

Reston-centric Gifts Found at Lake Anne

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PHOTO BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO/THE CONNECTION

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Comes Back to
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Beverly Weiss, of Reston, with Godiva, finds holiday treats for pets at PetMAC located at Lake Anne Plaza.

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**HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT,
DINING & GIFT GUIDE**

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Garza Presents Budget Task Force Report to School Board

Transparency and methodology of budget review questioned.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Karen Garza is attempting to scale a towering projected budget shortfall for Fiscal Year 2017. On Nov. 9, she presented School Board members the report of budget cuts recommended by a 36-member task force she summoned earlier this year.

A dozen of the task force members were appointed by the School Board, the rest are representatives from civic associations, teachers associations and other county staff.

Garza instructed the team to make recommendations specifically for the 2017 budget with six criteria in mind: the number of students impacted, effect on employees and students, disruption to the system, permanent cuts instead of “one-time” cuts, magnitude of the cut and student outcomes especially on the core instruction.

“No one — including the Task Force members — wants to enact significant budget reductions that will impact classroom and student programs,” Garza said in a statement. “Their involvement in the process guarantees that a wide variety of voices and suggestions were heard and seriously considered.”

THE REPORT from the task force includes dozens of ideas for cuts and how those were supported by task force members, as well as employees, students and the community, based on input from the “UserVoice” program, outreach meetings, budget meetings with School Board members and the online Budget Proposal Tool.

The sets of cuts are divided into two groups — one set that would cut \$50 million from the projected budget and one that would cut \$75 million — and cover a wide area: Some examples are increasing facility use fees and student parking fees, increasing class sizes, eliminating foreign lan-



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Members of the Fairfax County School Board meet at the school system headquarters where superintendent Karen Garza presented a report from the FY 2017 Budget Task Force.

guage immersion programs and eliminating Level IV Advanced Academic Program centers in favor of offering that advanced curriculum at each local school to reduce student transportation costs.

Garza admitted though the recommendations are just that, and far from final decisions, inevitable cuts would negatively impact essentially everyone involved with Fairfax County Public Schools.

“Reductions will be unavoidable unless we receive sufficient revenue to meet our expenditure requirements,” Garza said in her statement. “As I’ve said all along, we cannot cut our way to excellence.”

The recommendations were ranked by the percent of agreement among voting members of the task force. Two members of the task force abstained during voting on the recommendations: George Becerra, appointed by At-Large School Board member Ilyong Moon, and Mindy Carlin, representing the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce.

A representative from the chamber said Carlin would not be available to comment personally.

Becerra, who currently serves on the Board of Supervisors and School Board joint Successful Children and Youth Policy team, said he wished the task force had conducted its meetings publicly rather than in private,

and that they had been provided with more comprehensive program evaluation information on which to base their decisions.

According to the task force report, “Due to time constraints, the Budget Task Force was unable to review programmatic evaluations for every potential item and option.”

“How good that program is to a child, it’s not up to me, it’s up to the system to quantify it,” Becerra said. “Right now, I don’t have that information in front of me. If you’re going to cut your own family budget like this, I think there’d be a divorce in my family real quick.”

Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity sent out a statement on the day of Garza’s presentation, also critical the task force failed to review the school’s supplemental retirement system, outsourcing or the “functions of the many ‘teachers’ that do not spend time in the classroom.”

“The School Budget Task Force missed the mark,” Herrity said in the statement.

The task force report did explain that employee compensation, health insurance and retirement are among items being reviewed and studied, so they weren’t included in the online budget tool.

Kimberly Adams, president and task force representative for the Fairfax Education Association, did vote, and said her organization is “not supportive of the majority of

the recommendations as they stand now.”

Adams said the whole task force objective being focused on what to cut rather than where else to make up revenue was “hard to hear” from the perspective of educators.

“But you have to cut \$50 million out of the system, they have to find it somewhere,” Adams said. “We have to pick the best bad choices out of that list. Nothing very palatable. Raising fees for students is not something I want to see happen, but is it a less impactful way to cut money out of the budget?”

Matt Haley, who was appointed to the task force by School Board member Jane Strauss (Dranesville) and chosen to chair the group by Garza, said the meetings were kept private to encourage more open discussion by task force members.

“We felt it was important for them to be able to share how they felt and what was feasible, possible, without being questioned on every statement by their constituents,” said Haley, a retired strategy consultant with Accenture.

Haley said that no program evaluation information in existence was withheld from the task force. “There was no less data available to us than is available to the School Board or Board of Supervisors,” he said. “We looked at everything that’s been studied. We had hundreds of questions fed through a staff answered for us. We have a lot more detailed information than just about any group has had in the past, though it is possible more analysis could be done.”

Adams agreed she would like to see more evaluative data in the future. “We had to assume every program is doing what it’s supposed to do, meeting their goals,” she said.

Garza will make her formal budget presentation to the School Board in January 2016. The School Board is scheduled to make their final decision on the proposed budget and vote at the May 26, 2016 meeting.

FOR GARZA’S PRESENTATION and the full report from the task force, visit the Fairfax County Public Schools online document-sharing program at www.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=A3KSVY653B27.

Aldrin Students Participate In Walk for the Homeless

Principal, Shane Wolfe, greets Aldrin Elementary parents, Nicola Pace and Mary Mayne, who helped with Cornerstone’s eighth Annual Walk for the Homeless. On Tuesday, Oct. 27, Aldrin students had the option of walking during their recess to bring awareness to the walk and the need in our community.





— REAL STORIES FROM THE EXPRESS LANES —

"My daily commute to work used to take me over an hour. Now, it only takes me 20 minutes. Those extra minutes allow me to spend quality time with my children."

- Jennifer G.
Alexandria, VA

Thanks to the 495 Express Lanes, Jennifer says she can balance being the mother of five young children and working at her job in Tysons. Traveling from Alexandria to Tysons Corner used to take her over an hour, but now it only takes 20 minutes. With those extra 40 minutes, Jennifer is able to eat breakfast with her kids and spend more time with them in the morning. She even has time to take her older children to school before heading to work—and now she can pick them up on the way home, too.

See more real stories from the Lanes at ExpressLanes.com



Jennifer's story was one of our winning entries in our "Express Lanes Love Story" promotion.

Nominations Sought for DryHome's 'Free Roof for the Holidays'

DryHome Roofing and Siding, a Sterling-based roofing company, is accepting nominations for its 13th annual Free Roof for the Holidays program for a deserving Northern Virginia-based individual, family or nonprofit in need of a free roof. The free roof will be awarded based on nominations DryHome receives from customers and the community.

Nominations close on Dec. 1, 2015. Winners will be announced in early December.

To nominate an individual, family, or nonprofit, go online to www.dryhome.com and click on the nomination form or email DryHome at info@dryhome.com. Nominator should include their name and phone number as well as nominee's name, address, phone and reason why they are being nominated.

DryHome Roofing and Siding has been serving Northern Virginia for more than quarter of a century and is committed to making a difference in the community. Every day, DryHome's work ensures that families and organizations have safe, high-quality roofs. The "Free

Roof for the Holidays" program enables DryHome to thank its customers and the community by helping those less fortunate have a safe roof over their heads, too.

The "Free Roof for the Holidays" program is open to Northern Virginia families, individuals and nonprofits. Last year, DryHome awarded a roof to Cornerstones, a local nonprofit that works to alleviate homelessness, ensuring one of its houses was ready to become a home for a single mother and her eight-year-old child. Other recipients have included: Leesburg's Janice Coe, a social worker and tireless advocate for the homeless; Leesburg widow Ann Harris; Doorways for Women and Families' Safehouse; Leesburg resident Barbara Green, a widow and school bus driver; veteran Hubert Laconia; Good Shepherd Alliance, a nonprofit serving Loudoun's homeless, Falls Church Cub Scout House; Gabriel Homes, a nonprofit serving adults with developmental disabilities; Mrs. Caylor, a Leesburg resident and volunteer; and Bernie Cline, an elderly Alexandria resident.

Reston Scouts Collect Over 1000 lbs. of Food

Reston Boy Scouts Troop 1970 dropped off collected food during the annual Scouting for Food collection orchestrated by Scouts from the National Capital Area Council. Cornerstones gladly accepted all 1,339 pounds of food collected by the Scouts from Southern Reston. Pack 1313, also of Reston, distributed plastic bags the week before the collection.



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OBITUARY

Mary Londergan Lovaas, 96, All Irish Mom and Community Volunteer, Dies

Mary Londergan Lovaas died early Sunday, Nov. 15 at age 96. She was the loving mother of six children, including John Lovaas of Reston, his four younger sisters and one brother in addition to having seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. She was an inspiration and source of great affection to them all.

Ms. Lovaas was born on Flag Day (June 14) 1919 in Pittsfield, Mass. to Patrick and Alyce Londergan, both 100 percent Irish, whose parents came to the U.S. from Cork County, Ireland. She graduated high school, earned a business/secretarial training certificate, and taught in Pittsfield before accepting a temporary position at the Navy Department in Washington, D.C. in 1940. He soon met Lloyd Lovaas, a dashing young man recently arrived in D.C. from his native Minnesota. They were



Mary Londergan Lovaas

married on Washington's Birthday (Feb. 22) in 1941.

When Lloyd joined the Army and headed for the European theater, she returned to Pittsfield to stay with her folks with baby John until the war ended. When Lloyd came home in 1945, they moved to Arlington, Va. After two more children arrived, they moved in 1951 to College Park, Md. Following John, there were four girls and, finally, a second boy.

Ms. Lovaas was a caring mom. She read to all her children, got involved in their school activities and encouraged them to succeed academically and to participate in extracurricular activities. She did not learn to drive until very late in life. So, she did a lot of walking. For example, she would hike with her children to the bookmobiles, public library branches serving some neighborhoods in those days.

Daughter Cathy was born with Down's Syndrome and attended special schools. Ms. Lovaas volun-

teered in Cathy's school. Also, she helped organize and led a group of Cathy's handicapped friends who bowled together just about every weekend. They called themselves the Woodchoppers. It was amazing to see the absolute delight of those young people of varying skill levels bowling, scoring and enjoying pizza together afterwards. Somehow she also found time to work part-time at the Government Printing Office in Washington and to do a lot of other community volunteer work such as Meals on Wheels and help-



Mary Lovaas with daughter Dr. Karen Lovaas and grandson Deron Lovaas (John's son). Circa 1970.

PHOTOS BY JOHN LOVAAS

FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community, including special holiday services. Send to reston@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday.

Trinity Presbyterian Church, 651 Dranesville Road, Herndon, has Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery and childcare are provided and youth and adult Sunday school classes are held prior, from 9:40-10:45 a.m. 703-437-5500 or www.trinityherndon.org.

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston, holds weekly classes starting Sept. 12, Thursdays 7-8:30 p.m., for the general public which use Buddhist teachings to practice meditation. \$12. 202-986-2257 or www.meditation-dc.org.

St. Anne's Episcopal Church, 1700 Wainwright Drive in Reston, holds Sunday services at 7:45 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and contemporary service at 5 p.m. Nursery, Sunday school and adult education available. Morning prayer on Monday at 9:30, Holy Eucharist Wednesday at 8:15 a.m. 703-437-6530 or www.stannes-reston.org.

SEE FAITH NOTES, PAGE 7

You owe it to your family to visit Brightview Great Falls. It is the area's finest Assisted Living community.

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"Brightview offers possibilities, independence and choices. The people here are very caring and attentive. Brightview is a respectful and empowering community where we receive compassionate and dedicated care." – Sheila W.

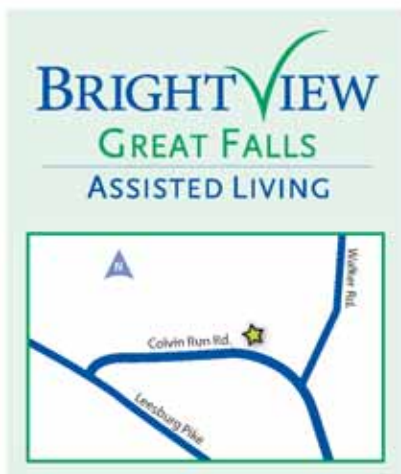
"I never wanted to leave my home, but moving to Brightview Great Falls was the best decision we made. The food is delicious and we particularly enjoy the musical entertainment and the friendships that we have made since moving here." – Bill W.

"At Brightview I still have my independence. I love everything here and I have everything that I need. My family is welcome anytime and the best part is they no longer worry about me." – Sophia C.



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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

NOVEMBER

11/25/2015 Celebrating Gratitude, Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

12/2/2015 Wellbeing

12/9/2015 .. Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide II

12/9/2015 .. HomeLifeStyle; Home for the Holidays

12/16/2015 A+ Camps & Schools; Holiday Entertainment & Gifts Pages

12/23/2015 Special Issue – Safe for the Holidays

12/30/2015 Children's Connection

JANUARY

1/6/2016 Wellbeing, Renewal, Resolutions

1/13/2016 HomeLifeStyle

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is Jan. 18

1/20/2016 A+ Camps & Schools

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- Springfield Connection
- Chantilly Connection
- Mount Vernon Gazette
- Vienna/Oakton Connection

COMMENTARY

Medicaid in Perspective

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



A recent newspaper headline proclaimed that "Audit finds waste, inefficiencies in Virginia's Medicaid program." As often is the case, the real story is beyond the headline.

The audit described in the story is the 62nd audit of Virginia's Medicaid program since 2002; this one was conducted by the Joint Legislative Audit Review Commission (JLARC) of the General Assembly (<http://jlarc.virginia.gov/medicaid-2015.asp>). The audit was mandated by the Republican majority of the General Assembly who oppose the expansion of Medicaid for the working poor. As JLARC explained the context of the audit, "Medicaid eligibility determination in Virginia is undergoing significant changes, including new policies for most Medicaid applicants and a new information system used for all applicants." Is it any wonder that under such circumstances there would be some audit findings related to verification of eligibility?

In looking at the details of the report, the biggest problem with eligibility determination occurs where the caseload is highest. In Loudoun County, for example, an eligibility worker is responsible for 1,221 cases; in Chesterfield County near Richmond each eligibility worker is responsible for 1,230 cases. It should be no surprise that with such limited staffing and a changing system there would be delays and errors. Measured against federal standards, Virginia's error rate of 0.5 percent in approving Medicaid eligibility was far lower than the national average of 3.3 percent in 2012. Even with the changing standards, the current rate at 2.7 percent is less than the national average.

In 2014, 1.2 million Virginians received Medicaid benefits. Only certain categories

of Virginians are eligible for Medicaid. They must fall into one of five, primary eligibility categories—children under age 19, parents or legal guardians of a dependent child, pregnant women, persons aged 65 or older, or disabled or blind—and they must have income below the appropriate percentage of the federal poverty level

for their eligibility category. Over half of those enrolled in 2014 were children and nearly half of the \$7.9 billion in payments went to those who are disabled or blind.

As the JLARC report found, "the eligibility determination process is complex and involves multiple federal, state, and local agencies." While the goal may be to have no errors, the level of performance in Virginia is much better than the national average and is quite remarkable considering the kind of change the program is currently undergoing. The JLARC report concluded that "the state may have spent between \$21 million and \$38 million on individuals no longer eligible," or less than 0.5 percent at a maximum.

No estimate is offered for the cost to the recommended remedies, but certainly they will exceed the cost of the perceived problem—fraud and waste. In addition to costs, the proposed solution opens up a myriad of large data bases on personal finances, real estate holdings, and employment that the General Assembly may not wish to make available to state agencies. The report has no mention of the amount the state will recover; nor does it mention in the case of fraud that the Attorney General's Medicaid fraud unit was found in 2013 to be the best in the country.

Opponents of closing the coverage gap for an estimated 400,000 working Virginians will no doubt nitpick the latest report and use it as an excuse for not taking action. Such a misuse of information will be felt by the neediest of Virginians.

FAITH NOTES

FROM PAGE 6

Adult Sunday school will be held 9:30 a.m. Sundays at the Washington Plaza Baptist Church at Lake Anne Village Center. The group is studying the Gospel of Mark. Services follow at 11 a.m.

HAVEN of Northern Virginia offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. Contact 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org for schedules and registration information.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the Jewish Outreach Institute offer the Mothers/Parents Circle, an umbrella of free educational events and resources. Jewish rituals, ethics and the creation of a Jewish home, regular meetings and group Shabbats and holidays. Participants include Sha'are Shalom, Congregation Beth Emeth, Temple Rodef Shalom and the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. ShalomDC.org.

Epiphany United Methodist Preschool, 1014 Country Club Drive, N.E. in Vienna, is now enrolling 3- to 4-year-old students. 703-938-2391

or www.epiphanypreschool.com.

Hope Fellowship Church will temporarily be meeting at Woody's Golf Range, 11801 Leesburg Pike, Herndon. Sunday worship services for the Southern Baptist church are at 10:45 a.m. The public is invited to join a Bible believing, multi-ethnic/multi-cultural congregation, with Bible-based sermons and uplifting music. 703-599-3527 or www.hopefellowshipchurchloudoun.org.

Knitters needed the first and third Wednesdays of the month, at 7 p.m., at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 432 Van Buren St., Herndon. The church's Shawl Ministry is offering free knitting instruction while providing shawls, blankets and other knitted items for people in need. No cost and yarn can be provided. Email shawl@saint-timothys.org or visit the Pastoral Care page at www.saint-timothys.org.

Nondenominational Christian businessmen meet for prayer, Biblical discussion and fellowship 7 p.m. Fridays at Anita's, 1051 Elden St., Herndon and 12 p.m. Thursdays at 555 Grove St., Suite 200, Herndon. Call 703-795-1257.

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OPINION

Holidays Are About Giving

Give thanks and share locally; tens of thousands of families around us are in need.

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

Northern Virginia is among the wealthiest areas in the country, and many if not most of us go through our usual routines without encountering evidence of needy families among us.

Where to Give Locally

- ❖ **Cornerstones**, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, www.cornerstonesva.org. Nonprofit providing support and advocacy for those in need of food, shelter, affordable housing, quality childcare, and other human services. Programs and services include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Emergency Food Pantry, Hypothermia Prevention Program, Thanksgiving Food Drive, Gifts for Kids and annual Coat Drive. Sign up this week to give Gifts for Kids, Alacia Earley at 571.323.9568 or alacia.earley@cornerstonesva.org. Hunter Mill District Winter Coat Closet distributed over 5,500 winter coats and jackets last winter, plus over 4,000 hats, gloves, mittens and scarves to individuals and families in need of winter gear. Bring coat donations to the North County Governmental Building, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston, VA 20190 through Feb. 29, 2016, 24 hours a day.
- ❖ **SHARE** of McLean operates a food pantry; provides assistance to families to avoid eviction, keep utilities on and meet other needs in a crisis; provided gift cards and holiday presents to over 230 needy families, including 650 household members, last holiday season. Donate online or contact 703-229-1414. www.SHAREofMcLean.org. info@shareofmclean.org.

But more than 51,000 children who attend Fairfax County Public Schools are poor enough to receive free or subsidized meals, a significant measure of poverty. That's 28 percent of students in Fairfax County Public Schools.

EDITORIAL

In Arlington more than 31 percent of the students are poor enough to receive free or subsidized meals; that's 7,749 students at last count.

In Alexandria, 8,664 students are poor enough to receive free or subsidized meals. That's 59 percent of the 14,671 students enrolled.

These are children who are living in families who may be on the brink of homelessness, families who must choose between medical bills, car repair, heat and food. These are children who may not be sure that they will have a meal between the meals they get in school. School holidays can bring uncertainty and hunger, a far cry from the celebrations, gifts and plenty that we associate with Thanksgiving and Christmas.

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

There are literally hundreds, probably thousands, of ways to give locally this season. Here are a few ideas. We will rerun this list again during the holiday, so let us know what we have missed.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

- ❖ **Alternative House** — Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge, 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna, 703-506-9191. Now have a new program to help young people who are homeless while still in high school and who don't have the support of a parent or guardian. Requests for food and clothing are up more than 50 percent. www.thealternativehouse.org.
- ❖ **LINK**, serving Herndon, Chantilly, Loudoun and more, needs contributions of food, coats and holiday toys for children, plus volunteers. More than 4,000 adults and children have signed up for help with Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. 703-437-1776, www.linkagainsthunger.org.
- ❖ **Herndon-Reston FISH** (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), 336 Victory Drive, Herndon, 703-391-0105, <http://herndonrestonfish.org>.
- ❖ **Committee for Helping Others (CHO)**, Vienna, organized in 1969 by a group of churches and individuals in the Dunn Loring, Merrifield, Oakton, Vienna community to provide simple, loving charity to those in need. Last year 450 children had a special Christmas through the annual Christmas Store. Collecting gently used jackets and bikes, new toys, gift cards for teens, and food gift cards. Drop gently used bikes off at the Vienna Presbyterian 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 28. On Friday, Dec.

11, bring new, unwrapped toys for children ages 1-12, gift cards for teens, and food gift cards. Volunteers needed Saturday, Dec. 12, we to help clients shop at Vienna Presbyterian Church, call at 703-281-7614 and leave a message in box #1. <http://www.cho-va.com>.

- ❖ **Northern Virginia Family Service**. Mail check or Shoppers Food Warehouse gift card to Northern Virginia Family Service, ATTN: Operation Turkey, 10455 White Granite Drive, Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124. Gifting for Families was able to bring some extra holiday cheer to 2,122 children in Northern Virginia last year. Monetary contributions and online donations help the most. www.nvfs.org. Contact Pam Boyle at pboyle@nvfs.org or 571-748-2537.
- ❖ **Touching Heart** in Herndon is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate children to have giving hearts. <http://www.touchingheart.com>, 703-901-7355.
- ❖ **Assistance League of Northern Virginia** is an all-volunteer organization that clothes, feeds, educates and nurtures those in need focusing five of the neediest elementary schools. Volunteers and donors are always needed. Contact ALNorthernVA@yahoo.com or see www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org.

More Support Needed for Runaway, Homeless Youth

BY JUDITH DITTMAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
ALTERNATIVE HOUSE



November is National Runaway Prevention Month and The National Runaway Safeline estimates are that nationally 1.3 to 1.7 million runaway, thrown away and homeless youth live on the street. Fairfax, even with its excellent schools and supports for young people, is not immune from this problem. Alternative House, a Fairfax nonprofit organization, provides emergency shelter and counseling to more than 150 young people each year. The Fairfax County Public Schools homeless liaison's office reports that there were 324 homeless youth under the age of 18 who didn't have the support of a parent or guardian during the last school year.

About Alternative House

The Alternative House, a Northern Virginia nonprofit organization, provides emergency shelter, transitional living programs and community based supports for homeless, runaway, abused and at-risk young people. Alternative House has provided services for young people for more than 43 years.

Why do young people run away or become homeless? They run for many different reasons. Sometimes young people are experiencing "typical" teenage behavior. They get mad at their family and leave home usually going to a friend's house. But even this can be dangerous. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children estimates that one in six endangered runaways is a victim of sex trafficking. It's unfortunately too easy for even a suburban teen to be sucked into this horror when they've left home.

Many young people are fleeing

family conflict or an abusive situation. According to the National Runaway Safeline, 47 percent report conflict in their home, 80 percent of runaway girls report being physically or sexually abused and 43 percent of runaways have experienced physical abuse. These are young people who believe the street is safer than home and more than 50 percent of youth who are on the streets are there because their parents told them to leave or didn't care if they left.

Once they have left home young people are at higher risk to become victims of sex trafficking, and assault. Young people are simply not prepared to fend for themselves.

It's not surprising that mental health issues increase significantly with 32 percent of runaway and homeless teens reporting having attempted suicide.

Unfortunately, there are few resources for these young people. Here in Fairfax we have Alternative House. It is the only emergency shelter for teenagers in Northern Virginia. There is only one other shelter like it in the entire state of Virginia and that one is far away in Virginia Beach. In the past 15 years four other Northern Virginia emergency shelters for teenagers have closed. Fairfax needs more housing and supports for our runaway and homeless young people.

In addition to working to provide more safe shelters for those youth who have runaway or are homeless, there are things we can

SEE ALTERNATIVE, PAGE 9

Reston CONNECTION

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LETTERS

Contribute to the Rescue Reston Legal Defense Fund

To the Editor:

Many thanks to our supporters - and we still need your help! Please make a difference with a donation to ensure we can maintain legal strength and backing to preserve designated open space at Reston National Golf Course, a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program Golf Course.

We had a momentary victory on Friday, Nov. 6, when a Fairfax Circuit Court judge told the owner-investors of RNGC that they must follow established County zoning procedures in any effort to convert this tract of land to other uses.

The golf course owner's attorney had balked at following the County process.

We will find out in the next few weeks whether the owner-investors will appeal that decision to the Virginia Supreme Court, but even without an appeal we expect them to continue their battle against us through other avenues.

Rescue Reston has helped fund the neighborhood petitioners' legal fees. They play a critical role in the recent decision by the Court that may help protect Reston's open space. Donations have come from all over the U.S. - as far away as Utah, Colorado, and Illinois. But the fight is not over.

It's simple: donations help Rescue Reston continue its work. Our news announcing the Court ruling reached more than 4,000 people on Facebook. Just \$5 from each reader means \$20,000 toward legal defense. We have strength in

numbers.

Please donate \$5 or more, regardless of your address. Some day your community may need the legal precedent that is being set in Reston.

Rescue Reston's community activism strengthens our elected officials' determination to stand with us. We have brought national attention to this fight to uphold Reston's planned community vision in opposition to unplanned development.

Please send your check to Rescue Reston, 2198 Golf Course Dr, Reston, VA 20191. You can also contribute by using the donate link on our web site, www.rescuereston.org.

When you shop on Amazon, start at <http://amzn.to/1ObkG1>. A percentage will go to Rescue Reston, at no cost to you and with complete anonymity. Starting at this link every time you shop will show your appreciation the one way that really makes a difference: a donation to assure that we continue to have the legal strength and backing to fight efforts to change the open space use of these 166 acres.

Bob Simon, Reston's founder, said this past August, "The Reston National Golf Course area should remain as open space forever." With your donation, we can make this a reality.

Connie Hartke
President, Rescue Reston

Alternative House

FROM PAGE 8

do as individuals and as a community to provide the support young people need to stay safe. Additional counseling resources can help families learn to better communicate. Since family conflict is one of the primary reasons young people leave home this can have a huge impact.

Studies also show that in-

creased mental health supports and substance abuse treatment options for both youth and families help prevent runaway episodes.

Our young people deserve to have caring adults and a safe place to stay so they can grow to their full potential. If we can create this, we can prevent the tragedy that faces young people who run away and become homeless.

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor • The Connection
1606 King St. • Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444.

By e-mail: reston@connectionnewspapers.com

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE



Reston-centric gifts such as Charles Veatch's "The Nature of Reston" will be a welcome addition to any Restonian's bookshelf, available at the Reston Museum.



Find one-of-a-kind jewelry, paintings and art by Reston artists at the Reston Art Gallery and Studio.



Commemorative Robert Simon glasses with martini and Danish Mary recipes at the Reston Museum.



Maggie Oswald, of Reston, says that handcrafted items by local artists, such as Jane Kinzler Anthony, are nice gifts for the holidays.



Beth Charbonneau and Joy Charbonneau-Lovaas, 8, of College Park, Md., find the latest second-hand books in the many nooks and crannies of Reston's Used Book Shop.

PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO/THE CONNECTION

Reston-centric Gifts Found at Lake Anne

BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO
THE CONNECTION

Imagine small shops where shopkeepers know everyone by name, catching a glimpse of neighbors enjoying a leisurely hot drink through the window of the local cafe, locals enjoying the view of the water at the plaza. No, it is not the old capitals of Europe. It is Lake Anne Plaza in Reston. Get a taste of Old World shopping by visiting the shops at Lake Anne. Show

your hometown pride with Reston-centric gifts.

◆ **Reston Museum and Shop**, Lake Anne Village Center, 1639 Washington Plaza, Reston. <http://www.restonmuseum.org/>. 703-709-7700. Hours: Tuesday-Friday, Noon-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, Noon-5 p.m.

Maggie Oswald, of Reston Museum, said handwoven and handknit items made by Reston artists and crafters are nice gifts to

get and receive. Table runners, scarves, pillows by artists, such as Jane Kinzler Anthony, range from \$38-\$64. These one-of-a-kind items will be enjoyed year after year.

Want to know more about Reston? Check out Charles Veatch's book "The Nature of Reston." Filled with photographs of animals and bucolic scenes in Reston, it retails for \$100. Or, come check out the wall map of Reston in the shop. See how Reston Town Center has expanded and changed the face of the city, locate your neighborhood, or

marvel at the how green Reston is.

◆ **PetMAC Lake Anne**, 11412 Washington Plaza West, Reston, <http://www.petmac.org/>. 571-325-2099.

PetMAC sells all-natural foods, treats and supplements. Leslie Yeager said that toys and treats are big movers during the holiday season. Hard elk antler chews are perfect for the Chihuahua or the Great Dane. "It's the best natural chew for plaque and tartar. And, they last forever even if the dog is an ag-

Special gifts for the special people in your life.

gressive chewer," said Yeager. Prize depends on the size of the antlers and ranges between \$8-\$54. For cats, she recommends anything with catnip. For a well-deserved splurge, how about a heated pet bed by K & H, which retails for about \$60.

Beverly Weiss, of Reston, came in with 10-year old chocolate Labrador and Chesapeake mix Godiva for a treat of dried pig's ear. Yeager said Godiva is the store's unofficial mascot. Weiss gets the all-natural foods offered by PetMAC.

◆ **Reston Art Gallery and Studios**, 11400 Washington Plaza W # B, Reston. 703-481-8156. restonartgallery.com. Hours: Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, noon-7 p.m.; or by appointment.

Reston artists show off their work at the Reston Art Gallery and Studios. A cooperative of 12 artists, Reston Art Gallery and Studios feature original art from Pat McIntyre, Roberta Thole, Joan Kelly, Kathy Kautter, Maggie Stewart, Pat Bason, Claudia Samper, Lassie Corbett, Ronni Jolles, DJ Donahey,

Marie Straw and Gail Axtell.

Axtell's jewelry are for sale starting at \$39. Paintings by artists start at \$35. To send a little bit of Reston to friends and family, handpainted and handmade cards are also for sale.

◆ **Reston's Used Book Shop**, 1623 Washington Plaza N., Reston, <http://www.restonsusedbookshop.com/>. 703-435-9772.

The holidays are the perfect time to catch up on reading and relaxing. Stock up on all the books everyone said you should read at Reston's Used Book Shop. Perhaps next year's resolution is to read more classic lit-

erature. There's a slew of Brontes, Dickens, Austens, and others on the shelves that go from the floor to the ceiling. Get that title to complete your favorite series. Grab that book on military history for your father-in-law. Start off young readers with their first Harry Potter book.

Prices range depending on the type of book. There are collectibles kept inside a cabinet in the front. Joy Charbonneau-Lovaas, 8, of College Park, Md., said that she would get a funny graphic novel for her father, Deron Lovaas, and a book about therapy for her mother, Beth Charbonneau. For herself, anything Harry Potter-related.

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FEED THE HUNGRY
\$100 will buy a holiday meal for a family in need.

FUND SOME SUMMER FUN
\$50 provides a week of summer fun at camp.

Enough with all the snowflake ties and reindeer sweaters, too. This year, there are lots of great ways to give and give back at the same time. Now you can donate to any of these Fairfax County nonprofits in honor of anyone on your gift list. It makes shopping easy and offers you a nice tax deduction. But best of all, it helps those organizations succeed in bringing goods and services to those who need them most at this special time of year. Learn more at givefairfax.net

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT AND GIFT GUIDE

Classical Ballet Theatre Presents The Nutcracker

Experience the magic of Classical Ballet Theatre's "Nutcracker." Performed at the 520-seat Ernst Theater, this holiday classic includes all of the stunning costumes dancing, and enchantment necessary to bring Clara's dream to life. Join Clara for a mischievously fun, family holiday party, an epic battle between the Mouse King and Nutcracker and a captivating journey with her Nutcracker Prince. On her travels, Clara meets the majestic Snow Queen; and when she arrives to the Kingdom of Sweets, she encounters the whimsical Mother Ginger, the exquisite Sugar Plum Fairy and other magnificent Kingdom characters. All treat Clara — and audience members alike — to some of the most beautiful choreography and professional and pre-professional talent in the Washington Metropolitan Area. For the best seating, visit <http://www.cbtnva.org/nutcracker> to purchase your tickets soon. Performances: Saturday, Nov. 28 at 2 and 7 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 29 at 2 p.m. at the Ernst Community Theater, Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale.

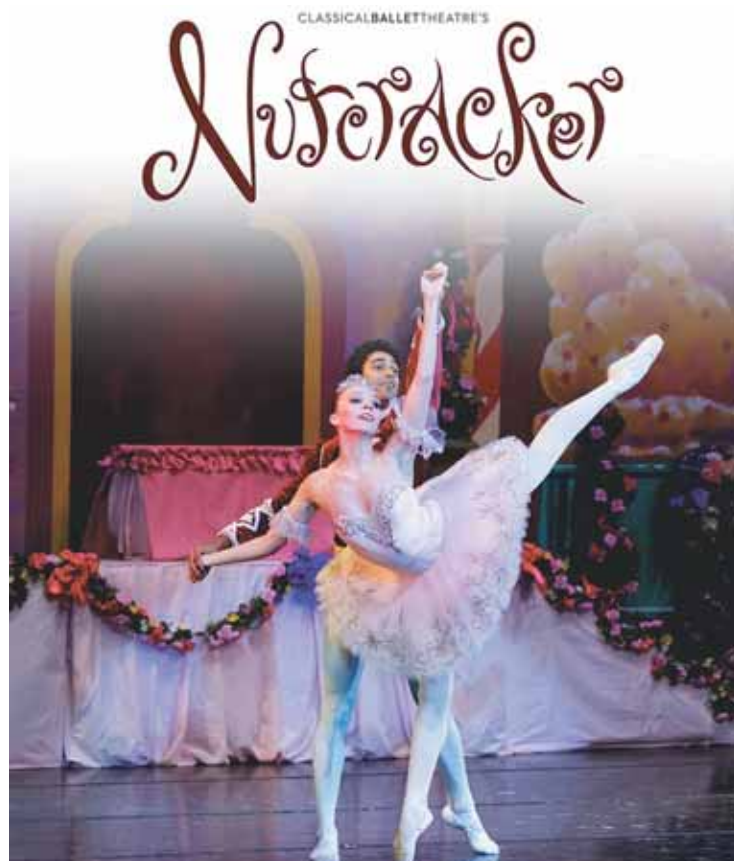


PHOTO COURTESY OF CLASSICAL BALLET THEATRE

Visit <http://www.cbtnva.org/nutcracker> for information and tickets, \$18-\$25. Call 703-471-0750 for discounts for military families and boy scouts. Call 703-742-9395

for discounts and free programming for girl scouts. Show your holiday spirit by bringing a non-perishable food donation for LINK Against Hunger.

VIEWPOINTS

At Reston Town Center: Do you think it's too early for radio stations to be playing holiday music?

Shiza Saleem, Ashburn

"No. What's the problem with celebrating something happy and good, even if it's early?"



Mariana Calixto, Great Falls

"No, I don't think so. It's time."



Ali Buhisa, Manassas

"Yes. If you do it before Thanksgiving, then it messes up the holidays. And Thanksgiving is the season of sharing. And once Christmas comes it's the season of giving."



Gislayne Reis, Reston

"I don't think so, I think it's time but [all day], it's too much, I think."



Owen Dickinson, Canada

"What's with the tree already? They already started [playing Christmas music in Canada] now but it's still too early, here or in Canada. You guys haven't even had Thanksgiving, yet."



PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO
THE CONNECTION

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HOLIDAY CALENDAR

ONGOING

Gingerbread Village at Hyatt Regency Reston. Saturday, Dec. 5 through Thursday, Dec. 31. The Hyatt Gingerbread Village is a holiday tradition presented annually since the hotel's opening in 1990. The sweet, whimsical, classic holiday village scene is on display in the main lobby. reston.hyatt.com.

Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides. Saturdays, Dec. 5, 12 and 19. 4-9 p.m. Departures on Market Street in front of Talbots at Reston Town Center. \$5 per person; children 5 and under ride free. All proceeds benefit local charities. www.restontowncenter.com/holidays.

Mini-Train Rides. Sundays, Dec. 6, 13, 20. Noon-4 p.m. Pick up on Market Street in front of Talbots at Reston Town Center. Donated proceeds benefit local charities. www.restontowncenter.com/holidays.

Holiday Gift Wrapping. Dec. 19-22, Noon-6 p.m. Dec. 23, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Dec. 24, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Hyatt Regency Reston, 1800 Presidents St., Reston. Gifts will be beautifully wrapped while you shop or work, same-day service. Donations benefit 22,000 needy kids with school supplies. Presented by Kids R First with support from the Hyatt Regency and Appalachian Spring. kidsrfirst.org. appalachianspring.com.

Community Performances. December through the holiday season. 11900 Market Street, Reston. Street performances of music and dance performed by a variety of local groups. For more information and schedules, visit <http://www.restontowncenter.com>.



PHOTO BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO/THE CONNECTION

The Christmas Tree is ready for the holiday kick off on Friday, Nov. 27, when it will be lit and Santa Clause comes to Reston Town Center.



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Talib Aleem of Reston knows show off his skills at the Reston Town Center Skating Pavilion in 2014. The skating pavilion is open daily for the season.

FRIDAY/NOV. 27

Holidays at Reston Town Center. 8 a.m.-10 a.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Stores, restaurants, skating pavilion open early. Gingerbread Man Mile Race. Holiday parade. Dancing. Tree lighting and sing along. Carriage and min-train rides. And, Santa.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 28-29

Movies and Mimosas—"Holiday Inn." 11 a.m. Bow Tie Cinemas, 11940 Market St., Reston. See the classics how they were meant to be seen on the big screen. \$5.50, \$1 for Loyalty members. bowtiecinemas.com. 703-318-1801.

THURSDAY/DEC. 3

Community Holiday Performances. 6:30 p.m. Fountain Square, 11900 Market St., Reston. Musical performances by community group from Sunrise Valley Elementary.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 3-6

2015 Annual Holiday Mini Sale. Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Gift-quality books, gifts, and surprises to delight readers of all ages. Cash or checks only.

FRIDAY/DEC. 4

Gingerbread Village at Reston Hyatt. 11900 Market Street, Reston. Enjoy the annual display in the hotel lobby, throughout the holiday season. For more information, call 703-709-1234 or visit <http://reston.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html>.

Community Holiday Performances. 6 p.m. Fountain Square, 11900 Market St., Reston. Musical performances by community group from River Bend Middle School, Raven Jazz, River Bend Jazz and River Bend Chamber Music.

SATURDAY/DEC. 5

Jingle on Lake Anne. 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Lake Anne Plaza (Waterfront), 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Variety of festive activities ranging from the ever popular special visit from Santa (arriving on a lake barge), strolling carolers, music, wine tastings, merchant specials, children's crafts, cookie and ornament decorating, holiday arts and crafts market, holiday entertainment and much more. Santa arrives at noon. Tree lighting at 6:30 p.m. Free. www.lakeanneplaza.com.

Community Holiday Performances. 2 p.m. Fountain Square, 11900 Market St., Reston. Musical performances by Rhythm Street Dance.

Yule Log Tasting at Edibles Incredible. All day. Free tastes of holiday yule log and pre-order promotion. Free gift with purchase. 703-709-8200. ediblesincredible.com.

Handmade Holiday Ornaments Workshop. 9:30-11 a.m. Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market St., #103, Reston. Sign up the whole family for this fun workshop led by GRACE staff

to make some fun, creative ornaments. Children must be accompanied by a participating adult. 703-471-9242. Register at restoncommunitycenter.org.

The Wonder of the Season: Around the World. 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. Reston Community Center, 213 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Celebrate the holidays with beloved carols from around the globe, plus Daniel Pinkham's Christmas Cantata, featuring the Washington Symphonic Brass Quintet. Adults/\$25, Seniors/\$20, Military/Free and Youth 17 and under/Free (with adult/senior ticketholder). www.restonchorale.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 5-6

Movies and Mimosa—"White Christmas." 11 a.m. Bow Tie Cinemas, 11940 Market St., Reston. See the classics how they were meant to be seen on the big screen. \$5.50, \$1 for Loyalty members. bowtiecinemas.com. 703-318-1801.

SUNDAY/DEC. 6

Holiday Arts and Crafts Show. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Avenue, Herndon. A variety of handcrafted items and fine art will be on sale including wreaths, quilts, jewelry, Christmas ornaments,

decorations, original artwork, photography, stained glass and more. Visit www.herndonva.gov.

Run with Santa 5K. 8:30 a.m. Reston Town Center, 11911 Democracy Drive, Reston. Word on the street is he's been training like a champion. Are you ready to Run with Santa? Register at <http://www.prraces.com/runwithsanta>.

Holiday Caroling in the Closet. 4-6 p.m. The Closet, 845 Station St., Herndon. Listen to carolers, shop, enjoy free hot chocolate and cookies, and more. Santa will pose for pictures with kids of all ages. Please join the fun and bring a canned or boxed nonperishable food item to support the Western Fairfax Christian Ministries Food Bank. Free. www.theclosetofgreaterherndon.org. www.dranesville.org.

SUNDAYS/DEC. 6, 13

Christmas at the Farm. 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Enjoy a special holiday visit and take a wagon ride with Santa through the woods and fields. Activities include a holiday craft, cookie decorating and puppet show. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Tickets: \$8-\$10. 703-437-9101.

Annual Ecumenical-Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Eve Service

November 25, 2015, at 7:30 PM
11508 North Shore Drive, Reston, VA 20190


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Join faith communities and local leaders in celebration of the diversity of all people and faiths. The service will include Shreshim Community; ADAMS; Saint John Neumann Catholic Church; Unitarian Universalist, Reston; Virginia Delegate Ken Plum and Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins.



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CALENDAR

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The deadline is the Friday prior to the following week's paper.
Photos/artwork encouraged.



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ONGOING

Art/Craft Programs. 10 a.m.-noon. Saturdays/Nov. 21, 28. Reston Art Gallery and Studios, 11400 Washington Plaza, Reston. Nov. 7-Colorful fall leaves. Nov. 14-Marshmallow sculpture. Nov. 21-Paper bag turkeys. Nov. 28-Holiday decorated snack plates. Ages 3-11. www.restonartgallery.com.

"A Touch of the Orient." Through Dec. 3. Reston Art Gallery and Studio, Lake Anne Village Center, 11400 Washington Plaza W, # B, Reston. Chinese brush paintings in the traditional style on rice papers by artist Lassie Corbett. Artist demonstrations from 2-4 p.m. on Sundays in November.

Ethereal and Natural Reactions. Through Sunday, Dec. 6. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Ethereal is series of abstract, contemporary art paintings by artist Anne Cherubim. In Natural Reaction, sculptor Brian Kirk reshapes and twists steel into new forms using blacksmithing techniques that focus on the beauty of rust as a surface treatment. Free. <http://www.artspaceherndon.com/ethereal-and-natural-reaction>. 703-956-6590.

Gingerbread Village at Hyatt Regency Reston. Saturday, Dec. 5 through Thursday, Dec. 31. The Hyatt Gingerbread Village is a holiday tradition presented annually since the hotel's opening in 1990. The sweet, whimsical, classic holiday village scene is on display in the main lobby. reston.hyatt.com.

Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides. Saturdays, Dec. 5, 12 and 19. 4-9 p.m. Departures on Market Street in front of Talbots at Reston Town Center. \$5 per person; children 5 and under ride free. All proceeds benefit local charities. www.restontowncenter.com/holidays.

Mini-Train Rides. Sundays, Dec. 6, 13, 20. Noon-4 p.m. Pick up on Market Street in front of Talbots at Reston Town Center. Donated proceeds benefit local charities. www.restontowncenter.com/holidays.

Holiday Gift Wrapping. Dec. 19-22, Noon-6 p.m. Dec. 23, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Dec. 24, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Hyatt Regence Reston, 1800 Presidents St., Reston. Gifts will be beautifully wrapped while

you shop or work, same-day service. Donations benefit 22,000 needy kids with school supplies. Presented by Kids R First with support from the Hyatt Regency and Appalachian Spring. kidsrfirst.org. appalachianspring.com.

Reston Town Center Ice Skating Pavilion - 2015-2016 Season. November through March. Open daily, 11900 Market Street, Reston. For more information on rates, rentals and schedules, call 703-709-6300 or visit skating@restontowncenter.com.

Portrait and Figure Painting with Jordan Xu. Wednesdays, Nov. 4-Dec. 23. 7-10 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Come and learn how to paint portraits and figures in oil, acrylic or pastel from a live model. In this class you will gain the knowledge of basic painting concepts and techniques such as value, color temperature, composition and transition. Step-by-step instructions will take you through the entire process of a painting. Fee: \$250. Registration required at <http://www.artspaceherndon.com/portrait-and-figure-painting-with-jordan-xu/>. For more information, call 703-956-6590.

Community Performances. December through the holiday season. 11900 Market Street, Reston. Street performances of music and dance performed by a variety of local groups. For more information and schedules, visit <http://www.restontowncenter.com>.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 18

Meet Me at the Movies-Senior Movie Day. 10 a.m. Reston Association presents "Far from the Madding Crowd." Refreshments and door prizes provided prior to movie. Free to 55+. Ashleigh@reston.org. 703-435-6530. reston.org.

FRIDAY/NOV. 20

Thanksgiving Centerpieces. 7-8:30 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Start your holiday season with this festive workshop. Make a beautiful centerpiece

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15



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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 14

with native materials and some simple napkin rings for your Thanksgiving table. Enjoy mulled cider and seasonal treats as we work. Cost: \$20/resident; \$25/non-resident. Reservations at naturecenter@reston.org or 703-476-9689.

SATURDAY/NOV. 21

Smartphone Photography

Workshop. 9:30-11 a.m. Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market St., Suite 103, Reston. Learn to take spectacular photos with a smartphone camera. Bring a smartphone with a built-in camera and a USB cord. Ages 14 and up. 703-471-9242. Registration #402631 at restoncommunitycenter.com.

Herndon Turkey Trot 5k Race. 4 p.m. Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. \$20 with a can of food through noon, Nov. 20. Race day registration \$25 plus a can of food and \$20 for 18 and under. All food donated to LINK. Register at herndon-va.gov/webtrac.

THURSDAY/NOV. 26

Annual Reston Thanksgiving Day Family Bike Ride. 9 a.m. South Lakes Shopping Center 11120 South Lakes Drive, Reston. Join the South Lakes Village Center ride to Reston Town Center or organize your own neighborhood ride. All rides converge at Starbucks at Reston Town Center. Free. Contact cyclinginreston@gmail.com or call 703-966-6182 for information.

FRIDAY/NOV. 27

Holidays at Reston Town Center. 8 a.m.-11 p.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Stores, restaurants, skating pavilion open early. Gingerbread Man Mile Race. Holiday parade. Dancing. Tree lighting and sing along. Carriage and min-train rides. And, Santa.

SATURDAY/NOV. 28

Local Author Reading. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Reston Used Book Shop, 1623 Washington Plaza N., Reston. Visit local author Tony Mayo as he signs and reads from his new novel "Crimes of Cunning." www.TonyMayo.com.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 28-29

Movies and Mimosas-"Holiday Inn." 11 a.m. Bow Tie Cinemas, 11940 Market St., Reston. See the classics how they were meant to be see-on the big screen. \$5.50, \$1 for Loyalty members. bowtiecinemas.com. 703-318-1801.

THURSDAY/DEC. 3

Community Holiday Performances. 6:30 p.m. Fountain Square, 11900 Market St., Reston. Musical performances by community group from Sunrise Valley Elementary.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 3-6

2015 Annual Holiday Mini Sale. Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Gift-quality books, gifts, and surprises to delight readers of all ages. Cash or checks only.

Narnia at Herndon High School. 7:30-9:45 p.m. Sunday, 2 p.m. Herndon High School, 700 Bennett St., Herndon. CS Lewis' "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe," dramatized by Joseph Robinette. \$10, \$12. 703-401-0428.



The Herndon Turkey Trot 5K will be on Saturday, Nov. 21. Bring a can of food to be donated to LINK. Register at herndon-va.gov/webtrac.

Lassie Corbett's "A Touch of the Orient." will be at the Reston Art Gallery and Studio at Lake Anne Village Center until Dec. 3. See Chinese brush paintings in the traditional style on rice papers. Artist demonstrations from 2-4 p.m. on Sundays in November.



www.herndon-drama.org.

FRIDAY/DEC. 4

Gingerbread Village at Reston Hyatt. 11900 Market Street, Reston. Enjoy the annual display in the hotel lobby, throughout the holiday season. For more information, call 703-709-1234 or visit http://reston.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html.

Community Holiday

Performances. 6 p.m. Fountain Square, 11900 Market St., Reston. Musical performances by community group from River Bend Middle School, Raven Jazz, River Bend Jazz and River Bend Chamber Music.

SATURDAY/DEC. 5

Jingle on Lake Anne. 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Lake Anne Plaza (Waterfront), 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Variety of festive activities ranging from the ever popular special visit from Santa (arriving on a barge), strolling carolers, music, wine tastings, merchant specials, children's crafts, cookie and ornament decorating, holiday arts and crafts market, holiday entertainment and much more. Santa arrives at noon. Tree lighting at 6:30 p.m. Free. www.lakeanneplaza.com.

Community Holiday

Performances. 2 p.m. Fountain Square, 11900 Market St., Reston. Musical performances by Rhythm Street Dance.

Yule Log Tasting at Edibles Incredible. All day. Free tastes of

holiday yule log and pre-order promotion. Free gift with purchase. 703-709-8200. ediblesincredible.com.

Handmade Holiday Ornaments

Workshop. 9:30-11 a.m. Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market St., #103, Reston. Sign up the whole family for this fun workshop led by GRACE staff to make some fun, creative ornaments. Children must be accompanied by a participating adult. 703-471-9242. Register at restoncommunitycenter.org.

Mystery Authors Extravaganza.

1 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Seventeen authors from Sisters in Crime will discuss their latest books and short stories. Books will be available for sale and signing. Adults. 703-689-2700.

The Wonder of the Season:

Around the World. 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. Reston Community Center, 213 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Celebrate the holidays with beloved carols from around the globe, Christmas Cantata featuring the Washington Symphonic Brass Quintet. Adults/\$25, Seniors/\$20, Military/Free and Youth 17 and under/Free (with adult/senior ticketholder). www.restonchorale.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 5-6

Movies and Mimosa-"White Christmas." 11 a.m. Bow Tie Cinemas, 11940 Market St., Reston. See the classics how they were meant to be see-on the big screen. \$5.50, \$1 for Loyalty members. bowtiecinemas.com. 703-318-1801.

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SPORTS



South Lakes quarterback Devin Miles threw three touchdown passes during the Seahawks' come-from-behind 35-28 win over Oakton in the 6A North region playoffs on Nov. 13.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



South Lakes' Marvin Grunshie scored a pair of touchdowns during the Seahawks 35-28 win over Oakton on Nov. 13.

South Lakes Football Comes Back to Beat Oakton

Seahawks will face Westfield in region quarterfinals.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The South Lakes football team had been down before.

On Sept. 18, the Seahawks trailed Yorktown 14-0 before coming back to win, 25-14. On Oct. 23, South Lakes fell behind Langley 28-6 before winning, 48-42.

Unlike those regular-season contests, however, South Lakes' season was on the line when the Seahawks trailed Oakton 28-14 with less than 8 minutes remaining in the fourth quarter of Friday's 6A North region playoff game.

While the stakes were high, the Seahawks didn't let some postseason pressure derail the program's best season in more than 15 years.

No. 6-seed South Lakes scored three touchdowns in the final 6 minutes, 7 seconds of the fourth quarter to pull out a 35-28 victory over No. 11 Oakton on Nov. 13 at South Lakes High School.

"One of the things going into this year ... if we got down, we just quit playing and it got out of hand," second-year South Lakes head coach Trey Taylor said. "One of the things we talked about ... was take it one play at a time. ... They've really taken that message to heart. ... We just keep playing until the game is over."

After Jarrett Bacon's 8-yard touchdown run gave Oakton a 28-14 lead with 7:57 remaining, South Lakes responded with a touchdown less than two minutes later. Sophomore quarterback Devin Miles connected with Marvin Grunshie for a 15-yard score, cutting the Cougars' lead to 28-21.

The South Lakes defense made a big play during Oakton's next possession, when Kevin Dampier intercepted a pass and returned it inside the Cougars



Eric Kirlaw and the South Lakes football team overcame a 14-point fourth-quarter deficit to beat Oakton on Nov. 13.

5-yard line. Seahawks running back Spencer Alston would take it in from 2 yards, tying the score at 28 with 5:10 remaining.

After forcing a punt, South Lakes scored the game-winner when Miles hit Grunshie for a 15-yard touchdown with 47 seconds remaining.

Miles completed 17 of 28 passes for 214 yards and three touchdowns, with one interception. Grunshie caught seven passes for 114 yards and two touchdowns. Eric Kirlaw had five receptions for 43 yards and a score, and Alston carried six times for 66 yards and two touchdowns.

Friday's playoff victory was South Lakes' first since 2010. The Seahawks finished the regular season with an 8-2 record, the program's best in more than 15 years.

How is the team's confidence after beating Oakton? "Honestly, I think we're about the same," Taylor said. "We feel like if we go out and play, we can compete with just about anybody."

Next up for South Lakes is a road game against No. 3 Westfield in the quarterfinals at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 20. The Bulldogs went 9-1 during the regular season and won the Conference 5 championship. On Friday, Westfield defeated No. 14 Washington-Lee 44-20.

Facing Westfield will be "certainly tough," Taylor said. The Bulldogs have a "great defense and we're going to have to absolutely play our 'A' game if we're going to have a chance."



PHOTO BY ED LULL

Cougars Shine at Great Meadow

Oakton junior Casey Kendall, right, placed third (18:49) and Jill Bracaglia took fourth (18:49) at the VHSL 6A state cross country meet on Nov. 13 at Great Meadow. The Cougars placed second as a team. The Madison girls' team finished third, led by senior Morgan Wittrock, who earned all-state honors with a 15th-place finish (19:21).

New Businesses to Open In Herndon, Reston

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

Comstock Partners has prepared a lease with Farmers Restaurant Group to bring the restaurant to Reston Station at Wiehle-Reston East Metro station. The 10,000-square-foot Founding Farmers restaurant may open in late 2016 at the retail space on the Reston Station plaza. The American style cuisine offered at Founding Fathers restaurants is supplied daily by hundreds of family farms.

There are three Founding Farmers restaurants, one located in D.C., Potomac, Md. and at Tysons. "As we expand, we're passionately committed to evolving with each new location," Dan Simons, Farmers Restaurant Group concept developer, said in a company press release. "Each restaurant will always have its own personality and charm, from the interior design to the menu items. You can expect to see something different at Reston, including a rooftop-dining scene." Founding Farmers locations include breakfast, lunch and dinner services, as well as a selection of locally distilled liquors.

The Chick-fil-A at 12160 Sunset Hills Road reopened after temporarily shutting its doors for a major remodeling project. Reston's Chick-fil-A has been supportive of local teams and school fundraisers. Chick-fil-A recently filed Planned Residential Community (PRC) documents with Fairfax County for a fast food restaurant at North Point Village Center. The former Burger King located at 1494 North Point has been vacant since March 2014.

Not Your Average Joe's will be opening a Reston location in December at 1845 Foundation Drive. The Massachusetts-based restaurant chain is taking over the former location of Macaroni Grill at the Reston Spectrum. Not Your Average Joe's has 20 locations including Bethesda, Gaithersburg, Leesburg and Woodbridge. The menu was directed by executive chef Jeff Tenner, with culinary roots from New England.

Reston's Red's Table has enjoyed positive reviews since it opened the week of Labor Day. Located at South Lakes Village Center near Lake Thoreau, the restaurant has veteran chef Adam Stein at the culinary helm. The restaurant has an emphasis on steaks, seafood and fresh food, in addition to a bread program with a range of scratch pies and cakes. Positive reviews have come from both the Washington Post and Washington DC Eater. The restaurant will be open on Thanksgiving.

Twenty-eight companies from Fairfax County are on a new Washington Business Journal list of the 50 fastest-growing companies in the Washington, D.C., region. Eleven firms from Reston and Herndon are on this list. This includes Reston companies such as Knight Point Systems LLC, hCentive and G2SF Inc. The list also included companies based in Herndon such as Greensmith Energy Management Systems Inc., 2 ITility LLC, and The RSR Co. "Having so many companies on this list demon-



Founding Farmers restaurant locations include breakfast, lunch and dinner services, as well as a selection of locally distilled liquors. Comstock Partners has prepared a lease with Farmers Restaurant Group to bring the restaurant to Reston Station at Wiehle-Reston East Metro station.



The infrared sauna studio Hot Spot located at Station Street in downtown Herndon is going out of business on Nov. 30. Store management says all fixtures and saunas are up for sale.

strates that Fairfax County has developed the kind of environment that businesses at all stages of growth can leverage to succeed," said Gerald L. Gordon, Ph.D., president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA). "We are delighted to see these companies becoming larger pieces of the local economy."

Boston Properties completed the final part of a transaction making the company the sole owner of Reston Town Center. Other developments at Reston Town Center include the opening of Bluemercury at 11924 Market St. Bluemercury is part of a local chain of beauty product stores featuring spa services. Joe Grooming, a McLean-based men's hair, shaving and skin care line, also recently opened its first dedicated retail store and salon at 11944 Market St. at Reston Town Center. The location formerly housed PR at Partners salon, which relocated to a space on Democracy Drive at Reston Town Center.

At Lake Anne Plaza, the nanobrewery Lake Anne Brew House is waiting to open their location at 11424 Washington Plaza. The husband and wife team of Reston residents Melissa and Jason Romano are working with the Fairfax County Health Department (FCHD) to get plans reviewed and approved. Once the FCHD review is complete, Lake Anne Brew House can finish their build-out, install equipment and start brewing some beer. The Romano couple say both the ABC and TTB licenses are approved, and waiting for the county to give them the green light.

Federal Capital Partners (FCP) announced the acquisition of One Dulles Tower, a 400,000-square-foot office building at 13200 Woodland Park Drive on the Dulles Toll Road in Herndon, two miles east of Dulles Airport. The price for One Dulles Tower was \$84 million.

FCP vice president, Erik Weinberg, said, "One Dulles Tower, which has been 100 percent leased to Booz Allen Hamilton, will

be vacated at the end of the year, providing FCP with the perfect opportunity to renovate and reposition the building. With the largest contiguous block of space on the Toll Road and upgraded amenities, lobby and common areas, One Dulles Tower will be highly competitive in the headquarters office building offerings in the Dulles Corridor."

The MOM's Organics Market located at 424 Elden St. finished an expansion project, adding a Naked Lunch, an all organic eatery featuring soups, bowls and raw juices including kombucha. Yet while MOM's Organics Market has been able to expand, opening a new location at Arlington, other area businesses are shutting up shop. The Cold Spoon Frozen Yogurt at Reston's Hunters Woods Village Center has closed. In the Town of Herndon, the infrared sauna studio Hot Spot located at Station Street is going out of business on Nov. 30. Store management says all fixtures and saunas are up for sale.



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Introspective Perspective Not Effective

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



One of the greatest challenges – for me – in having cancer, is trying to live a “normal” life. And by “normal” I mean: emotionally. Obviously, having chemotherapy every three weeks – with its week-long side effects, diagnostic scans every three months – with its associated anxiety waiting for results, regular lab work, recurring appointments with my oncologist, the change in diet, the pills, the non-Western alternatives that I have semi embraced into my routine, the many well-meaning (and much appreciated) inquiries about my health/status, the occasional fatigue and ongoing food/taste issues, the neuropathy in my feet which makes walking and even sleeping difficult, the planning of my comings and goings and what else I might be doing in the future ALWAYS being contingent on my infusion schedule, and a few other effects I’m probably forgetting because of another effect I’m not remembering: “chemo brain,” (now a documented side effect), complicates living that “normal” life. However, if I don’t find a path of least resistance somehow and get to where I want to be, I risk getting lost in a cycle of abnormality which no doubt will upset more than my figurative apple cart.

The problem is, sometimes you become who you don’t want to be (or at least who I don’t want to be): a self-indulgent victim of circumstance. As I droned on about in the opening paragraph, there are ample reasons for me to not be who I want to be; and whenever I find myself crossing that line of caring about myself at the expense of caring about others, I worry that I’ve allowed the cancer to do more than just invade my body, that now I’ve allowed it to invade my mind.

Somehow, I have to remain true to myself in order to keep the cancer from doing what cancer so often does. I need to maintain my sense of humor and sunny disposition; I need to look more to the future and preoccupy less with the past or even the present – too much, anyhow; I need to live my life like I’m living, not like I’m dying – despite the lyrics of a recently popular Country song; and most importantly, somehow, I need to maintain an interest in things outside of me, myself and I. Way back when, I remember being told by a person whose opinion I value and whose cancer experience predated mine: “It’s all about you, Kenny.” And though I often took that advice to heart, and even employed it a few times, it was more a coping/temporary mechanism than it was a permanent/live-your-life mechanism.

Living life has to be more than just about me; how boring! I don’t want to live inside. I want to live outside. What matters most is what goes on around me; not through me/because of me. I want to be stimulated by external goings on, not internal comings off. Granted, if I’m not in some sort of internal balance, what goes on externally likely won’t matter, but excluding the latter won’t enhance the former. They go hand in hand. Actually, they go hand in glove.

Cancer is insidious enough on its own. The physical damage doesn’t need to be compounded, exacerbated even, by additional emotional damage. Maintaining one’s personality and not getting consumed emotionally by your disease is the goal. Fighting back against this killer is more than just hoping and praying, “doctoring” and “protocolling;” it’s about dignity and determination. I am determined to not become someone I’m not and when I am (like this past week), I feel as if I’ve been made worse for the experience. I don’t know if I’ll ever beat cancer, but never do I want to feel like it beat me.

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

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