Fun For All at Reston Skating Rink

The Nodine sisters, from left: McKenna and Faith took to the ice with their mom, while Dad took the family photos and encouraged from the sidelines.

Urban Pop at Reston Station

Leila Gordon Receives Leadership Award

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Fun For All At Reston Town Center Skating Rink

By Andrea Worker
The Connection

A little drizzle didn’t stop those ready to round out the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend with some exercise on the ice at the Pavilion at Reston Town Center. Peter Lindquist of Atlanta was ready to “take a break from eating and shopping! I need to get all the kinks out before the long drive home tomorrow.” Like a number of the skaters, Lindquist was in the area visiting family for the holidays. “This is great. The kids love it. Outdoor ice skating is not something we can do in Atlanta. You folks are lucky.”

Locals like the Nodine family were also happy to put aside the turkey leftovers for a while and take a few spins. Dad Matthew played observer, while Mom Victoria looked pretty accomplished and daughters Faith and McKenna gave it their all, obviously gaining confidence with each turn around the rink.

The Ice Rink at Reston Town Center is open seven days a week, now until March. Saturday until 11 p.m., Sunday—Thursday until 10 p.m., and Friday and Saturday until 11 p.m. In between those opening hours there are special events taking place, with something for everyone in the family. The Saturday Cartoon Skate is a popular happening with costumed cartoon characters share the ice and interact with the skaters from 11 a.m.—1 p.m. Older siblings will enjoy the Friday night “Rock and Skate” from 6—9 p.m., from 6—9 p.m., college students get $2 off the regular $10 general adult admission with their valid student identification. If you and/or your family are avid skaters, or just ready to get into the sport, season and family passes are probably your best bet. No skates buried anywhere in your base.

The rink can also be a creative alternative for birthday parties, corporate outings and group skates. Packages are available for all of those events.

In keeping with the “season of giving” Reston Town Center Ice Skate even offers “Edu-Skate” opportunities, ways to fundraise and ways to support local schools. Your warm heart will serve you well on that cold ice.

“Leadership Fairfax helps make all of our communities places where everyone – regardless of their identity, religion, roots or circumstances – can dream big. I am humbled and touched to be recognized by this remarkable group of leaders.”

Leila Gordon has been leading RCC since April 2008. She is active in a variety of civic and cultural organizations including the Arts Council of Fairfax County, Initiative for Public Art – Reston, Greater Reston Arts Center, Reston Historic Trust, Cornerstones and Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce among others. Gordon is a graduate of Virginia Tech University and earned her Master's Degree from Florida State University. She is married to Robert Gordon and they have three children and three grandchildren.

Leila Gordon Receives Leadership Award

RCCE executive director recognized by Leadership Fairfax.

Leadership Fairfax, Inc. (LFI) honored Leila Gordon, executive director of Reston Community Center as the recipient of the 2015 Northern Virginia Regional Leadership Award. The award, presented Thursday, Dec. 3 at LFI’s annual Northern Virginia Leadership Awards luncheon at the Waterford Fair Oaks, recognized Gordon’s dedication and leadership in the Northern Virginia community.

Leadership Fairfax highlighted Gordon’s significant career-long service to Reston and her leadership that focuses on enhancing the quality of life for everyone. Her recent notable accomplishments include her role as Chair of the Fairfax County Master Arts Plan Task Force. The Task Force will provide Fairfax County with a plan that guides development of cultural facilities and public art across the County’s many different communities. The Task Force envisions the results will reflect the County’s diversity, consider existing facilities, and respond to future growth.

“Thank you all so much for this extraordinary honor and for the inspiration and joy of working with you,” Gordon said. “Leadership Fairfax helps make all of our communities places where everyone – regardless of their identity, religion, roots or
Editors to Reston Station may have noticed glass jewel housing on the north side of the Wiehle-Reston East Metro Station. These pop-up stores are housing emerging and established artisan brands. The Urban Pop Shop opened in November at Reston Station, welcoming the holiday season. “Our Urban Pop lends vitality to the Plaza, and offers our commuters and neighbors an easy shopping experience. The Smart Markets Farmers’ Market experience each Wednesday afternoon has been very popular, and we’re confident that this ‘first taste’ of a different retail experience will generate interest from other entrepreneurs,” said Maggie Parker, director of communications with Comstock Partners LC.

Several vendors are traveling in from Washington, D.C., and like the commuters, can use the Silver Line Metro when they close their shops. “Reston seems really nice,” said Sayini George, owner of Yinibini, LLC. Yinibini Baby is handmade clothing and accessories for little ones. The company was recognized by Washington City Paper’s BEST of DC, Best Local Crafter for the year.

Most of the vendors are open 3 to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday until Dec. 24. Select vendors offer weekend hours.

“I love this, because it is really nice to be able to pick up something,” said Vienna resident and Silver Line commuter Eileen Scherzinger. Scherzinger made a purchase at the station from D.C. based Co Co. Sala, a restaurant and chocolate boutique. Phase Two of the “Urban Pop Active” is scheduled to open in Spring 2016, and will include an outdoor piazza entertainment area in an open concept setting, revealing oriented pathways and gathering spots.

Reston resident Rachel Wood, owner of Scrawl Books, recently welcomed New York Times Bestselling author Kwame Alexander to her pop-up station. “This is a great way to start out,” said Wood, who plans to open an independent bookstore. Wood offers a good selection of books at her stand. “Some books for holiday gifts, and some books people can read on the metro,” said Wood. Reston resident, graphic designer and knitter Janice Everett displays handmade scarves, gloves and hats in her space, WitKnits. For many it is a great introduction to retail business at the Wiehle Avenue neighborhood.

Elise Scott, Chief Leaf and owner of Pearl Fine Teas pop up shop at the Wiehle-Reston East Metro Station offers a variety of tea and teaware. Most of the vendors are open from 3 to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday until Dec. 24.

Reston Hospital Center Now Offering Newest Robotic Technology

ACA Virginia’s Reston Hospital Center is the first in Northern Virginia – and only the second in Virginia – to successfully perform surgery using the new da Vinci Xi robot, a surgical platform designed to enable complex surgery using a minimally invasive approach.

“The new Xi system is a great advancement for surgery,” said Brett Sachse, M.D., section chief of general surgery at Reston Hospital Center and the first to use this new technology. “Patients who have robotic surgery have less pain, a faster return to work, and overall higher satisfaction.”

According to Sachse, the new Xi system has a smaller camera with better image quality, more precise instruments, wider range of mobility, and enhanced precision which will improve the patient experience even more. “I am proud of Reston Hospital Center for being a leader in the area as the only hospital with this technology, and I am honored to be able to provide this state of the art advancement to my patients,” said Sachse.

Intuitive Surgical, Inc. introduced the da Vinci Xi to the U.S. in April after receiving clearance from the FDA. The system was designed with the goal of further advancing technology used in minimally invasive surgery and has broader capabilities than prior generations. The da Vinci Xi provides surgeons with superior visualization, greater precision, and enhanced dexterity compared to other surgical approaches.

“This technology reflects our steadfast commitment to ensuring the highest standards of care for our patients,” said John Deardorff, CEO of Reston Hospital Center. “We are proud to offer the best healthcare, clinical excellence, and a quality medical experience to meet our patients’ needs.”

In addition to the new da Vinci Xi, Reston Hospital Center has the region’s only Mazor Robotics Renaissance Guidance System for spine surgery, creating the most comprehensive robotic program in Northern Virginia.
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Conservatory Ballet’s The “Nutcracker” Spreading Holiday Cheer

More than 85 area students make holiday magic come to life performing in Conservatory Ballet’s 43rd annual production of The Nutcracker. Performances run Wednesday, Dec. 9 through Sunday, Dec. 13 at the Reston Community Center located in the Hunters Woods Village Center. In addition to six full-length performances, there are two shortened toddler matinees that run 1 hour 30 minutes. Tickets can be purchased online at www.restoncommunitycenter.com; by phone at 703-476-4500, press 3; and in person at the box office on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 4-9 p.m., Saturday: 1-5 pm, and two hours prior to curtain time.

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The Passing of an Era

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

Last week I made a journey to Norfolk, Va., to say a final goodbye to a former colleague in the House of Delegates, Thomas W. Moss, Jr., who passed away. He was more than just a member, however, he was Speaker of the House from 1991 to 2000. His service in the House from 1966 to 2002 spanned a passing of an era in Virginia’s history, and he was an important transition figure.

Speaker Moss was first elected to the House of Delegates as an anti-establishment Democrat. His campaign slogan, “Get Norfolk Out of the Byrd Cage,” reflected the fact that the then-undercontrolled political machine dominated the state since Reconstruction it was not good for urban areas like Norfolk. That machine was headed from the 1930s by Governor and then Senator Harry F. Byrd, Sr., a tight-fisted conserva- 
tive who called himself a Demo- 
crat but who more appropriately be labeled a Dixiecrat as many white Southerners were known. Byrd vehemently op- posed racial desegregation of Virginia’s schools, and his opposition to government spending kept Virginia a backward state for decades. Mr. Moss was a national Demo- 
crat and succeeded in getting himself elected to the House of Delegates where he was in the minority among the more conservative members. Changes in Virginia’s political alignment came about because of the work of leaders like Moss working within the system. In 2013, 10,076 people of Norfolk where he served until January 2014. Virginia became more progressive during Mr. Moss’s tenure—in the areas of public school spending, investments in higher education, improved mental health and social service programs, and roads. In areas of civil rights it lan- guished. The Equal Rights Amend- ment (ERA) for women was op- posed by Mr. Moss until he was challenged by a woman who came close to defeating him in a primary. Virginia still has not passed the ERA. Talk with anyone who knew him and you are likely to get a funny story about him. His sense of humor was always evident no matter how serious the moment. Sometimes his wisecracks chal- lenged the boundaries of social acceptance. During tense times in the legislature his levity helped move the business along.

Not only did Mr. Moss get Nor- 
folk and Virginia out of the Byrd 
cage, he helped move the state into a modern era where public education and strong institutions of higher education were valued and transportation and infrastruc- 
ture were recognized as critical investments. Speaker Moss provided leadership during the passing of an era for which he will be remembered. Whether his legacy will be built upon or neglected is in part in the hands of those who mourned him last week.
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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. Guests 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. kdfirst.org, appalachianspring.com.

Rebecca Kamen: Continuum

Reston Town Center Ice Skating Pavilion
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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.restonchamber.org.
Melinda Doolittle.

Fresh, Entrancing Musical Evening

Soulful singer Melinda Doolittle at CenterStage.

By David Siegel The Connection

She wowed judges and audiences alike performing on season six of “American Idol.” Now Melinda Doolittle is coming to Reston’s CenterStage to present a cozy evening filled with soulfully sweet arrangements of songs ranging from “Home” from the musical “The Wiz,” to American Songbook favorites such as “Let’s Stay Together,” “The Man That Got Away,” “At Last” — to mention a few.

Doolittle, who has performed at illustrious venues such as the White House, the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall, will bring her evening of treasured music into a program she calls “It Must Be Love.” She will be accompanied by a piano.

In an interview, Doolittle indicated that she loved “to sing about love and I definitely picked songs that told my story well. Sometimes you hear a song and you feel like whoever wrote it must have been living your exact life...those are the songs I will put into this show.”

Doolittle enjoys touring. “It Must Be Love’ is a fun show to do! It takes the audience on a journey through the ups and downs of love with classic soul, Broadway and jazz songs they’re sure to recognize,” said Doolittle. “The journey is funny, fast and will occasionally pull on heartstrings too.”

When performing, one of Doolittle’s favorite parts “is watching the audience relate in their own way to each song. I love it!” Each show becomes unique in its own way since she has freedom to interact with the audience in what she calls “a musical conversation.”

When asked about scheduling Doolittle for Reston’s CenterStage through the Professional Touring Artists Series, Paul Douglas Michnewicz, arts and events director, Reston Community Center, said, “I vowed never to watch “American Idol” again when she did not win. Melinda Doolittle is such a remarkable artist and I am so happy that she will be on CenterStage so that I can tell her in person what a fan I am of hers.”

Beyond singing, Doolittle is involved with community outreach and support. “Basicall, I love to see people live the best life possible...especially children.” She has partnered with organizations such as “Malaria No More” and the Ronald McDonald House to make a difference for children.

As for her “American Idol” appearances, “I’m indebted to them for the opportunity to do what I love.”

And now local audiences can see Melinda Doolittle all for themselves.

Where and When


Sports

A Family Tradition, Another Aghayere Takes Charge

By Jon Roetman The Connection

With his team building an early lead against Archbishop Carroll, South Lakes sophomore Emmanuel Aghayere dunks against Archbishop Carroll on Dec. 4.

Marcus Cherry led South Lakes with 21 points during the Seahawks’ 74-60 win over Archbishop Carroll on Dec. 4.

With 2 minutes remaining in the first half, Aghayere, a physical, 6-foot-3 forward, took a charge with South Lakes leading by 23. Aghayere took another charge in the opening minute of third quarter. Less than 20 seconds later, he scored and drew a foul at the other end.

The South Lakes boys’ basketball team is young, athletic and full of energy. On Dec. 4, one night after the Seahawks squandered a lead during a 63-56 loss to Robinson, Aghayere’s high-energy play helped South Lakes bounce back with a 74-60 victory over Archbishop Carroll during the second day of the “Readers are Leaders Tip Off” at South Lakes High School.

Aghayere finished with 16 points, dunked twice and took multiple charges, leading the Seahawks to their first win of the 2015-16 season.

“The group is very special,” Duggan said. “Part of it is their athleticism, their basketball skills and their knowledge and they’re smart kids and they work hard, but even when they’re down, they’re still pretty dang good.”
Designers at Merrifield Garden Center spend almost one year creating holiday displays. They are inspired by a snow-covered forest, decorated with things like corporate family heirlooms or decorations. "It's decorated with things like black, red, and white to create a winter wonderland theme," said designer Amanda Mertins.

For an exterior space, Mertins advises using a twinkling wreath or a lit arrangement in an urn to greet guests at the front door. Maintaining thematic consistency is a precept that designer Jenne Whitlaw, of GTM Architects in Bethesda, Md., recommends when conceiving ideas for holiday spaces. "Pick a central focal point, and echo the sentiment around the space, for both indoor and outdoor," she said. "This allows the eye to bounce around your holiday canvas, experiencing asymmetrical visual harmony and balance."

For those who prefer holiday decor in muted hues, Whitlaw suggests, "neutrals (like) winter white and pale grays, when paired with light, reflective metallics and sparkle add elegance and a sense of timeless wonder to every room."

For a touch of whimsy, Whitlaw recommends adding decorations to unexpected places. "For a surprising embellishment, how about placing ornaments around the vanity in your powder room?" asks Whitlaw. "Chandeliers are also a perfect theatre in the round for cascading trinkets and greenery."

Local designers create opulent holiday designs.

This rustic holiday space incorporates branches and animals.
21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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-Werner Heisenberg

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21 Announcements

Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.
-Theodore Roosevelt

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I Beg Your Indulgence

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Even after seven years as a patient in the cancer whirl, I still find it emotionally diffi- cult to promptly return a well-meaning phone call. “Show me yourself” is a prevalent mind-set when the message/content is clearly having to do with my health and welfare. Not that I don’t appreciate it, and it is a very kind sentiment, most likely needed these kinds of communications; nevertheless, the challenge of summoning up the intestines, the sinews, the muscle, the soul, the line, rash, speculate, articulate, wonder, hope, fear, introspect, extrovert, try to make light of and not be made heavy by, in addi- tion to all the other miscellaneous anxieties a cancer patient experiences 24/7, is often too much to ask. Let’s face it, as often as not, our own thoughts, sometimes, the emo- tional road less traveled is the one fraught with fewer bumps and bruises. Not that I want to get stupid and live in a “cone of silence,” where I can’t be heard and others can’t hear me; I’m not to imply that it’s smart. Still, as often as not, the effort to respond in kind is not respectfully honored. It’s an oddity. For a given reason, we’re not seeking approval (it’s not exactly akin to trudging through the snow – uphill, in winter, as our parents all claimed they did). If the “emotional weight of it” is something that I’m probably having difficulty explaining – as much as I’m trying. Maybe this is just an attempt to obfusc- ate my ill-mannered and disrespectful negli- gence. How poorly was I raised that I don’t know enough to provide a common cour- tesy? People ask, you answer. When one is sick or “diseased,” and friends, family and co-workers reach out, one is not supposed to not respond is quite another thing. It’s not responding in kind is not respectfully honored. It’s “cone of silence,” where I can’t be heard and serve dinner, breakfast and a bagged lunch, provide entertainment and compan- ionship, be on hand overnight, and close the shelter in the morning. On Christmas Day, the shelter will remain open to pro- vide shelter, a holiday dinner, and church services for any who wish to attend and participate. “Last year’s shelter experience left us all with many wonderful memories,” said Celeste Meyer, Epiphany co-lead organizer for the shelter. “We look forward again this year to providing a place that is warm and welcom- ing, where our guests can have a hot meal, experience the community, and be treated with dignity.” While Epiphany is hosting the shelter, it is operated by FAC- ETS, a Fairfax County-based poverty relief organization. FACETS organizes a series of hypothermia shelters at different faith- based institutions across Fairfax County from November to March, with each insti- tution hosting and staffing the shelter for a week. Last year Epiphany’s hypothermia shel- ters served 244 individuals.

For more information or to volunteer, visit www.vcoe.org/shelter. For more in- formation about FACETS shelters, visit http://facetscares.org/programs/hypother- mia-prevention-and-response-program/.

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connec- tion, send to north@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 9

Covenants Committee Meeting 6:30-9 p.m. Reston Association Conference Center, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. The Covenants Committee is responsible for administering the Use and Maintenance Covenants set forth in the Reston Deed of Dedication. In doing so, the Committee considers and decides violations in accordance with adopted procedures that are found in Article II of the Covenants. Reston Association develops and maintains Use and Maintenance Standards, and considers requests for temporary exception permits. 703-435-6530.

Community Work Webinar Noon-1 p.m. Offered by Northwest Federal Credit Union in accordance with adopted procedures that are found in Article II of the Covenants. Reston Association develops and maintains Use and Maintenance Standards, and considers requests for temporary exception permits. 703-435-6530.

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THURSDAY/DEC. 10

Workshop: Preparing Your Home For Winter 6:30-8:30 p.m. Hunter Mill District Community Room B., 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. “Money in the faith community, including special holiday services. Send to north@connectionnewspapers.com by

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Community Work Webinar Noon-1 p.m. Offered by Northwest Federal Credit Union in accordance with adopted procedures that are found in Article II of the Covenants. Reston Association develops and maintains Use and Maintenance Standards, and considers requests for temporary exception permits. 703-435-6530.

THURSDAY/DEC. 10

Workshop: Preparing Your Home For Winter 6:30-8:30 p.m. Hunter Mill District Community Room B., 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. “Money in the faith community, including special holiday services. Send to north@connectionnewspapers.com by

Covenants Committee Meeting 6:30-9 p.m. Reston Association Conference Center, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. The Covenants Committee is responsible for administering the Use and Maintenance Covenants set forth in the Reston Deed of Dedication. In doing so, the Committee considers and decides violations in accordance with adopted procedures that are found in Article II of the Covenants. Reston Association develops and maintains Use and Maintenance Standards, and considers requests for temporary exception permits. 703-435-6530.
REAL STORIES FROM THE EXPRESS LANES

“The Express Lanes have given me all kinds of time. It’s really a love story.”

- Stephanie S.
Fairfax Station, VA

Stephanie truly has an Express Lanes love story. She is a young 71 years old and lives in Fairfax Station. Her sweetheart is 77 and lives in Montgomery County, Maryland. Before the Express Lanes, they had to fight traffic on 495 to see each other. Now, however, she says meeting up is a breeze with the Express Lanes and they no longer let traffic keep them apart. The Express Lanes have opened up all kinds of pathways for Stephanie — including one to her heart.

See more real stories from the Lanes at ExpressLanes.com

Stephanie’s story was one of our winning entries in our “Express Lanes Love Story” promotion.