for another fun-filled evening of chocolate and charity to support Big Life Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization that is saving the lives of elephants of East Africa.

#### THURSDAY/MAY 7

**Farmers Market.** 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Old Town Herndon, 700 block of Lynn Street, By the Red Caboose. Every Thursday vendors sell products they grow and are located within a 125-mile radius of Fairfax County, ensuring that your purchases will be fresh. For information visit <http://>

# Plunder in the Park Pirate Fest returns to Lake Fairfax on May 2.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**W**hen the Fairfax County Park Authority wanted to create a new cultural resources event for the public, Pirates was an alluring theme for citizens and their families.

"We couldn't get them to come to a festival that had the word 'history' in it," said Tammy Schwab, manager of education and outreach for Fairfax County Park Authority resource management.

So "Pirate Fest" was born in 2014, combining live entertainment, interactive pirate lifestyle experiences, educational crafts and historical lessons, all hosted around Lake Fairfax Park in Reston.

Just over 1,000 people came out to the inaugural fest, Schwab said, and she's anticipating more for this year's encore event. As first mate, she helped organize the event and will be joined by a crew of 40 people including volunteers and county staff from both the recreation and history and nature sides of the Park Authority.

**ONE OF THE CHANGES**, according to Schwab, will be a more compact footprint: Rather than have additional festivities in the adjacent field, everything pirate-related will take place on or close to the water. The event is also scheduled earlier in the year to avoid the opening of the nearby Water Mines Water Park.

Judy Pedersen, a spokesperson for the Fairfax County Park Authority and long-time renaissance fair enthusiast, said they're hoping to continue developing a similar atmosphere at Pirate Fest.

"The idea that people show up in costume, speaking like a pirate, gives it a nice flavor," she said.



**The Lake Fairfax Park tour boat will be dressed up to resemble a privateering vessel and commanded by "Captain Blood."**

Schwab's favorite attraction is real life pirate ship, the park's regular tour boat dressed up to resemble a marauding vessel. "You really can't beat the pirate boat ride," she said. "It's the maritime piece, to go to a pirate fest and be on the water."

Swashbucklers on the boat ride will be led through a harrowing high seas scenario by "Captain Blood."

In addition to enjoying sword-fighting demonstrations, dulcet tones from roving troubadour John DuRant and seafaring songs from the group Ship's Company Chanteymen, budding pirates and privateers will be able to learn some ship science with rope-making and knot tying workshops, as well as craft their own flag based on traditional symbols flown by historic pirates.

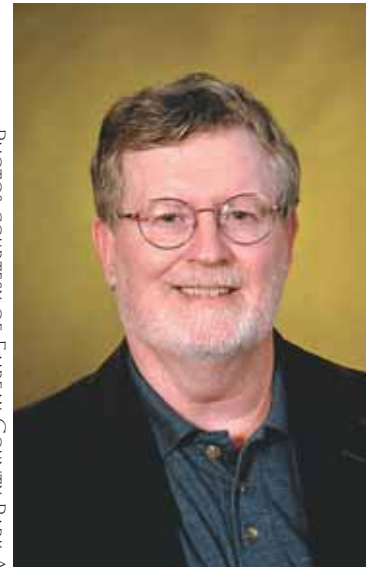
Artifacts from excavations in the region will also be on display, "that may have come from European

markets to the new world," said Pedersen, "typical of things that would've had to get through pirate ships to get to our coasts."

For Robert Prather, the Garrett, Kentucky-based author of the book "The Strange Case of Jonathan Swift and the Real Long John Silver," it's fitting that a pirate festival is taking place around Lake Fairfax Park.

According to Prather, who did much of his research for the historical work at the Fairfax Circuit Court clerk's office, City of Fairfax Regional Library and archives of historical deeds in various other clerks' offices, there are indications the land where the park sits today was once owned by the wealthy 18th-century merchant Jonathan Swift.

"In legend, he is basically regarded as a pirate," Prather said of Swift, who lived in Alexandria for 40 years after moving there around 1784.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

**Author Robert Prather will be on-hand at Pirate Fest to discuss his historical book "The Strange Case of Jonathan Swift and the Real Long John Silver."**



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Myron Peterson of the Ship's Company Chanteymen sings at Pirate Fest 2014.**

Lore spread across seven states that the merchant and his band of pirates moved and hoarded a vast treasure in Kentucky. In his book, Prather asserts Robert Louis Stevenson may have based stories from "Treasure Island" and the character Long John Silver on Smith's legend.

Prather will return to Pirate Fest for a second year to talk about his book and new breakthroughs that will be included in the 2015 edition. "It's OK for us to romanticize on the pirate phenomenon going on today, especially if you think about the pirates in Swift's time were more than likely patriots," said Prather.

"His father-in-law Brig. Gen. Daniel Roberdeau owned three different privateer ships and did quite a bit of sacking during the Revolutionary War," Prather added. "And through Swift legend, it's stated he and his men ran the Spanish Main and captured some

ships down there. If you were England or you were Spain, they definitely would've been pirates."

As one of the wealthiest men in Alexandria, Prather said, Swift was a Mason, knew George Washington and was at one time president of the city's Trustees of the Poor and Common Council. "He was a good guy, no questions about it," said Prather. "When he passed away, the *Alexandria Gazette* advertised the poor will have much to lament."

**PIRATE FEST** is sponsored by the Fairfax County Park Foundation and scheduled to take place rain or shine at Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive in Reston, May 2, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and available online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lakefairfax/pirate-fest.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lakefairfax/pirate-fest.htm) or at the park. Boat rides are an additional \$2 for tickets, which can be purchased in advance online.

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# Outlook Optimistic for Local 2015 Real Estate Market

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

After what seemed to be an end-less winter, spring has finally come calling, signaling the start of the year's first real estate high season. Homes trade hands all year long, but spring is often for buyers, seller, agents, brokers

and lenders like those weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas; buyers at full speed searching out the best bargains and sellers looking to move their wares without having to resort to price-slashing sales tactics.

So far, area real-estate experts and the data from sources like the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR), Movoto Real Es-

tate, and SmartCharts (powered by RealEstate Business Intelligence with data supplied from the MLS listing service) are all aligned in their assessment of the outlook for the 2015 market in Northern Virginia. Compared to a lackluster 2014 after a strong 2013, there's reason for optimism.

Veronica Seva-Gonzalez, NVAR board member and Realtor with Compass Real Estate, noted that the spring weather and positive housing market news had arrived simultaneously. "It's great to see how all of the numbers are up from last year and also from the beginning of this year," she said.

Across the board, the numbers do look positive. Combined data collected for the counties of Fairfax and Arlington, the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church and Fairfax and the towns of Vienna, Herndon and Clifton, show a first quarter increase of total units sold of just over 9 percent, with 3,657 units sold in 2015 compared to 3,352 the prior year. For the same period and for the same localities, days on the market (DOM) per unit actually rose in 2015 and the aver-

age ratio of sales price to list price showed marginal slippage, but Realtors and market analysts see the significant improvements in March 2015 numbers vs. March 2014 figures as an indicator of a healthy selling season ahead.

The March 2015 increases were seen in all sectors of the residential market, with "attached" homes like townhouses leading the way with a 3.6 percent uptick in average sales price. Condominiums came in at second place, with a 1.8 percent increase in the month compared to 2014. Single-family homes came in last for the March 2015 totals, but still better than the prior year by 0.7 percent.

Greatly increased inventory versus last year could be one factor in the more modest single-family home price increases. In 2015, 3,165 new properties came onto the market during the month, while only 2,656 were put on the books during that month last year. A total of 3,381 units were available to buyers in March this year compared to 3,011 last year.

"In some areas and some price ranges, there is definitely more

choice," said Reston Long and Foster Realtor Anita Lasansky. "Sellers are starting to get more confident."

Realtor Jennifer Boyce, Long and Foster Gold Team, also noted that some buyers were starting to "come out from under," having held on during the worst of the economic downturn. "Equities are looking stronger, so they can get back in, selling or buying."

The data does vary around the region. Not all areas experienced an increase in sales prices in the month-to-month comparison. Falls Church City, for example, posted an increase in the numbers of units sold, but a 19.12 percent decrease in median sales price.

Arlington County, on the other hand, saw the largest increase in the March 2015 vs. March 2014 side-by-side; with 24.43 percent more closed sales and a 10.68 percent increase in the median sales price.

Janet Gresh of the Gresh Group in McLean says that her experience so far this year is in line with those

SEE OUTLOOK, PAGE 13

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# Outlook

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numbers. “Arlington is definitely hot right now, close in and enough quality properties that you see serious competition.”

Lasansky gave the numbers she is seeing for Reston a “thumbs up,” as well. “We’re up about 15 percent in the first quarter over last year and about 5 percent up in median sales price.”

In the City of Alexandria, the median sales price rose by more than 10 percent in March on an increase of 14.37 percent in closed sales.

Fairfax County and Fairfax City both saw more moderate improvements in median sales prices at 2.79 percent and 2.00 percent respectively. For Fairfax City, the positive takeaway from the March figures is that the median sales price rose despite a drop in total closed sales of more than 50 percent compared to last year.

While all of the data provided is considered preliminary and still subject to revision, the numbers available to date suggest a good start to the year – and barring the

unforeseen negative impact – a positive 2015 real estate market.

Plus-column numbers on the books, the collective optimism of many of the area’s top real estate professionals, and respected organizations like the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors adding that “2015 may be different because of its more sustainable, positive market direction,” all offer signs that the real estate market in the region is looking at a healthy year. Any number of factors, including the ever-present threat of the Federal Reserve raising interest rates sometime this year, could stall or even reverse the positive trends. Whatever comes along, realtors like Kathleen Quintarelli, Weichert Realtors, Burke, think we will deal with it. “People have kind of stopped believing that the rates will go up again and when they do it will be a shock and have its impact, but we will adjust to that new norm, as well.”

With the latest figures in hand, we asked some of our area’s top real estate professionals for their perspectives, and to offer some expert advice to buyers and sell-

ers alike.  
 ❖ Virgil Frizzell, Ph.D., MBA, realtor Long and Foster Reston: “I think the March housing statistics indicate a healthier spring hous-

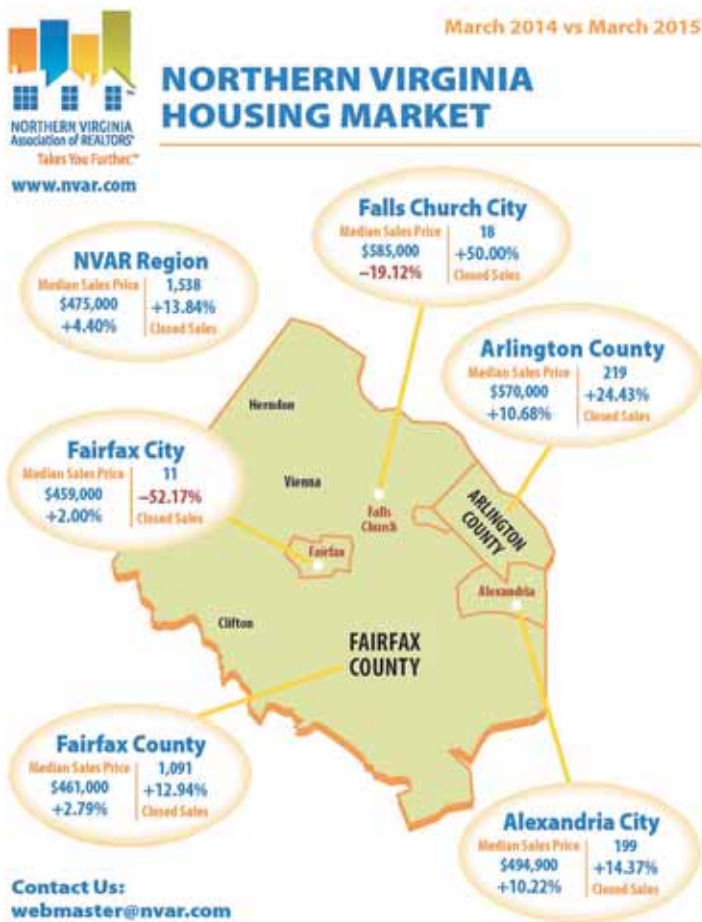


IMAGE COURTESY OF NVAR

ing market in the footprint of the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors than for the rest of the country. The continuing improvements ... are good for both

ers alike.  
 ❖ Virgil Frizzell, Ph.D., MBA, realtor Long and Foster Reston: “I think the March housing statistics indicate a healthier spring hous-

ing market in the footprint of the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors than for the rest of the country. The continuing improvements ... are good for both

homebuyers and home sellers and likely indicate a more balanced market. Buyers should benefit from increasing inventory, still low mortgage [rates] and easing credit standards. The year-over-year increase in housing units sold and modestly rising median prices may embolden sellers.” (Frizzell is the 2015 NVAR Chairman-Elect.)

❖ Mary Bayat, owner of Bayat Realty in Alexandria and 2015 NVAR Chair: “Finally, many buyers who had distressed house sales years ago could have enough repaired credit to qualify for a new loan. They will get more house for their money now than if they wait. We expect the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates later this year. Another local indicator is that active listings have risen more than 25 percent.”

❖ Jennifer Boyce, Long and Foster Gold Team Burke/Fairfax Station/Clifton: “Don’t price too aggressively in late spring or early summer is my advice. Homes that

SEE OUTLOOK, PAGE 15



## PHOTO GALLERY!

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# Pins and Needles



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

This column isn't about acupuncture or knitting, any more than last week's column was about nausea. They are, however, both about the same thing: the life of a "terminal" cancer patient (and an extremely fortunate one at that), waiting and wondering – and worrying, hoping and praying – never more than now, not having heard the results of my most recent diagnostic scan, results of which can't come quickly enough and which, in point of fact, don't come quickly at all. More often than not, given that my oncologist wants to see me in person when he delivers the results – to explain and be available to answer any questions/discuss any strategy, etc. – typically, I don't learn my fate (to be honest about how I feel), until the Friday nine days after the previous week's Wednesday scan.

Not that I haven't been able to live with the anxiety and the eternity (again "live" being the operative word) and get accustomed to the ebb and non-preferred flow; I certainly have, it's more that the longer I live, the more it seems the veneer of tolerance and relative/comparative calm I've exhibited/maintained over these past six years and nearly two months, may be weakening. Not that I'm throwing in the towel (although I am doing laundry as I write), it's a simple admission I'm making that, as old as I hope to live, this process is getting older, faster. Now whether this sensation matters to my prognosis/future, who's to say; and I doubt whether my oncologist and/or any medical professionals with whom I interact could enlighten me in any sort of way. I am well aware that the day I received my diagnosis of stage IV, non small cell lung cancer (NSCLC): February 27, 2009, along with its "13 month to two year prognosis," is the day that any and all guarantees for better-than-average, longer-than-expected quality of life ended. If nothing else – as I had been forewarned by other cancer patients – oncologists, generally speaking, don't exactly "blow any sunshine up your skirt" (to quote the late, great McLean Stevenson as Lt. Col. Dr. Henry Blake from the classic, long-running television series M\*A\*S\*H). And at the initial Team Lourie meeting, my oncologist definitely did not. Quite the contrary, I was encouraged, given the rather dire straits in which I now found myself, to "perhaps take that vacation I've always dreamed of," while I could. "What?!", I exclaimed. No more do I exclaim when I receive medical updates or even what I might call "down-dates," (negative, disappointing, dare I say, bad news). I've learned to take it all in stride. Although those strides seem to be getting shorter and less balanced – not a new symptom, just a metaphor. (If "new" symptoms persist for two to three weeks, I am to alert my oncologist.)

Nevertheless, there appears to be little I can do to speed up the flow of information between this doctor and this patient. E-mails do shorten the timeline, but it's the process/doctor's preferred method of communicating (heck, for all I know, legal requires face-to-face rather than computer-to-computer) which may ultimately shorten my timeline. I realize this is not my oncologist's intent (since he's proud of the success we've had together; in fact, he calls me his "third miracle patient"), but unfortunately, the effect may very well be the same. I guess for the time I'm still being, I'm sort of stuck.

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

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NEWS

## Outlook

FROM PAGE 13

are well priced and in good condition will sell. The \$500,000-\$800,000 homes are in high demand. Homes that are priced over \$1 million face a smaller and sometimes more exacting buyer base, not willing to compromise much and expecting top quality for their money."

❖ Will Farnam, Long and Foster Falls Church: "I think the data so far for this year would be considered bright - not a boom - but strong. It's a market that's good for good properties, not good for just anything. There's enough choice. One good sign is the traffic at Open Houses. The last two weekends I have had house-fulls, quite different from last year."

❖ Janet Gresh, The Gresh Group@Keller Williams: "The market is looking good, but it is still a bit more of an art than a science at times. If an under-\$1 million home is priced right, I am starting to see multiple offers, especially in Arlington. ... In some of these areas, if the house doesn't sell or have offers in the first two weekends, it could be a sign of trouble and time to re-evaluate. ... Don't overprice and you may end up getting more than you ask for. I have experienced that recently."

❖ Anita Lasansky, Long and Foster Reston: "It's looking good, strong numbers over last year for Reston especially, what some call the 'Silicon Valley of the East.' Some homes are selling now in days, not weeks, if they are well-priced with updated kitchens and bathrooms. Those homes take top dollar and for the first time in years I am seeing multiple offers on those properties. The properties over \$1.2 million are still sitting. Sellers should also be cautioned not to over-price based on the addition of the Metro Silver Line. I see that a lot of people are riding it, but it hasn't had that much of an impact on house prices in the area, at least not yet, but some sellers are factoring in 5-10 percent in their list price based on the Metro."

❖ Kathleen Quintarelli, Weichert Realtors, Burke: "I'm excited. 2015 looks slightly better already. Open Houses are really packed. With interest rates staying so low, more choice, the easing up on credit requirements, and fewer short sales and foreclosures - all those factors are really giving the market energy. There's just not enough inventory in some categories, especially anything around \$350k - \$450k. Anything in good condition in that price range can go in the first week. My advice to sellers: Price well, prepare your home and stage it. And have your photographs taken by a professional. If the potential buyer comes in and says "Wow! This place looks a lot better than the pictures on the internet!" then your agent - or you - have done something wrong. Sellers should be ready to buy, even the same day you see the house you want. That means pre-approval and preferably by a local lender that we can work with quickly, especially if faced with multiple offers."

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The biggest things are always the easiest to do because there is no competition.  
-William Van Horne



# WE CHANGE LIVES



## Maybe it really is you. Maybe you really don't belong in a "gym."

Many people just don't do well in a typical big box gym. Those gyms are too big, there is nobody to help you, and it's easy to get lost in the sea of people already in shape.

It is hard to get serious about fitness when you feel like you don't belong at the gym, when you feel like nobody really cares about you after you join.

But fitness might be the most important thing to living a healthy life. Being healthy makes you a happier person, a better parent, employee, partner or spouse. Fitness is the key to getting involved in life. You can choose to fully embrace your own fitness life, or you can watch other people living theirs. Only YOU can decide to change your life and body when you are ready.

At Koko, we understand all of this, which is why our company was founded over a decade ago. We are the small, alternative fitness choice that exists for people who feel they don't fit into that impersonal big box fitness center.

If you like lots of help and guidance, then we are for you. If you like a small, comfortable place to work out with people just like you, then Koko is your gym. If other gyms have failed you and you felt lost in the crowd, we are here to make sure that this time -- with personal guidance and the proven Koko training methodology -- you will succeed.

Don't take our word for it, come see us for yourself. We offer a full 30-day membership, including full access to our training and coaching programs, for only \$30. Come experience what makes Koko so special. Meet our clients and our staff, and give us a chance to prove that this time you will succeed.

Fitness has to be part of your life; it shapes the way you live today and how you'll look and feel tomorrow. If you have failed before in fitness, remember that there is a place here in our community that is truly different and willing to prove it to you. This time, it is all about you. This time, you will change your life.

Yours in fitness,  
The Team at Koko FitClub



Try us 30 days risk free for just \$30. Meet our team, talk with our members, and enjoy all that the digital gym has to offer. There is no obligation: If you don't love Koko in 30 days, we haven't earned your business.

\*Some restrictions may apply. See club for details.

Koko is all about family for us... it was my 17 year old who begged me to give it a try. I loved it at first because it was easy to fit into my schedule and was something fun for me



to do with my teenager. Now I love KOKO because I see the results and I feel so much better. KOKO is just a part of my life. KOKO is like no other fitness experience. It's not a regular gym (thank God -- no mirrors!). And it is an easy way to fit exercise into your schedule without it being a drag. I actually like working out now which was certainly not the case before. KOKO is fun because it challenges you individually, is efficient and gets results! I recommended it to my neighbors and now they're KOKO Nuts too!

- Leesa Donner, Great Falls

I previously belonged to three other gyms in Reston, and I had never made it a full year before my attendance dropped off. With Koko, however,

I recently passed my two year anniversary and am still going strong. I love that I can get a full body workout every time in less than an hour.

The cardio and strength workouts continue to push me to work harder than I ever did on my own at previous gyms. As a result, I'm in the best shape of my adult life. And the desire to keep feeling this healthy and strong keeps me coming back. Thanks Koko!

- Watt H., Reston, VA

There is absolutely no way I would achieve what I do at this club ANYWHERE else. I've lost over 15 lbs, my blood pressure is lower, and I am looking and feeling better than I have in 10 years!



- Scott Kreitz

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A Digital Gym

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