

Reston CONNECTION

WELLBEING

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of its appeal to the Virginia
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PHOTO BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION

JANUARY 6-12, 2016

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Debating All Things Metro

Northern Virginia Transportation Commission facilitates public forum with new Metro chief.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

When then Falls Church City Council member Dave Snyder was assigned to the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) in 1994 as part of his duties, he says he never suspected that his “luck” would lead him to a topic and to work that is as vital to and as challenging for the region today as it was when he entered that arena more than twenty years ago. Now the out-going Chairman of NVTC (a post he has held twice before), Snyder was a key speaker at the Commission’s public forum in Reston on Dec. 17, held in a still-unfinished building at the Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail Station.

Calling for a show of hands, Snyder asked how many in the room had spoken about Metro in the last week. “See,” said Snyder, looking at the upraised limbs indicating the clear majority, “other parts of the country talk about the weather. Around here, we talk about Metro.”

Snyder was followed at the podium by NVTC executive director Kelley Coyner, fellow NVTC Commissioners Cathy Hudgins (Fairfax County Board of Supervisors-Hunter Mill District) and Jim Corcoran (president/CEO Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce), Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) board member Mort Downey, and newly appointed WMATA chief Paul Wiedefeld. In addition to the panel of obvious transit experts, a number of elected officials and staff from NVTC and other transportation-related organization were scattered about the room.

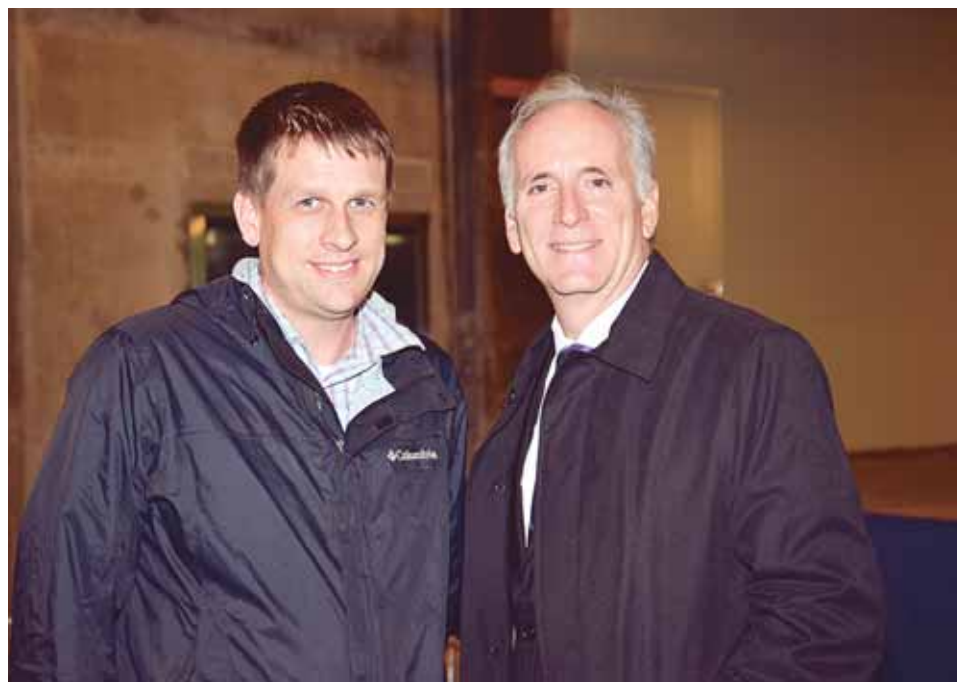
With all that transportation firepower, the audience probably expected a night of speeches and information overload, but the purpose of the forum, an outreach by NVTC “to invite the public to share priorities about Metro and to inform the new WMATA GM/CEO” was made clear from the start and admirably adhered to.

USING INTERACTIVE EXERCISES, handheld polling devices that captured real-time responses to questions about the public’s perceptions and priorities for Metro service, and a no-rush approach to individual comments and questions, the NVTC was able to engage the audience and get enough ideas and suggestions to keep those in charge of the flipcharts seriously scribbling to keep up.

The event was originally designed to end with roundtable discussions, but the public’s participation and the panel’s thoughtful re-



Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins and newly-appointed WMATA Riders’ Advisory Council member John Nelson both urge that the public stay informed and involved. Hudgins is an acknowledged expert on regional transportation matters, serving as a Commissioner with NVTC and a Board Member of WMATA. Nelson is looking forward to learning, being a voice for the community, and encouraging the public “to take ownership of the Metro system. It’s our system and we should do what we can to support and improve it.”



From left — Metro bus and rail rider Brian Gannon attended the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission’s public forum and had the opportunity to meet and speak with Metro’s new GM/CEO Paul Wiedefeld. Complimentary of many of Metro’s staff, Gannon still had questions about service reliability, incorrect information about service disruptions and long waits, especially for night and weekend services.

sponses established a flow of dialogue that both organizers and participants were reluctant to disrupt.

NVTC and WMATA members alike stressed the need to better inform the community on all things Metro.

This forum, the one held in Arlington, an online survey and recent community “walkabouts” mentioned by Hudgins, are attempts to do just that. Even after only three weeks on the job, Wiedefeld’s observations lead him to believe “we can do a much bet-

ter job of communicating with our customers and with our own employees.”

One way for the general public to make their views known is through WMATA’s Riders’ Advisory Council, says Hudgins along with new Advisory Council member John Nelson. Nelson was in attendance at the forum and is “really excited” by his selection to this group.

A veteran Metro rider, Nelson thinks that his fellow riders “need to take more ownership of the system. Let’s think outside the



Dave Snyder, out-going chairman of NVTC, addresses the gathering. Snyder has been involved with the Commission since 1994 and has served as chairman on three occasions. He will be moving on to expand his role with the Emergency Preparedness Council where he assisted in coordinating the transportation and evacuation component of the Regional Emergency Coordination Plan.

box and offer suggestions and thoughts as those who are experiencing the metro, the buses and the access points on a daily basis.”

The Riders’ Advisory Council was established in 2005, but don’t feel bad if you didn’t know about its existence. A quick wander about the room showed that most of those not directly involved with the NVTC or WMATA share your lack of knowledge. “That’s something I hope to help change,” declared Nelson.

The council comprises 21 members, six from Virginia, six from Maryland, six from D.C., two at-large members, and a head of the Accessibility Advisory Committee. The group meets on the first Wednesday of the month from 6:30–8:30 p.m. at WMATA headquarters at 600 5th Street, NW. “It’s open to the public,” said Nelson, and he encourages everyone to attend or even apply when openings occur, whether they utilize the system or not.

“Transportation is so important to the economic life of our region. Everyone should be informed and everyone should have a say,” he added.

From the atmosphere at the public forum, it would appear that the NVTC and WMATA agree.

INFORMATION about the Riders’ Advisory Council is available on WMATA’s website at www.wmata.com. Comments and suggestions are welcomed at raccments@wmata.com. Specific concerns and question should still be directed directly to WMATA.

More information about NVTC, the organization that seeks funding and promotes transit in the region, can be found at www.novatransit.org.

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

What's Happening in Reston in 2016?

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Reston National: The Next Round

Reston National Golf is ready to play another round.

RN Golf (partially owned by Northwestern Mutual) claims by right development in the matter of the land use designation of Reston National Golf Course and filed notice of its appeal of fall's County's Circuit Court decision to the Virginia Supreme Court.

"May the Force be with us," said Connie Hartke, of Rescue Reston. "As we expected. RN Golf, backed by the deep pockets of Northwestern Mutual, knows the legal option is their only near term chance of success, so they are going for it."

The County website describes by right development as projects that are permitted under their current zoning and do not require any legislative action by the Board of Supervisors or the Board of Zoning Appeals. "They are approved administratively and do not require public hearings. Our Fairfax County Supervisors, Attorneys and Zoning Administrator adamantly disagree. Reston, like two other areas in Fairfax County, is a Planned Residential Community District which is unique and misunderstood by outside speculators," says Hartke.

The owners of Reston National Golf Course hope to build housing on the land in the future, but a recent county circuit court ruling will require them to go through the usual zoning process to do so.

Circuit Court Judge Michael F. Devine made a ruling that protects Reston National Golf Course from being developed, at least until the owners of a golf course navigate the proper channels to seek a land use change, or continue to appeal its case.

Judge Devine granted Fairfax County Attorney Laura Gori's motion for summary judgment filed by Fairfax County, meaning the Circuit Court vacated and voided the April 15, 2015 county Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) decision concerning the Reston National Golf Course.

"The circuit court ruling on Friday, Nov. 6, is considered a defeat for the owner of the golf course and is significant because any redevelopment of the course must now be preceded by the filing of specific plans with the county, which will then be compared with the 'Development Plans' approved in 1971," said John McBride, Reston Association's legal counsel.

"These plans are in the county zoning files and clearly limit use of the land to a golf course, open space and driving range. Any change to these approved plans will require amendment approval by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. The golf course owner had sought to avoid this requirement for a plan amendment by seeking by-right use status for a number of residential and other uses."

Reston National's attorneys argued in Circuit Court that the owners want clarification



PHOTOS BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION

Reston was caught off guard in December when developers pulled out of a massive, visionary, grand redevelopment of Lake Anne.

tion for what is permitted on the property.

"There is a significant cost to submit a PRC plan that could be dead on arrival," said Scott D. Helsel, attorney for RN Golf, tallying a \$100,000 application fee and half a million dollars necessary for engineering, environment, sewer and stormwater plans to be able to submit an application,

"That's an expensive way to find out an answer to the question we want an answer to," he said.

Lake Anne Redevelopment Dies?

Reston was caught off guard in December when developers pulled out of a massive, visionary, grand redevelopment of Lake Anne.

One of the biggest questions of 2016 is what will be next for Lake Anne's revitalization plans following the termination of the contract between the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and Lake Anne Development Partners LLC.

"LADP indicated that serious market obstacles exist, and that the initial deal negotiated with the County may not be economically viable at this time," according to county documents.

"I fear the outlook for Lake Anne revitalization is not good," said longtime Lake Anne resident and advocate John Lovaas. "Certainly, we face at minimum, two-to-three years additional delay. Worse, it is difficult to imagine a project of the high quality of LADP's plan emerging from the ruins, and harder yet to imagine one with anywhere near the generous affordable housing components."

Plans to renovate apartments and commercial plaza had been approved by the Board of Supervisors in March, "after years of debate and discussion."

The plan for Lake Anne called for 1,037 new mixed-income residential units, more

than 110,000 square feet of new retail including a 15,800-square-foot boutique grocery, 82,454 square feet of office space, an amphitheater with outdoor movie screen, an expanded plaza with community gathering area, multiple public parks and additional trails, underground parking and more.

Lake Anne turned 50 years old in 2014, the year Bob Simon, Reston's founding father turned 100.

"Lake Anne is still taught today as a case study at almost every American architecture and urban-design program," said Michael E. Hickok, architect of a massive redevelopment proposal approved by the Board of Supervisors in the spring. "To say it was ahead of its time is an understatement."

Cathy Hudgins, Reston's representative on the Board of Supervisors, was not happy about the situation before the holidays.

"We'll have to reassess," Hudgins said. "Lake Anne is an asset. Crescent is an asset. We'll have to build upon what we still have."

"The Crescent community has been on edge," she said.

Residents of the Crescent Apartments, who would have had to move for the Lake Anne plan to go forward, were anxious about the timeline, and it was time to let them know that they could stay put because the deal would not go forward at this time.

The Crescent apartments had developed significant vacancies associated with the planned redevelopment, but will now begin leasing again soon.

Bob's Vision

Reston's founder Robert E. Simon died at his home at Lake Anne in Reston on Sept. 23. He was 101 years of age. Tributes were offered throughout the fall and early win

A Look at 2015

Supervisor Catherine M. Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) on the most significant events, developments in the district in 2015:



"Despite less than an ideal economy, the Hunter Mill District continues to evolve at a fast rate. Everywhere I go in the District, I see new business opening, adding to our vibrant downtowns and business corridors. New housing projects are attracting additional residents eager to take advantage of our livable neighborhoods and communities. Infrastructure additions and remodels of our schools and municipal facilities will enhance the provision of County and Town services. While other urban areas in the country have grown stagnant, Fairfax County has diversified to take advantage of the new 'normal'. Of particular note is

- ❖ the expanding transportation network including the progress of Bike Share program, the development of Metro and the near completion of the Vienna NoVi Trail;

- ❖ The adoption of Comprehensive Plan Language for the Transit Station Areas (TSA) that will create Transit Oriented Development around the TSA for mixed use development and the update of the Comprehensive Plan Language for the Reston Master Plan to protect existing stable communities, provide guidelines for any proposed future development for the Village Centers;

- ❖ The updating Master Plan for Baron Cameron Park. The process entailed a very public discussion on the amenities desired for the park but also the feasibility of recreational center. After much discussion and debate, the proposed recreation center will not be at Baron Cameron, but will be included in the discussion as we begin the planning of the Reston Town Center North properties.

- ❖ The expanded and more vibrant program opportunities at the Southgate Community Center;

- ❖ The annual distribution, for the last ten years, of over 5,000 coats through the Coat Closet program;

- ❖ The collaboration between the Board of Supervisors and School Board members on a policy team to ensure the success for children and youth (SCYPT)."

SEE RESTON IN 2016, PAGE 4

Reston in 2016

FROM PAGE 3

ter.
How will Reston maintain and implement Simon's vision for Reston's growth in the future?

"He was a good friend and liked everyone. We at Cornerstones feel blessed to have worked with him," said Kerrie Wilson, of Cornerstones. "Everyone is going to benefit from the legacy he leaves. ... He has been an inspiration to all of us for so long."

In 1961, Simon purchased a 6,750-acre parcel of land in Northern Virginia, located 18 miles from D.C., even though at the time it was in the middle of nowhere. Fairfax County was then the fastest growing county in the country and nearby Dulles International Airport was being built.

Simon decided to develop Reston into a New Town, a large-scaled development that includes all functions of a well-rounded community — residential, commercial, industrial, cultural, recreational and civic. The team first developed Lake Anne and the more traditional Hunters Woods simultaneously. The first families started moving into their homes in November 1964.

Simon gave his last public speech before the Board of Supervisors this summer when the grand plan for the redevelopment of Lake Anne was approved. He reminded the Board of Supervisors of the excitement of Reston at the beginning.

"The opening in 1965 of Reston to the public involved 227 townhouses and 60 high rise units and a smattering of retail. Not a big deal," he said before the Board of Supervisors on June 2. "However, to our amazement, it turned out to be an international phenomenon. Nationally front page in newspapers, the Times, the Post. Feature articles in Life, Look, Fortune. A Japanese reporter was sent over with a translator to interview me."

"Over the years I've tried to analyze what happened to that little development. I think what happened was that it was reintroducing into the United States a gathering place called a plaza," he said.

"I felt very disheartened, having been fired in '67," he said. "My successors didn't appreciate what the plaza was and the consequential result of the Village Centers were not plazas, gathering places, important social venues but [instead they were] strip centers, shopping centers," Simon said before the Board of Supervisors adopted the second phase of the Reston Master Plan on June 2.

"My hope is that during the next 50 years, all of those village centers will be destroyed and replaced by plazas surrounded by density," he said. "For the plazas to work they need the density to support the individual stores. The plazas are not in competition with other plazas let alone with the town center."

Simon wants his vision of a plaza, like Lake Anne, to be prominent for all the Vil-



PHOTOS BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION

The Reston Association has a Tetra working group discussing ways the property can be used and programs can be implemented. RA hopes to start using Tetra property spring or summer of this year.

lage Centers.

"It is very important for Tall Oaks to become a real village center and as a precedent to the other village centers, all of which are shopping centers.

So the concept of plaza is of a hard surface area where people people can gather surrounded by local stores and by relatively dense residential units," said Simon. "I hope that's what we get for Tall Oaks and for thereafter for the other village centers."

Public Hearing with Plum and Howell

Del. Ken Plum (D-36) and Senator Janet Howell (D-32) will hold their annual General Assembly pre-session public hearing on Thursday, Jan. 7, 7:30 to 9 p.m., at the Reston Community Center at Lake Anne Plaza. No registration is needed; "just show up and share your views with us," according to Plum.

Plum posts a weekly e-newsletter at www.kenplum.com, where he has also posted a survey for voters to give opinion on issues that will be relevant to this year's General Assembly.

Reston Town Center North

Advocates for the Reston Regional Library, police and Embry Rucker Shelter want to ensure that Reston meets the needs of all residents with state of the art facilities.

According to the Reston Association: "The Fairfax County Department of Purchasing and Supply Management released a solicited public-private partnership request for conceptual phase proposals for the redevelopment of the Reston Town Center North parcels in late June.

"The county seeks to enter into a public-private partnership to redevelop the existing Embry Rucker Shelter and Reston Regional Library as Phase 1 of a mixed-use development proposed for the overall Reston Town Center North area. The mixed-use development will include affordable housing, public services and private devel-

opment. The area under review is denoted on the accompanying map as Blocks 7 and 8."

Talk to the General Assembly

The Fairfax County delegation to the Virginia General Assembly will hold a hearing for public comment on the upcoming 2016 session on Saturday, Jan. 9, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.

The Virginia General Assembly will meet for 60 days in Richmond beginning Jan. 12.

Residents who want to sign up in advance to speak at the hearing should contact the Office of the Clerk to the Board of Supervisors at 703-324-3151, TTY 711, by noon on Friday, Jan. 8.

RA Purchases Tetra Property

Reston Association CEO Cate Fulkerson has said that the Tetra property may be ready for the community to use by spring 2016.

Reston Association (RA) bought the 3.47 acre Tetra property, 11450 Baron Cameron Ave., for \$2.65 million in July. Two months earlier via referendum, association members voted to approve the purchase the property for community and recreation use.

"The Tetra Property purchase represents a historic moment for our association. It is the first time in RA's history that property has been acquired to protect against over development, to enhance green space and to increase community and recreational use opportunities for members," said Reston Association Board president Ellen Graves.

"Members will not see an impact to their assessment fee from this purchase until 2018 at the earliest," she said.

The property, which sits between RA's Lake Newport Tennis Court complex and part of the RA's Brown Chapel Park, creates a continuous band of 98 acres of common area property or parkland.

OBITUARY

Edward Gordon Nusbaum, 86, of Reston, Dies

Edward Gordon Nusbaum of Reston died peacefully in his lakeside home on Dec. 25, 2015. He was 86.



He was preceded in death by his parents Charles and Evelyn Nusbaum of Yonkers, N.Y., his brother Stephen, and sister Ruth. He is survived by his beloved family: wife, Linda Holloway; daughters Jenny and Rachael Nusbaum; son-in-law Mark Faust; granddaughter Eva Nusbaum-Faust; stepsons Rex and John Holloway; his nieces, nephews, and cousins; and all their families. A graduate and lifelong fan of Syracuse University, Ed worked 25 years for FBIS as an editor/translator of French, German, Spanish, and Portuguese publications, during which time he lived abroad in England, Panama and Israel. Ed had a wonderful sense of humor, excelling at puns, was an amazing cook, and an avid tennis and Scrabble player. After retiring at 60, Edward and Linda enjoyed traveling throughout the country and Europe. When at home, they were active in the Unitarian Universalist Church in Reston, where a memorial service will be held in Spring.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Unitarian Church of Reston, WETA, or to the Reston Museum, honoring Edward's love for his family, friends, congregation, classical music and the community of Reston, where he became an original home owner in 1965 before Lake Anne had even been fully excavated.

RESTON CRIME REPORTS

NOTABLE INCIDENTS FROM DEC. 22-31

Burglary: 12000 Waterside View Dr. Dec. 23, 8:57 a.m. A resident reported someone entered the residence and took property.

Burglary: 11800 block of Shire Ct. Dec. 24, 5:30 p.m. A resident reported that someone entered the residence and took property.

Robbery: Centreville Road/Sunrise Valley Drive, Dec. 22, between 2 a.m. and 2:15 a.m. Two men robbed a 24-year-old man in the area of Centreville Road and Sunrise Valley Drive. The men approached, assaulted the victim and fled with his wallet. The victim was taken to a local hospital and treated for non-life-threatening injuries.

Burglary: 11000 block of Burywood Lane, Dec. 22, between 8 p.m. and 5:30 a.m. A home was burglarized and property was taken.

Larcenies
500 block of Chesapeake Drive, property stolen from residence
11500 block of Leesburg Pike, merchandise stolen from business
2000 block of Centreville Road, property stolen from business
11200 block of Chestnut Grove Square, watches from residence
10500 block of Cavalcade Street, property from residence
10000 block of High Hill Place, jewelry from residence
1700 block of Clubhouse Road, bag from residence
11700 block of Indian Ridge Road, wallet from residence

COMMENTARY

New Year Resolutions

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



Resolutions for the new year are easy to make; I have made dozens in my lifetime. The challenge is to keep resolutions and to bring about the changes they imply. Resolutions in a political context are even more difficult as agreement on the part of many is necessary to cause action to take place. A couple of examples will make my point.

Governor McAuliffe presented a budget last month. It is the strongest statement that can be made about the future course of government under his administration. For the first two years of the term, a governor of Virginia works under a budget that had been presented by his predecessor. The budget just presented mid-term sets priorities for the final two years of his term. The final budget a governor presents is implemented by the successor.

That is all true because of an arcane provision in the Virginia constitution that limits the governor to one term. I have voted for allowing a governor to serve two terms many times, but it has been rejected by one of the two houses of the legislature keeping it from being voted on by the people. The voters, not an out-of-date constitutional provision, should decide if the governor can serve a second term.

We should resolve to pass an amendment this year, but I am not sure it will happen for too many legislators seem content with the current inefficient system of starting government anew every four years.

The point has been made on many occasions that legislators in Virginia pick their voters through the current totally partisan system of legislative redistricting. I first resolved to change this arrangement in 1982 when I introduced legislation to establish an independent nonpartisan redistricting commission. I have introduced bills to bring about a fairer system of redistricting many times, but they have been defeated by the partisan majority at the time who are advantaged by the system as it is. Maybe with the strong voter interest that has been shown recently through OneVirginia21 to change the system of redistricting, the legislature may take action this year.

I resolve to take action to prevent gun violence in our state by introducing legislation to close the gun show loophole. Such bills have been rejected year after year by a single subcommittee of five legislators, four of whom consistently vote against any bills that would reduce gun violence. Maybe the strong public concern that has been shown about the escalation of gun violence in recent years will convince legislators to at least allow a debate on commonsense gun safety measures rather than having them defeated by a handful of legislators. How many more horrid examples of gun violence will we see before legislators get the political courage to take on the gun manufacturing interests?

Whatever your resolutions for the year, you know they can be hard to keep.

The resolutions I discussed above seem almost impossible, but be sure of my efforts to continue trying.

SPLIT-LEVEL REMODELED HOME TOUR

Saturday, January 9th, 12pm-4pm
(Snow Date: January 16th - please call to confirm!)

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BEFORE

CALL FOR BOARD CANDIDATES

2016 RA Board of Directors Election

Are you interested in making an impact on the future of Reston? Consider running for the Reston Association Board of Directors.

Three seats on the Board of Directors will be available in April of 2016:

- **At-Large Director**
- **Lake Anne/Tall Oaks District Director**
- **North Point District Director**

The election is open to property owners and renters within Reston Association.

Forms must be filed by **Friday Jan. 29, 2016, 5 p.m. EST**. Candidacy Forms and other election information can be found online at <http://bit.ly/113LpCB>.

Questions? Email ElectionsCommittee@reston.org or call 703-435-6570.

Reston
ASSOCIATION
Together we make Reston great

When "That will never happen to me" happens.

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OPINION

New Year's Goals

A few wishes for the Virginia General Assembly, more coming ...

Expand Medicaid: Expanding Medicaid to cover as many as 400,000 uninsured people in Virginia under the Affordable Care Act would come at virtually no cost to Virginia and would be a massive boost to Virginia's economy. The local and state economy is suffering from the loss of federal spending in other areas, and it's just plain crazy and mean-spirited to deny medical care for people who can't afford it otherwise, and at the same time, turn away an economic stimulus equal to 20,000 or more jobs and a direct infusion of nearly \$2 billion a year.

❖ Fund Education: Localities need more help from the Commonwealth to pay for schools.

❖ Fostering Futures: Help teens in foster care by extending services and support, including foster care maintenance payments, to qualifying individuals age 18 to 21 years. The money spent will be matched by Federal dollars, and every dollar spent helping former foster children become independent, self-supporting adults

saves a bundle in other costs down the line.

❖ Stop Predatory Lending: The local impacts of predatory lending, including some car title loans, can be devastating to struggling families and individuals who get into the cycle of high interest debt. This is not an issue of just allowing more choice as some have claimed. And when someone loses the vehicle he or she needs to get to work, the costs can extend.

EDITORIAL

Early Voting for Presidential Primary Starts Next Week

Every year is an election year in Virginia.

Just two months ago, Virginia voters faced ballots for almost every state and local elected officials. While candidates spent millions of dollars and not very much changed, some critical races in Virginia have been decided by a

fraction of one percent of votes cast.

Elections have had significant consequences here, and the coming election is likely to be in that category.

Early voting (absentee voting in person) for U.S. Presidential Primaries starts Jan. 15, really, starting in just a little more than a week. The official primary date is March 1, but there is no reason to wait until then to vote.

Voters in Virginia don't register by party, but can only vote in either the Democratic or Republican primary. To vote in the Republican primary, each voter will need to sign a form asserting that he or she is in fact a Republican.

Democrats will choose between Hillary Clinton, Martin O'Malley and Bernie Sanders (in that order).

Republicans will choose among 13 candidates who will be listed in the following order: Marco Rubio, Lindsey Graham, Ben Carson, Rand Paul, Mike Huckabee, Ted Cruz, Donald Trump, Jim Gilmore, Chris Christie, Jeb Bush, Rick Santorum, John Kasich and Carly Fiorina.

For details on absentee voting in Fairfax County, see www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee.htm.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Tall Oaks—Do It Right!

BY JOHN LOVAAS
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST

When Fairfax County approved the new Master Plan for Reston land use in 2014, I was among those pleased that key elements of Mr. Simon's founding vision were maintained. Among them was the concept of village centers, already an endangered species as a result of redevelopments. The Master Plan, like Simon, envisions village centers as neighborhood gathering places with a plaza and a mix of uses including retail and services to draw people after work hours. Gathering places should be well connected to neighborhoods for easy pedestrian access.

The Lake Anne redevelopment plan abandoned last month was a good example of the right way to redevelop

and revitalize a village center. I had hoped the emerging plan for nearby Tall Oaks might also be faithful to the concept, *albeit* on a smaller scale. But, the Tall Oaks plan revealed last year by new owner and developer Jefferson

Apartments Group (JAG) is a far cry from the village center concept. In fact, the first iteration eliminated retail and services altogether and offered no real community gathering place. Instead, it would have been purely residential, chock-a-block 156 mid-rise condos and four-story townhouses organized in the manner of a fortress, more foreboding than welcoming to surrounding neighbors including the assisted living residents across the parking lot.

Many residents of neighboring clus-



INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

ters along North Shore Drive have made known their unhappiness with the proposal. Concerned citizens like Sherri Hebert, President of Bentana Woods Cluster, are standing up for the Tall Oaks community.

These residents have in fact surveyed the neighborhood for comments and even suggested alternative designs. Residents like Ms. Hebert have arranged and held several meetings with developer representatives. They have attended Reston Association, Reston Planning and Zoning Committee and RA Design Review Board meetings to hear and respond to presentations by JAG. To date, their efforts have generated little feedback and very minor modification of JAG proposal. Originally allowing zero retail or services, JAG now proposes minor retail—less even than now exists. It calls for no convenience stores, no pharmacy and no restaurants to serve residents, the assisted living neighbors and the community.

The issue seems to boil down to this. The neighbors are asking for a modest village center a la the original vision and as foreseen in the Master Plan. That is, a village center with "retail, gathering and open space inviting for the entire community," and a design that fits with the Tall Oaks area and connects to the assisted living

building. In addition, Tall Oaks residents suggest a couple of changes that should have been made decades ago to improve the village center's functioning, specifically in/out access and visibility from Wiehle Avenue. As it is and has been, many visitors to Reston drive down Wiehle right past Tall Oaks without knowing it's there. In addition to being eminently reasonable, the suggestions of those most affected are very consistent with the Reston Master Plan.

To date, the Tall Oaks area residents are getting little response, much less support, from Reston Association which was ready to give prime Reston common land to the Lake Anne Village Center for its redevelopment. The RA Design Review Board has focused on building design but not village center content. The Reston Planning and Zoning Committee has offered constructive comments peripheral to the issues noted above.

If the Tall Oaks community is to get support for redevelopment consistent with Simon's vision and the Master Plan, it will have to come from the Fairfax County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. Tall Oaks area residents are organized and have leadership to carry this battle to them—with our support!

For more, see Terry Maynard's superb analysis of JAG proposal at: <http://reston2020.blogspot.com/2015/09/jags-redevelopment-plan-calls-end.html>

LETTER TO THE EDITOR Careless Driving

To the Editor:

My wife and I are in Reston every six weeks or so. We may notice the traffic more than folks who are here all the time. But we are always amazed at the careless driving. Right turn on red without stopping — without so much as a tap on the brake — is the rule rather than the exception around North Point Shopping Center. It's tempting to look to the left, deter-

mine that no car is coming, and go ahead and turn. But what about the pedestrian in the crosswalk that you don't see until it's too late? What if it's a parent pushing a child in a stroller? How could you live with that?

We also see lots of distracted driving and running of red lights.

Please slow down and obey the traffic laws. Otherwise, you could find yourself living a life of regret.

Ray Copson
North Point Villas

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
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CALENDAR

Send announcements to reston@connectionnewspapers.com. The deadline is the Friday prior to the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Little Hands Preschool Art Class. 10-11 a.m. Tuesdays from Jan. 12 to Feb. 2. Greater Reston Arts Center, 12000 Market St. #103, Reston. Introducing young children to art by having them explore new artwork, materials, and skills each week. Limited to 10 participants. Ages 3-5 years old. restonarts.org. 703-471-9242.

"Middletown" by Will Eno. Jan. 14-Feb. 7. NextStop Theatre Company, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. In this quirky, modern companion to "Our Town," residents of Middletown seek the meaning of suburban life. Encounter thought-provoking universal themes and a few personalities you may recognize from your own neighbors and friends. www.NextStopTheatre.org. 703-481-5930.

2016 ArtSpace Herndon Fine Art Photography Competition. Submission by 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 16. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. ArtSpace Herndon invites photographers from Virginia, DC, Maryland, and West Virginia to participate in the competition. It is open to fine art photographers aged 18 or older working in any medium (digital or analog, color or monochrome), and using any printing technique. Fine Art Photography of any subject is welcome; there is no required theme for entries. For more information, visit <http://www.artspaceherndon.com/calls-for-art/> or call 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.

Korean Pop Art in America Exhibit. Tuesday, Dec. 8-Sunday, Jan. 10. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Featuring selected works of

modern art trends in Korean Pop Art from the Han-Mee Artists Association of Greater Washington (HMAA). The exhibit features the art of invited guest artists Kyungjoo Park, Robert Yi, Chris Mona, and Franc Rosario along with participant artists of Han-mee. <http://www.artspaceherndon.com/korean-pop-art-in-america/>. 703-956-9560.

Dress Drive for Prom. Jan. 2-March 26. Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. RCC is collecting formal dresses, shoes, handbags, scarves and shawls, jewelry and accessories for Diva Central. All donations are appreciated, however, we ask that donations are in good condition, no older than 5 years old (circa 2011), and dry cleaned before they are donated. 703-390-6158.

Charlene Fuhrman-Schulz Exhibit. Through January 2016. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. PenFed Realty, 1886 Metro Center Drive, Reston. Fuhrman-Schulz displays her passion for traditional Oriental watercolor and ink painting in this solo show, arranged by the League of Reston Artists. Free. www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

Threaded with Green Quilt Show. Jan. 12-Feb. 14. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Display of talent, dedication and attention to detail from nineteen invited fiber artists. Every quilt in the show has an element of green. The exhibit features the challenge "There is a Season" from 12 fiber artists creating a quilt for each season. www.artspaceherndon.com.

Regina Petrecca's Paintings. February-March. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. PenFed Realty, 1886 Metro Center Drive, Reston. Energetic brushstrokes are the hallmark of Regina Petrecca's paintings. Free. www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

All-comers' Group Fun Run at Potomac River Running. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. For beginners or competitive runners, come out for a fun, low-key run that is safe and social. For more information, call 703-689-0999 or visit <https://potomacriverrunning.com>.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

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PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

South Lake HS Jessica Lister and Sophie Hackett in the 4x400.

South Lakes Indoor Track Adds Qualifiers

Golden Kumi-Darfour took full advantage of the winter break, using the time to qualify for the state indoor track meet in both the 500 and 1000 meter runs.

The South Lakes High School senior ran a 3:03.9 for fifth place in the 1,000 meters at the Friends of Indoor Track meet Saturday, Dec. 26 at Prince George's County Sportsplex in Landover, Md. She followed that up with a second-place finish in the 500 meters (1:17.20) at the UMES Coach O High School Invitational meet Saturday, Jan. 2 at the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore in Princess Anne, Md. Between those two meets and the South County High School Pole Vault Summit Dec. 30, SLHS continued to build its postseason roster.

SLHS track members who met region qualifying standards during the winter break include: senior Skander Ballard (triple jump, 42-11.00, FIT, 3rd place); 500 meters, 1:07.30 (FIT, 3rd place); pole vault, 11-06.00 (SCHS Pole Vault Summit, 10th place); senior Alex Rudison (pole vault, 12-00.00 (SCHS Pole Vault Summit, 9th place); and junior Devyn Jones (55 meter hurdles, 8.78 prelims, 8.82 finals (FIT 4th place); long jump, 16-05.00 (UMES, 6th-place).

Conference qualifying standards were achieved during the winter break meets by: senior Anas Fain in the long jump (19-10.50, FIT, 7th) and 55 meters (6.88, FIT, 15th); senior Eric Kirlaw in the long jump (19-01.50, FIT 11th) and 55 meters (6.77, FIT, 8th); senior Madison Carrens in the pole vault (7-06.00, FIT, 11th; 8-00.00, SCHS Pole Vault Summit, 12th);



South Lake HS senior Golden Kumi-Darfour.

Rudison in the pole vault (11-00.00, FIT, 6th); senior Isaac Mensah in the shot (42-06.00, FIT, 6th; 41-11.25, UMES, 2nd); senior Nikolai Waithe in the 300 meters (37.65, UMES, 10th); Jones in the 500 meters (1:22.48, UMES, 7th); junior Timiebi Ogobri in the 55 meters (6.88, FIT, 15th) and 300 meters (38.52, UMES, 17th); junior Nikayla Hoyte in the 300

meters (42.64, UMES, 5th); junior Morgan LaRow in the 3200 meters (12:19.89, FIT 11th); sophomore Megan Allison in the shot (27-04.00, UMES, 11th); and freshman Sophie Halkett in the 300 meters (43.51, FIT, 13th).

South Lakes will travel to Staten Island, N.Y., this Saturday, Jan. 9 to compete in the Ocean Breeze Freedom Games.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Head coach Andrew Duggan, seen during the 2013-14 season, and the South Lakes boys' basketball team concluded 2015 with a 4-5 record.

Seahawks Split Games at Governor's Challenge

South Lakes finishes 2015 with 4-5 record.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The South Lakes boys' basketball team's trip to Salisbury, Md., for the Governor's Challenge started on a losing note Dec. 29, when the Seahawks fell to Linganore (Md.) in overtime, 66-62.

South Lakes responded with a victory the following day, however, beating Baltimore's Edmondson-Westside 54-50 to close 2015 with a 4-5 record.

"It was a little disappointing to start the tournament ... with the way we played," South Lakes head coach Andrew Duggan said. "I felt like we had the game won in regulation and it just didn't work in our favor.

... I think our reaction after the overtime loss was positive. ... I think it's something we can build on."

Sophomore forward Emmanuel Aghayere led South Lakes in scoring in each of the Seahawks' two holiday tournament games, putting up 17 points against Linganore and 14 against Edmondson-Westside.

"Emmanuel kind of got out of his rut," Duggan said, "and played well."

Duggan also praised the performances of senior guard Marty Gryski and junior guard Marcus Cherry.

The Seahawks entered the 2016 portion of their schedule with a 1-1 record against Conference 6 competition. South Lakes faced McLean on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline.

The Seahawks will host Yorktown at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 8.

Herndon-Reston Youth Softball Looking for Players

Herndon-Reston Youth Softball is looking for girls of all skill levels to participate in the team. Practice and games are typically held at the local elementary and middle schools in Herndon and Reston. Sometimes players even get to play under the lights. Currently, registration is open for new and old player as teams will be formed in March to start game play in April 2016. Sign up at <http://hrysfastpitch.com/>.

HRYs also has open winter softball clinics for children at the

South Lakes High School gym in Reston.

It is managed by the SLHS Booster club. The clinics run every Sunday starting Jan. 3 and go through Feb 21. Basic softball skills start at 4 p.m. for 5-10 year olds, 5-6 p.m. for the 8-17-year-old pitchers and then another softball skills for the 11-17-year-olds from 6-7 p.m.

The Herndon-Reston Youth Softball (HRYs) organization is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 volunteer-run fastpitch softball league for girls ages 5 to 18.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

WELLBEING

Inova CEO J. Knox Singleton (from left), Gov. Terry McAuliffe, and George Mason University president Ángel Cabrera at a news conference announcing a strategic partnership between Inova and George Mason University.



PHOTO BY LEVI MAGYAR

Mason, Inova to Collaborate on Personalized Medicine Research

Partnership expected to develop treatments, grow economy.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Researchers and doctors from George Mason University and Inova Health System will collaborate on a series of personalized medicine research projects under a new partnership between the two institutions. The effort will include joint research on heart disease, cancer and metabolic diseases.

In announcing the agreement late last month, Gov. Terry McAuliffe said that the joint research effort, "will spur opportunities for entrepreneurship, create new companies and generate jobs that will grow our economy and help us prosper."

Under the agreement, the institutions will share facilities at both the Inova Center for Personalized Health in Merrifield and at Mason's Science and Technology Campus in Manassas. The partnership calls for the establishment of Inova-Mason Proteomics Center at the Inova Center for Personalized Health campus and Mason-Inova Institute for Personalized Medicine Public Policy and Ethics, which will address public policy and ethical issues related to personalized medicine.

The partnership gives Inova researchers access to Mason's animal facility where they will be able to test new drugs. Inova CEO J. Knox Singleton, calls

the partnership an investment in "research and development to help keep healthy people healthy and provide precise, effective and personalized treatment to patients we are privileged to serve."

Inova will contribute \$2.5 million in funding and will work with Mason to raise additional money for the project over the next five years.

A joint steering board made up of key administrators from both Mason and Inova will run the venture. The partnership will establish a joint fellowship board to recruit researchers from around the world.

Mason will also begin offering a graduate certificate program in personalized medicine, which Mason president Ángel Cabrera, says underscores the university's commitment to "delivering research of consequence that improves lives, drives economic growth and helps solve the most complex problems of our time."

Gerald L. Gordon, Ph.D., president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, said, "It is important that two of Fairfax County's major institutions and economic development assets are formalizing a collaborative relationship today around personalized medicine. Separately Inova and George Mason have strong research capabilities for personalized health but, working together, they will multiply the research and discovery capacities at both which will, in turn, only improve the economic development potential for this burgeoning industry and increase the possibility of spinning out companies and creating high-paying jobs that will improve the general health and well-being. The job creation aspect is important as well because it will further diversify Fairfax County's economic base."

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 7

Rebecca Kamen: Continuum. Dec. 1-Feb. 13. Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market St., Suite 103, Reston. Kamen. Informed by research into cosmology, neuroscience, history of science, and philosophy, Kamen's abstract sculptures and paintings connect common threads across various scientific fields to capture and re-imagine what scientists see. restonarts.org. 703-471-9242.

Patrick Dougherty Public Art Installation. Through 2017. Reston Town Square Park, 11900 Market Street, Reston. See and explore "A Bird in the Hand," a monumental public art sculpture made from tree saplings. The event is presented by GRACE in collaboration with IPAR. For more information, call 703-471-9242 or visit <http://restontowncenter.com/index.php>.

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.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 6
Election Information Session. 7-8:30 p.m. Reston Association Conference Center, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Information session for members interested in running for a position on the RA Board of Directors. Three seats on the board open in April of 2016: Lake Anne/Tall Oaks District Representative, North Point District Representative, and At-Large Member. www.reston.org.

FRIDAY/JAN. 8
Senior Tea. 1-2 p.m. ArtSpace, 750 Center St., Herndon. Seniors are invited to visit the gallery to view the current exhibit and enjoy a cup of tea on the second Friday of the month. Free. <http://www.artspaceherndon.com/>. 703-956-9560.

TGIF-Free Fridays at Greater Reston Arts Center. 5-7 p.m. Greater Reston Arts Center, 12000 Market St. #103, Reston. An after-hours evening of family, art-making and storytelling. Free. restonarts.org. 703-471-9242.

SATURDAY/JAN. 9
Kids Flicks "Frozen." 11 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Are you a fan of Elsa and her friends? Then join us for our January Kids Flicks showing of Walt Disney's "Frozen". All ages. 703-689-2700.

SUNDAY/JAN. 10

Sunday Afternoon Dance. 2:30-4:30 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Dancers of all skill levels are welcome to foxtrot, swing, cha-cha, and waltz during these fun afternoon dances. Music selection ranges from golden oldies to today's more modern dance selections. Door prizes and light refreshments add to the fun; partners are not required. 18 and older. \$5/\$10 per session. 703-476-4500.

TUESDAY/JAN. 12

Design and Wine. 7-9 p.m. ArtSpace, 750 Center St., Herndon. Bohemian Bracelets with Karen Mullarkey. Limited to 25 participant. \$30. Registration required. www.artspaceherndon.com. 703-956-9560.

THURSDAY/JAN. 14

Artist's Critique Group. 7-9:30 p.m. Greater Reston Arts Center, 12000 Market St. #103, Reston. Call to artists. Bring 1-2 recent artworks to the gallery for a group discussion and critique. Limited space. restonarts.org. 703-471-9242.

FRIDAY/JAN. 15-SATURDAY/JAN. 30

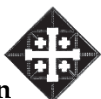
"Master Class." Check for times. CenterStage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Reston Community Players production of Terrence McNally's play about soprano Maria Callas. www.restonplayers.org. 703-476-4500.

SATURDAY/JAN. 16

"Remembering the Dream." 4 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Reston Community Orchestra celebrates the life and vision of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at its next concert "Remembering the Dream" with symphonic works, spirituals, and songs inspired by his legacy. Featuring baritone Bryan Jackson and Reston's own Beverly Cosham. Free. www.restoncommunityorchestra.org.
Only Light Can Do That! 4-5 p.m. Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon. Living history musical celebrating the genius, the greatness, the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Starring actor, dancer, singer Hasani Allen (Next Stop Theatre's Kiss Me Kate) as Dr. King. Free-\$20. <http://www.artspaceherndon.com/only-light-can-do-that/>. 703-956-6590.

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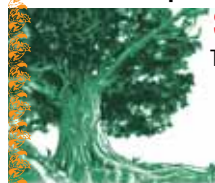
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Upon Further Reflection

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



I'm not a look-in-the-mirror kind of person. Other than in the morning when I wash up, brush my teeth, shave and get ready for the day, I spend very little time reflecting on my appearance. In fact, during the early days of my cancer treatment when I was infused with a chemotherapy cocktail for six non-stop hours every three weeks – I lost all my hair, as forewarned; I have no recollection of what I looked like without any hair on my head. Presumably, every morning when I prepped for the day, I would have seen what I was doing and watched how it was done; yet there is no image, still or otherwise, in my mind of how I appeared to others.

Seven years of continuous treatment later, when I look in the mirror now (I have a full head of hair and a growing stubble, like most men), I can't evaluate what I see. Do I look sick? Or do I look as I should for a middle-aged man aging gracefully? Not that I need to look good to feel good ("and you know who you are"), any more than I need to "look mah-velous," but the cumulative effects of chemotherapy and the inevitable signs of aging have blurred (no pun intended; I can see perfectly well) my objectivity. So much so that on any given day, what I see is what I get and I'm happy to have gotten it, subjectively speaking. Ergo, looking in the mirror more often than not serves no appreciable benefit – to me, since I know what I see, or rather, don't know how to evaluate what it is I do see.

Then along comes the holidays, when many social gatherings are planned where in addition to food and drink, face-to-face interactions occur with many people you see regularly and some you know but rarely see. It is the observations and comments from these rarely-seen persons, persons with whom you are familiar – and who are familiar with you and your "underlying diagnosis," as I call my cancer, that are the genesis of this column.

I am happy and amazed, and incredibly flattered even to say that the feedback I received was uniformly positive and extremely encouraging; and if I had to bet a nickel, I'd say their comments were all sincere and honest. And since I don't want to look for trouble (since trouble has already found me), I am going to take their words at face value (again, no pun intended). And in thanking them graciously, reconsider yet again how fortunate I am to be receiving such compliments, nearly seven years in and nearly five years past, the end date (pun intended) of my original "13 month to two year" prognosis, words which I first heard from my oncologist at the initial Team Lourie meeting held on February 27, 2009 (Oh, yeah, you remember that date, forever).

Unfortunately, there is a bit of a cynic in me, so I still question the validity of words people sometimes say not necessarily to the wise. Moreover, I still am not convinced that looking good is more important than feeling good (with apologies to a Billy Crystal sketch mimicking Fernando Lamas back in the day on Saturday Night Live). Nor am I at all sure that looking good is an accurate description of what effect my stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer is having on me and my mediastinum.

As much as I'd like to believe that form follows function and that looking good is a clear indicator of one who is not only feeling good, but doing well (cancer-wise), I'm still wondering what it is that sets me apart from many other similarly diagnosed patients who have succumbed to this terrible – and mostly terminal – disease. I never thought it was, or would be, my looks. And given that there hasn't been that much with which to work, maybe not focusing on my appearance all the time has helped? Apparently, it hasn't hurt.

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

Not Your Average Joe's Opens at Reston Spectrum

New restaurant at Fountain Drive in Reston opens in January.

By RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

The Reston Spectrum at 1845 Fountain Drive now hosts Not Your Average Joe's, a Massachusetts-based restaurant chain, known for stone-hearth pizzas, salads, unique burger combos and other casual fare.

"I think this will be a place where couples and families can get together without impeding on each other's fun," said Reston resident and athletic coach Chip Hulbert. Hulbert was impressed by the restaurant's bar, which welcomes sports junkies and families. Reston is establishing a reputation as a dining location, as Reston Town Center has over 15 restaurants and cafes. "Coming to Reston, that was a good move," said Tom Boone, who has dined at the Not Your Average Joe's in Leesburg. The Reston Spectrum is about one-quarter of a mile from the future Silver Line Reston Parkway Metro Station.

Not Your Average Joe's first opened in 1994. Owner and founder Steve Silverstein has spent the past several months reviewing and inspecting progress of what he refers to as his newest baby. "This place hires good people, they got a good formula," said Megan Ortolan, who attended a soft opening event at Reston with her husband. The restaurant will employ 102 staff, including part time and full time employees.

"We know there is competition, and we welcome it," said Joe Becker, general manager for the Reston NYA Joe's. Becker ran the NYA Joe's restaurant at Leesburg for five years. The expansive 7,300 square-foot restaurant in Reston will seat 218, with a full bar and two seasonal outdoor patios offering an additional 100 seats. A private dining space accommodates 22 seated guests. From the menu, Becker enjoys the Vietnamese Salmon, as well as the Spaghetti Squash Bolognese. The Bolognese sauce gets its full-bodied flavor from mushrooms instead of meat, and uses spaghetti squash in place of



Not Your Average Joe's opened in Reston in early January. It will be the Massachusetts-based restaurant chain's third restaurant in Northern Virginia and fifth in the metro region.

conventional spaghetti. "It is such a great dish and has less than 500 calories," said Becker. Executive chef Jeff Tenner joined Silverstein in the development of the new Reston location. "We are a globally inspired restaurant," said Tenner, noting that the menu changes with the season. The Reston location will open with a winter menu, which includes entrees such as Romesco Rockfish and Turkey Meatball Strozzapreti. The meatballs are served with mint-parsley pesto, roasted tomatoes and artichoke hearts. Tenner highlights the restaurant's Molasses Braised Pork Shank. "It is a great example of winter comfort food," said Tenner.

Desserts at the restaurant include carrot cake, key lime pie, and peanut butter thing - peanut butter and chocolate chunks folded into vanilla ice cream, rolled in cookie crumbs. Staff and visitors have been impressed with the redesign work at the new Reston restaurant. "This place has a fine finish to it," said bar manager Michael Reyes. The Reston location features an open-kitchen with a wood-burning oven in a bright and polished atmosphere.

Diners can expect an extensive wine list,



Not Your Average Joe's chef Jeff Rodger with executive chef Jeff Tenner at the new Reston location. Not Your Average Joe's is known for stone-hearth pizzas, salads, unique burger combos and other casual fare.

with cocktails and a variety of beers.

In keeping with the brand's commitment to the communities in which it serves, Not Your Average Joe's will partner with local nonprofit Cornerstones during its Grand Opening. Proceeds raised during the two-day preview celebrations will be donated to Cornerstones, which is dedicated to providing support and advocacy for people in need of food, shelter, affordable housing and other human services. Not Your Average Joe's will continue to support Cornerstones through January 2016 with its ongoing "Not Your Average Cause" program, which provides 15 percent of proceeds to a selected cause every Tuesday.

"The food was fantastic," said Joshua Gravis, an employee at the Davelle Clothiers at Reston Town Center. Gravis spent some of his New Year's Eve dining at Not Your Average Joe's. "Joe's really focuses on creating an experience for our guests," said bartender Courtney Ashby. When the restaurant closed for the night, some of the staff walked to Reston Town Center to welcome in the new year. More information on Not Your Average Joe's is available at www.notyouraveragejoes.com.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

FRIDAY/JAN. 8

VIP Reston. 2 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Support group for visually impaired persons. Adults. 703-689-2700.

MONDAY/JAN. 11-FRIDAY/JAN. 22

Coat Drive to Benefit Cornerstones.

Collection in building lobbies at Reston Town Center. Help those in need in the community stay warm this winter. New or gently used coats (in good condition or cleaned), new hats, gloves and scarves will be collected. restontowncenter.com.

TUESDAY/JAN. 19

Volunteer to Serve Dinner. 4:30 p.m. St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 11900 Lawyers

Road, Reston. Provide and serve dinner, breakfast foods and organize evening entertainment for the week-long hypothermia center, as well as providing clothing and gift card donations. Under the auspices of FACETS (facetscares.org), in partnership with Fairfax County Hypothermia Prevention Program. Sponsored by Congregation Beth Emeth. www.bethemeth.org.

Registration Open for Encore Chorale's Winter/ Spring Session

Registration is open for the Winter/Spring session of the Encore Chorale at locations in Northern Virginia and singers of all vocal experience, age 55+, are welcome to join.

Fifteen weekly rehearsals will begin the week of Monday, Jan. 11 at:

Encore Chorale of Reston – Rehearsals begin Tuesday, Jan. 12 at 2 p.m. at RCC Hunters Woods in Reston. Fee is \$160 for Reston residents/\$320 for non-residents for 15 weekly rehearsals, sheet music and performances. Registration is through Fairfax County/Reston Community Center.

Singers may be seated for rehearsals and perfor-

mances. Singers will rehearse each week for 90 minutes in preparation for May performances.

Register at the first rehearsal or online at www.encorecreativity.org. Call 301-261-5747 for more information.

Volunteers Needed for Food Packing Event

Assistance League of Northern Virginia invites community members to help pack food for the Weekend Food for Kids program which benefits 1500 school-children who receive reduced-price meals during the week. The next food packing event is at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 21 at Dominion Virginia Power, 3072 Centreville Road, in Herndon. Arrive at 9:30 a.m. if you would like to help with setup. Event contact: karenamster@aol.com.

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.

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.

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.

The Jewish Federation of

Greater Washington and the Jewish Outreach Institute offer the Mothers/Parents Circle, an umbrella of free educational events and resources. 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.

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